

Rationale for Decision

The decision to issue the permit and sign the Implementation Agreement was made because the Habitat Conservation Plan proposed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources to comply with the Endangered Species Act, as well as its legal and constitutional mandates as the trustee manager of State timber lands, meets the statutory criteria for issuance of an incidental take permit under section 10 of the Act, as well as the Fish and Wildlife Service's trust responsibility to Native American Tribes. The Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan Alternative specifically addresses listed species throughout the planning area and riparian habitat management which captures the majority of species that might inhabit the planning units west of the Cascade Crest, including anadromous salmonids which are a resource subject to the Fish and Wildlife Service's trust responsibility. Furthermore, the Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan Alternative provides management goals for all forest types throughout the planning area, and associated species, as well as special habitat management for habitats such as large trees, caves, talus slopes, wetlands, oak woodlands, down logs, and standing snags in the planning units west of the Cascade Crest.

The permit was granted only after the Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the permit was applied for in good faith, that all permit issuance criteria were met, including the requirement that granting the permit would not jeopardize the continued existence of the species, and that the permit is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

Dated: February 20, 1997.

Donald V. Friberg,

Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.
[FR Doc. 97-4836 Filed 2-26-97; 8:45 am]

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Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on Proposed Information Collection to be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The proposed information collection described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection instrument may be

obtained by contacting the Bureau's clearance officer at the phone number listed below. Comments and suggestions on the proposal should be made within 60 days directly to the Bureau Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 208 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 20192. Telephone 703-648-7313.

Specific public comments are requested as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions on the bureaus, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: "The National Atlas of the United States of America".

OMB approval number: New Collection.

Abstract: Potential customers of electronic national atlas products will be asked questions that provide (1) potential uses of these products; (2) type of personal computer used; (3) current method of acquiring atlas-type information; (4) demographic information; and (5) personal expectations from the products. Survey questionnaires will be distributed by mail in a return postage-paid format. Focus groups will be held at various locations across the United States and could include prototype product testing. Customer information gathered from the questionnaires and focus groups will be used to evaluate "The National Atlas of the United States of America" products and to make development adjustments based on customer responses. The proposed collection is limited in scope to the National Atlas products and the capability of the products to meet customer needs. The USGS intends to develop a cooperative research and development agreement with private industry to assist in product development and to provide an additional avenue for product distribution.

Bureau form number: None.

Frequency: An estimated 2-3 surveys and 5-8 focus groups per year to evaluate potential customer segments and reactions.

Description of respondents: Owners of powerful home personal computers,

some with Internet access—potentially the general public, libraries, and schools.

Estimated completion time: Varies depending on the mechanism used: Approximately 0.25 hour (15 minutes) per survey and 1 hour per focus group session.

Annual responses: Approximately 1,000 survey and 100 focus group responses.

Annual burden hours: 350.

Bureau clearance officer: John Cordyack, 703-648-7313.

Dated: February 20, 1997.

Jack Fischer,

Associate Division Chief for Operations.

[FR Doc. 97-4903 Filed 2-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-31-M

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC); Application Notice Establishing the Closing Date for Transmittal of Applications Under the FGDC National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Framework Demonstration Projects Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 1997

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice inviting applications for competitive cooperative agreement awards for fiscal year 1997.

SUMMARY: The purpose of the FGDC National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Framework Demonstration Projects Program (FDPP) is to facilitate and provide resources for the development and implementation of the NSDI framework concept. Under this FY 1997 program announcement, applications are to be directed towards projects that test a full range of information content; technical, operational, and business contexts; and institutional interactions of the framework concept. These projects should demonstrate the sustained ability, over a geographic area, to supply data to the greater geospatial data community from locally available data sources through the implementation of the framework process.

In addition, these projects should provide practical examples of framework implementation, suggest innovative alternative approaches to accomplish framework goals and indicate topics for future research and development. Applicants are being sought who are establishing long-term organizational structures, and cooperative arrangements with other organizations in sustained efforts to

build, maintain, and disseminate framework data.

Outcomes of these projects will include the establishment of operational framework sites that will provide testbeds on policies and practices for the framework process. The projects also will serve as examples of framework implementation and as starting points for future framework research and development.

