



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

DEC 17 2010

Honorable William Iyall  
Chairman, Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
P.O. Box 2547  
Longview, Washington 98632-8594

Dear Chairman Iyall:

On March 2, 2004, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe (Tribe) submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs an application to acquire in trust approximately 151.87 acres of land, located in Clark County, Washington. The Tribe intends to develop a gaming facility on the property.

By memorandum dated January 20, 2009, the Northwest Regional Director (NRD) transmitted to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (AS-IA), his recommendation that the property be accepted into trust along with the Tribe's request and supporting documentation. We have completed our review of the Tribe's request, supporting documentation, and the NRD's recommendation. For the reasons set forth in the Record of Decision for the trust acquisition and the Reservation Proclamation for the 151.87 acre site in Clark County, Washington, for the Tribe, it is our determination that the 151.87 acres will be taken into trust.

The decision is based on a thorough review and consideration of the Tribe's fee-to-trust application, the Tribe's request for a reservation proclamation, and material submitted therewith; the applicable statutory and regulatory authorities governing acquisition of trust land, issuance of reservation proclamations, and eligibility of land for gaming; the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the Final Environmental Impact Statement; the administrative record; and comments received from the public, Federal, state and local governmental agencies and potentially affected Indian tribes.

Our evaluation of the Tribe's request indicates that the Federal requirements for acquiring this parcel of land into trust have been satisfied. The NRD will be authorized to approve the conveyance document accepting the property in trust for the Nation subject to any condition set forth herein, approval of all title requirements by the Solicitor, and expiration of the thirty day period following publication in the *Federal Register* of the notice required in 25 CFR § 151.12(b) and barring legal challenge to this decision.

Sincerely,

Larry Echo Hawk  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs