



# News Release

**Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**  
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## **Board of Trustees Votes to Legalize Hemp and Marijuana on the Umatilla Indian Reservation**

Mission, OR – On Monday, January 30, 2023, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Board of Trustees (BOT) voted to amend the CTUIR Criminal Code to legalize the possession of marijuana on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The changes will go into effect immediately.

Any adult 21 years and older can consume and possess marijuana.

The legalization of possession and purchasing of marijuana will be very similar to the State of Oregon. However, any on-reservation hemp or marijuana-related business will be addressed in future codes and regulations specific to those industries if the CTUIR decides to go that route.

“The alignment of state and tribal laws also ensures we have the option to compact with the State for future businesses within the industry if we choose,” said Corinne Sams, Board of Trustees Member at Large and Vice-Chair of the Law and Order Committee. “The Law and Order Committee approved the proposed Criminal Code amendments with a recommendation to the BOT for adoption in late December.”

CTUIR Departments will be coordinating to implement various and relevant code amendments pertaining to CTUIR policies – this will take some time; however, the process has started.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is comprised of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla Tribes, formed under the Treaty of 1855 at the Walla Walla Valley, 12 Stat. 945. In 1949, the Tribes adopted a constitutional form of government to protect, preserve and enhance the reserved treaty rights guaranteed under federal law.

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