



**Our mission:  
Promote the growth of family-  
wage jobs in the context of  
sound environmental practice.**

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## **US Army Corps Asked to Avoid Involvement in Lummi Land Scheme**

(Whatcom County)-The Lummi Nation leadership's resistance to completion of the EIS process for the Gateway Pacific Terminal project has been puzzling. Most Washington voters sampled in a recent poll said that the EIS process should be completed before decisions are made about the project. Why would anyone be afraid of hard facts and good science, even if they don't always align with your opinions?

Because there may be more to the story than is generally known.

The Northwest Jobs Alliance has asked the US Army Corps of Engineers and other government officials to disassociate themselves from a plan by the Lummi Nation to annex Cherry Point to its reservation.

The Cherry Point area is home to the County's heavy industrial zone with two oil refineries, an aluminum smelter, and several other high-wage employers. It is on privately owned, non-tribal land. A recent study shows that out of 7,000 employers in Whatcom County, the 11 Cherry Point companies generate about 15% of the County's wage base.

Lummi Nation documents provided to the Corps reveal an apparent motive behind their opposition to the Gateway Pacific Terminal project (and completion of the EIS process) that is not connected to treaty rights.

In a letter to officials, Alliance Chair John Huntley and President Brad Owens point to evidence that shows "that the Lummi have been executing a reservation annexation strategy." They provided a copy of a Lummi planning document that summarizes the tribe's strategy. The document states:

***"The Sovereignty and Treaty Protection Office has been directed by the LIBC [Lummi Indian Business Council] to design and implement a strategy to accomplish two separate, but related, goals. First, to defeat the proposed SSA project. Second, to acquire Cherry Point, have it placed in Trust status." [red color is in original Lummi document]***

"Encroaching on the job-producing potential of the Cherry Point industrial area by allowing the tribe to annex it to their reservation would be devastating to the economy of Whatcom County, said Owens, who has lived in Whatcom County for over 50 years. "It would be another blow to working families (both tribal and non-tribal) resulting in a further degradation of the struggling middle class. This would make things worse," Owens further stated.

A study by Pew Research has concluded that a majority of Washingtonians are now living below the middle class.

“It would decimate the job and tax base of the County, in particular the budgets of the Ferndale and Blaine School Districts and Fire District 7, for which Cherry Point industries carry much of the tax load. Take out their support, or the tax-generating potential of new industry, and the rest of the taxpayers pick up the tab,” commented Huntley.

“The Lummi are a very unique and important 1.5% of the community,” Huntley stressed. “But the welfare of the other 98.5% counts, too. We all need to be working together to promote the common good, not putting the interests of working families at risk or being disrespectful of established reservation or treaty rights. If there are cultural features important to the Lummi on land that they don’t own, then they should work for a solution in collaboration with the landowner.”

“While the Lummi people themselves and their treaty rights deserve great respect, this ploy to snatch non-tribal land is just plain wrong,” the letter states. “By any standard of basic fairness, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should not allow itself to be manipulated into aiding in what would amount to a devaluation and confiscation of privately-owned, non-tribal lands.”

The Alliance leaders encourage that the normal EIS process is completed, and that the Lummi be urged to engage in good faith discussions with the proponents of GPT to explore win-win possibilities

“That’s only just and reasonable,” they say.

The individual and organizational members of the Northwest Jobs Alliance represent thousands of Washingtonians, all united around a mission of *promoting family wage jobs in the context of sound environmental practice*.

The NWJA officials say that they have forwarded well over a thousand pieces of mail from citizens urging the Corps and other regulators to finish the EIS process for the Gateway Pacific Terminal project before making any important decisions about its potential impact on tribal treaty fishing rights.

Alliance President Owens pointed to the fact that 61% of Washingtonians who were surveyed in a recent poll agreed with this stance. [Proprietary Research by Elway Research, Inc., Seattle July 2015]

