

LETTER 1 (LOG # A001)

Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Region 5 Habitat Program



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife
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July 13, 2006

Stanley Speaks, Regional Director
Northwest Region
Bureau of Indian Affairs
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Comments, Cowlitz Casino-Resort Project.

Dear Director Speaks:

We are writing regarding the potential impacts to fish and wildlife habitat and proposed mitigation measures described in the DEIS. The Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 27 Watershed Plan identifies the East Fork Lewis River as one of the most important watersheds in the WRIA for protection of fish and fish habitat, particularly for listed species. We are concerned that water quality impacts from stormwater and effluent discharges may degrade aquatic habitat and impair migration and spawning by salmonid fish and other species in the East Fork Lewis River and downstream receiving waters. The proposed mitigation measures will need a careful and detailed review as to their adequacy for preventing water quality and related fish and fish habitat impacts.

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WDFW asks to be included in future project evaluations as project plans develop and we have more specific design information with which to evaluate potential impacts and proposed mitigation. Thank for the opportunity to comment on this DEIS.

Respectfully,

Tim R. Rymer
Habitat Program Manager
Region Five

Cc: Birch, Friesz, Wald