

## **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

### **Medicine River Ranch Fee-to-Trust Project Nisqually Indian Tribe Thurston County, Washington**

This FONSI is based on the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) for the *Nisqually Indian Tribe Medicine River Ranch and Fee-to-Trust Project*. The Proposed Action consists of the acquisition of 72.22 acres into federal trust in Thurston County, Washington (Thurston County Parcel Numbers 21832340002, 21832340003, and 21832340000) for the Nisqually Indian Tribe (Tribe), and the subsequent development by the Tribe of an equestrian ranch providing equine therapy to tribal members and the surrounding community. The BIA has determined that by implementation of the agency proposed action and environmental mitigation measures as specified in the EA, the project will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. In accordance with Section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required.

This determination is supported by the following:

1. The EA discloses the environmental consequences of the No Action and the Proposed Action Alternative – construction and operation of an equestrian ranch with an outdoor arena, 20,000 sf indoor arena, stables, covered and uncovered pens, storage building, and associated parking area.
2. Protective measures will be implemented as part of the project by the Tribe to protect air (Clean Air Act as amended 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), land resources, water quality (Clean Water Act of 1977, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), cultural resources, noise, and visual resources (pgs. 2-4 through 2-7 of the EA). Mitigation measures for biological resources would ensure avoidance of potential impacts to listed species, migratory birds, and aquatic habitats (EA pgs. 4-1 and 4-2).
3. The proposed action will not jeopardize threatened or endangered species (Threatened and Endangered Species Act of 1983, as amended, 16 U.S.C et seq.). Final determinations of effect to these species can be found on pg. 3-17 of the EA.
4. There are no adverse effects on historic properties (National Historic Preservation Act, as amended 16 U.S.C 470) for the purpose of 36 CFR 800.9 (b). Should unknown archeological resources be encountered during project ground-disturbing activities, work will stop in the area of discovery and the stipulations of 36 CFR 800.11 will be followed. A detailed description can be found on pgs. 2-5 and 2-6 of the EA.
5. The proposed action will not cause a significant effect to energy resources (Energy Policy Act of 2005), water resources, wetlands (E.O. 11990), or flood plains (E.O. 11988).
6. The proposed action will not affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as the proximity to park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically

critical areas.

7. The proposed action will not have highly controversial or uncertain effects on the human environment or involve unique or unknown risks.
8. The proposed action will not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a consideration.
9. There proposed action would improve the economic and social conditions of the affected Tribal community and promote Tribal self-sufficiency.
10. The proposed action will not threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. The Nisqually Indian Tribe shall maintain coverage under the USEPA NPDES Construction General Permit for construction site runoff during the construction phase in compliance with the CWA. A SWPPP shall be prepared, implemented, and maintained throughout the construction phase of the development, consistent with Construction General Permit requirements. With adherence to the NPDES permitting program and implementation of the SWPPP and BMPs, impacts to surface water quality from construction activities would be less than significant (EA, pgs. 3-10 through 3-12).

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Kelly Millhouse, Acting Superintendent  
Puget Sound Agency  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

April 16, 2025

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Date