



Diana Dupuis
Director

STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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Sent via email

July 12, 2024

Honorable Patty Kinswa-Gaiser, Chairperson
Cowlitz Indian Tribe
1055 9th Avenue, Suite B
Longview, WA 98632

RE: Government-to-Government Consultation on Golf Course Proposal for Westport Light State Park

Dear Chairperson Kinswa-Gaiser:

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) would like to initiate Government-to-Government consultation on a proposed project by a private developer to construct, operate, and manage a Scottish links-style “artisanal” golf course and a 30-40 room inn at Westport Light State Park. State Parks is in the process of considering this proposal and no decisions have been made at this time. We apologize for our delay in reaching out on this project. We are committed to developing a respectful consultative relationship with X Tribe moving forward.

Background

In 2019, Westport Golf Inc. (a private developer) approached State Parks with a proposal to construct, operate, and manage a Scottish links-style “artisanal” golf course and a 30- to 40-room inn as part of overall development of Westport Light State Park near Westport.

In 2020, Washington State Parks and Westport Golf Inc. entered into a [Memorandum of Agreement](#) (MOA) outlining the process steps — or milestones — that must be taken for the [Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission](#) to consider this request. The milestones include:

- Pre-scoping (conducting ecological and environmental studies) (**completed**),
- Analysis of site opportunities and constraints based on what was learned in the pre-scoping milestone (**completed**),
- Site plan development,
- Tribal consultation,
- Public outreach,
- Environmental review, including an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS),
- Permitting, and
- Development of a proposed concession agreement.

Since that time, numerous studies have been commissioned and completed, several public meetings have occurred, and the State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) process has been initiated, which includes an EIS. Presentations provided to the Commission and the public, as

well as full details of all reports, are available on our Washington State Parks' [Westport Light State Park planning website](https://parks.wa.gov/about/strategic-planning-projects-public-input/projects/westport-light-state-park-planning) (<https://parks.wa.gov/about/strategic-planning-projects-public-input/projects/westport-light-state-park-planning>). In addition, revisions to the MOA that was established in 2020 are being drafted to clarify roles and responsibilities, including to specify that State Parks will undertake tribal consultation directly with the support and leadership of State Parks' Tribal Relations Division. An updated MOA will be available on the website when it is completed.

In early 2023, State Parks entered into an agreement with the City of Westport, which designates the City as the nominal SEPA Lead Agency for the Westport Light Golf Links proposal. Subsequently, the City of Westport hired a consultant to conduct an EIS as part of the SEPA process, which is currently underway. State Parks took an active role in commenting during the EIS scoping period and will continue to provide comments as the EIS progresses. The EIS review process requires several additional process steps and review requirements (including comment periods), and progress on the EIS is posted directly on the [City of Westport's webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__2007/37859/project_narrative.aspx) (https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__2007/37859/project_narrative.aspx). .

Next Steps

All steps in this process must be completed and all information carefully considered for State Parks to make an informed decision on the overall project proposal. One of the most important steps in this process is inviting tribal feedback and input, which we hope to initiate with this letter.

We would like to introduce you to the project and our team members. Our Tribal Relations Division, [Jenna adzalous Bowman](#) (Tulalip/Yakama), Director, and [Jeanne Jackson McMinds](#) (Songhees/Quileute/Quinault), Deputy Director, are overseeing consultation. The primary point of contact for the proposed project is [Lisa Lantz](#), Stewardship Director.

Your response to this letter acknowledging your Tribe's interest in participating and providing key Tribal contacts would be greatly appreciated. We would like to set up some time to meet and share more details of this work. We will be reaching out to follow up and set up an initial meeting.

Sincerely,



Diana Dupuis
Director

Cc Rita Asgeirsson, Cultural Resources, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Jerry BigEagle, THPO, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Rudy Salakory, Natural Resources, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
James Gordon, Cultural Resources Technician, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Jenna adzalous Bowman, Tribal Relations Director, WSPRC
Heather Saunders, Director Parks Development, WSPRC
Lisa Lantz, Stewardship Director, WSPRC
Jeanne "JJ Jackson McMinds, Tribal Relations Deputy Director, WSPRC
Hannah Ross, SW Region Environmental Planner, WSPRC