

**CASCADE LOCKS RESORT AND CASINO
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

Prepared for:



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CASCADE LOCKS RESORT AND CASINO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

1. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
COC	Cogan Owens Cogan, public involvement consultant
CTWS	Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
HDR	HDR Inc., prime consultant and project manager
IAMP	Interchange Area Management Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
ODOT	Oregon Department of Transportation
Partner Agencies Plan	Lead and cooperating agencies Public and Agency Involvement Plan
WSGE	Warm Springs Gaming Enterprise

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION

The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWS) propose to develop a resort and casino in Cascade Locks, Oregon. On April 6, 2005, the Governor of Oregon, Ted Kulongoski, and the Warm Springs Tribal Council Chairman, Ron Suppah, signed a Tribal-State Compact as an initial step in the process of putting off-reservation land into trust for gaming purposes. The purpose of the resort and casino is to provide a major contribution to the economic security and future of the CTWS as seen through long-term direct income, employment opportunities, investments in tribal enterprise, and enhancement and development of new social programs. As part of the approval process for the fee-to-trust action, the Department of Interior (DOI), through its Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), requires compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Because the project would require transportation improvements to Interstate 84 (I-84), the CTWS's proposal also requires review and approval by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for access to the facility, which also requires compliance with NEPA.

With BIA's approval, CTWS has contracted with HDR, Inc. to develop and coordinate approval of the associated environmental, transportation and railroad compliance, permitting, and compliance for the project. HDR has, in turn, subcontracted with Cogan Owens Cogan (COC) for public and agency involvement.

3. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of this Public Involvement Plan is to define the elements of an ongoing public and agency involvement program for the preparation of an environmental impact statement and other required documentation for the project. NEPA charges the lead agency to:

- a) Make diligent efforts to involve the public in preparing and implementing their NEPA procedures.
- b) Provide public notice of NEPA-related hearings, public meetings, and the availability of environmental documents so as to inform those persons and agencies who may be interested or affected. (40 C.F.R. 1506.6)

This Plan sets forth the strategy for communicating with agencies, the public and other interested parties about the project. It defines the tools, timing and strategies for obtaining public and agency input. The Plan consists of the following program elements:

- Project Communication and Coordination
- Stakeholders
- Agency Involvement Methods
- Public Involvement Methods
- Scoping Report

In developing the Plan, the following assumptions have been made:

- By definition, this plan will be flexible and regularly revised to reflect changing project needs.
- Outreach to stakeholder groups will vary based upon the role of the group in the regulatory process.
- To the extent feasible, public outreach will address all project elements simultaneously (fee-to-trust action, access point decision, IAMP, etc.), rather than independently.
- Input obtained during the pre-scoping phase will be integrated with that obtained during the scoping phase for purposes of preparing a scoping report.

4. DISTRIBUTION AND UPDATES

Copies of the Cascade Locks Resort and Casino EIS Public and Agency Involvement Plan are on file at:

- HDR Portland Office
- Cogan Owens Cogan
- BIA
- FHWA
- ODOT

Copies of the Plan have been distributed to other partner agencies, CTWS, and WSGE.

This Plan and updates will be posted on the World Wide Web site for the project at www.gorgecasinoeis.com.

5. PROJECT COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

This section defines the methods and protocols for communications and coordination. Protocols for project communication are defined in the Project Guide prepared by HDR. This section addresses those communication protocols specific to public and agency involvement.

5.1 Project Mailing List

Two project mailing lists will be assembled and maintained:

- An agency, project team, and governmental entities list; and
- An interested parties list of affected property owners and businesses, parties commenting on any aspect of the project, and any individuals or organizations that request to be on the list to receive project information.

The following assumptions are made about developing and maintaining project mailing lists:

- The mailing list will be maintained in a readily-accessible electronic format.
- Mailing list entries will be coded by affiliation, geographic location and other attributes.
- The mailing list will be updated on a weekly basis based upon information provided to COC by HDR, partner agencies and other parties.
- Any distribution of the mailing list to other parties must be approved by BIA and HDR.

5.2 Project Web Site

A project Web site, www.gorgecasinoeis.com, will be established and maintained as a mechanism for up-to-date project information dissemination, queries and comment. In establishing a project Web site, the following assumptions are made:

- To ensure neutrality in the NEPA process, a domain has been registered for a new Web site, rather than utilizing an existing Web site.
- Links will be provided to Web sites maintained by partner agencies and the Governor's Office; no links will be provided to interest group Web sites.
- COC will design and maintain the Web page based upon information provided by HDR and partner agencies.

