

Statement (CCP/EIS) which will serve as a long-term management plan for the Hanford Reach National Monument. The Committee's recommendations will focus on identifying and reconciling land management issues, while meeting the directives of Presidential Proclamation 7319 establishing the monument.

**DATES:** The Committee has scheduled the following meetings:

1. Thursday, January 15, 2004, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Richland, Washington.

2. Wednesday, February 25, 2004, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Richland, Washington.

3. Thursday, April 29, 2004, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Richland, Washington.

**ADDRESSES:** All three meetings will be held at the Washington State University Tri-Cities Consolidated Information Center, 2770 University Drive, Rooms 120 and 120A, Richland, Washington.

Written comments may be submitted to Mr. Greg Hughes, Designated Federal Official for the Hanford Reach National Monument Federal Planning Advisory Committee, Hanford Reach National Monument/Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, 3250 Port of Benton Blvd., Richland, Washington, 99352; fax (509) 375-0196. Copies of the draft meeting agenda may be obtained from the Designated Federal Official. Comments may be submitted via email to [hanfordreach@fws.gov](mailto:hanfordreach@fws.gov). Additional information regarding the monument and the CCP is available on the monument's Internet site at <http://hanfordreach.fws.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information concerning the meetings, contact Mr. Greg Hughes, Designated Federal Official, via telephone at (509) 371-1801, or fax at (509) 375-0196.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Committee meetings are open to the public. Verbal comments may be submitted during the course of the meetings, and written comments may be submitted at the close of the meetings, mailed to the monument office address, or submitted via e-mail. Over the next several months, the Committee will receive information from the Planning Team on the Draft CCP/EIS, and present advice to the Service and DOE on draft products for the CCP/EIS. The Committee will also nominate and elect a chair and a vice-chair after new Committee members are appointed.

Dated: November 26, 2003.

**David J. Wesley,**

*Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

#### **Office of Federal Acknowledgment; Final Determination Against Federal Acknowledgment of the Snohomish Tribe of Indians**

**AGENCY:** Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of final determination.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 83.10(m), notice is hereby given that the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs (AS-IA) declines to acknowledge a group known as the Snohomish Tribe of Indians (STI), c/o Mr. William Matheson, Suite 201, 144 Railroad Avenue, Edmunds, Washington 98020, as an Indian tribe within the meaning of Federal law. This notice is based on a determination that the petitioning group does not satisfy all seven of the criteria set forth in part 83 of title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations (25 CFR part 83), specifically criteria 83.7(a), (b), (c), and (e), and therefore does not meet the requirements for a government-to-government relationship with the United States.

**DATES:** This determination is final and will become effective March 9, 2004, pursuant to section 83.10(l)(4), unless a request for reconsideration is filed pursuant to section 83.11.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** R. Lee Fleming, Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment, (202) 513-7650.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published in the exercise of authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the AS-IA by 209 DM 8.

A notice of the proposed finding (PF) to decline to acknowledge the STI was published in the **Federal Register** on April 11, 1983 (48 FR 15540-1).

This final determination (FD) is made following a review of the STI's response to the PF, the public comments on the PF, and the STI's response to the public comments. It reaches conclusions based on a review and analysis of the existing record, incorporating the evidence considered for the PF, and new evidence in the form of documentation and arguments received from the petitioner and third parties. This notice is based on a determination that the group does not satisfy all seven

mandatory criteria for acknowledgment at sections 83.7 (a)-(g).

**Criterion 83.7(a):** Criterion 83.7(a) requires that the petitioner be identified as an American Indian entity on a substantially continuous basis since 1900. The petitioner has not demonstrated that it meets the requirements before 1950. The petitioner claims that its mostly off-reservation ancestors were part of the historical Snohomish tribe primarily based at the Tulalip Reservation and remained so until 1935, when the historical Snohomish tribe and other tribes at this reservation reorganized as the Tulalip Tribes of the Tulalip Reservation under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA). Available evidence, however, shows that the petitioner's ancestors were not part of the historical Snohomish tribe. Thus, identifications of the historical Snohomish tribe on the Tulalip Reservation before 1935 did not constitute identifications for the petitioner. In addition, there was no identification of an off-reservation group of STI ancestors between 1900 and 1935.

References to a claims organization called the "Snohomish Tribe of Indians," which included a few of the STI's off-reservation ancestors, occurred in the available evidence only in 1917. The organization was referred to as a Snohomish Indian entity only by a few of its members and a lawyer hired as its spokesperson, which is not evidence within the meaning of 83.7(a). External observers did not identify this group as an American Indian entity. Some of the petitioner's off-reservation ancestors were part of another claims organization called the "Snohomish Tribe of Indians" that existed from 1926 to 1935. This organization's membership included reservation Snohomish, off-reservation ancestors of the petitioning group, and other non-reservation Snohomish descendants. External observers identified this group mainly in its capacity as a claims organization that represented individuals with Indian ancestry. Thus identifications of the 1926 Snohomish claims organization did not constitute identifications of a predecessor group of the petitioner. The 1926 Snohomish claims organization ceased to exist in 1935.

There are no available identifications as an entity of a separate group of the petitioner's ancestors from 1935 to 1949, when the petitioner claims such an entity existed following the reorganization of the Tulalip Tribes of the Tulalip Reservation under the IRA. The evidence shows that the petitioner has not been identified as an American