

Proposed Action

Our proposed action is to issue an incidental take permit to the applicant, who would implement the HCP, described above. If we approve the permit, incidental take of covered species would be authorized for the applicant's activities associated with the construction freeway improvement projects and Preserve Management, Restoration, and Monitoring Activities in Orange County, California.

No Project/No Action Alternative

Under the No Project/No Action Alternative, the proposed NCCP/HCP, including implementation of conservation measures and creation of a Preserve system, would not be adopted. Compliance with Act and the California Endangered Species Act would be addressed project-by-project for each of the M2 freeway projects. In contrast to the comprehensive strategies to avoid, minimize, or mitigate effects on sensitive species that would be implemented under the proposed action, the No Project/No Action Alternative would address impacts to affected listed species with project-by-project conservation and mitigation. The landscape-scale conservation actions intended to benefit both listed and non-listed species under the NCCP/HCP would not occur under the No Project/No Action Alternative.

Reduced Plan Alternative

Under the Reduced Plan Alternative, only those species that are federally or State-listed as threatened or endangered would be proposed for coverage under the NCCP/HCP. Accordingly, only the southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, and coastal California gnatcatcher would be covered under the Reduced Plan Alternative. The amount of land acquisition and Preserve system assembled would be identical to that of the proposed Plan. The amount of species-specific habitat restoration required would be less, however, because the conservation strategy measures would be focused only on the three ESA-listed species mentioned above.

Public Comments

The Service and OCTA invite the public to comment on the Draft NCCP/HCP, Draft Implementing Agreement and DEIR/DEIS during a 90-day public comment period beginning the date of this notice. While written comments are encouraged, we will accept both written and oral comments at the public meetings. Please direct written comments to the Service contact listed in the ADDRESSES section, and any

questions to the Service contact listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Reasonable Accommodation

Individuals who require special accommodations (American Sign Language interpreter, accessible seating, documentation in alternate formats, etc.) to attend and participate in the public meetings are requested to contact Marissa Espino (mespino@octa.net, 714-560-5607) at least 14 days prior to the scheduled public meeting date. Information regarding this proposed action is available in alternative formats upon request.

Next Steps

Issuance of an incidental take permit is a Federal proposed action subject to compliance with NEPA. This notice is provided under section 10(a) of the Act and Service regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 CFR 1506.6). We will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to prepare a final EIS. A permit decision will be made no sooner than 30 days after the publication in the **Federal Register** of the notice of availability for final EIS and completion of the record of decision.

Dated: October 27, 2014.

Alexandra Pitts,

Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 2014-26361 Filed 11-6-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

[145A2100DD/A0T501010.999900/
AAK3000000]

Renewal of Agency Information Collection for Verification of Indian Preference for Employment in BIA and IHS

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of submission to OMB.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is submitting to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request for renewal for the collection of information, "Verification of Indian Preference for Employment in BIA and IHS." The information collection is currently authorized by OMB Control Number 1076-0160, which expires November 30, 2014.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before December 8, 2014.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on the information collection to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior at the Office of Management and Budget, by facsimile to (202) 395-5806 or you may send an email to: OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov. Please send a copy of your comments to: Ms. Laurel Iron Cloud, Chief, Division of Tribal Government Services, Office of Indian Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street NW., Mail Stop 4513 MIB, Washington, DC 20240; facsimile: (202) 208-5113; email: laurel.ironcloud@bia.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Laurel Iron Cloud, telephone (202) 513-7641. You may review the information collection request online at <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Follow the instructions to review Department of the Interior collections under review by OMB.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

