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Press Release

12/03/2015 Assistant Secretary Washburn Announces \$1 Million in Grants to Promote Tribal Control of Bureau of Indian Education-funded Schools

Federal Register Notice

12/07/2015 Sovereignty in Indian Education



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

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News Release

Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 3, 2015

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202-219-4152

Assistant Secretary Washburn Announces \$1 Million in Grants to Promote Tribal Control of Bureau of Indian Education-funded Schools *Funds made available through the Sovereignty in Indian Education Enhancement Program*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn today announced that \$1 million in funding is being made available to federally recognized tribes through the Bureau of Indian Education’s Sovereignty in Indian Education (SIE) Enhancement Program. The SIE Enhancement Program supports tribes in their efforts to assume control of the BIE-funded schools serving their communities.

“The Sovereignty in Education Enhancement Program supports President Obama’s commitment to the tribes’ goals of guiding and enhancing their children’s education,” Washburn said. “Through the SIE program, the Bureau of Indian Education recognizes that tribes have a comparative advantage over the federal government in teaching tribal languages and culture, engaging the tribal community in schools, and providing accountability to the community. With proper resources, tribal governments can provide a higher quality of education in tribal schools and raise their students’ academic achievement levels.”

SIE Enhancement Program awards will range from \$100,000 to \$200,000 totaling \$1 million per fiscal year depending on the number of schools involved, student enrollment, the complexity of creating a new tribally managed school system, and a tribe’s technical approach. These enhancements will provide funds for tribes to:

- Research and develop an alternative definition of adequate yearly progress (AYP);
- Develop an implementation plan that will reform a tribe’s current organizational structure towards an expert and independent Tribal Education Department (TED) that supports schools and students; and

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- Covers the execution of the implementation plan with identified staffing, projected timelines, proposed budgets and activities.

The funds support the development of school-reform plans to improve educational outcomes for students and strengthen efficiencies in operating BIE-funded schools on the reservations where they are located. A tribe must have at least one BIE-funded school to be eligible for funding.

“The Bureau of Indian Education is actively responding to the recommendation from tribal leaders that it support tribal leadership on Indian education,” said BIE Director Dr. Charles “Monty” Roessel. “The Sovereignty in Education Enhancement Program is one example of how we are recognizing the desire and ability of tribal governments to assume responsibility for the BIE-funded schools serving their communities.”

The purpose of SIE Enhancement Program funds is to support the tribes’ capacity to manage and operate BIE-funded, tribally controlled schools as defined by the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988. The SIE Enhancement Program was established based on a recommendation contained in the [Blueprint for Reform](#), a comprehensive report on how to improve the quality of education in BIE-funded schools. The program fulfills a recommendation in the Blueprint for the BIE to support tribal nations in their efforts to restructure school governance, assume control over BIE-funded schools serving their communities, and develop curriculum that is both academically rigorous and culturally relevant to their students. This is the second round of SIE funds awarded since October 2014.

An initiative of the [White House Council on Native American Affairs](#), chaired by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, the Blueprint for Reform was issued in June 2014 following consultation with tribal leaders. President Obama established the Council as part of his commitment to engage in a true and lasting government-to-government relationship with federally recognized tribes in a more coordinated and effective manner, including promoting and sustaining prosperous and resilient tribal communities.

The BIE will hold two pre-grant training workshops for SIE applicants via webinars on the following dates:

- **Pre-Grant Training 1: Tuesday, December 8, 2015, starting at 11:00 a.m. (EST).**
- **Pre-Grant Training 2: Friday, December 11, 2015, starting at 4:00 p.m. (EST).**

Grant proposals must be received by January 13, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. EST.

For more information on the SIE Enhancement Program and to register for a webinar, visit <http://www.bie.edu/Programs/Sovereignty/index.htm>.

The Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs oversees the Bureau of Indian Education, which

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operates the federal school system for American Indian and Alaska Native children from the federally recognized tribes. The BIE director is directly responsible for implementing federal education programs and laws in 183 elementary and secondary day and boarding schools on 64 reservations in 23 states serving over 48,000 students. Of these, 59 are BIE-operated and 124 are tribally operated under Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act contracts or Tribally Controlled Schools Act grants. The BIE also funds or operates off-reservation boarding schools and peripheral dormitories near reservations for tribal students attending public schools.

