

Forest Service, Pike-San Isabel National Forest, 1920 Valley Dr., Pueblo, CO 81008, (719) 545-8737. Comments on the Draft Conservation Strategy should be sent to the Acting Assistant Colorado Field Supervisor, US Fish and Wildlife Service, 764 Horizon Dr., S. Annex A, Grand Junction, CO 81506. Comments and materials received will be available upon request, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Fish and Wildlife Service address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Terry Ireland, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the Fish and Wildlife Service's Grand Junction address or call (970) 243-2778.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The boreal toad (*Bufo boreas boreas*) is one of the two subspecies of the western toad which is found throughout western North America. The southern Rocky Mountain population is geographically isolated from boreal toad populations to the north and west by dry, non-forested intermountain valleys. It is genetically differentiated and probably represents an independently evolving lineage or species.

The southern Rocky Mountain boreal toad occupies forest habitats between 2250 to 3600 m (7500-12000 ft.) in Colorado, southwest Wyoming, and north-central New Mexico. Boreal toad occupy three different types of habitat during the course of the year: breeding ponds, summer range, and overwinter refugia. All of these specific habitats occur within lodgepole pine or spruce-fir forests. Few boreal toads have been recorded from lower-elevation ponderosa pine forests and willow/sage communities.

Southern Rocky Mountain boreal toads were once considered common to abundant throughout the higher elevations of Colorado and southeastern Wyoming along the Snowy and Sierra Madre ranges (Medicine Bow, Sierra Madre and Pole Mountains). The southern periphery of the species range was located in New Mexico along the San Juan Mountains at Lagunitas, Canjilon, and Trout Lakes.

Boreal toad decline in New Mexico was first observed in the mid 1980's. Surveys conducted in 1989 and 1993 at the three previously occupied boreal toad locations revealed no populations. Recent observations of boreal toads in Colorado, within 29 km (20 miles) of New Mexico's historically occupied areas provide some hope that boreal toads may still exist in New Mexico. Between 1974 and 1982, 11 populations of boreal toads disappeared to the West

Elk Mountains of west-central Colorado. By the late 1980's boreal toads were absent from 85 percent of known localities in northern Colorado. Once known to occur in 25 of 63 counties, and potentially in 7 others, the boreal toad is absent in over 83 percent of previously known locations in Colorado. Rangewide, primarily in Colorado, and including a single breeding location in Wyoming, there are now 50 known breeding sites. However, most of the sites have only a few breeding adults.

The Service received a petition to list the southern Rocky Mountain population of the boreal toad as endangered on September 30, 1993, by the Biodiversity Legal Foundation. The Service made a 90-day petition finding (59 FR 37439) on July 22, 1994, that stated that sufficient information existed to indicate that Federal listing may be warranted. Subsequently, the Service made a 12-month finding (60 FR 15281) on March 23, 1995, that stated that Federal listing was warranted, but precluded by higher listing priorities.

In an effort to address the threats to the boreal toad prior to Federal listing the Colorado Division of Wildlife assembled a Recovery Team and published a recovery plan in 1994. The Recovery Team recently completed a revised recovery plan in 1997 that addressed the range of the boreal toad in Colorado as well as Wyoming and New Mexico and provided more details for research and management recommendations. It was also decided that a conservation strategy was needed to address more specific land management practices. A Conservation Agreement is also planned and signatory parties will be agreeing to follow recommendations in the recovery plan and Conservation Strategy. The Conservation Strategy focuses on eight general impacts to the boreal toad and ways to reduce or eliminate those impacts.

Author

The primary author of this notice is Terry Ireland (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** section).

Authority: Authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et. seq.*).

Dated: April 25, 1997.

Terry T. Terrel,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.
[FR Doc. 97-11568 Filed 5-2-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has submitted the proposed renewal of the collection of information for Documented Petitions for Federal Acknowledgment as an Indian Tribe to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). On February 7, 1997, BIA published a notice in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 5837) requesting comments on this proposed collection. The comment period ended on April 8, 1997. BIA received no comments from the public in response to the notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms and explanatory materials may be obtained by contacting Holly Reckord, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Acknowledgment and Research, 1849 C Street, NW., MS: 4603-MIB, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 208-3592.

DATES: OMB is required to respond to this request within 60 days of publication of this notice or before July 7, 1997 but may respond after 30 days. For maximum consideration, your comments should be submitted by June 4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Your comments and suggestions on the requirements should be made directly to the Office of Management and Budget, Interior Department Desk Officer (1076-0104) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Washington, DC 20503, (202) 395-7340. Please provide a copy of your comments to Holly Reckord, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Acknowledgment and Research, 1849 C Street, NW., MS: 4603-MIB, Washington, DC, (202) 208-3592.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Abstract

The information collection is needed to establish whether a petitioning group has the characteristics necessary to be acknowledged as having a Government-to-Government relationship with the United States.

2. Request for Comments

We specifically request your comments on the following:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the BIA, 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.

3. Data

Title: Collection of Information for Federal Acknowledgment under 25 CFR part 83.

OMB Number: 1076-0104.

Affected Entities: Groups petitioning for Federal acknowledgment as tribes.

Frequency of Response: Once.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 10.

Estimated Time per Petition: 2075 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 20,767.

Dated: April 29, 1997.

Ada E. Deer,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 97-11638 Filed 5-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Grant Availability to Federally Recognized Indian Tribes for Projects Implementing Traffic Safety on Indian Reservations

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs intends to make funds available to Federally recognized Indian tribes on an annual basis for the purpose of implementing traffic safety projects which are designed to reduce the number of traffic accidents within Indian Country. Due to the limited funding available for this program, all projects will be reviewed and selected on a competitive basis. This notice informs Indian tribes that grant funds are available. Information packets were distributed in February 1997, to all tribal leaders on the latest tribal leaders list.

DATES: Requests for funds must be received by June 1 of each program year.

ADDRESSES: Each tribe must submit its request to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Safety Management, Attention: Indian Highway Safety Program Coordinator, 505 Marquette Avenue, NW, Suite 1705, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tribes should direct questions concerning the grant program to Larry Archambeau, the Bureau's Indian Highway Safety Program Coordinator or to Charles L. Jaynes, Program Administrator, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 505 Marquette Avenue, NW, Suite 1705, Albuquerque, NM 87102, Telephone (505) 248-5053.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973 (Pub. L. 93-87) provides for U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) funding to assist Indian tribes in implementing Highway Safety Projects. These projects are designed to reduce the number of traffic crashes and their resulting fatalities, injuries, and property damage within Indian reservations. All Federally-recognized Indian tribes on Indian reservations are eligible to receive this assistance. All tribes receiving awards of program funds are reimbursed for costs incurred under the terms of 23 U.S.C. Sec. 402 and subsequent amendments.

Responsibilities

For purposes of application of the Act, Indian reservations are collectively considered a "State" and the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), is considered the "Governor of a State." The Secretary, DOI, delegated the authority to administer the programs throughout all the Indian reservations in the United States to the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs. The Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs further delegated the responsibility for primary administration of the Indian Highway Safety Program to the Central Office, Division of Safety Management (DSM), located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Chief, DSM as program administrator of the Indian Highway Safety Program, has two full-time staff members to assist in program matters and provide technical assistance to the Indian tribes. It is at this level that contacts with the DOT are made with respect to program approval, funding of projects and technical assistance. DOT, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and the Federal Highway Administration

(FHWA), is responsible for ensuring that the Indian Highway Safety Program is carried out in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 402 and other applicable Federal statutes and regulations.

NHTSA is responsible for the apportionment of funds to the Secretary of the Interior, review and approval of the Indian Highway Safety Plan involving NHTSA highway safety program areas and technical guidance and assistance to BIA.

FHWA is responsible for review and approval of the Indian Highway Safety Plan involving FHWA highway safety program areas and technical guidance and assistance to BIA.

Program Areas

The Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987, 23 USC 402(j), required DOT to conduct a rulemaking process to determine those programs most effective in reducing traffic crashes, injuries, and fatalities. Those programs areas were determined to be national priority program areas, and include the following:

- (1) NHTSA Program areas:
 - (a) Alcohol and Other Drug Countermeasures;
 - (b) Police Traffic Services;
 - (c) Occupant Protection;
 - (d) Traffic Records; and
 - (e) Emergency Medical Services.
- (2) FHWA Program Area: Roadway Safety.
- (3) NHTSA and FHWA Program Area: Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety.

Funding Criteria

The Bureau of Indian Affairs will reimburse for eligible costs associated with the following:

- (1) *Alcohol and Other Drug Countermeasure*—salary (DWI enforcement officer); enforcement/education; NHTSA—approved training; approved breath-testing equipment (must be included on most recent Consumer Products List published by NHTSA); community/school alcohol traffic safety education; DWI offender education; prosecution; adjudication; and vehicle expenses.
- (2) *Police Traffic Services*—salary (traffic enforcement/education); traffic law enforcement/radar training; speed enforcement equipment (must be listed on Consumer Products List published by NHTSA); community/school education; and vehicle expenses.
- (3) *Occupant Protection*:
 - (a) Child passenger safety—child car seat loaner program; car seat transportation/storage, and public information/education.
 - (b) Community seat belt program—salary; education/promotional materials;