

this proposed methodology and formula to the identified location in the **ADDRESSEE** section.

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Road Maintenance Funding Distribution Methodology

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Section 1 What is the current maintenance funding distribution formula?

The formula that has been used for distribution of Road Maintenance funds to the BIA Area Offices prioritizes submittal requests from the Areas on BIAM Form 5810. The line items identified in the BIAM Form 5810 are as listed below:

A=Management Supervision (Area, Agency, Tribe, Central Office)
 B=Snow and Ice Removal (Latest 5 year average)
 C=Other Emergency (Latest 5 year average)
 D=Bridges (National Bridge Inspection Recommendations)
 E=Airstrips
 F=Paved Miles
 G=Gravel Miles
 H=Improved Earth Miles
 I=Unimproved Earth Miles
 J=Other Maintenance
 K=Ferry
 L=Heavy Equipment
 M=Funds available after top priorities
 Z=Total available funds
 $M = Z - (A + B + C + D + E + K)$
 $M = (P)F + (Q)G + (R)H + (S)I + (T)J + (U)L$
 P, Q, R, S, T & U=Percentages of total request by areas, such that
 $P > Q > R > S > T > U$.

Actual percentage figures are dependent on the total available funds. The percentage figures for the current distribution formula are:

A—One hundred percent of requested supervision is allowed per the latest Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit recommendations to follow tribal priorities through consultations; use of cost effective techniques by using yearly planning efforts; perform activities based on actual road conditions; and document expenditures.

B, C, D—One hundred percent funded to assure provision of a transportation

network for the welfare and safety of the users during emergencies.

E—One hundred percent funded to provide emergency access for doctors and air ambulances.

K—One hundred percent funded to insure continuity of an important transportation link.

P, Q, R, & S—These percentages reflect the relative safety issues involved with various types of roads and the maintenance priorities identified in the 58 BIAM.

This method of distribution is currently used to distribute funds to the area level. Many Areas are using historic distribution methods based on the old banded (Indian Priority System) program.

Section 2 What factors are considered in the proposed formula development?

The development of a distribution formula was required by Congress. One of the primary objectives considered by the Process Action Team (PAT) was to develop an equitable formula for distribution of road maintenance funds, and to develop a formula that distributes the money without major changes to the current funding level to the BIA Area Offices. The factors considered in establishing a methodology for distribution are the population served, the miles in the BIA Roads system, and the land area this system serves. The BIA system miles are weighted to reflect the surface-type priorities of the 58 BIAM.

Section 3 What is the proposed maintenance funding distribution formula?

The formula for distribution of Road Maintenance funding to individual tribal bases is as follows:

$$F = (P + A + M)(W)$$

F=TPA Funding available for the individual tribal base

P=The individual tribal percentage of enrolled population of the total Indian enrolled population multiplied by 30.5 percent.

A=The individual tribal percentage of trust land acreage of the total trust land acreage multiplied by 30.5 percent.

M=The individual tribal percentage of weighted road miles of BIA system of the total weighted BIA road system miles multiplied by 30.5 percent. To comply with the priority of maintenance as defined in this section the individual miles were based on the following total. The total calculated for each tribe was calculated by using 40% of the paved miles of BIA system, plus 30% of gravel miles of the system, plus 20% of the unimproved earth miles.

W=The amount of money available to Area Offices for distribution, after reduction for the following items and percentages:

Central Office Program and Budget Formulation (0.5%)
 Area Office Program and Formulation (3.3%)
 Operation of Lake Roosevelt Ferry (\$433,000)

Snow and Ice Control (8.5%)—This reserve is based on the most recent national three-year average costs for snow and ice removal.

Section 4 How do tribes establish priorities for use of these funds, in accordance with Highway Trust Fund requirements, to maintain roads?

Federal law requires that road projects constructed with Federal-aid highway funds (the Highway Trust Fund) be maintained. Tribal governments may perform maintenance on these roads under Pub. L. 93-638. Any government failing to maintain roads constructed with Federal-aid highway funds may be ineligible for future Highway Trust Fund construction projects under 23 U.S.C. 116.

Dated: December 4, 1996.

Ada E. Deer,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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Bureau of Land Management

[HE-952-9911-01-24 1A]

Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection; OMB Approval Number 1032-0113

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces its intention to request extension of approval for collecting information from those persons with a Helium Distribution Contract. BLM collects this information to assure distributor accountability and to certify compliance with the regulations at 30 CFR Part 602. BLM uses this information to report annual sales, transfers and purchases of helium. BLM expects to collect this information one time.

DATES: Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by February 18, 1997. Comments received after this date may not be

considered in preparing the information collection package.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand deliver comments to either of the following addresses: (1) Bureau of Land Management, Helium Operations, 801 S. Fillmore, Suite 500, Amarillo, Texas 79101-3545, or (2) Bureau of Land Management, Regulatory Affairs Group, 1849 C St., N.W., Mail Stop 401 LS, Washington, D. C. 20240. The address for hand delivery is: Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L St., N.W., Washington, D. C. You may also file comments by way of the Internet at: WOCComment@wo.blm.gov.

