



Cowlitz Casino Resort

A Unique Opportunity for Southwest Washington

July 2008

Fact Sheet

Project Details

At full buildout, the project may feature:

- 134,150 square feet of gaming floor
- 260,225 square feet of restaurant and retail facilities
- 147,500 square feet of convention and entertainment facilities
- 250 room hotel
- Tribal cultural center, government offices, and 16 elder housing units
- Parking for 7,250 vehicles
- RV park for 200 vehicles

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe's efforts to have land taken into trust for its first homeland since 1855 will allow the Tribe to vigorously protect its heritage and cultural traditions, as well as to become economically self-sufficient. It also represents a major economic opportunity for Southwest Washington.

Project Status

With the release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's Trust Acquisition and Casino Resort Project on May 30, 2008, Southwest Washington is one step closer to realizing a new economic engine in Clark County.

Sometime later this year, the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs is expected to issue a decision on the Tribe's request that approximately 152 acres of land near La Center be taken into trust and proclaimed the Tribe's reservation, to be used for tribal government offices, elder housing and a cultural center, as well as for gaming and a resort.

Benefits to the Community

- Make payments in lieu of property taxes that will result in a \$3 million to \$4 million annual payment to Clark County
- Create thousands of new jobs
- Hire local union labor and local contractors through a project labor agreement
- Purchase products and services from southwest Washington companies
- Attract thousands of tourists and new visitors to southwest Washington
- Work with neighboring businesses to mutually benefit from tourist trade
- Keep local casino patrons in southwest Washington
- Contribute two percent of net gaming revenues to an education and arts fund, an amount that could add up to millions of dollars per year
- Promote other local attractions to casino and resort visitors (e.g., Tri-Mountain Golf Course, Mt. St. Helens)
- Support cultural education programs and materials in the schools that describe the culture and history of the Cowlitz Tribe

Environmental Review Process





Paying our Fair Share

The Cowlitz Tribe is committed to mitigating project impacts. To provide that mitigation, the Tribe entered into an MOU with Clark County, and also enacted tribal ordinances, approved by the federal government, which waive our sovereign immunity so that our promised mitigation can be enforced by either the federal government or Clark County. Through both the MOU and the tribal ordinances, the Tribe has committed to:

- Make payments in lieu of property taxes that will result in a \$3 million to \$4 million annual payments to Clark County
- Collect and remit state sales tax as appropriate on all retail sales to non-Indians at businesses on the site owned and operated by the Tribe
- Pay to the County the equivalent of its hotel/motel tax
- Compensate law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, courts, and fire districts that provide services to the property
- Address transportation and safety issues in conformity with Clark County requirements
- Develop the site consistent with specified County environmental and development standards, such as road standards, building codes, fire codes, and stormwater and erosion control standards
- Pay county processing fees for its review of development plans
- Comply with all state and local health regulations
- Contribute annually 2% of net gaming revenues for arts and education fund
- Contribute annually at least \$50,000 to a program designated by Clark County for problem gambling

Benefits to the Cowlitz Tribe

Under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), Indian governments must spend gaming revenue to:

- Fund tribal government operations or programs
- Provide for the general welfare of the Indian tribe and its members
- Promote tribal economic development
- Donate to charitable organizations, or
- Help fund operations of local government agencies

This project will:

- Improve the tribal economy and self-sufficiency
- Create jobs and career opportunities
- Generate funds to endow scholarships for the young and provide health care and prescription drug benefits for our growing number of elders
- Generate funds to help preserve the Tribe's culture and language while protecting ancestral lands and the environment

Contact Us

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