BIA is seeking renewal of the approval for the information collection conducted under 25 U.S.C. 43, 36 Stat. 472, *inter alia*, and implementing regulations, at 25 CFR part 5, regarding verification of Indian preference for employment. The purpose of Indian preference is to encourage qualified Indian persons to seek employment with the BIA and Indian Health Service (IHS) by offering preferential treatment to qualified candidates of Indian heritage. BIA collects the information to ensure compliance with Indian preference hiring requirements. The information collection relates only to individuals applying for employment with the BIA and IHS. The tribe's involvement is limited to verifying membership information submitted by the applicant. The collection of information allows certain persons who are of Indian descent to receive preference when appointments are made to vacancies in positions with the BIA and IHS as well as in any unit that has been transferred intact from the BIA

to a Bureau or office within the Department of the Interior or the Department of Health and Human Services and that continues to perform functions formerly performed as part of the BIA and IHS. You are eligible for preference if (a) you are a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe; (b) you are a descendent of a member and you were residing within the present boundaries of any Indian reservation on June 1, 1934; (c) you are an Alaska native; or (d) you possess one-half degree Indian blood derived from tribes that are indigenous to the United States. No changes are being made to the form.

II. Request for Comments

On July 18, 2014, BIA published a notice announcing the renewal of this information collection and provided a 60-day comment period in the **Federal Register** (79 FR 42031). There were no comments received in response to this notice.

The BIA requests your comments on this collection concerning: (a) The necessity of the information collection for the proper performance of the functions of the agencies, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's 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.

Please note that an agency may not sponsor or conduct, and an individual need not respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB Control Number.

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 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday except for legal holidays. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personally identifiable information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personally identifiable information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personally identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 1076–0160.

Title: Verification of Indian preference for Employment in the BIA and IHS.

Brief description of collection: Submission of this information by Indian applicants for jobs with BIA and IHS allows the Personnel Offices of BIA and IHS to verify that the individual meets the requirements for Indian preference in hiring. Response is required to obtain the benefit of preferential hiring. The collection of this information is voluntary. Response is required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Type of Review: Extension without change of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Qualified Indian persons who are seeking preference in employment with the BIA and IHS.

Number of Respondents: 5,000 per year, on average.

Number of Responses: 5,000 per year, on average.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Time per response: 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 2,500 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Non-Hour Dollar Cost: \$6,920 (postage and copying costs). This reflects an increase to the non-hour cost burden by \$400 (from \$6,520 to \$6,920) to reflect the increase in postage costs.

Dated: November 4, 2014.

Elizabeth K. Appel,

Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2014–26539 Filed 11–6–14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–4J–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

[145A2100DD.AADD001000.A0E501010.999900]

Renewal of Agency Information Collection for Sovereignty in Indian Education Grant Program

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is seeking comments on the renewal of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the collection of information for the Sovereignty in Indian Education Grant Program authorized by OMB Control Number 1076–0182. This information collection expires January 31, 2015.

DATES: Submit comments on or before January 6, 2015.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on the information collection Ms.

Wendy Greyeyes, Bureau of Indian Education, 1849 C Street NW., MS–4655–MIB, Washington, DC 20240; Email: Wendy.Greyeyes@bie.edu.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Wendy Greyeyes, telephone: (202) 208–5810.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

In 2013, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Education convened an American Indian Education Study Group to diagnose the systemic challenges facing the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) and to propose a comprehensive plan for reform to ensure that all students attending BIE-funded schools receive a world-class education.

The Study Group drafted a framework for reform based on several listening sessions last fall with tribal leaders, Indian educators and others throughout Indian Country on how to facilitate tribal sovereignty in American Indian education and how to improve educational outcomes for students at BIE-funded schools. The Study Group incorporated feedback it received from tribal leaders and other BIE stakeholders into the final “Blueprint for Reform,” released on June 13, 2014.

Acting on the recommendations in the *Blueprint*, BIE will award competitive grants to tribes and their tribal education agencies to promote tribal control and operation of BIE-funded schools on their Indian reservations. The purpose of the grants is to support the tribe's capacity to manage and operate tribally controlled schools as defined in the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100–297). These funds will (a) support development of a school-reform plan to improve educational outcomes for students and (b) improve efficiencies and effectiveness in the operation of BIE-funded schools within a reservation.

The grants will provide funds for the tribe to:

- Develop an implementation plan that will reform a tribe's current organizational structure towards an expert and independent tribal education agency that will support schools and students; and
- Cover the execution of the implementation plan with identified staffing, projected timelines, proposed budgets, and activities.

Each proposal must include a project narrative, a budget narrative, a work plan outline, and a Project Director to manage the execution of the grant. The Project Directors will participate in