Comments will be available for public review during regular business hours at the Fillmore address (7:30 am to 4:30 pm), Monday through Friday, and at the L Street address (7:45 am to 4:15 pm).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Connie H. Neely, Helium Sales Officer, (806) 324-2636.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations at 5 CFR 1320.12(a) require the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to provide a 60-day notice in the Federal Register concerning a collection of information contained in published current rules to solicit comments on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary to perform properly the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden 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 technological collection techniques or other form of information technology.

The regulations at 30 CFR Part 602, Chapter VI, Subchapter A, Article III, require collecting the information contained in the following forms:

(1) Form 6-1575-A, Stocks, Receipts and Distribution, which requires helium distributors contractors to provide information about their opening inventory of helium (ending balance from previous reporting period may be carried forward), sales to Federal agencies and other distributors, their receipts from BLM and other distributor contracts and their ending balance of helium for the annual reporting period. Sales data include the name, location and quantity of helium; and

(2) Form 6-1580-A, Certificates of Resale of BLM Helium, which requires helium distributor contractors to certify the resale of helium.

Seventy-five respondents fill out these forms. The estimated time for reading the instructions, collecting the information, and filling out the forms is 0.5 hour per respondent, for a total of 37.5 burden hours.

Any interested person may request and obtain copies of the relevant regulations and the forms by contacting either of the above mentioned BLM offices or the person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

BLM will summarize all responses to this notice and include them in the request to the Office of Management and Budget for approval of the extension of this information collection. All comments will become part of the public record.

BLM expects to collect this information one time. Recent revisions to the helium statute have changed the method by which helium will be distributed and will make these forms obsolete.

Dated: December 16, 1996.

Annetta Cheek,

Leader, Regulatory Affairs Group.

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[ID-024-1200-00]

Closing of Certain Public Lands in Idaho

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of potential emergency closures of public lands in Cassia and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that certain public lands in Idaho, within Cassia and Twin Falls Counties, shall be subject to emergency closure to prevent erosion and rutting of the roads traveled by motor vehicles during wet or snowy conditions. The roads will be subject to closure during wet or snowy conditions from December 1-May 31 each year. If conditions of the entire road are dry enough to withstand motorized travel without causing erosion and rutting in the road, the routes will remain open during this period. The status of these roads (open/closed) is to be determined by the Authorized Officer and will be posted at the entrance to public lands. Road status can also be obtained from the BLM-Burley Field Office by calling (208) 678-5514. The legal land descriptions for the road closures are as follows:

The Indian Springs Road (BLM road #4214), from the Foothill Road to the U.S. Forest Service boundary, a distance of approximately 4.5 miles. The road is located at T. 12 S., R. 18 E., section 4 in Twin Falls County.

The Cherry Springs Road (BLM road #4213), from the Rock Creek Road southwest to its intersection with the Indian Springs Road, just north of the U.S. Forest Service boundary. This is a distance of approximately 6 miles. The road is located at T. 12 S., R. 18 E. section 2 in Twin Falls County.

The North Cottonwood Road (BLM road #4221) has two entrances, one on the east side and one on the west. The east entrance of North Cottonwood Creek Road starts at the Foothill Road and goes to the junction of the North Cottonwood Creek Road, approximately 6 miles. The west entrance to North Cottonwood Road starts at the Foothill Road and goes to the U.S. Forest Service boundary, a distance of approximately 5 miles, and back to the Foothill Road, a loop of approximately 11 miles total. The legal description is T. 12 S., R. 17 E., section 11 (for the west entrance), and T. 12 S., R. 18 E., section 06 (for the east entrance), in Twin Falls County.

The Curtis Spring Road (BLM road #42163), begins at the Foothill Road and goes for approximately 3.5 miles. The legal description is T. 12 S., R. 17 E., section 02, in Twin Falls County.

The Squaw Joe Road (BLM road #4220), south of the Nat-Soo-Pah Warm Springs, to the U.S. Forest Service boundary, approximately 3.5 miles. The legal description is T. 12 S., R. 17 E., section 02, in Twin Falls County.

The West Fork of Dry Creek Road (BLM road #1610), from the Tugaw Ranch southwest to the U.S. Forest Service boundary, a distance of approximately 6 miles. The legal description is T. 12 S., R. 19 E., section 01, in Cassia County.

The East Fork of Dry Creek, off Foothill Road (BLM road #1609), southeast to the U.S. Forest Service boundary, a distance of approximately 7 miles. The legal description is T. 12 S., R. 19 E., section 01, in Cassia County.

No person may use, drive, move, transport, let stand, park, or have charge or control over any type of motorized vehicle on closed routes.

Exceptions to this order are granted to the following:

Law enforcement patrol and emergency services and administratively approved access for actions such as monitoring, research studies, grazing activity, and access to private lands.

Employees of valid right-of-way holders in the course of duties associated with the right-of-way.

Holders of valid lease(s) and/or permit(s) and their employees in the course of duties associated with the lease and/or permit.

Other actions would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These roads will be subject to closure immediately and shall remain subject to closure each year from