until the MTW Agreement is executed. HUD invites HAs to state and justify, in their proposed MTW schedules, the minimum period of time which they believe is necessary to implement their MTW plans;

(c) The December 18, 1996 notice recognized that HA plans might not be finalized by the application deadline, and requested that HAs identify any outstanding issues and the process and schedule for resolving those issues. In other words, HUD does not expect all MTW plans to be ready for implementation at the time HAs are selected for MTW. Rather, at this stage of the demonstration, HUD expects an HA's MTW plan to be conceptually and analytically sound in that it identifies local needs and explains how the HA believes its assets and resources can be deployed to most effectively and efficiently address those needs. In scoring applications under evaluation criterion 3, ''Quality and Feasibility of MTW Plan'', HUD will reward plans that demonstrate an HA's capacity to operate in a deregulated program environment, where the HA has broad discretion to use Federal funds flexibly and creatively based on its understanding of local conditions. The level of detail provided in an HA's plan will help HUD to assess the HA's capacity in that regard. At the same time, HUD encourages HA's to be creative and to make full use of the broad local discretion that this demonstration permits. Accordingly, HAs should provide as much detail as they can at this point. HUD seeks a wide variety of approaches in making selections for MTW, and does not expect plans that are highly innovative (in that they depart significantly from current program rules) to have as much detail as plans that are less innovative. However, as the December 18, 1996 notice provided, where a plan lacks detail, HUD does expect an HA to describe the process and schedule by which the HA will resolve the outstanding issues.

(3) Extension of Submission Deadline

For several reasons, HUD has found that it is in the best interests of the demonstration to allow HAs additional time to prepare their applications. Because the notice appeared in the Federal Register during the winter holiday season, some HAs were not aware that it had been published until several weeks after the application period had already begun to run. Further, HUD has concluded that additional time would be helpful so that HAs can give proper notice of and hold the required public hearing, and to otherwise conduct a thorough and constructive planning process in their communities. Most importantly, HUD recognizes that the degree of programmatic innovation which MTW allows, and which HUD hopes to encourage through this demonstration program, may require a level of deliberation and analysis that the original 90-day application period does not permit. Extending the deadline will give HAs more time to conduct this process, resulting in higher-quality applications and a more valuable demonstration program.

Dated: February 25, 1997.

Kevin Emanuel Marchman,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

[FR Doc. 97–5298 Filed 2–27–97; 2:41 pm]

BILLING CODE 4210–33–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Preparation of a Habitat Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement on a Permit To Incidentally Take Threatened and Endangered Species in Association With the Clark County Multiple Species Conservation Plan in Clark County, NV

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent and public scoping meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has been notified by Clark County (County), Nevada, that the County, and certain cities within the County, intend to prepare a Clark County Multiple Species Conservation Plan (Multi-Species Conservation Plan) to conserve species and their habitats throughout the County. The Multi-Species Conservation Plan would be prepared pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The proposed Multi-Species Conservation Plan would identify those actions necessary to maintain the viability of natural habitats in the County for approximately 225 species residing in those habitats, including five species listed as endangered (Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*; Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, *Empidonax trailli extimus*; Moapa Dace, *Moapa coriacea*; Woundfin, *Plagopterus argentissimus*; Virgin River Chub, *Gila seminuda* ssp.). The Multi-Species Conservation Plan would treat all of the approximately 75 proposed covered species as listed and all covered species would be subject to the standards set forth in section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act, and 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32. In addressing the habitat needs of the covered species the Multi-Species Conservation Plan would benefit other species utilizing the same habitats. In addition, the Multi-Species Conservation Plan would establish a process to assure the maintenance of the viability of natural habitats for approximately 150 other species and to eventually extend coverage to those species. It would function as a multiple species conservation plan that could establish the basis for maintaining the viability of the remaining natural ecosystems throughout the County.

If the Multi-Species Conservation Plan is approved by the Service, the Service would authorize incidental take of the listed species covered by the plan through the issuance of a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit. The Multi-Species Conservation Plan, coupled with an Implementation Agreement which includes prelisting provisions, would form the basis for an incidental take permit for additional species if these species become listed.

DATES: A public scoping meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on March 11, 1997, in the Cafeteria at the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, 6th Floor, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155–8270, to identify potential issues and alternatives for the Clark County Multiple Species Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Interested persons are encouraged to attend the public meeting to identify and discuss issues and alternatives that should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The proposed agenda for the public scoping meeting includes a summary of the proposed action, status of and threats to subject species, tentative issues, concerns, opportunities, and alternatives. Identified issues of concern include effects of plan implementation on the fish and wildlife resources of Clark County, land use and activities on public and private lands, growth, and social and economic health of the County.

Persons attending the Scoping Meeting will have an opportunity to present their comments and suggestions regarding the scope of issues to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. Submittal of independent written comments is encouraged.

Written comments related to the scope and content of the Multi-Species Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement should be received by the Service at the address below by April 2, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Information, comments, or questions related to the preparation of the Multi-Species Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement should be submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Supervisor, 4600 Kietzke Lane, Suite 125C, Reno Nevada 89502–5055.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Persons wishing to review background material may obtain it by contacting the Clark County Desert Conservation Plan Administrator, Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, 6th Floor, P.O. Box 558270, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155–8270. Documents also will be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday–Friday) at the above address or by telephone (702–455–3536).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 11, 1995, the Service issued a 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit effective August 1, 1995, to Clark County, the Cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Boulder City, Henderson, Mesquite, and the Nevada Department of Transportation for the Clark County Desert Conservation Plan (Desert Conservation Plan), a habitat conservation plan for the Mojave Desert Tortoise, a species listed as threatened by the Service in 1990. The Desert Conservation Plan provides for conservation measures for the desert tortoise in the County and for incidental take consistent with the long-term viability of the species in this portion of its range.

The Desert Conservation Plan includes provisions for a proactive approach to conservation planning for multiple species in the County. The specified intent of this approach was to reduce the likelihood of future listing of plants and wildlife as threatened or endangered. While the proposed Multi-Species Conservation Plan is the direct outgrowth of provisions of the Desert Conservation Plan, it will not replace or modify the approved Desert Conservation Plan. The Multi-Species Conservation Plan will provide stand-alone conservation measures for species included in the plan. Implementation of the conservation measures in the Multi-Species Conservation Plan is anticipated to be a cooperative effort among the County, the Cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Boulder City, Henderson, and Mesquite, the Service, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Nevada Division of Wildlife, and other Federal and State land managers and regulators.

Environmental review of the Multi-Species Conservation Plan will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), other appropriate regulations, and Service procedures for compliance with those regulations. This notice is being furnished in accordance with section 1501.7 of the National Environmental Policy Act to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

Dated: February 24, 1997.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon

[FR Doc. 97–5135 Filed 2–28–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Tribal Consultation on Indian Education Topics

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of tribal consultation meetings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will conduct consultation meetings to obtain oral and written comments concerning potential issues in Indian Education Programs. The potential issues which will be set forth in a tribal consultation booklet to be issued prior to the meetings are as follows:

1. Facilities Operation and Maintenance—Tribal Priority Allocation
2. Facilities Operation and Maintenance Formula Modifications
3. Office of Indian Education Programs Draft Strategic Plan
4. Other Consultation Items
5. Displacement Costs for Schools Converting to Grant Status
6. Indian School Equalization Program: Ongoing Study
7. Office of Indian Education Programs: Draft School Technology Plan
8. Revisions to IASA/Goals 2000 Consolidated State Plan
9. Executive Order 13021 of October 19, 1996—Tribal Colleges and Universities

DATES: April 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 1997 for all locations listed. Several dates and locations were scheduled to coincide with meetings of various Indian education organizations. All meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 3:00 p.m. (local time) or until all meeting participants have an opportunity to make comments.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Local contact	Phone numbers
Apr. 10, 1997	New Orleans, LA	LaVonna, Weller	(703) 235–3233
Apr. 15, 1997	Phoenix, AZ	Angelita Felix	(520) 562–3557
Apr. 16, 1997	Albuquerque, NM	Ben Atencio	(505) 766–3034
Apr. 17, 1997	Anchorage, AK	Robert Pringle	(907) 271–4115
Apr. 18, 1997	Billings, MT	Larry Parker	(406) 247–7953
Apr. 22, 1997	Oklahoma City, OK	Joy Martin	(405) 945–6051
Apr. 23, 1997	Gallup, NM	Andrew Tah	(520) 283–2221
Apr. 23, 1997	Portland, OR	John Reimer	(503) 872–2745
Apr. 24, 1997	Cloquet, MN	Terry Portra	(612) 373–1090
Apr. 24, 1997	Rapid City, SD	Cherie Farlee	(605) 964–8722
Apr. 25, 1997	Sacramento, CA	Fayetta Babby	(916) 979–2560

Written comments should be mailed, to be received, on or before June 2, 1997, to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Indian Education Programs, MS–3512–MIB, OIE–32, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240, Attn: Joann Sebastian Morris: or, may be hand delivered to Room 3512 at the same address. Comments may also be telefaxed to (202) 273–0030.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. James Martin or Goodwin K. Cobb III at