



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20245

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Tribal Government Services-FA

JUN 15 1983

Mr. Joseph Cloquet  
2815 Dale Lane East  
Tacoma, Washington 98424

Dear Mr. Cloquet:

The Branch of Federal Acknowledgment has reviewed the Cowlitz petition for acknowledgment for obvious deficiencies and significant omissions, as required by the Acknowledgment regulations 25 CFR 83.9(b). Although the petition is carefully prepared and extensively documented, there are several areas where we feel additional documentation and discussion are necessary to strengthen the petition. The discussion below outlines areas which we recommend be supplemented before the petition is placed on active consideration. In addition, we have attempted to anticipate other information which will speed the processing of the petition when it is considered but which does not represent significant deficiencies or omissions.

The description of modern community, from approximately 1960 to the present is not sufficient to evaluate the petition in relation to criterion b and additional information is necessary in relation to criterion c. Please provide information concerning the maintenance of substantial formal and informal contact among group members, and indicate whether there are still local geographical concentrations or settlements such as existed in the past. A description of the modern community may include information concerning group events, informal gatherings, ceremonies, and political, geographic or social distinctions within the group. It should include descriptions of any continued distinct cultural practices or other distinctions of the community from surrounding non-Indians. Please include a description and documentation concerning the Sovereign Cowlitz and other subgroups discussed in the petition submitted by the Cowlitz in 1975.

We would like to note in relation to criterion b that the group is not required to show that large numbers of its members are still present in the area of the aboriginal group to which they trace. Criterion b does require the group to show that it forms a tribal community now and that it is derived from an aboriginal community which inhabited a common territory.

We would like more detailed information and documentation concerning the exercise of political influence and governmental functions in the past 30 years. Little documentation of this is currently included in the petition. Materials needed to supplement the petition in this area are: (1) a list of the members of the tribal council since 1960; (2) a description of the committees of the council and a list of members of these for the

past five years; and (3) a sample of minutes of meetings of the council. We suggest the minutes of one meeting per year be provided for the past 30 years and request that these include the minutes of the general membership meeting of November 2, 1974, and minutes of the meeting to adopt the 1950 constitution. Other materials can be examined when staff researchers are conducting research in Washington State.

Please supply copies of any previous rolls which still exist, as called for by criterion e. Specifically we request the 1953 roll which was submitted to the BIA in connection with the "blue cards" and is mentioned in the 1975 Cowlitz petition; the roll or rolls referred to in the 1975 Senate hearing on the Cowlitz claims fund distribution; and any lists of members of the organization between 1910 and 1940. We would also like the petition of 423 members submitted by Roy Wilson and Joseph Cloquet to the 1975 hearing and, if available to you, the petition of 194 signatures submitted by the Yakima Cowlitz, and the petition of 199 names submitted by Frank Mesplie and others in those hearings.

Please provide us with addresses for the approximately 330 names on the current roll for which no addresses were listed. We appreciate your offer to update the list during the review process.

We would like to call your attention to our policy letter of May 16, 1979, concerning the membership of petitioning groups (copy enclosed). The Bureau's solicitors have advised us that the roll submitted by a petitioner may become its base roll for some time to come if the group is acknowledged. Thus every effort should be made to submit a roll which is as complete as possible.

There are several areas of information and documentation which would strengthen the petition's treatment of the nature of the community and its political organization between 1890 and 1950. These areas, which are listed below, do not constitute major deficiencies but would speed the processing of the petition and will help to develop an understanding of the Cowlitz in this period.

1. Further information on the involvement of the Cowlitz in the Shaker Indian church.
2. Cowlitz involvement in the Northwest Federation of American Indians from 1914 - 1935.
3. Any additional documentary information (such as minutes, governing documents or newspaper clippings) or oral history concerning political leadership and organization, particularly between 1935 and 1950.
4. A list and any available documentation of the Indian Homesteads and Public Domain allotments held by the Cowlitz, their location, and the families, if any, in the present group who are related to the original owners of these lands.
5. Testimony and oral history that might be available, specifically testimony in the Halbert case and before the Indian Claims Commission.

We would appreciate receiving complete copies of the following exhibits which are incomplete in the petition: 17, 191, 350, 426, 884 and numerous exhibits in the section between 179 and 537. We will also need clearer copies of exhibits 780, 884 and 857.

Please also provide a copy of "The Plamondon Family," by George Plamondon, which is referred to in the petition narrative.

The Acknowledgment staff will be in touch with you and your researchers by telephone to discuss the specific materials needed to reinforce the petition. We look forward to working with you toward completion of work on this petition. In the meantime, if you have questions, please call the Acknowledgment staff on (202) 343-3568 or write the Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20245, Attention: Branch of Federal Acknowledgment.

Sincerely,



Deputy Assistant Secretary--  
Indian Affairs (Operations)

Enclosure

cc: Portland Area Office  
Evergreen Legal Services  
Whittlesey and O'Brien  
Branch of Tribal Services  
Regional Solicitors Office, Portland  
Quinault  
Yakima  
Puget Sound Agency