

WASHINGTON STATE
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY TASK FORCE
P. O. BOX 367, OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON 98501

OFFICE OF STATE COORDINATOR

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 1964

Advocates for the Job Corps Camp at White Swan, Washington, sent in their final say to the members of the Governor's Committee on the Economic Opportunity Act legislation today.

Mrs. Elaine Hull, leader of groups advocating state approval of the Job Corps Camp on the Yakima Indian Reservation, built a case around benefits to be derived from conservation work to be undertaken by the youth including the reeducation of fire hazards. "Reforestation, fencing, landscaping, building of road signs plus the development of new camp sites will all be a welcome addition to our forest areas," she said in a statement to the Committee.

The interagency committee, renamed the Washington State Economic Opportunity Task Force, will meet Wednesday morning, October 28, in the U. S. Internal Revenue Service Building at 6th and Lenora to review progress on the anti-poverty program in this State and to take up the proposition of Job Corps camps for White Swan and Curlew, Washington. Under the law, the Governor or a designated official must approve or veto Job Corps Camp sites.

The final tally on camp sites is as follows:

Curlew	19 for,	3 against
Ford	188 for,	97 against
White Swan	1,392 for,	709 against

In her final argument for the camp, Mrs. Hull said:

"The majority of citizens look upon this camp as a new industry in our community. We welcome the new faces and these underprivileged youths with open minds and open hearts. We welcome the challenge it will bring to our community, keeping in mind some problems may arise . . . because these boys are poor in material wealth does not make them poor in their desire to do good and be accepted by society. If in some small way we can help our youth of

America we are proud to do so." The complete text of Mrs. Hull's statement is attached.

A STATEMENT FOR PROPOSED YOUTH CORPS CAMP AT WHITE SWAN

Speaking in behalf of the citizens in our area who are in favor of the Youth Camp -- these are my conclusions:

The opposition to this camp states that these boys who are eligible for the Youth Corp Camp will not benefit from this type of training. They maintain they will be raking leaves, chopping wood, and digging ditches. This is not true.

The improvements we stand to gain in our timber land alone will be most beneficial. Slash thinnings will be disposed of to reduce fire hazard. Reforestation, fencing, landscaping, and the building of road signs, plus the development of new camp sites will all be a welcome addition to our forest areas. In addition the camp facilities are to be improved at the White Swan Long House, along with an open Pavilion for the traditional Indian dances. These youths will help in construction, including such items as sidewalks, outbuildings and recreational facilities.

The opponents also conclude that the location is undesirable -- nothing but rocks and rattlesnacks.

The site of Fort Simcoe was chosen for the proposed camp because of its low altitude and moderate climate. It is on tribal land and considered a suitable location, being close to the forest area and not too close to any town. For the camp to be located closer to the cities would defeat much of the effectiveness of the camp. Camp Group therapy is a proven medium for rehabilitation. Also would like to note here that no intoxicating liquor or beer are sold in our community of White Swan. This location is ideal to carry out the work of forestry & conservation. The area site was approved by the office of Economic Opportunity and the State of Washington. It is also on the Yakima Indian Reservation and has the approval of the Tribal Council who represents the Indian people.

Much of the opposition to this camp was brought about because of the way the program was presented. Many people were informed that the camp would be made up of delinquents, hoodlums, & rioters from the east coast, thus creating a mass hysteria. Many people signed petitions in the beginning against the camp. However, since that time many people who have been re-educated to the program would now accept this camp and share in part in rehabilitating our youth and help them to become responsible citizen's.

It is unfortunate however, that we do have some selfish, narrow minded, bigoted people in our small community, but they are in the minority.

The three churches in our community have gone on record for backing this camp and have offered their services to help these boys spiritually.

The majority of the citizens look upon this camp as a new Industry in our community. We welcome the new faces and these underprivileged youths with open minds and open hearts. We welcome the challenge it will bring to our community, keeping in mind that some problems may arise. However, we have faith and trust enough to believe that the boys will do much more good for the community as against any harm they might do.

