

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY: Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Travel Plaza and Commercial Fee-To-Trust Project, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, City of Pasco, Franklin County, Washington

LEAD AGENCY: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 – Friday, March 1, 2024

Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Department of the Interior has released an Environmental Assessment (EA) dated January 2024 for the proposed Colville Tribes Travel Plaza and Commercial Fee-To-Trust Project. The EA has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and the BIA NEPA guidebook and assesses the environmental impacts that could result from the acquisition by the BIA of a 34-acre property (Project Site) into federal trust status for the benefit of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Tribes), and the subsequent development by the Tribes of a travel plaza, retail and/or office building, and associated parking and infrastructure.

The Project Site consists of three parcels owned in fee by the Tribes (Assessor Parcel Numbers 113-220-073, 113-220-077, and 113-220-079), located east of U.S. Highway 395, in the City of Pasco in Franklin County, Washington. The Project Site is located in Section 17 of Township 9 North, Range 30 East as depicted on the Glade, WA U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' quadrangle maps.

The public comment period for the EA will be open for 30 days, beginning on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 and ending on Friday, March 1, 2024. The EA is available for public review on the internet at <https://www.colvilleea.com/>. For additional information, or to request a hardcopy of the EA, please contact Tobiah Mogavero, BIA Regional NEPA Coordinator, at (971) 940-5875, or by email at tobiah.mogavero@bia.gov. Written comments should be emailed to tobiah.mogavero@bia.gov or mailed to the following address:

Bryan Mercier, Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Northwest Region Office
911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4169

If emailing comments, please use “Colville Tribes Travel Plaza Fee-To-Trust Project” as the subject of your email. Based on the analysis and impacts discussed in the EA and comments received during the public review period, the BIA will decide whether to reach a Finding of No Significant Impact, or direct further environmental studies.