

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Indian Health Service

Native American Research Centers for Health; Intent to Fund Competitive Grants

AGENCY: Indian Health Service, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of intent to fund competitive grants for Native American research centers for health.

SUMMARY: The Indian Health Service (IHS) in association with the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), National Institutes of Health, announces the intent to fund competitive grants to establish American Indian/Alaska Native research centers in fiscal year (FY) 2001.

This new grant program is titled Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH). It is authorized under section 301(a) of the Public Health Service Act and described at Catalog of Federal Assistance #93.933.

Intent of Notice: The intent of this notice is to alert potential tribal and area/national Indian health applicants of the program and to encourage them to identify and to develop partnerships with academic research centers and universities in preparation for applying for a grant.

The IHS and NIGMS plan to hold technical assistance and information sharing workshops about this grant program in July and August 2000. You should contact Dr. William Freeman at the location below for information on dates and locations of these workshops.

It is anticipated that the program announcement and application guidelines will be available for distribution in mid-July 2000 with an application receipt deadline of December 12, 2000. Application packets will be distributed directly to eligible organizations, *i.e.*, Tribal Chairmen; Directors of tribal health departments, and Executive Directors of Indian health organizations.

Purposes: The purposes of the centers are: to encourage competitive research on well-defined diseases and health conditions of importance for American Indians; to develop and evaluate interventions to reduce health disparities and to enhance the strengths and resiliencies of Native communities and individuals; to develop a cadre of American Indian scientists and health professionals engaged in biomedical, clinical, and behavioral research that is competitive for NIH funding; and to increase the capacity of both the research intensive organizations and the

Indian organizations to work in partnership to produce competitive research.

Eligibility: Federally recognized tribes, tribal consortia, and area/national non-profit Indian health organizations that are sanctioned by tribal governments are eligible to apply for this grant award, with collaborations with academic research centers and universities required. Each center shall have a governing board predominately composed of tribal representatives that will be responsible for determining the research priorities in consultation with the tribal and Indian communities involved.

Funding Availability: It is anticipated the \$1.5 million will be available for award of up to five grants in FY 2001, with this amount available for each succeeding year through FY 2004. Award of grants is subject to the availability of funds. Awards will be issued with one-year budget periods with total project periods of up to four years, renewable annually.

Applicants under this program are encouraged to seek additional funding from other sources (university, tribal, private foundation, etc.) to augment monies available from the IHS.

Contacts for Information: If you have questions regarding this program, you may contact the following:

Program Information

William L. Freeman, MD, MPH,
Research Program, Indian Health Service, Twinbrook Metro Plaza, Room 450, 12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland 29852, Telephone: (301) 443-0578, FAX: (301) 443-7538, Email: wfreeman@HQE.ihs.gov

Grants (Business) Information

Patricia SpottedHorse, Grants Management Specialist, Grants Management Branch, Twinbrook Metro Plaza, Suite 100, 123 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland 20852, Telephone: (301) 443-5204, FAX: (301) 443-9602

Dated: June 12, 2000.

Michel E. Lincoln,

Acting Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4557-N-24]

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities to Assist the Homeless

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice identifies unutilized, underutilized, excess, and surplus Federal property reviewed by HUD for suitability for possible use to assist the homeless.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 16, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Clifford Taffet, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 7262, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-1234; TTY number for the hearing- and speech-impaired (202) 708-2565, (these telephone numbers are not toll-free), or call the toll-free Title V information line at 1-800-927-7588.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the December 12, 1988 court order in *National Coalition for the Homeless v. Veterans Administration*, No. 88-2503-OG (D.D.C.), HUD publishes a Notice, on a weekly basis, identifying unutilized, underutilized, excess and surplus Federal buildings and real property that HUD has reviewed for suitability for use to assist the homeless. Today's Notice is for the purpose of announcing that no additional properties have been determined suitable or unsuitable this week.

