NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE

TOLOWA DEE-NI' NATION FEE-TO-TRUST AND HOUSING, CULTURAL CENTER, AND PARKING LOT

Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Department of the Interior has released an Environmental Assessment (EA) dated September 19, 2025 for the Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation Fee-To-Trust And Housing, Cultural Center, And Commercial Parking Project. The EA has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA 42 United States Code [USC] §4321 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (43 CFR 46), and the U.S. Department of the Interior Handbook of National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures (516 DM 1) and assesses the environmental impacts that could result from the acquisition by the BIA of a 22.3-acre property (Project Site) into federal trust status for the benefit of the Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation (Tribe) for non-gaming purposes (Proposed Action), and subsequent development by the Tribe of visitor and recreational vehicle parking (50 automobile stalls and 17 recreational vehicle stalls), tribal residential housing (6 single-family units) and private road, a cultural center (5,330 square feet), and a cultural preserve (Proposed Project).

The Project Site consists of seven parcels (Assessor Parcel Numbers 102-070-17, 102-070-13, 102-070-08, 102-070-25, 102-160-23, 102-010-41, and 102-010-40) comprised of approximately 22.3-acres of tribally owned land in the town of Smith River, Del Norte County, California (Project Site). Local access to the Project Site is provided by Highway 101 North and Ocean View Drive. The parcels are largely vacant and undeveloped.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to facilitate tribal self-sufficiency, self-determination, and economic development, thus satisfying the Department of Interior's (Department) land acquisition policy as articulated in the Department's trust land regulations at 25 CFR Part 151. Based on the analysis and impacts discussed in the EA and comments received during the public review period, the BIA will decide whether to reach a Finding of No Significant Impact, direct further work on the EA, or initiate the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The public comment period for the EA will be open for 30 days, beginning September 22, 2025 and ending on October 22, 2025.

For additional information, please contact Jennifer Hayden, Environmental Protection Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region, at (916) 936-6220 or by email at Jennifer.Hayden@bia.gov

Written comments should be mailed to the following address:

Ryan Hunter, Acting Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2820, Sacramento, CA 95825

Copies of the EA are available for public review at the Tribe's administration building at 12801 Mouth of Smith River Rd, Smith River, California and on the internet at https://www.gra.llc/environmental-assessment