

ADDRESSES: Information, comments, or questions related to the preparation of the Multi-Species Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement should be submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Supervisor, 4600 Kietzke Lane, Suite 125C, Reno Nevada 89502-5055.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Persons wishing to review background material may obtain it by contacting the Clark County Desert Conservation Plan Administrator, Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, 6th Floor, P.O. Box 558270, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155-8270. Documents also will be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday) at the above address or by telephone (702-455-3536).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 11, 1995, the Service issued a 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit effective August 1, 1995, to Clark County, the Cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Boulder City, Henderson, Mesquite, and the Nevada Department of Transportation for the Clark County Desert Conservation Plan (Desert Conservation Plan), a habitat conservation plan for the Mojave Desert Tortoise, a species listed as threatened by the Service in 1990. The Desert Conservation Plan provides for conservation measures for the desert tortoise in the County and for incidental take consistent with the long-term viability of the species in this portion of its range.

The Desert Conservation Plan includes provisions for a proactive approach to conservation planning for multiple species in the County. The specified intent of this approach was to reduce the likelihood of future listing of plants and wildlife as threatened or

endangered. While the proposed Multi-Species Conservation Plan is the direct outgrowth of provisions of the Desert Conservation Plan, it will not replace or modify the approved Desert Conservation Plan. The Multi-Species Conservation Plan will provide stand-alone conservation measures for species included in the plan. Implementation of the conservation measures in the Multi-Species Conservation Plan is anticipated to be a cooperative effort among the County, the Cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Boulder City, Henderson, and Mesquite, the Service, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Nevada Division of Wildlife, and other Federal and State land managers and regulators.

Environmental review of the Multi-Species Conservation Plan will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), other appropriate regulations, and Service procedures for compliance with those regulations. This notice is being furnished in accordance with section 1501.7 of the National Environmental Policy Act to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

Dated: February 24, 1997.

Thomas J. Dwyer,
Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon

[FR Doc. 97-5135 Filed 2-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Tribal Consultation on Indian Education Topics

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of tribal consultation meetings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will conduct consultation meetings to obtain oral and written comments concerning potential issues in Indian Education Programs. The potential issues which will be set forth in a tribal consultation booklet to be issued prior to the meetings are as follows:

1. Facilities Operation and Maintenance—Tribal Priority Allocation
2. Facilities Operation and Maintenance Formula Modifications
3. Office of Indian Education Programs Draft Strategic Plan
4. Other Consultation Items
5. Displacement Costs for Schools Converting to Grant Status
6. Indian School Equalization Program: Ongoing Study
7. Office of Indian Education Programs: Draft School Technology Plan
8. Revisions to IASA/Goals 2000 Consolidated State Plan
9. Executive Order 13021 of October 19, 1996—Tribal Colleges and Universities

DATES: April 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 1997 for all locations listed. Several dates and locations were scheduled to coincide with meetings of various Indian education organizations. All meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 3:00 p.m. (local time) or until all meeting participants have an opportunity to make comments.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Local contact	Phone numbers
Apr. 10, 1997	New Orleans, LA	LaVonna, Weller	(703) 235-3233
Apr. 15, 1997	Phoenix, AZ	Angelita Felix	(520) 562-3557
Apr. 16, 1997	Albuquerque, NM	Ben Atencio	(505) 766-3034
Apr. 17, 1997	Anchorage, AK	Robert Pringle	(907) 271-4115
Apr. 18, 1997	Billings, MT	Larry Parker	(406) 247-7953
Apr. 22, 1997	Oklahoma City, OK	Joy Martin	(405) 945-6051
Apr. 23, 1997	Gallup, NM	Andrew Tah	(520) 283-2221
Apr. 23, 1997	Portland, OR	John Reimer	(503) 872-2745
Apr. 24, 1997	Cloquet, MN	Terry Portra	(612) 373-1090
Apr. 24, 1997	Rapid City, SD	Cherie Farlee	(605) 964-8722
Apr. 25, 1997	Sacramento, CA	Fayette Babby	(916) 979-2560

Written comments should be mailed, to be received, on or before June 2, 1997, to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Indian Education Programs, MS-3512-

MIB, OIE-32, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240, Attn: Joann Sebastian Morris; or, may be hand delivered to Room 3512 at the same

address. Comments may also be telefaxed to (202) 273-0030.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. James Martin or Goodwin K. Cobb III at

the above address or call (202) 208-3550.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meetings are a follow-up to similar meetings conducted by the OIEP/BIA since 1990. The purpose of the consultation, as required by 25 U.S.C. 2010(b), is to provide Indian tribes, school boards, parents, Indian organizations and other interested parties with an opportunity to comment on potential issues raised during previous consultation meetings or being considered by the BIA regarding Indian education programs. A consultation booklet for the April meetings is being distributed to Federally recognized Indian Tribes, Bureau Area and Agency Offices and Bureau-funded schools. The booklets will also be available from local contact persons and at each meeting.