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parts except as permitted under the terms of a valid permit or as permitted by regulations. In 2006, we issued regulations establishing two depredation orders and three control orders that allow State and tribal wildlife agencies, private landowners, and airports to conduct resident Canada goose population management, including the take of birds. We monitor the data collected for activities under these orders and may rescind an order if monitoring indicates that activities are inconsistent with conservation of Canada geese.

Control order for airports. Our regulations at 50 CFR 21.49 allow managers at commercial, public, and private airports and military airfields and their employees or agents to implement management of resident Canada geese to resolve or prevent threats to public safety. An airport must be part of the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems and have received Federal grant-in-aid assistance or be a military airfield under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Secretary of a military department. Each facility exercising the privileges of the order must submit an annual report with the date, numbers, and locations of birds, nests, and eggs taken.

Depredation order for nests and eggs. Our regulations at 50 CFR 21.50 allow private landowners and managers of public lands to destroy resident Canada goose nests and eggs on property under their jurisdiction, provided they register annually on our Web site at <https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR>. Registrants must provide basic information, such as name, address, phone number, and email, and identify where the control work will occur and who will conduct it. Registrants must return to the Web site to report the number of nests with eggs they destroyed.

Depredation order for agricultural facilities. Our regulations at 50 CFR 21.51 allow States and tribes, via their wildlife agencies, to implement programs to allow landowners, operators, and tenants actively engaged in commercial agriculture to conduct damage management control when geese are committing depredations, or to resolve or prevent other injury to agricultural interests. State and tribal wildlife agencies in the Atlantic, Central, and Mississippi Flyway portions of 41 States may implement the provisions of the order. Each implementing agricultural producer must maintain a log of the date and number of birds taken under this authorization. Each State and tribe exercising the privileges of the order must submit an annual report of the

numbers of birds, nests, and eggs taken, and the county or counties where take occurred.

Public health control order. Our regulations at 50 CFR 21.52 authorize States and tribes of the lower 48 States to conduct (via the State or tribal wildlife agency) resident Canada goose control and management activities when the geese pose a direct threat to human health. States and tribes operating under this order must submit an annual report summarizing activities, including the numbers of birds taken and the county where take occurred.

Population control. Our regulations at 50 CFR 21.61 establish a managed take program to reduce and stabilize resident Canada goose populations when traditional and otherwise authorized management measures are not successful or feasible. A State or tribal wildlife agency in the Atlantic, Mississippi, or Central Flyway may request approval for this population control program. If approved, the State or tribe may use hunters to harvest resident Canada geese during the month of August. Requests for approval must include a discussion of the State's or tribe's efforts to address its injurious situations using other methods, or a discussion of the reasons why the methods are not feasible. If the Service Director approves a request, the State or tribe must (1) keep annual records of activities carried out under the authority of the program, and (2) provide an annual summary, including number of individuals participating in the program and the number of resident Canada geese shot. Additionally, participating States and tribes must monitor the spring breeding population by providing an annual estimate of the breeding population and distribution of resident Canada geese in their State.

Our regulations at 50 CFR 21.49, 21.50, 21.51, and 21.52 require that persons or entities operating under the depredation and control orders must immediately report the take of any species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This information ensures that the incidental take limits authorized under section 7 of the ESA are not exceeded.

Comments Received and Our Responses

On August 18, 2015, we published in the **Federal Register** (80 FR 50021) a notice of our intent to request that OMB renew approval for this information collection. In that notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending on October 19, 2015. We received one comment. The commenter objected to the taking of Canada geese, but did not address the information collection

requirements. We did not make any changes to our requirements as a result of this comment.

Request for Public Comments

We again invite comments concerning this information collection on:

- Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. 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 OMB and us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done.

Dated: December 1, 2015.

Tina A. Campbell,

Chief, Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2015-30696 Filed 12-4-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

[167 A2100DD/AAKC001030/AOA501010.999900]

Sovereignty in Indian Education

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) announces the availability of enhancement funds to tribes and their tribal education departments (TEDs) to promote tribal control and operation of BIE-funded schools on their reservations. This notice invites tribes with at least one BIE-funded school on their reservation/Indian land to submit grant proposals. **DATES:** Grant proposals must be received by December 13, 2015, at 4:00 p.m.

Eastern Time. BIE will hold pre-grant proposal training sessions. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for more information.

