



Photo Courtesy of Wil Phinney of the CTUIR's Confederated Umatilla Journal

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Eric Quaempts has served as the Director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's (CTUIR) Department of Natural Resources (DNR) since 2004. Prior to that, Eric spent eight years as a Wildlife Biologist in the CTUIR DNR's Wildlife Program, where he was responsible for wildlife management projects. Eric also has eight years of professional experience in the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest. While in the employ of the Forest Service, Eric was part of a career development program that included inter-disciplinary rotations in Forestry, Wildlife, Range, Reforestation, Fisheries, and Fire Management Programs on the Walla Walla Ranger District.

Eric's primary professional interest is in using the tribe's First Foods order to relate ecology to the culture of the

CTUIR in a tangible manner that demonstrates the need for First Foods for continuity of tribal culture and to improve protection and fulfillment of the Tribes' Treaty-reserved Rights. To facilitate this, Eric draws on his personal, community and cultural experiences, as well as his professional background. Eric has presented the First Foods concept in a variety of state and federal natural and cultural resource forums, as well as local and state government planning forums. In 2008, Eric represented the CTUIR in presenting the First Foods concept at a National Science Foundation sustainability conference in Concepcion, Chile.

Eric was recently appointed as the Tribal representative for the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

### **EDUCATION**

Eric earned his Bachelor's of Science in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University, and also completed graduate-level course work at Colorado State University in fire and land management as part of his professional development in the US Forest Service.

### **PERSONAL**

An enrolled member of the Yakama Indian Nation, Eric has spent most of his life living on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and his professional career has been focused in working on the reservation and in the Ceded Lands of the CTUIR.

Eric's personal interests include fly-fishing, photography, traveling, cooking, reading, and dining, fine or otherwise.