Applications may be submitted by State and local government agencies, educational institutions, private firms, private foundations, and Federally acknowledged or state-recognized Native American tribes or groups. Each project must be collaborative and involve two or more organizations. The FGDC encourages the collaboration of Federal agencies in these projects, however, Federal agencies may not lead a FDPP project nor submit proposals. The USGS intends to award approximately 7 cooperative agreements with funds totaling \$460,000 during fiscal year 1997. Funds requested for a specific project shall not exceed \$65,000. Participants are expected to cost-share no less than 100% of the amount of funding received from the Federal government. Authority for this program is contained in the Organic Act of March 3, 1879, 43 U.S.C. 31 and Executive Order 12906.

DATES: The program announcement is expected to be available on or about March 7, 1997. Applications must be received on or before May 16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Copies of Program Announcement No. 1434-HQ-97-PA-00023 may be obtained by writing to Tammy Fanning, U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Acquisition and Federal Assistance, Mail Stop 205B, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192. Requests may also be made by facsimile to (703) 648-7901. Confirmation by telephone at (703) 648-7372 is recommended.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tammy Fanning, U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Acquisition and Federal Assistance, Mail Stop 205B, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192; voice telephone number (703) 648-7363; facsimile telephone number (703) 648-7901.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Applications of digital geospatial data vary greatly, but users have a recurring need for a few common themes of data. The framework concept outlined in the report "Development of a National Digital Geospatial Data Framework" (April, 1995) proposes a means by which the geospatial data community can work together to produce and

maintain commonly needed data for national, regional, state, and local analyses. The report and additional information about the framework are available from the FGDC Secretariat. The materials can be retrieved from the Committee's World Wide Web page at <http://www.fgdc.gov>, or by contacting the committee by mail at the U.S. Geological Survey, 590 National Center, Reston, Virginia 20192; by Internet at gdc@usgs.gov; by facsimile at (703) 648-5755; or by voice telephone at (703) 648-5514.

Within the geospatial data community, multi-agency, and multi-sector partnership are being established in local and regional areas to collaboratively leverage resources and funding, and coordinate data collection, utilization, and access. The framework builds on these activities by providing a basic information content, and the technical, operational, and business contexts by which a distributed, collaborative data collection and maintenance effort for the nation would operate. The framework information content consists of geodetic control, digital orthoimagery, elevation, transportation, hydrography, governmental units, and cadastral data categories.

While the framework concept is well received by the geospatial data community, questions remain as to its practical implementation, and the modifications in approach that will occur as the community evolves. This program is a means by which the FGDC facilities, and provides resources for the development, and implementation of the NSDI Framework concept.

This program will fund the development of institutions and technology needed for framework operations. Proposals should be from geographic areas where multiple parties have data to share for at least a subset of the framework data content. Project activities may include establishment of the following institutional roles: evaluating, developing and implementing technical standards; coordinating data creation, maintenance, and dissemination for a geographic area; ensuring updates of framework data from local data contributions; developing data quality certification policies; and ensuring data integration among themes, and geographic areas. Technical development and applications may include the following: permanent feature-based identification; the support of multiple resolution data; mechanisms for maintaining the user's data investment when updating their data holding from the framework; processes

for gathering and evaluating user satisfaction to the framework; and the evaluation of methods for implementing metadata (including data quality information), required for the framework data.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (FDAC) Program Number 15.808)

Geological Survey, Research and Data Acquisition.

Dated: February 21, 1997.

Richard E. Witmer,

Acting Chief, National Mapping Division.

[FR Doc. 97-6904 Filed 2-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-31-M

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Federal Acknowledgment of Existence as an Indian Tribe

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

This is published in the exercise of authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8. Pursuant to 25 CFR 83.9(a), notice is hereby given that the Biloxi, Chitimacha Confederation of Muskogees, Inc., 1112 Daisy Street, Houma, Louisiana 70363 (BCCM), has filed a letter of intent to be considered for acknowledgment by the Secretary of the Interior that the group exists as an Indian tribe. This letter was received by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on October 24, 1995, and was signed by members of the group's governing body.

This petitioner was part of the United Houma Nation, Inc. (UHN), which received a proposed finding December 22, 1994 (59 245:66118-66119). In response, this portion of the UHN has requested that it be considered separately from the UHN. The BCCM has received an extension until May 13, 1997, to respond to the proposed finding. After receipt of the BCCM response to the proposed finding, the BIA will issue an amended proposed finding, which will be published in the Federal Register.

Under §§ 83.9(a) and 83.10(i) of the Federal regulations, the petitioner may then respond to the amended proposed finding, and interested and informed third parties may submit factual and/or legal arguments in support of or in opposition to the group's petition and the proposed finding. The comment period will end 180 days from the date of publication of the amended proposed finding pertaining to the Biloxi, Chitimacha Confederation of