ADDRESSES: Complete details on requirements for proposals and the evaluation and selection process can be found on the BIE Web site at <http://www.bie.edu>. Submit grant applications to: Bureau of Indian Education, Attn: Wendy Greyeyes, 1849 C Street NW., MS-4655-MIB, Washington, DC 20240. Email submissions will be accepted at this address: wendy.greyeyes@bie.edu. Limit email submissions to attachments compatible with Microsoft Office Word 2007 or later and files with a .pdf file extension. Emailed submissions may not exceed 3MB total in size. Fax submissions are NOT acceptable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Wendy Greyeyes, Bureau of Indian Education, Office of the Director, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 208-5810.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

In 2013, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Education convened an American Indian Education Study Group (Study Group) to diagnose the systemic challenges facing the BIE and to propose a comprehensive plan for reform to ensure all students attending BIE-funded schools receive a world-class education. The Study Group drafted a framework for reform based on several listening sessions in the fall of 2013 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. Overall, the Study Group met with nearly 400 individuals and received nearly 200 comments that helped it prepare the draft framework for educational reform that became the subject of four tribal consultation sessions held in April and May of 2014. These efforts resulted in the *Blueprint for Reform*, which was released by the Department of the Interior (DOI) on June 13, 2014.

Acting on the recommendations in the *Blueprint for Reform*, BIE will award enhancement funds to tribes and their tribal education agencies to promote tribal control and operation of BIE-funded schools on their Indian reservations. The purpose of these enhancements is to support the tribes' 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 the 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.

Enhancement funding is a two-year program, and awards will range from \$100,000 to \$200,000 per fiscal year. The amounts are dependent on the number of schools involved, number of students, complexity of creating a new tribally managed school system and the

tribe's technical approach. Tribes with at least one Bureau-funded school on or near their reservation are eligible for these funds. These enhancements will provide funds for the tribe to:

- Develop an implementation plan that will reform a tribe's current organizational structure toward an expert and independent Tribal Education Department that will support schools and students;
- Cover the execution of the implementation plan with identified staffing, projected timelines, proposed budgets, and activities; and
- Research an alternative definition of adequate yearly progress (AYP) which is optional for applicants.

BIE is seeking proposals from tribes that support efforts to take control and operate BIE-funded schools located on the tribe's reservation. 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. Project Directors will participate in monthly collaboration meetings, submit quarterly budget updates, ensure an annual report is submitted at the end of each project year, and ultimately ensure that the tribal education department fulfills the obligations of the grant. Complete details on requirements for proposals and the evaluation and selection process can be found on the BIE Web site at the address in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. In addition, BIE will hold pre-grant proposal training as noted below:

BIE PRE-GRANT PROPOSAL TRAINING

Activity	Date
Webinar 11 a.m. (ET) To register go to: https://dcma100.webex.com/dcma100/k2/j.php?MTID=t6394cada3bc9d9b28993ecb06b7e8ecd and register.	December 8, 2015.
Webinar 4 p.m. (ET) To register go to: https://dcma100.webex.com/dcma100/k2/j.php?MTID=t6cbc6c13d4aeab46fd3e93caa597b394 and register.	December 11, 2015.
Grant application submissions due	December 18, 2015, 4 p.m. (ET)
Final implementation due	August 26, 2016.
Final Presentations	August 31, 2016.

The grant proposal is due ~~December 18, 2015~~, at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The proposal should be packaged for delivery to permit timely arrival. The proposal package should be sent or hand delivered to the address in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Faxed applications will NOT be accepted. Email submissions will be accepted at the address in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. Email submissions are limited to attachments

compatible with Microsoft Office Word 2007 or later or files with a .pdf file extension. Emailed submissions shall not exceed 3MB total in size.

Proposals submitted by Federal Express or Express Mail should be sent two or more days prior to the closing date. The proposal package should be sent to the address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. The tribe is solely responsible for ensuring its proposal arrives in a timely manner.

The information collection requirements contained in this notice have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under 44 U.S.C. 3504(h). The OMB control number is 1076-0182. The authorization expires on March 31, 2018. An agency may not sponsor, and you are not required to respond to, any information collection that does not display a currently valid OMB Control Number.

The information collected is used to determine whether a tribe is eligible for the Sovereignty in Indian Education Grant and to determine whether the tribe is using the funding for the stated purpose of promoting tribal sovereignty in BIE-funded schools. The information is supplied by the respondents to obtain and/or retain a benefit. The public reporting burden is estimated to be between 1 and 40 hours per response. This includes the time needed to understand the requirements; gather the information; complete the proposal, quarterly budget reports, and the annual report; and submit to the Department. Comments regarding the burden or other aspects of the information collection may be directed to the Information Collection Clearance Officer—Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street NW., MS-3642, Washington, DC 20240.

