DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Renewal of Agency Information Collection for Federal Acknowledgment of Tribes

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior, Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) is seeking comments on renewal of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, for the collection of information for Documented Petitions for the Federal Acknowledgment as an Indian Tribe, 25 CFR 83. The information collection is currently authorized by OMB Control Number 1076–0104, which expires April 30, 2010. The information collection allows OFA to determine whether an Indian group meets the regulatory criteria for acknowledgment as an Indian tribe.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before April 5, 2010.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on the information collection to R. Lee Fleming, Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment, Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW., MS–34B SIB, Washington, DC 20240; facsimile: (202) 219–3008; e-mail: Lee.Fleming@bia.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: R. Lee Fleming (202) 513–7650.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

OFA is seeking renewal of the approval for the information collection conducted under 25 CFR 83, to establish whether a petitioning group has the characteristics necessary to be acknowledged as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States. Federal recognition makes the group eligible for benefits from the Federal Government. Approval for this collection expires April 30, 2010. Three forms are used as part of this information collection; but no changes to the forms are proposed as part of this renewal. No third party notification or public disclosure burden is associated with this collection. There is no change to the approved burden hours for this information collection.

II. Request for Comments

OFA requests that you send your comments on this collection to the location listed in the ADDRESSES section. Your comments should address: (a) The necessity of the information collection for the proper performance of the agencies, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden (hours and cost) of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways we could enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways we could minimize the burden of the collection of the information on the respondents, such as through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that an agency may not sponsor or conduct, and an individual need not respond to, a collection of information unless it has a valid OMB Control Number. This information collection expires April 30, 2010.

It is our policy to make all comments available to the public for review at the location listed in the ADDRESSES section during the hours of 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday except for legal holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address or other personally identifiable information, be advised that your entire comment—including your personally identifiable information—may be made public at any time. While you may request that we withhold your personally identifiable information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 1076–0104.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Cle Elum Dam Fish Passage Facilities and Fish Reintroduction Project; Kittitas County, WA INT–DES 10–03

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) and Announcement of Public Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) published a notice in the Federal Register on April 8, 2009 (74 FR 16007) announcing the commencement of work under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on the Cle Elum Dam Fish Passage Facilities and Fish Reintroduction Project. The Washington State Department of Ecology is a joint lead with Reclamation in the preparation of the Draft EIS, in coordination with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Yakama Nation. The Bonneville Power Administration has assumed the role of a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS will also be used to comply with requirements of the Washington State Environmental Policy Act.

The Draft EIS provides information on the analyses related to the construction of downstream juvenile fish passage and upstream adult fish passage facilities at the dam, as well as analyses associated with the implementation of a project to reintroduce fish above the dam. The Draft EIS analyzes the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic effects of the proposed alternatives.

DATES: Written comments on the Draft EIS will be accepted through March 22, 2010.

A public information meeting will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on February 18, 2010 in Cle Elum, Washington. Oral comments will be taken at the meeting. To be included in the Public Meeting Report, comments should be labeled as public meeting comments and provided to Reclamation at the address given below by February 26, 2010.

Requests for special assistance at the meeting should be submitted by February 9, 2010 (see SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section, Special Assistance for Public Meetings).

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the Draft EIS should be addressed to the Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia Cascades Area Office, Attention: Candace McKinley, Environmental Protection Specialist, 1917 Marsh Road, Yakima, Washington 98901 or submitted to the following e-mail address: sha-ucw-fishpassage@usbr.gov.

The public meeting will be held at the City of Cle Elum Council Chamber Room, 119 West 1st Street, Cle Elum, Washington. Meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Candace McKinley, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 509–575–5848, ext. 276. Information on this project can also be found at http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ ucao_misc/fishpassage/. To receive a copy of the Draft EIS refer to the above contact.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Information

Requests to make oral comments may be made at the meeting. In order to ensure that all those interested in providing oral comments have an opportunity to do so, oral comments at the meeting will be limited to 5 minutes. Comments will be recorded by a court reporter. Commenters will be called in the order indicated on the sign in list for speaking. Commenters not present when called will be recalled at the end of the other scheduled commenters. Commenters may provide written versions of their oral comments, or other additional written comments, for the meeting record. Longer comments should be summarized at the public meeting and submitted in writing either at the public meeting or identified as meeting comments and mailed as indicated in the DATES section.

Background

Reclamation is evaluating the construction of downstream juvenile fish passage and upstream adult fish passage alternatives at the dam for the Cle Elum Dam Fish Passage Facilities Project. Cle Elum Dam did not include fish passage facilities when constructed in 1933; consequently, fish passage to upstream habitat for fish species was blocked.

As part of the effort to restore fish above Cle Elum Dam, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, in collaboration with Yakama Nation, is evaluating the implementation of a project to reintroduce fish populations above the dam. The reintroduction plan would involve the transportation and release of adults for natural spawning and potentially hatchery supplementation techniques to restore fish above the dam.

Early in 2001, Yakima River basin interest groups urged Reclamation to incorporate fish passage facilities as part of the reconstruction of Keechelus Dam under the Safety of Dams program. Reclamation determined that fish passage facilities could not be added under existing Safety of Dams authority. However, in the January 2002 Record of Decision for Keechelus Dam Modification EIS, Reclamation committed to seek funding under existing authorities to conduct a feasibility study for providing fish passage at all Yakima Project storage dams. Additionally, Reclamation agreed to mitigation agreement terms and Hydraulic Project Approval conditions with Washington Department of Fish.