

International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management

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Internship Report

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My internship with the IIRM provided me a wonderful opportunity to develop my research skills and learn about and experience America. Working at the Institute allowed me much research freedom, and the chance to meet many academics, governmental and private sector energy and environmental experts at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Metcalf & Eddy, Westmoreland Coal Company, and Distributed Generation Systems; and professionals working on indigenous issues in America such as the Council of Energy Resource Tribes. The Institute also has an amazing library, which stores a wealth of material regarding indigenous peoples, politics and philosophy. During my time at the Institute I was able to work with legal experts and a fellow intern all of whom were excellent for discussing my research and ideas with. Many thanks also to Merv and Jeanne for answering my many questions about American legal and governmental systems.

One of the highlights of my internship was a trip to the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon with Ashleigh Wolf - another intern at the Institute. This trip allowed me to see the practical applications



of my research - such as renewable energy investments by Indian tribes. As part of my research I spent time with cultural leaders within the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and at the CTUIR cultural institute (Tamastslíkt). While in Oregon I stayed on the reservation with a family who generously shared their time and culture with

me and I also got to visit many of the scenic features in the area, such as Wallowa Lake and to work alongside the CTUIR Departments of Natural Resources and Science and Engineering.



Denver was also an exciting city to explore. The bus service is affordable and reliable, and the light rail is also very efficient. Downtown Denver has many coffee houses and stores - and the many Mexican restaurants, bars and stores throughout Denver were of particular interest to me. While in Denver I had the opportunity to see rodeo and hockey for the first time - both of which were something of an American cultural experience for me! I also went snowshoeing and skiing, which was a lot of fun even though I truly cannot ski.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my internship, my time in Denver and this chance to experience American culture. Thank you to Merv and Jeanne for this opportunity to live and research in America.