Dated: November 20, 2015.

Kevin K. Washburn,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2015-30806 Filed 12-4-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

[167A2100DD/AAKC001030/
AOA501010.999900 253G]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Integrated Resource Management Plan for the Nez Perce Reservation in North Central Idaho

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as lead agency intends to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) and conduct public scoping meetings to evaluate potential environmental impacts of the proposed Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) for the Nez Perce Reservation located in north central Idaho. The PEIS will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

DATES: The dates and locations of public scoping meetings will be published in the Lewiston Tribune, Moscow-Pullman Daily News, Ta’c Tito’oqan, Clearwater Tribune, Idaho County Free Press, Lewis County Herald, The Clearwater Progress, and Cottonwood Chronicle. Additional information will also be posted on the Tribe’s Web site at www.nezperce.org.

Written comments to this notice must be received by February 5, 2016.

ADDRESSES: The public is invited to submit written comments to this Notice. Written comments may be submitted by mail, email, hand carry, or fax to: Ms. Anna Schmidt, Wildlife Biologist, BIA Northwest Regional Office, 911 NE. 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-4169, Phone: (503) 231-6808, Fax: (503) 231-6774, Email: anna.schmidt@bia.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Anna Schmidt at (503) 231-6808 or anna.schmidt@bia.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action is the preparation of an IRMP for the Nez Perce Reservation and BIA approval of long-term natural and cultural resource planning goals and objectives for the Nez Perce Reservation. The Tribe may use the Programmatic EIS (PEIS) for tiered, project-specific environmental assessments to cover specific actions as the IRMP is implemented. The Tribe has managed its natural and cultural resources under the goals and objectives of various department-specific plans under the direction of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee. The PEIS will consider a proposed strategy in the IRMP to provide a framework for all Nez Perce Tribal agencies to manage natural and cultural resources within the Nez Perce Reservation.

It is anticipated that the PEIS will assess four management strategy alternatives and a No Action Alternative. Under the Maximum Resource Development Alternative, the Tribe’s resource management strategy would be to maximally promote human land uses, growth, and the use of natural and cultural resources to generate revenue for the Tribe. Under the Development Emphasis Alternative, the Tribe’s resource management strategy would be to emphasize human land use, growth, and the use of natural and cultural resources to generate revenue for the Tribe, while ensuring a moderate level of natural and cultural resource conservation, protection, and enhancement. Under the Conservation Emphasis Alternative, the Tribe’s resource management strategy would be to emphasize natural and cultural resource conservation, protection, and enhancement, while ensuring a moderate level of human land use, growth, and the use of natural and cultural resources to generate revenue for the Tribe. Under the Maximum Conservation Alternative, the Tribe’s resource management strategy would be to maximally promote natural and cultural resource conservation, protection, and enhancement. Under the

No Action Alternative, the existing resource management strategies will be assessed. Additional strategies or alternatives or variations of those proposed above may be developed as a result of public scoping. Significant issues to be covered during the scoping process may include, but will not be limited to, air quality, geology and soils, surface and groundwater resources, wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, socioeconomic conditions, land use, aesthetics, and Indian trust resources.

Directions for Submitting Public Comments: Please include your name, return address, and the caption “‘Programmatic EIS, Nez Perce Reservation IRMP’” on the first page of any written comments you submit. You may also submit comments at the public scoping meetings. The public scoping meetings will be held to seek comments from all parties concerning the use of natural and cultural resources on the Nez Perce Reservation, concerns regarding impacts to those resources, and preferred management strategies. The meetings will be held at various Nez Perce Reservation communities, and notices will be published in the Lewiston Tribune, Moscow-Pullman Daily News, Ta’c Tito’oqan, Clearwater Tribune, Idaho County Free Press, Lewis County Herald, the Clearwater Progress, and Cottonwood Chronicle. Additional information will also be posted at the Tribe’s Web site at www.nezperce.org.

Public Comment Availability: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BIA address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except holidays. 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.

Authority: This notice is published in accordance with sections 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) and Sec. 46.305 of the Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR part 46), implementing the procedural requirements of NEPA, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, by part 209 of the Departmental Manual.