End

Attachments

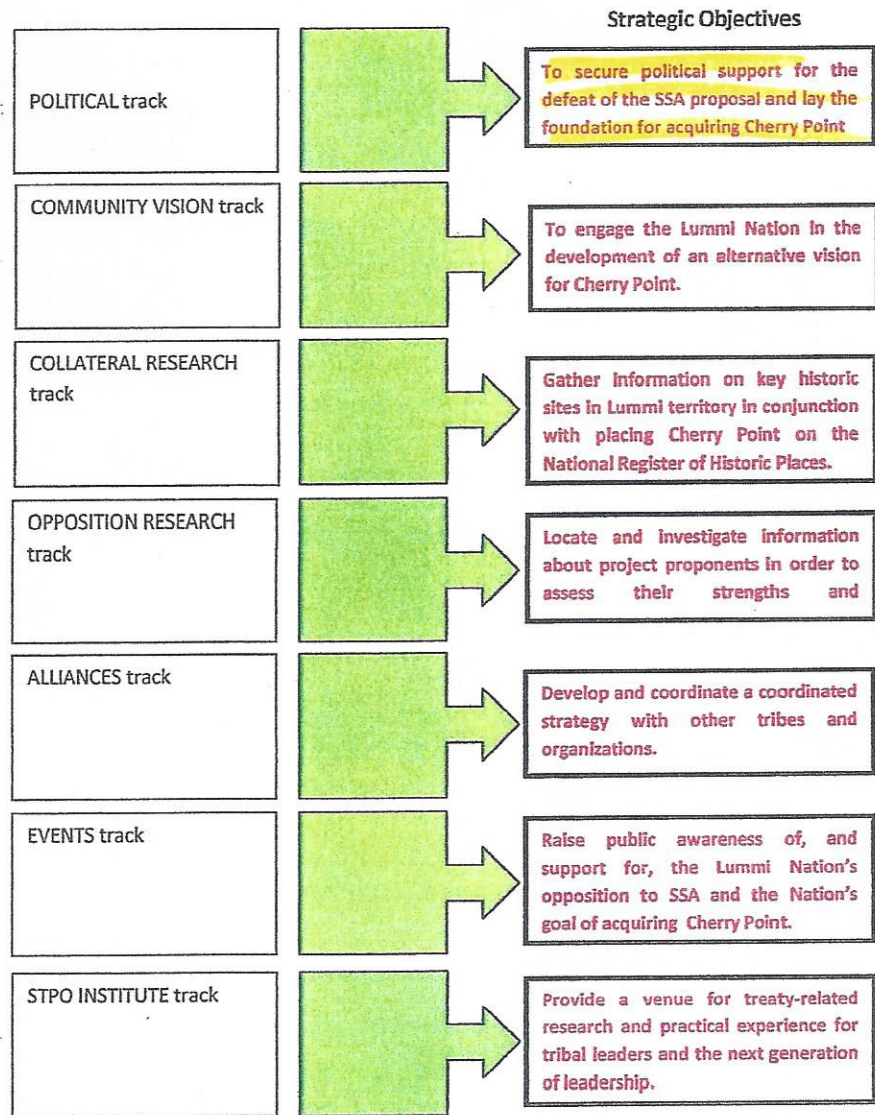
- Lummi planning document
- Letter to Corps
- Study Summary-*Employment at Cherry Point*
- Pew Research data

**XWE'CHI'EXEN**

XWE'CHI'EXEN (Cherry Point) is once again the focus of interest on the part of a large corporation. The proposed development of a coal terminal on Cherry Point would have dramatic and long-lasting impacts on not only the fisheries and the Lummi fishing fleet, but also on the tangible and intangible values of this ancient and highly-significant spiritual, cultural, historic, and archaeological landscape.

The Sovereignty and Treaty Protection Office has been directed by the LIBC to design and implement a strategy to accomplish two separate, but related, goals. **First, to defeat the proposed SSA project. Second, to acquire Cherry Point, have it placed in Trust status.** Given the nature of "promises" this is, ultimately, the only way to ensure that any use of this landscape respects its natural and cultural heritage and integrity. This strategic direction has seven distinct, but interrelated tracks (pictured at right).

In the LIBC Resolution that directed the activities of the STPO, the LIBC identified a strategic team whose tasks is to develop the strategy and help monitor and evaluate the implementation of the strategic plan.





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August 20, 2015

Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy  
U.S Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works  
108 Army Pentagon.  
Room 3E446  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

RE: Protecting Cherry Point Industrial Job Base from Lummi Acquisition

Dear Secretary Darcy:

Our organization's individual and organizational membership represents thousands of Washingtonians.

We recently corresponded with Whatcom County government on the importance of protecting the high-wage industrial job base at Cherry Point in Whatcom County, WA, which is currently the home of two oil refineries, an aluminum smelter, and many other significant employers. A copy of that communication is enclosed.