Information inquiries and comments via the Web page will be forwarded by COC to appropriate parties for response. COC will work with those parties to ensure timely responses and be copied with the responses. The HDR and BIA project managers will be copied with all inquiries and responses for inclusion in the administrative record.

5.3 Communication with Media, Elected Officials, Interest Groups and General Public

The purpose of this section is to establish the communication protocols for all types of external project communications -- press releases, media briefings, telephone interviews, as well as communications with elected officials.

Note: BIA does not currently have e-mail access due to an ongoing lawsuit.

5.3.1 Media Communications

Regular communication with the media on the NEPA process, in particular the schedule and nature of scoping activities, is intended to keep the public informed and to communicate public input opportunities. A media communications program will include:

- Media contacts.

- Media packets on the NEPA process/schedule and related informational materials for distribution during scoping.
- Contacting the media for publicity of public comment opportunities.
- Summary notes of any media contact.

COC will serve as the point of contact for NEPA process-related media contacts; all other media contacts will be referred to the WSGE Communications Team and/or the appropriate agency. It is assumed that lead and cooperating agencies each have specific media protocols for agency responses to media information requests and interviews.

All media contacts will be documented on a media contact form for inclusion in the administrative record; copies will be distributed to the BIA and HDR project managers.

5.3.2 Communication with Elected Officials

COC will serve as the point of contact for NEPA process-related communications from elected officials; all other contacts will be referred to the WSGE Communications Team and/or the appropriate agency. A program for communication with elected officials will include:

- Contacts with federal, state and local elected officials to offer briefings and/or informational packets.
- Briefings as requested. Requests for briefings will be coordinated by COC with BIA and HDR.
- Summary notes of any briefings conducted.
- Responses to inquiries. All contacts will be documented on a contact form for inclusion in the administrative record; copies will be distributed to the BIA and HDR project managers.

5.3.3 Communications with Interest Groups and General Public

All telephone, email and written communications with interest groups and members of the general public will be documented on a contact form for inclusion in the administrative record; copies will be distributed to COC and to the BIA and HDR project managers.

5.4 Meeting Notes

Summary notes will be prepared for all public and agency involvement meetings. All meeting records will be distributed to the BIA and HDR project managers, who will distribute to other team members as appropriate. Meeting notes will be included in the administrative record.

5.5 Comment Collection, Tracking and Response Program

Public and agency comments will be collected, tracked and responded to pursuant to the protocols defined above. A program for coding, tracking and responding to comments will be developed to:

- Code all comments received.
- Track dissemination to appropriate parties for responses.
- Track responses.

- Maintain copies of all comments and responses for the administrative record.

While COC will be responsible for the coding and tracking of comments, HDR and partner agencies will take the lead in responding to comments.

5.6 Informational Materials

A variety of informational materials will be prepared for dissemination at public and agency meetings, community events and briefings, including sets of *Frequently Asked Questions* about the NEPA process, fee-to-trust action, interchange improvements, and related matters. Informational materials will be project-neutral; advocacy materials will not be developed or distributed as part of the NEPA process.

General informational materials will be prepared by HDR and other team members as part of preparation of the EIS. COC will ensure that these are in a readily understandable and visually pleasing format for public distribution. Targeted materials may be developed for specific groups or events as needed.

6. STAKEHOLDERS

The following is an initial list of potential stakeholders, or potentially affected interests. This list will be updated and revised throughout the project. *Specific interest group names will be added as the project progresses.*

TYPE OF GROUP	GROUP
General Public	Residents of Cascade Locks and nearby areas
	Property owners within vicinity of project
	I-84 and Bridge of God users
	Gorge recreationists
	Casino supporters and opponents
	Interested public members
Businesses	Mid-Columbia Economic Development District
	<i>Other economic development organizations</i>
	Hood River Chamber of Commerce
	West Gorge – Troutdale Chamber of Commerce
	Skamania County Chamber of Commerce
	Cascade Locks businesses
	Union Pacific Railroad
	Other businesses affected by project
Organizations	Coalition for Oregon's Future
	Friends of Columbia Gorge
	Parents Education Association
	Oregon Restaurant Association
	Oregon Center for Environmental Health
	Trout Unlimited
	McKenzie Guardians
	Oregon Family Council

