

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity Near a Wetland – Taholah, Washington

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), intends to fund the following Proposed Action under the Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside (TVSSA) Program. DOJ - OVC will prepare an 8-Step Decision-Making Process review in compliance with Executive Order (EO) 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), which established protective standards to avoid, to the extent possible, adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands, as well as to avoid supporting new construction in wetlands when there is a practicable alternative.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to support the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) in establishing a new Tribal Justice Center for Court-Based Crime Victim Services. The project site, located on a cleared lot along Kla-Ook-Wa Drive, Taholah, Washington, is intended to serve the QIN community and surrounding areas by providing critical services in a secure, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive environment. The proposed activities include construction of a justice center with multiple spaces for victim services, administrative offices, and related infrastructure such as a driveway, parking lot, and walkways.

For the Proposed Action, wetlands were identified using the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory (NWI) database. The review of NWI data indicates that emergent wetlands are present near the project area; however, there is no indication that the project footprint would overlap these wetlands. Accordingly, DOJ - OVC has determined that the Proposed Action requires analysis under the 8-Step Decision-Making Process to evaluate potential impacts to nearby wetland areas.

This notice provides an opportunity for individuals and agencies affected by the Proposed Action, as well as those interested in protecting natural resources, to express their concerns and provide relevant information. Commenters are encouraged to suggest alternative sites, methods to serve the project purpose, and mitigation approaches to minimize potential impacts. Comments should be submitted by email to austinrizzo@clarkgroupllc.com. DOJ - OVC is accepting comments on this Notice for 15 days from November 8, 2024 through the end of the day on November 23, 2024.

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