Dated: June 8, 2000.

Fred Karnas, Jr.,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs Assistance Programs.

[FR Doc. 00-14938 Filed 6-15-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of the Draft Sonora Tiger Salamander Recovery Plan for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Document Availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of a draft Recovery Plan for the Sonora tiger salamander

(*Ambystoma tigrinum stebbinsi*). The species occurs on lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Coronado National Forest; U.S. Department of the Army, Fort Huachuca; and private lands in the San Rafael Valley and adjacent portions of the Huachuca and Patagonia mountains in southeastern Santa Cruz and southwestern Cochise counties, Arizona. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft Plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft Recovery Plan must be received on or before August 15, 2000 to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft Recovery Plan may obtain a copy by contacting Jim Rorabaugh, Arizona Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, Arizona 85021-4951 (602/640-2720 x238). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at this same address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Rorabaugh (see **ADDRESSES**).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant species to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these

comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The Draft Sonora Tiger Salamander Recovery Plan describes the status, current management, recovery objectives and criteria, and specific actions needed to reclassify the Sonora tiger salamander from endangered to threatened, and to ultimately delist it. The draft Plan was developed by Dr. James Collins and Jonathan Snyder, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, in coordination with the Service and a team of stakeholders (the Participation Team), which included ranchers, landowners and managers, agency representatives, and herpetologists. The salamander currently only breeds in livestock watering tanks in the San Rafael Valley of southeastern Arizona. Its natural breeding habitats are no longer present or are now unsuitable. The salamander is threatened by loss of natural habitats; predation by nonnative fish, bullfrogs, and crayfish; genetic swamping by non-native barred tiger salamanders; disease; low genetic diversity; and collection for bait or translocation by anglers. Actions needed to recover the salamander include maintenance and enhancement of habitats, control of non-native organisms, control of collection and transport of tiger salamanders, actions to reduce spread of disease, monitoring, research, public education and information, and adaptive management. The draft Recovery Plan includes a draft Participation Plan, prepared by the Participation Team, which details how the plan should be implemented to minimize social and economic impacts while still providing for the prompt recovery of the salamander. The Service will work with the Participation Team to address comments received during the comment period. The draft Plan will be revised and finalized based on those comments.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the Draft Sonora Tiger Salamander Recovery Plan. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the plan.

Authority: The authority for this action is Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: May 29, 2000.

Nancy M. Kaufman,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 00-15117 Filed 6-15-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-030-1010-DC-032F]

Environmental Statements; Notice of Intent; Walker River Basin, NV; Water and/or Water Rights From Willing Sellers

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701.

ACTION: Second Amendment to the February 1, 2000 notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for obtaining water and/or water rights from willing sellers in the Walker River Basin.

Second Amendment to the February 1, 2000 notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for obtaining Water and/or water rights from willing sellers in the Walker River Basin for the purposes of protecting the Walker Lake ecosystem from degradation resulting from increasing total dissolved solids (TDS) in the lake; possible use in a settlement of the United States' water rights claims in the Walker River Basin should a settlement be negotiated; and to assist in recovery of the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout in the Walker River Basin.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Carson City Field Office, in cooperation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Phoenix Area Office, The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Lahontan Basin Area Office and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, will hold four public workshops for the purposes of refining issues identified in the on-going scoping process and developing reasonable alternative for consideration and analysis in the Walker River Basin Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

These workshops are a follow-up to public scoping meetings held in February, 2000 regarding BLM's proposal to obtain water and/or water rights from willing sellers to protect the Walker Lake ecosystem from degradation resulting from increasing concentrations of total dissolved solids (TDS) in the lake, for possible use in a settlement of the United States' water rights claims in the Walker River Basin should a settlement be negotiated, and to assist in the recovery of the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout.

EFFECTIVE DATES: A series of four public workshops will be held between July 5 and July 13, 2000. The workshops will be held from 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. at each of the following locations: