

Rocky Boy's Band with Chippewa ancestry. If Pembina ancestry is assumed for the Chippewa element of the Rocky Boy's Band, as was done by the Indian Claims Commission and by the BIA in preparing the 1994 judgment roll, then possibly 62 percent of the petitioner's members have Pembina Chippewa descent. Genealogical information is missing for many of the petitioner's newest members, and it would be in the petitioner's interest to provide during the comment period further evidence that additional members descend from ancestors with established Pembina Chippewa descent.

The petitioner meets criterion (f). The evidence shows that less than 1 percent of the members of the petitioning group are members of a federally recognized tribe. Therefore, its membership is composed principally of persons who are not members of any acknowledged Indian tribe.

The petitioner meets criterion (g). There is no evidence that the petitioning group was the subject of congressional legislation that prohibited or terminated a relationship between it and the Federal Government.

For these reasons, the petitioner should be acknowledged to exist as an Indian tribe.

This proposed finding is based on the available evidence and does not preclude the submission of other evidence to the contrary. Such new evidence may result in a change in the conclusions reached in the proposed finding.

A report summarizing the evidence, reasoning, and analyses that are the basis for the proposed decision will be provided to the petitioner and interested parties, and is available to other parties upon written request (83.10(h)).

During the 180-day comment period (83.10(i)), the Assistant Secretary shall provide technical advice concerning the proposed finding and shall make available to the petitioner in a timely fashion any records used for the proposed finding not already held by the petitioner, to the extent allowable by Federal law (83.10(j)(1)). In addition, the Assistant Secretary shall, if requested by the petitioner or any interested party, hold a formal meeting for the purpose of inquiring into the reasoning, analyses, and factual bases for the proposed finding. The proceedings of this meeting shall be on the record. The meeting record shall be available to any participating party and become part of the record considered by the Assistant Secretary in reaching a final determination (83.10(j)(2)).

If third party comments are received during the comment period, the

petitioner shall have a minimum of 60 days to respond to these comments. This period may be extended at the Assistant Secretary's discretion if warranted by the extent and nature of the comments (83.10(k)).

At the end of the comment and response periods, the Assistant Secretary shall consult with the petitioner and interested parties to determine an equitable time frame for consideration of written arguments and evidence submitted during the comment and response periods, and notify the petitioner and interested parties of the date such consideration begins (83.10(l)). The Assistant Secretary has the discretion to request additional information from the petitioner or commenting parties, and to conduct additional research (83.10(l)(1)). After consideration of the written arguments and evidence submitted during the comment period and the petitioner's response to the comments, the Assistant Secretary shall make a final determination regarding the petitioner's status. A summary of the final determination will be published in the **Federal Register** (83.10(l)(2)).

Dated: July 14, 2000.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES-930-08-1310-00-241A; MSES 47328, MSES 47325, MSES 47320]

(Mississippi); Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Leases

Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, petitions for reinstatement of oil and gas leases MSES 47328, MSES 47325, MSES 47320, Wayne County, DeSota N.F., Mississippi were timely filed and accompanied by all required rentals and royalties accruing from August 1, 1999, the date of termination.

No new leases have been issued affecting the lands. The lessee has agreed to new lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$10 per acre and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent. Payment of \$500 in administrative fees and a \$125 publication fee has been made for each of the leases.

The Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the leases effective August 1, 1999, subject to the original terms and conditions of the leases and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above. This is

accordance with section 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 188(d) and (e)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann Dickerson at (703) 440-1512.

Dated: July 7, 2000.

Walter Rewinski,

Acting State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-957-00-1420-BJ; GPO-0276]

Filing of Plats of Survey: Oregon/Washington

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The plats of survey of the following described lands are scheduled to be officially filed in the Oregon State Office, Portland, Oregon, thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this publication.

Willamette Meridian

Oregon

T. 24 S., R. 7 W., accepted June 16, 2000

T. 3 S., R. 14 E., accepted June 19, 2000

T. 16 S., R. 5 E., accepted June 28, 2000

Washington

T. 33 N., R. 36 E., accepted June 1, 2000

T. 32 N., R. 36 E., accepted June 1, 2000

If protests against a survey, as shown on any of the above plat(s), are received prior to the date of official filing, the filing will be stayed pending consideration of the protest(s). A plat will not be officially filed until the day after all protests have been dismissed and become final or appeals from the dismissal affirmed.

The plat(s) will be placed in the open files of the Oregon State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1515 S.W. 5th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97201, and will be available to the public as a matter of information only. Copies of the plat(s) may be obtained from the above office upon required payment. A person or party who wishes to protest against a survey must file with the State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Portland, Oregon, a notice that they wish to protest prior to the proposed official filing date given above. A statement of reasons for a protest may be filed with the notice of protest to the State Director, or the statement of reasons must be filed with the State Director within thirty (30) days after the proposed official filing date.