TYPE OF GROUP	GROUP
	Oregon Toxics Alliance
	OSPIRG
	WashPIRG
	Friends of Mount Hood
	Stronger Families for Oregon
	Hood River Valley Residents Committee
	Portland Garden Club
	Onward Oregon
	Sierra Club, Columbia and Oregon Chapters
	1000 Friends of Oregon
	Association of NW Steelheaders
	Oregon Natural Resources Council
	Columbia Riverkeeper
	Cascade Locks Bible Fellowship
	Cascade Locks No-Casino
	CRITFC
	Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority
	Water Watch of Oregon
	American Rivers
	Native Fish Society
	Oregon Trout
	Audubon Society of Portland
	<i>Other environmental groups</i>
	<i>Other fishing groups</i>
	<i>Other anti-gambling groups</i>
	<i>Other interest groups</i>
Native American Tribes	CTWS
	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
	Nez Perce Tribe
	Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde Community of Oregon
	Confederated Tribes of the Siletz
Elected Officials and Government Entities	
US Congressional members	<i>Senator Gordon Smith</i>
	<i>Senator Ron Wyden</i>
	<i>Senator Patty Murray</i>
	<i>Senator Maria Cantwell</i>
	<i>Representative Greg Walden</i>
	<i>Representative David Wu</i>
	<i>Representative Earl Blumenauer</i>
	<i>Representative Peter DeFazio</i>
	<i>Representative Darlene Hooley</i>
	<i>Representative Brian Baird</i>
Oregon Legislative members	<i>Senator Dick Metsger</i>
	<i>Representative Patty Smith</i>
	Governor's Office
	Hood River County
	Multnomah County

TYPE OF GROUP	GROUP
	Sherman County
	Wasco County
	Skamania County
	City of Cascade Locks
	City of Hood River
	City of Stevenson
	City of North Bonneville
	City of Troutdale
	Port of Cascade Locks
	Port of Hood River
	Columbia River Gorge Commission
	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
	Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee
	Mid-Columbia Economic Development Commission
	Skamania County Economic Development Commission
Agencies	
Federal	BIA
	FHWA
	USFS, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
	USFS, Mt. Hood National Forest
	BPA
	ACOE
	EPA
	USFWS
	NMFS
	USCG
	NWPC
	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
	<i>Other federal agencies</i>
State - Oregon	ODOT
	DSL
	DEQ
	State Marine Board
	SHPO
	ODFW
	DLCD
	Water Resources Department
	State Police
	<i>Other State Agencies</i>
State - Washington	WSDOT
	<i>Other State Agencies</i>

7. AGENCY INVOLVEMENT METHODS

The purpose of this section is to identify agency involvement activities during the pre-scoping and scoping phases of the project, based on three tiers of agency involvement and government-to-government consultation:

- Partner Agencies -- Lead and cooperating agencies.
- Regulatory Compliance Work Group -- Includes Partner Agencies and other federal, state and local agencies with regulatory authority.
- Other Interested Agencies and Tribes.

7.1 Partner Agencies

Partner agencies will be actively involved in all phases of the NEPA process and include BIA as the NEPA lead agency and FHWA, ODOT, City of Cascade Locks, Port of Cascade Locks, and Hood River County as cooperating agencies.

Two levels of partner agency involvement will occur: a Level 2 group composed of agency decision-makers and a Level 1 group of agency staff representatives that will serve as a working group in support of EIS preparation.

A chartering meeting of partner agencies will be conducted to identify lead and cooperating agency agreements, roles and responsibilities, and process for coordination among partner agencies.

The Level 2 group will meet approximately every two months for briefings on the project status and to provide needed direction on project management issues. The group will also convene as needed to resolve any differences among partner agencies. The Level 1 group will meet approximately every two weeks initially, and then on an as needed basis, to oversee development of technical studies, review draft EIS elements, define regulatory and procedural requirements, and provide hands-on advice and assistance in development of NEPA, IAMP, access point decision and other related products.

7.2 Regulatory Compliance Work Group

A Regulatory Compliance Work Group will be established to advise on the project's regulatory acceptance. Invitees to participate will include: BIA, FHWA, ODOT, City of Cascade Locks, Port of Cascade Locks, Hood River County, State Historic Preservation Office, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Oregon Division of State Lands, and Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development.

Up to four meetings of the work group are anticipated. These meetings may be combined with those of the Level 2 partners group.

7.3 Other Interested Agencies and Tribes

7.3.1 Interested Agencies

Agencies without regulatory jurisdiction will generally be considered as stakeholder groups. Except for briefings and scoping sessions with these bodies during the pre-scoping and scoping phases, they will generally not be directly included in agency involvement activities, although they will be welcome to attend partner agency meetings.