You asked for the sentiment of the people and that sentiment was 2 to 1 in favor of the camp. One could hardly expect 100% acceptance on any project of this kind. We feel it is true that Politics have played a large part in the opposition.

Aside from all the benefits we stand to gain -- our main objective is to help these underprivileged youths become proud citizens and tax payers of tomorrow. If only a small percentage are rehabilitated, we feel our tax money is well spent.

Because these boys are poor in material wealth does not make them poor in their desire to do good and be accepted by society. If in some small way we can help our Youth of America, we are proud to do so.

We sincerely hope that you will take into careful consideration our views in this matter.

In conclusion, we whole heartedly welcome the Youth Corp Camp at Fort Simcoe.

/s/ Elaine Hull

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 26, 1964

The 2,001 persons who have expressed "for" or "against" comments on the location of Job Corps camp at White Swan, Washington, under the federal anti-poverty program, represent 28 communities in Eastern Washington and one in Western Washington, a survey of the mail showed today.

Opponents of the proposal to locate the camp on the Yakima Indian Reservation have asked that the state consider only those comments from residents of the Mount Adams School District 209 which includes White Swan and vicinity, Harrah and Brownstown.

In Harrah, with a population of 327, 120 have registered opposition and 24 in favor of the site. White Swan, the focal point of the controversy, has only some 200 residents but is part of the Mt. Adams school district which includes some 4,850 men, women and children. From this area 457 have registered in favor of the camp site and 234 against.

Opponents and proponents agreed on inclusion of votes from White Swan, Harrah, and Brownstown and exclusion of sentiment from Wiley City, Wauconda,

Sunnyside, Renton, Prosser, Priest Rapids, Parker, Outlook, Naches, Mabton, Granger, Grandview, Goldendale, Ellensburg, Cle Elum, Clarkson, and Ahtanum. The two sides, headed by Mrs. Elaine Hull (for) and Mrs. Buster Phillips (against) could not agree on a count of votes from Buena, Cowiche, Moxee City, Selah, Toppenish, Union Gap, Wapato, Yakima and Zillah.

The federal Job Corps camps will provide residential facilities for 100 to 200 young men, age 16-21 in a coordinated program of basic education, skill training and constructive work experience. Designed for youth lacking schooling and skills for jobs, the camps will have staffs of from 21 to 30 teachers, counselors and supervisory personnel. A voluntary program, recruits will be enrolled by local U. S. employment service offices as operated by the states.

The Washington State Task Force on Economic Opportunity will meet in Seattle Wednesday, October 28, to review progress on the anti-poverty program in this state and to consider action on the Job Corps camp sites. Opponents of the White Swan camp have proposed an alternate site in the Ahtanum Valley near Yakima.

TOTAL VOTES ON WHITE SWAN JOB CORPS CAMP

CITY	FOR	AGAINST	POPULATION (State Census Board)	APPROVE OF INCLUSION	
				Opponents	Proponents
BROWNSTOWN	5	12	NA	Yes	Yes
HARRAH	24	120	327	Yes	Yes
WHITE SWAN & Vicinity	457	234	NA (Est. 200)	Yes	Yes
(NOTE: County School District estimates 4,850 people reside in Mount Adams School District.)					
AUHTANUM	0	1	NA	No	No
BUENA	7	0	NA	No	Yes
CLARKSTON	1	0	6,225	No	No
CLE ELUM	0	1	1,800	No	No
COWICHE	2	1	NA	No	Yes
ELLENSBURG	4	3	9,800	No	No
GOLDENDALE	2	0	2,700	No	No
GRANDVIEW	4	0	3,560	No	No
GRANGER	12	0	1,440	No	No
MABTON	1	0	940	No	No
MOXEE CITY	2	4	547	No	Yes
NACHES	1	0	675	No	No
OUTLOOK	1	0	NA	No	No
PARKER	0	1	NA	No	No
PRIEST RAPIDS	1	0	NA	No	No
PROSSER	2	1	2,930	No	No
RENTON	1	0	20,600	No	No
SELAH	20	4	2,948	No	Yes
SUNNYSIDE	51	0	6,525	No	No
TOPPENISH	180	22	5,725	No	Yes
UNION GAP	6	5	2,140	No	Yes
WAPATO	167	143	3,130	No	Yes
WAUCONDA	0	1	NA	No	No
WILEY CITY	0	9	NA	No	No
YAKIMA	420	145	44,000	No	Yes
ZILLAH	<u>21</u>	<u>2</u>	1,135	No	Yes
	1,392	709			

