MUCKLESHOOT TRIBAL COUNCIL

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VIA EMAIL (consultation@bia.gov)
(karl_johnson@oha.doi.gov)

Elizabeth Appel
Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Actions
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Washington, D.C. 20240

Karl Johnson
Office of Hearings and Appeals
Departmental Cases Hearings Division
U.S. Department of the Interior
351 S. West Temple, Suite 6.300
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Re: Docket ID: BIA-2013-007, RIN 1076-AF18 & RIN 1094-AA54

Dear Ms. Appel and Mr. Johnson:

The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe hereby requests an extension to September 16, 2014, of the comment periods on proposed revisions to the tribal acknowledgment regulations published in the Federal Register on May 29, 2014, and the proposed rule establishing procedures for expedited hearings on negative proposed acknowledgment findings published in the Federal Register on June 19, 2014. The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe is a federally recognized Indian tribe located in Washington State that may be affected by pending and future acknowledgment decisions. The proposed changes in the acknowledgment regulations and the new proposed hearing process therefore will have significant consequences for the Muckleshoot Tribe and its members.

The proposed revisions to the acknowledgment regulations and the proposed hearing process raise a large number of complex, interrelated, and important issues which the existing 60 day comment periods are insufficient to fully address. As a federally recognized Indian tribe that has a strong interest in the acknowledgment process the Muckleshoot Tribe believes that its view will be of assistance to the Bureau and Department. Moreover, the last tribal consultation session is scheduled only 3 days before the deadline for written comments on 25 CFR Part 83, allowing insufficient time for the Muckleshoot Tribe and others to take into account information developed in the consultation process in their written comments.

For the foregoing reasons, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe respectfully requests a 45 day extension of the current comment period on the proposal to revise 25 CFR Part 83 to September 16, 2014, and a 28 day extension of the current comment on the proposal to revise 43 CFR Part 4 to September 16, 2014. The extensions requested by the Tribe to allow it to fully comment are minimal with respect to the importance of the issues and the time already expended by the Bureau and the Department in preparing the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Virginia Cross

Virginia Cross, Chairperson