During the pre-scoping and scoping phases, meetings with non-regulatory agencies will be scheduled to provide a briefing on the project and to identify concerns and issues. Invitees may include: Skamania, Multnomah, Sherman and Wasco counties; the cities of Stevenson, North Bonneville, Hood River, and Troutdale; U.S. Forest Service; Columbia River Gorge Commission; Bonneville Power Administration; Northwest Power and Conservation Council; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission; and other federal, state and local agencies without regulatory authority but with direct interest in the project.

7.3.2 Tribes

Contact will be made with other Columbia River Treaty Tribes (Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Nez Perce Tribe) to determine how they wish to be involved in the NEPA process. The assumption is that, except for briefings and scoping sessions with these bodies during the pre-scoping and scoping phases, they will generally not be included in agency involvement activities, although they will be welcome to attend partner agency and non-regulatory agency meetings. Government-to-government consultation will occur in accordance with BIA and FHWA protocols.

Non-Columbia River Treaty tribes will be invited to participate as stakeholders in meetings of interested agencies. Any government-to-government consultation will occur in accordance with BIA and FHWA protocols.

7.4 Briefings

Upon request, briefings with key elected and appointed officials will be provided on the project and the NEPA process, e.g., how the casino and interchange analyses are being integrated into a single NEPA document. Up to ten (10) briefings with local governments, e.g., Multnomah and Hood River counties, port commissions, Gorge Commission, OTC, are assumed. These briefings will typically be conducted at local government offices.

7.5 Protocols

Agency meetings as outlined in this section will not be conducted as public meetings, i.e. no public notice nor opportunities for public input will be provided. Exceptions would include any meetings of decision-making bodies, e.g. Oregon Transportation Commission. In those cases, public notice and opportunities for public input will be provided in accordance with agency procedures.

Protocols for meeting notes, media communications, and other communications will be as set forth in Section 5.

8. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT METHODS

The purpose of this section is to identify public involvement activities during the EIS scoping phase. No organized public involvement activities will occur during the pre-scoping phase (i.e., prior to publication of a Notice of Intent and formal initiation of the NEPA process).

In addition to the methods described below, public involvement tools will include a project web site, media outreach, mailing lists, and comment tracking/response as described in Section 5 above.

8.1 Scoping Public Meetings

A series of public meetings will be conducted during the scoping phase to provide information on the project and to solicit public input. The meetings are intended to obtain input early in the NEPA process on purpose and need, significant issues and a range of alternatives.

These meetings will be conducted in an open house format, rather than as public hearings. However, court recorders will be available at each meeting to record verbatim statements.

A broad-based program to advertise the meetings will be developed in consultation with partner agencies. All input will be tracked and responded to as described in Section 5.5.

8.2 Agency Public Meetings

HDR and COC will assist in organizing and preparing for any required public meetings by decision-making bodies, such as by the Oregon Transportation Commission for the IAMP.

8.3 IAMP Affected Party Targeted Outreach

Targeted outreach will be provided to property owners, businesses and other interested parties affected by an IAMP for interchange improvements. Public involvement methods will be designed to meet ODOT requirements for IAMPs. This outreach may occur through one-on-one contact, through IAMP-specific public meetings, or both.

8.4 Stakeholder Group Presentations

Partner agencies and the consultant team will respond to requests for presentations to stakeholder groups based upon protocols developed by the partner agencies. Assumptions include:

- No non-agency stakeholder group presentations will be made by the HDR team during the pre-scoping phase.
- Efforts will be made to combine presentations to similar types of groups.
- Meeting notes will be prepared and comments tracked and responded to as described in Sections 5.3 and 5.4, respectively.

8.5 Community Events

Community events may be utilized for the distribution on EIS background materials and to informally solicit input through questionnaires and other similar mechanisms. A calendar of community events will be prepared that identifies opportunities to distribute EIS background materials and to solicit general public input.

Assumptions include:

- No participation by the HDR team in community events will occur during the pre-scoping phase.
- Participation in up to three (3) community events where EIS information is informally disseminated and comments solicited through questionnaires or other similar means. These will not be public meetings on the EIS.
- Summary notes will be prepared and comments tracked and responded to as described in Section 5.5.

