

(3) Technical Assistance Letter(s)

- February 19, 1981

FEB 19 1981

Mr. Robert Comenout
Snoqualmie Tribe of Indians
P.O. Box 662
Issaquah, Washington 98207

Dear Mr. Comenout:

The Federal Acknowledgment Project staff has reviewed the Snoqualmie petition for obvious deficiencies and significant omissions, as required by the acknowledgment regulations, 25 CFR 54.9(b). Although the petition has clearly been carefully prepared, there are some areas where additional discussion and documentation are necessary to strengthen the petition.

The description of the political organization of the Snoqualmie between 1855 and around 1915 would be greatly enhanced if more detail could be provided concerning the leadership and political processes within the group and how the group evolved from the original bands and villages. The description of political organization does not need to be limited to discussion of particular leaders, but may include less formalized processes such as group meetings. You may find it useful to refer to pages 9-11 of the guidelines for preparation of a petition.

We will also need a current list of those who are considered members of the group, with current addresses, preferably on the forms included in the guidelines. It is not clear to us whether the enrollment index submitted is intended to be the complete roll. It does not, in any event, contain sufficient information to allow the genealogical work on the petition to be completed. When the petition comes under active consideration, we will need genealogical charts and possibly some genealogical documentation for those who did not apply for the judgment funds or who were rejected for payment. We will let you know what materials will be needed and when they should be sent. 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 recently advised us that the roll submitted by a petitioner, may well become its base roll for some time to come, if it is acknowledged. Thus every effort should be made to submit a roll which is as complete as possible.

We appreciate the extensive exhibits provided of earlier tribal enrollment records. We will also need a copy of the enrollment list of 1974, referred to in exhibit 74 of the petition and a copy of the 1975 address list which forms the basis of the map in exhibit 99. This will provide us with each available former list of members, as required by Section 54.7(e) of the regulations.

There are some additional materials, listed below, which will aid us greatly in developing the most accurate description of the group. They do not represent a serious deficiency in the petition, but would be helpful in processing the petition when it comes under active consideration. Please provide:

1. A description and any associated written materials (programs, etc.) concerning any group events, informal gatherings of all or part of the tribe, and political or social distinctions or subgroupings within the group as it exists today. Please provide a description of any traditional cultural practices or Indian language that have been maintained.
2. A list of tribal council members since 1960.
3. A description of the committees the group currently has and a list of those who have served on these committees for the past five years.
4. The minutes of one council meeting from each year since 1970, as a sample.
5. A copy of any grants that have been received or applied for in the past five years, other than those already supplied.
6. The summary, if any, of information derived from the questionnaire (sample in exhibit number 131) which was provided to the court in connection with the U.S. v. Washington suit. We would also like to know if the original questionnaires are still available.

The Acknowledgment staff will be in touch with you by telephone to discuss the specific materials needed to reinforce the petition. We look forward to working with you toward the completion of work on this petition. In the meantime, if you have questions, please call the Acknowledgment staff on (703) 235-2360 or write to the Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20245, Attention: Federal Acknowledgment Project.

Sincerely,

James F. Canon

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs

Enclosure