Dated: February 24, 1997.

Ada E. Deer,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 97-5162 Filed 2-28-97; 8:45 am]

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Bureau of Land Management

[WY-930-1610-00]

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact for the management of Big Cedar Ridge Fossil Plant Area in Washakie County, Wyoming.

SUMMARY: The decision record for the Big Cedar Ridge Fossil Plant Area outlines management for 1,550 acres in the Bighorn Basin Resource Area of the Worland District, amends the 1988 Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the former Washakie Resource Area, and designates an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) on 260 acres, where fossil plants are concentrated.

The general management objective and emphasis within the Big Cedar Ridge Fossil Plant Area will be for scientific research, public education, recreation, and protection of the fossil resources.

The BLM will also pursue withdrawal of the public lands from entry under the mining laws to prohibit the staking of mining claims on 260 acres of BLM-administered public lands where fossils are concentrated. This action constitutes an amendment to the Washakie RMP.

In addition, an ACEC is designated on the same 260 acres. This ACEC designation constitutes an amendment to the Washakie RMP and will take

effect at the end of a 60-day public comment period.

EFFECTIVE DATES: Comments on the Big Cedar Ridge Fossil Plant proposed ACEC should be sent to the BLM's Worland District Office at P.O. Box 119, Worland, Wyoming 82401, within 60 days of the publication date of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margy Tidemann, Editorial Assistant, Bureau of Land Management, at the address cited above or at 307-347-5100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The fossil concentration areas at Big Cedar Ridge, discovered in 1990 by Dr. Scott Wing of the Smithsonian Institution, meet the relevance and importance criteria for ACEC designation. The plants form a complete late Cretaceous-age vegetative community that was buried in-place by volcanic ash about 72 million years ago. The flora, consisting of flowering plants, ferns, palms, and conifer trees, preserves a true instant in time, highlighting relationships between the ancient landscape and its vegetation. Paleobotanists have already been able to establish plant, soil, and topographic associations. This is possibly the oldest site in the world where such associations are seen. Excavations in 1992 resulted in the identification of over 100 new plant species. Scientists have also been able to distinguish at least five different types of insect predation which took place on the flora of Big Cedar Ridge.

As described in the decision record for the area, a detailed activity or implementation plan will be developed for the 260-acre fossil concentration areas. These areas will be routinely monitored and any needed management changes will be made to insure that resource damage does not occur.

The 260-acre fossil concentration areas will be managed primarily for research, public education, and fossil interpretation, as well as hobby (noncommercial) collection of fossils.

Surface-disturbing activities that are not related to research, public education, interpretation, or hobby collection of fossils will be prohibited in the 260-acre fossil concentration areas.

As required, further environmental analyses will be conducted on any future site-specific activity or implementation planning to be done in the Big Cedar Ridge area. This would include opportunities for public comment.

Any detailed activity planning that may be conducted in the Big Cedar Ridge area will consider needs for site-specific mitigation of surface-disturbing activities for things like locating trails,

roads, exhibits, and facilities to enhance public education.

Dated: February 19, 1997.

Alan R. Pierson,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 97-5086 Filed 2-28-97; 8:45 am]

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Bureau of Land Management

[AK-910-07-1310-00-NPR-A]

Notice of Scoping Meetings on an Integrated Activity Plan (IAP/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska (NPR-A)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is announcing scoping meetings for its IAP/EIS for approximately 4.6 million acres in northeastern NPR-A. The IAP/EIS will address long-term management strategies for several natural resources that are present in the area. Potential issues that the IAP/EIS may address include, but are not limited to, wildlife resources (terrestrial and aquatic) protection; mineral resource development (including oil and gas leasing); subsistence resources and activities and possible impacts on subsistence from various management alternatives; access; recreation; visual resources; threatened and endangered species; and historic, cultural, soil, water, and vegetation resources. Potential management actions and activities that may be considered in the IAP/EIS and that may have environmental and subsistence impacts for the area include mineral material extraction, leasable mineral exploration and development, recreation, commercial development, modification of the existing Special Areas, and identification of any new areas for additional resource protection. These public scoping meetings will provide an opportunity for the public to contribute ideas and information about the resources of the area and how they should be managed. Translators will be present at meetings in Barrow, Atkasuk, and Nuiqsut.

DATES: The BLM will hold public scoping meetings according to the following schedule:

1. March 17, 1997, Barrow, Alaska, North Slope Borough Assembly Room, 7:30 p.m.
2. March 18, 1997, Atkasuk, Alaska, Community Center, 7:30 p.m.