

# Lake Chelan RV resort gets go-ahead

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MANSON — The Bureau of Indian Affairs finally has given the go-ahead for a recreational vehicle camping resort east of here on Lake Chelan, says developer Bill Evans.

He and partner C.A. "Robby" Robinson say a groundbreaking is expected in March for the first 32 campsites, which are expected to be opened during the summer.

Evans said plans are to start construction of a clubhouse this year, too. An investment of roughly \$450,000 is anticipated during the first year.

A 50-year lease was signed Thursday for the Indian allotment property, nearly 145 acres of vacant land adjacent to the old mill site downlake from Manson.

Evans estimates the development of 163 private campsites planned south of the Manson Highway will take four or five years. Eventually, plans call for 735 sites on both sides of the highway.

"It's been a long struggle," he said, "but we have finally complied with all governmental requirements and now we will plan for an opening of the RV resort sometime next summer."

He said he and Robinson already

have received inquiries from many RV campers, although the developers have yet to begin pursuing sales.

After working on environmental assessment and development plans for more than a year, Evans said the partners thought federal approval was within reach last spring. But he said BIA officials in Portland held up the project repeatedly before details finally could be worked out.

A third partner, Jack Doty, has since withdrawn from the project.

Approval of the lease was confirmed by George Davis, superintendent of the Colville Indian Agency. The land has been idle for many years, he said, but now will bring a financial return to its owners. Most are members of Indian families that originally received the federal land allotments.

Said Evans, "We plan to make a positive impact on the Lake Chelan Valley." The project generated objections from some local residents. Evans expressed thanks to those in the community who have supported it.