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NEWS RELEASE
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November 17, 1964

The State of Washington has received additional information on the work program for a proposed Job Corps Center on the Yakima Indian Reservation.

John F. Gordon, State Coordinator of the Economic Opportunity Act, said the facility would be administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the Department of Interior.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has recommended a Center site near Fort Simcoe and White Swan but has agreed to explore alternate sites at the request of the State. A final recommendation is due November 23.

Gordon said that initial plans for the Yakima Reservation Center call for 200 Job Corpsmen to construct 44 campsites located along the Klickitat, West Fork and Clearwater Rivers and at Soda Springs. In addition to providing needed facilities for recreationists, this work will offer Corpsmen experience in carpentry, masonry, and the use of both hand tools and heavy equipment.

- more -

"The Job Corps enrollees will learn something of basic forest management techniques in the thinning operations on some 2,000 acres of overstocked ponderosa pine stands in the Cedar Valley area," Gordon said.

If the Center is approved, carpentry skills and an introduction to horticulture would be emphasized in fencing, landscaping and site improvement projects at the Signal Peak Ranger Station, and the Mill Creek, Cougar Creek, Kaiser Butte and Potato Hill Guard Stations. After basic skills are learned a forestry headquarters building would be constructed at Glenwood, on the southwest side of the Reservation.

Sargent Shriver, National Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, has approved the Yakima plans and has asked for State approval.

To obtain proper distribution of livestock on Indian-owned range lands, Corpsmen would construct 220 miles of range fence, develop 80 springs for livestock water and install 36 miles of pipe line to distribute the water. Further work on range lands would include the construction of 48 miles of livestock trails in the upper Klickitat drainage and in the open range lands in the Satus, Mule and Dry Creek areas.

A variety of noxious weed control methods would be used by the Job Corpsmen in the cultivated areas of the Reservation in the Yakima Valley. The enrollees would learn the use of chemical sprays and how to operate farm machinery in this project.

Additional recreation projects proposed include the removal of competing vegetation on 850 acres of popular wild huckleberry area in the Potato Hill and Howard Lake areas. This project would involve primarily the use of hand tools.

Habitat for game birds would be improved by plantings to provide cover and feed and the use of earthmoving equipment to construct small reservoirs to collect rainfall, Gordon said.

None of the work planned is part of the normal activity of the Yakima Indian Reservation. The scheduled Job Corps work and future projects would provide improvements for which there are no regular Bureau of Indian Affairs appropriations.

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November 28, 1964

TO YAKIMA PRESS, RADIO, TV; AP & UPI
PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Saturday, November 28, 1964)

Criteria used for the selection by the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the federal Job Corps camp at White Swan was released today by the Washington State Economic Opportunity Task Force.

John F. Gordon, Chairman of the Governor's Advisory Committee, said the State group certified the White Swan Camp for approval when it learned that a Community Relations Council would handle problems and that the White Swan camp met all the following criteria: (1) Title to the land should be such that the Government could build with reasonable control; (2) Power within reasonable distance; (3) Water reasonably available; (4) Good camp drainage; (5) Land that would need a minimum of site preparation; (6) Stable weather conditions; (7) Reasonable driving distance to proposed work projects of one hour or less; (8) Close to all-weather highways; (9) Reasonable driving distance from doctors, dentists, and towns large enough to provide off-duty recreation.

Richard M. Balsiger, Area Bureau of Indian Affairs Director, detailed the information gathered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in its evaluation of sites and stressed the point that limitations on federal funds precluded sites located far from work projects and requiring roads and other improvements.