9. SCOPING REPORT

A scoping report will be prepared that:

- Summarizes the scoping process.
- Provides a synthesis of pre-scoping and scoping comments.
- Identifies questions and comments that merit response.
- Identifies and frames significant issues to be addressed in the EIS.
- Recommends public involvement strategies for the DEIS public review process.
- Includes a compilation and coding of all comments received during the pre-scoping and scoping phases.

Two drafts of a scoping report will be disseminated to and reviewed by the partner agencies prior to finalizing.

10. PUBLIC REVIEW OF DEIS

10.1 Review Period and Notification

A period of 90 days will be provided for formal comment on the DEIS.

Notification of the release of the DEIS, the public comment period, and public comment opportunities (including public meetings) will be provided via:

- Notice on the project website;
- Notice to all parties on the project mailing list; and
- Press release distributed to the project media list.

The Congressional delegation will also be directly notified.

10.2 Agency Involvement

Partner Agencies

Partner agencies will be provided opportunities to:

- Review and comment on an administrative draft of the DEIS;
- Participate in any agency and public meetings during the DEIS public review period;
- Request briefings from project staff to respective elected/appointed bodies or senior agency staff on the DEIS contents and review process;
- Request one-on-one meetings with project staff to discuss preliminary comments on the DEIS; and
- Submit formal comments on the DEIS.

Regulatory Compliance Work Group (RCWG)

RCWG agencies will be provided opportunities to:

- Participate in any agency and public meetings during the DEIS public review period.
- Request briefings from project staff process to respective elected/appointed bodies or senior agency staff on the DEIS contents and review;
- Request one-on-one meetings with project staff to discuss preliminary comments on the DEIS; and
- Submit formal comments on the DEIS.

Other Interested Agencies

Agencies without regulatory jurisdiction will be invited to participate in the interagency briefing described below, but otherwise considered as stakeholder groups.

Tribes

Government-to-government consultation will occur in accordance with BIA and FHWA protocols. In addition, Columbia River Treaty Tribes (Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Nez Perce Tribe) will be provided opportunities to:

- Participate in any agency and public meetings during the DEIS public review period;
- Request briefings from project staff to tribal councils or staff on the DEIS contents and review process ;
- Request one-on-one meetings with project staff to discuss preliminary comments on the DEIS; and
- Submit formal comments on the DEIS.

Non-Columbia River Treaty tribes will be invited to participate in the interagency meeting described below, but otherwise considered as stakeholder groups.

Interagency Briefing

Partner agencies, the Regulatory Compliance Work Group, Interested Agencies (agencies without regulatory jurisdiction), and Tribes will be invited to participate in a briefing on the DEIS. The intent of this briefing will not be to receive comment on the DEIS, but rather to:

- (1) Summarize the process for development of a range of alternatives;
- (2) Identify key findings from the environmental analysis;
- (3) Respond to questions about the review process and the DEIS analysis;
- (4) Explain the process for submittal of comments on the DEIS; and
- (5) Outline the tasks and schedule for completion of the NEPA process.

10.3 Public Involvement

Public Hearings

Public hearings will be conducted during the public comment period to provide information on the DEIS contents and review process and to solicit public input. These hearings will be scheduled as early as possible in the comment period and scheduled in the following communities:

- Cascade Locks
- Hood River
- Stevenson, WA
- Warm Springs
- Portland

The format of these meetings will be designed in consultation with BIA and Partners. Public testimony will be taken and court recorders will be present to record verbatim comments.

Web Site

The DEIS will be posted on the project web site and a DEIS comment page included. The web site will be advertised as a primary mechanism for submitting comments.

Presentations

Partner agencies and the consultant team will respond to requests for presentations to stakeholder groups on a case-by-case basis in consultation with BIA. Assumptions include:

- The purpose and content of these briefings will be as described above for the interagency briefing;
- No “formal” comments on the DEIS will be accepted at these presentations, rather stakeholder groups will be requested to submit comments directly to BIA;
- Discussion at these presentations will not be considered as part of the record for purposes of commenting on the DEIS.

10.4 Public Comment Collection and Analysis

Comment Coding and Content Analysis Program

A comment coding and content analysis program will be developed in consultation with HDR and BIA. That program will enable the categorization of comments by type and origin, as well as opinions about specific alternatives. Substantive comments will be categorized by issues and sub-issues. Substantive comments will then be consolidated and framed for response in the FEIS.

Public Comment Report

A report summarizing the DEIS review process and agency and public comment received will be prepared for inclusion in the FEIS, posting on the project website, and other appropriate distribution. A draft Public Comment Report will be provided to Partner agencies for review prior to being finalized.