We respectfully bring to your attention the documents attached to that letter which reveal an apparent motive behind the Lummi Nation's opposition to the Gateway Pacific Terminal project (and completion of the EIS process) *not* connected with treaty rights. The documents show that the **Lummi have been executing a reservation annexation strategy** that is summarized in one of the enclosed documents as follows [red color is in the original]:

***"The Sovereignty and Treaty Protection Office has been directed by the LIBC [Lummi Indian Business Council] to design and implement a strategy to accomplish two separate, but related, goals. First, to defeat the proposed SSA project. Second, to acquire Cherry Point, have it placed in Trust status."***

While the Lummi people themselves and their treaty rights deserve great respect, this ploy to snatch non-tribal land is just plain wrong. By any standard of basic fairness, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should not allow itself to be manipulated into aiding in what would amount to a devaluation and confiscation of privately-owned, non-tribal lands. Please publically disassociate yourself from this scheme, ensure that the normal EIS process is completed\*, and encourage the Lummi to engage in good faith discussions with the proponents of GPT to explore win-win possibilities.

That's only just and reasonable.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Huntley".

John Huntley, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Owens".

Brad Owens, President

\*61% of WA voters surveyed agree with this – Elway Research, Inc. July 2015

# ***Study: Employment at Cherry Point-October 2014***

[Whatcom County, WA]

**Center for Economic and Business Research, Western Washington University**

**By Hart Hodges, Ph.D. Western Washington University\* and  
William Beyers, Ph.D. University of Washington\*\***

## **Summary of Key Points**

**2.10.15**

- There are over 7,000<sup>1</sup> employers in Whatcom County; 11 Cherry Point businesses (**which represent less than 1% of total employers**) employ an estimated 2,200 people.
- **The 2,200 jobs at Cherry Point support directly and indirectly 9,000 jobs in the County.**
  - By comparison, the 2,700 jobs in the Peace Health system support directly and indirectly 5,800 jobs.
  - In 2013, there were roughly 84,000<sup>1</sup> jobs in Whatcom County; **Cherry Point area businesses have 2.5% of the jobs in the County, and support directly and indirectly roughly 11% of the jobs in the County.**
- Most of the jobs in the Cherry Point industrial area have an employment multiplier greater than 3. This means that, on average, for every one job created (or lost) at Cherry Point, another two are supported (or lost) in the County. (The precise multipliers vary by industry type.)
  - By comparison, each new retail sector job supports less than one additional job in the economy, and each new hospital job supports 1.16 jobs.
  - The refineries have a 5.39 employment multiplier- **if you add (or lose) 50 refinery jobs, the total impact is the addition (or loss) of 270 jobs in the county.**
- Cherry Point industrial area jobs pay an average of \$114,000 per year, **almost three times** the average County wage of \$41,334<sup>1</sup>.
- Cherry Point accounts for 9% of the wages paid in the county, but supports directly and indirectly 15% of the wages paid.
- **Over \$200 million in taxes each year are paid out by the Cherry Point industries.**
- BP, Phillips and Alcoa/Intalco alone pay more than \$14.7 million in just property taxes each year-**5.4% of the total property taxes collected in Whatcom County.** The three companies paid for:
  - **21% of property taxes collected for the Blaine School District**
  - **15% of property taxes collected for the Ferndale School District**
  - **11% of property taxes collected for Whatcom County roads**
- **Businesses in Cherry Point area make more than \$1 million in charitable contributions each year.**
- The Whatcom County United Way estimates that the Cherry Point area businesses contribute over \$700,000 per year and **account for at least one-third of the United Way's annual revenues.**

<sup>1</sup> Washington State Department of Employment Security, 2013 data. Total number of employers in Whatcom County is a post-study finding provided for context.

*\*Dr. Hodges is Director of the Center for Economic and Business Research at Western Washington University.*

*\*\*Dr. William Beyers is Professor Emeritus in the University of Washington Geography Department and has served as an advisor to many public policy entities. He is one of the principal advisors to the Washington State Office of Financial Management on the state's economic input-output model.*

## *The Middle Class in Washington State*



THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

*“Stateline”*, March 19, 2015 - by Tim Henderson

[“The Shrinking Middle Class. Mapped State by State: How America’s Middle Class Has Shrunk Since 2000”](#)

### **Washington State**

#### **Share of households that are middle class\***

**2013 - 47.4%**

**2000 - 51.7%**

\*Defined as making between 67% and 200% of state’s median income

#### **Median income**

**2013 - \$58,405**

**2000 - \$63,079 (inflation adjusted)**

#### **Share of households spending at least 30% of household income on housing**

**2013 - 36%**

**2000 - 32%**

SOURCE: Stateline analysis of American Community Survey, U.S. Census and IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota.