

occupied. The conservation measures would be implemented by the ODFW, Service, and by Participating Landowners, and would generally consist of continued implementation of ODFW's Columbian sharp-tailed grouse reintroduction program, and protection and enhancement of sharp-tailed grouse habitat. Consistent with the Service's Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances Final Policy, the Agreement is intended to facilitate the conservation of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse by giving the State of Oregon and cooperating private landowners incentives to implement conservation measures. Participating Landowners would receive regulatory certainty concerning land use restrictions that might otherwise apply should the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse become listed under the Endangered Species Act. Participating Landowners, with property in an approximately 161,000-acre area, could sign up under the Agreement and the associated permit through a Certificate of Inclusion. The proposed term of the Agreement and the permit is 20 years. The Service has prepared an Environmental Assessment for approval of the Agreement and issuance of the permit.

We request comments from the public on the permit application, Agreement, and the Environmental Assessment. All comments we receive, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before September 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Dennis Mackey, Project Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368, Boise, Idaho 83709 (telephone: 208/378-5267; facsimile: 208/378-5262).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis Mackey at the above address or telephone 208/378-5267.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Document Availability

You may obtain copies of the documents for review by contacting the individual named above. You also may make an appointment to view the documents at the above address during normal business hours. The documents are also available electronically on the World Wide Web at <http://www.fws.gov/r1srbo>.

Background

Under a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances, participating landowners voluntarily

implement conservation activities on their property to benefit species that are proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, candidate species, or other sensitive species. Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances encourage private and other non-Federal property owners to implement conservation efforts and reduce threats to unlisted species by assuring them they will not be subjected to increased property use restrictions if the species is listed in the future under the Endangered Species Act. Application requirements and issuance criteria for enhancement of survival permits through Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances are found in 50 CFR 17.22(d) and 17.32(d).

On October 26, 1999, the Service found that listing the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse under the Endangered Species Act may be warranted, and initiated a review of the species' status. The Columbian sharp-tailed grouse was extirpated from Oregon by the 1960's. The species persisted in Wallowa County until the late 1940's, and the last Columbian sharp-tails probably occurred in Baker County in northeast Oregon. Reintroduction of the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in Oregon began in the spring of 1991. From 1991 through 1997, ODFW released a total of 179 Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in Wallowa County. Currently all known Columbian sharp-tailed grouse occur on private land. To date, landowners have been supportive of the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse reintroduction program, have cooperated with ODFW, and are providing habitat to support the birds. The ODFW is concerned that reintroduction efforts could result in land-use restrictions on cooperating landowners if this species is listed under the Endangered Species Act. Should this happen, landowners would have a disincentive to cooperate in future reintroduction efforts or to provide suitable grouse habitat. As a result of this potential regulatory concern of landowners, ODFW has developed a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in cooperation with the Service, and has applied to the Service for a permit under section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act, which would authorize future incidental take of the birds by cooperating landowners.

Under the Agreement and permit, Participating Landowners would provide certain Columbian sharp-tailed grouse habitat protection or enhancement measures on their lands. Protection and enhancement measures

will be directed towards sharp-tailed grouse lek, nest, roost, and/or winter habitat. If the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse is listed under the Endangered Species Act, and after a Participating Landowner has provided the agreed upon habitat conditions for the specified period of time, the permit would authorize incidental take of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse as a result of the landowner's agricultural-related activities: crop cultivation and harvesting, livestock grazing, and farm equipment operation.

We are providing this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act and implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1506.6). We will evaluate the permit application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the permit application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations. If we determine that the requirements are met, we will sign the Agreement and issue an enhancement of survival permit under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act to ODFW for take of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse incidental to otherwise lawful activities in accordance with the terms of the Agreement. We will not make our final decision until after the end of the 30-day comment period and will fully consider all comments received during the comment period.

Dated: July 14, 1999.

Rowan W. Gould,

Deputy Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to Office of Management and Budget

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the Information Collection Request, "Documented Petitions for Federal Acknowledgment as an Indian Tribe," is submitted to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, for review and extension of this information collection.

DATES: Submit comments on or before September 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send your written comments to Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503. Please send a duplicate copy to R. Lee Fleming, Chief, Branch of Acknowledgment and Research, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street, N.W., MS-4660 MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240. If you wish to submit comments by facsimile, the number is (202) 219-3008. You may submit comments by contacting R. Lee Fleming at (202) 208-3592. Please mention OMB Number 1076-0104.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information or copies of the information collection submission should be directed to R. Lee Fleming, Chief, Branch of Acknowledgment and Research, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street, N.W., MS-4660 MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240. You may also call (202) 208-3592.

All written comments will be available for public inspection in Room 4660 of the Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. 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. Federal recognition makes the group eligible for benefits from the federal government. No comments were received.

II. Method of Collection

The acknowledgment regulations at 25 CFR Part 83 contain seven criteria (§ 83.7) which unrecognized groups seeking Federal acknowledgment as Indian tribes must demonstrate that they meet. Information collected from petitioning groups under these regulations provide anthropological, genealogical and historical data used by the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs to establish whether a petitioning group has the characteristics necessary to be acknowledged as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States. Respondents are not required to retain copies of information submitted to the Bureau of Indian

Affairs but will probably maintain copies for their own use. No periodic reports are required which would impose a recordkeeping requirement.

III. Data

Title: Collection of Information for Federal Acknowledgment Under 25 CFR Part 83.

OMB Number: 1076-0104.

Expiration Date: July 31, 2000.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Entities: Groups petitioning for Federal acknowledgment as Indian tribes.

Response: Respondents are seeking to obtain a benefit.

Estimated Number of Petitioners: 10.

Estimated Time per Petition: 2,237.7 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden

Hours: 22,377.

Estimated Annual Costs to petitioners: \$895,080 (2,237.7 hrs × \$40.00 per hr × 10 petitioners).

IV. Request for Comments

You are invited to comment on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other collection techniques or the forms of information technology.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; to train personnel and to be able to respond to a collection of information, to search data sources, to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to request

that we consider withholding your name, street address, and other contact information (such as Internet address, FAX, or phone number) from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make available for public inspection in their entirety all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Dated: July 28, 2000.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Gettysburg National Military Park Advisory Commission

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the date of the thirty-third meeting of the Gettysburg National Military Park Advisory Commission.

DATE: The Public meeting will be held on September 21, 2000, from 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

LOCATION: The meeting will be held at the Cyclorama Auditorium, 125 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.

AGENDA: Sub-Committee Reports, Federal Consistency Projects Within the Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District, Operational Update on Park Activities, and Citizens Open Forum.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John A. Latschar, Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park, 97 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public. Any member of the public may file with the Commission a written statement concerning agenda items. The statement should be addressed to the Advisory Commission, Gettysburg National Military Park, 97 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325. Minutes of the meeting will be available for inspection four weeks after the meeting at the permanent headquarters