MORE

JOB CORPS YOUTH CAMP - add 1

The sites included:

Site No. 1: (Ahtanum Ridge) Land is tribally owned. This site lie on a bench at an elevation of approximately 100 feet above the Ahtanum valley, sloping to the north. It lies out in the open, completely unprotected from the ravages of weather, and is entirely covered by sagebrush.

Electric power is available within a reasonable distance.

Water, domestic and otherwise, would have to be from drilled wells.

Access to the site is by a gravel road, presumably county-owned, which we would have no authority to improve.

Of all four sites in the Ahtanum Creek area, this one would be the closest to an all-weather road for travel to and from the work projects.

Site No. 2: (Ahtanum Ridge) This site is also located on the north slope of the Ahtanum Ridge, similarly to Site One. It also is unprotected from the weather in any way.

The land is tribally owned. Electric power is available approximately one mile distant. Water source would be drilled wells.

Road in from the blacktop is very poor. It would be necessary to put in a bridge, as the existing one is not sufficiently substantial for heavy vehicles.

As indicated by the mileage chart, this site is quite a distance from the work project areas.

Site No. 3: (Ahtanum Valley) This is a densely wooded area lying between Ahtanum Creek and the Ahtanum Ridge.

This site does not appear to be of adequate size to accommodate a camp. Drainage could be expected to be a serious problem, since the site lie only approximately 15 feet above the level of the creek.

Land clearing and site improvement would be quite costly.

JOB CORPS YOUTH CAMP - add 2

It would be necessary to build a bridge to get into the site.

As indicated on our map of the reservation, this site is adjacent to reservation road which, when passable, would be closer to the work projects than either Site One or Site Two. This road is quite crooked, however, and according to our Agency staff it is not usable in the winter time.

Site No. 4: (Ahtanum Ridge) This site is similar to Site 3 in that it lies in the first bench above the Creek bed and is quite marshy in places. Just from viewing the location it appears there would be adequate room for a camp.

Again, though, the site improvement and land clearing would be quite costly.

The land is tribally owned. Wells would have to be drilled for water.

As in the case of Site No.3, this site is closer to the work projects than the first two sites, at least for the summer months. But in the winter months it would be necessary to travel around the main roads in order to get to the work projects. Five miles of dirt road lie between the site and the all-weather road.

Site No. 5: (Goldendale) Site No. 5 is located in the southeast portion of the reservation close to Highway 97 (near Goldendale).

It is tribally owned land. Electric power is close by. Wells would have to be drilled for water.

This site would be handy during the summer work season for projects the grazing, range, and fencing work programs, also in the fire hazard reduction program clearing along Highway 97 at the south edge of the reservation. The duration of this latter project would be rather short, however.

MORE

Site No. 6: (Fort Simcoe; White Swan) This site lies at the edge of the valley approximately one mile west of the Fort Simcoe Museum. The land lies fairly level, with adequate acreage to accommodate the camp with all needed recreational facilities.

Power lines are located within less than one mile. It would be necessary to drill well or wells for the water supply. Springs in this area are an indication of plentiful water.

Distance to the work projects is much more favorable than any other site surveyed.

There is protection from the weather on three sides. This seems like a natural setting for a camp site, with the supervisors' houses at a slightly higher elevation, and with a knoll behind the camp at an elevation to accommodate the water tank so as to assure adequate water pressure for all phases of the operation, including fire protection.

This site was recommended by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Site No. 7: (Old Indian Mission) The White Swan Mission, formerly used as a boarding school for Indian Children, is owned by the United Christian Missionary Society, Indianapolis, Indiana. It comprises a 100-bed dormitory plus a 50-bed dormitory, kitchen-dining facilities for 50 persons at a sitting, and related structures, in fair condition.

A very considerable amount of rehabilitation would be required before it could be brought up to meet Job Corps criteria. But because of its privately-owned status, we would be prevented from spending federal money to remodel and improve it.

Other sites considered by B.I.A. but rejected included an area adjacent to the White Swan School and the area near the White Swan School.