

APPENDIX Y

FOCUSED BOTANICAL SURVEY RESULTS



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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. BJ Howerton, Environmental Protection Specialist, BIA Northwest Regional Office

FROM: Kelly Bayne, Senior Biologist, AES

DATE: January 11, 2013

RE: Focused Botanical Survey Results for the Spalding's Silene at the Spokane Casino Project, in the City of Airway Heights, Washington

Introduction

The purpose of this memorandum (memo) is to summarize the results and findings of a second year of focused botanical surveys conducted for the special status Spalding's silene (*Silene spaldingii*) for the Spokane Casino Project, on a 145-acre site in the City of Airway Heights, Washington. Because this species does not bloom every year (USFWS, 2007), it is suggested that two years of surveys be conducted on a site to ensure that the species would be detected, if present. The first focused field survey within the property was conducted on August 4, 2009 (AECOM, 2010) following confirmation that a known population, located nearby the property on the Fairchild Air Force Base (AFB), was in bloom. No Spalding silene was observed within the 145-acre property. A second focused botanical survey was conducted within the property on July 31, 2012 and August 1, 2012 during a time of year when the known population of the species is in bloom on the Fairchild AFB.

Methodology

Analytical Environmental Services (AES) Senior Biologist Ms. Kelly Bayne, M.S. contacted Mr. Jonathon Wald on July 20, 2012 and inquired as to whether the population of Spaulding's silene was in bloom at the Fairchild AFB, which is in the vicinity of the Spokane Casino Project, in the City of Airway Heights, Washington. Mr. Wald confirmed that the population at the Fairchild AFB was in bloom at that time. Ms. Bayne conducted focused botanical surveys of the 145-acre property and within the offsite improvement areas proposed for the project on July 31, 2012 and August 1, 2012. Ms. Bayne conducted approximately 10-foot wide transects in a north to south direction within the northwestern portion of the property where habitat is present for this species. In addition, Ms. Bayne walked approximately 50-foot wide transects in a north to south direction across the remainder of the property. Ms. Bayne conducted a pedestrian level survey covering the entire footprint of the improvements areas.

Results and Conclusion

No evidence of Spalding's silene was observed during the focused botanical surveys of the property conducted on July 31, 2012 and August 1, 2012. Based on the negative findings of Spalding's silene during the focused botanical surveys conducted within the property during two years where known populations of Spalding's silene were in bloom at the Fairchild AFB, this species does not occur within the 145-acre property. No additional surveys are recommended on the 145-acre property for this species.

The footprint of the improvement areas are highly disturbed, comprised of nonnative, ruderal species. The improvement areas do not provide habitat for this species. No Spalding's silene was observed within the footprint of the proposed improvement areas. Spalding's silene does not occur within the footprint of the improvement areas.

References

AECOM, 2010. *Biological Resources Report West Plains Mixed Use Development, Spokane County Washington*. October 2010.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), 2007. *Recovery Plan for Silene spaldingii (Spalding's Catchfly)*. Region 1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Portland, Oregon. September 2007.