

collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number and current expiration date.

III. Request for Comments

To comply with the public consultation process, on March 25, 2015, we published a **Federal Register** notice (80 FR 15808) announcing our intent to submit this information collection to OMB for approval. In that notice we solicited public comments for 60 days, ending on May 26, 2015. The USGS did not receive any comments. Therefore, we have not changed this collection.

We again invite comments concerning this IC on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Please note that any comments submitted 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 publically available at any time. While you can ask OMB in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that will be done.

Douglas A. Howard,

Associate Program Coordinator, National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program.

[FR Doc. 2015-19503 Filed 8-7-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

[156A2100DD/AAKC001030/
A0A501010.999900 253G]

HEARTH Act Approval of Seminole Tribe of Florida Regulations

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On January 8, 2015, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Seminole Tribe of Florida leasing regulations under the HEARTH Act.

With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into the following type of leases without BIA approval: Business and residential ordinances.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cynthia Morales, Office of Trust Services—Division of Realty, Bureau of Indian Affairs; Telephone (202) 768-4166; Email cynthia.morales@bia.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Summary of the HEARTH Act

The HEARTH (Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership) Act of 2012 (the Act) makes a voluntary, alternative land leasing process available to tribes, by amending the Indian Long-Term Leasing Act of 1955, 25 U.S.C. 415. The Act authorizes tribes to negotiate and enter into agricultural and business leases of tribal trust lands with a primary term of 25 years, and up to two renewal terms of 25 years each, without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. The Act also authorizes tribes to enter into leases for residential, recreational, religious or educational purposes for a primary term of up to 75 years without the approval of the Secretary. Participating tribes develop tribal leasing regulations, including an environmental review process, and then must obtain the Secretary's approval of those regulations prior to entering into leases. The Act requires the Secretary to approve tribal regulations if the tribal regulations are consistent with the Department's leasing regulations at 25 CFR part 162 and provide for an environmental review process that meets requirements set forth in the Act. This notice announces that the Secretary, through the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, has approved the tribal regulations for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

II. Federal Preemption of State and Local Taxes

The Department's regulations governing the surface leasing of trust and restricted Indian lands specify that, subject to applicable Federal law, permanent improvements on leased land, leasehold or possessory interests, and activities under the lease are not subject to State and local taxation and may be subject to taxation by the Indian tribe with jurisdiction. *See* 25 CFR 162.017. As explained further in the preamble to the final regulations, the Federal government has a strong interest in promoting economic development, self-determination, and tribal sovereignty. 77 FR 72,440, 72447-48 (December 5, 2012). The principles supporting the Federal preemption of State law in the field of Indian leasing

and the taxation of lease-related interests and activities applies with equal force to leases entered into under tribal leasing regulations approved by the Federal government pursuant to the HEARTH Act.

Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act, 25 U.S.C 465, preempts State and local taxation of permanent improvements on trust land.

Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation v. Thurston County, 724 F.3d 1153, 1157 (9th Cir. 2013) (citing *Mescalero Apache Tribe v. Jones*, 411 U.S. 145 (1973)). In addition, as explained in the preamble to the revised leasing regulations at 25 CFR part 162, Federal courts have applied a balancing test to determine whether State and local taxation of non-Indians on the reservation is preempted. *White Mountain Apache Tribe v. Bracker*, 448 U.S. 136, 143 (1980). The *Bracker* balancing test, which is conducted against a backdrop of "traditional notions of Indian self-government," requires a particularized examination of the relevant State, Federal, and tribal interests. We hereby adopt the *Bracker* analysis from the preamble to the surface leasing regulations, 77 FR at 72,447-48, as supplemented by the analysis below.

The strong Federal and tribal interests against State and local taxation of improvements, leaseholds, and activities on land leased under the Department's leasing regulations apply equally to improvements, leaseholds, and activities on land leased pursuant to tribal leasing regulations approved under the HEARTH Act. Congress's overarching intent was to "allow tribes to exercise greater control over their own land, support self-determination, and eliminate bureaucratic delays that stand in the way of homeownership and economic development in tribal communities." 158 Cong. Rec. H. 2682 (May 15, 2012). The HEARTH Act was intended to afford tribes "flexibility to adapt lease terms to suit [their] business and cultural needs" and to "enable [tribes] to approve leases quickly and efficiently." *Id.* at 5-6.

Assessment of State and local taxes would obstruct these express Federal policies supporting tribal economic development and self-determination, and also threaten substantial tribal interests in effective tribal government, economic self-sufficiency, and territorial autonomy. *See Michigan v. Bay Mills Indian Community*, 134 S. Ct. 2024, 2043 (2014) (Sotomayor, J., concurring) (determining that "[a] key goal of the Federal Government is to render Tribes more self-sufficient, and better positioned to fund their own sovereign

functions, rather than relying on Federal funding”). The additional costs of State and local taxation have a chilling effect on potential lessees, as well as on a tribe that, as a result, might refrain from exercising its own sovereign right to impose a tribal tax to support its infrastructure needs. *See id.* at 2043–44 (finding that State and local taxes greatly discourage tribes from raising tax revenue from the same sources because the imposition of double taxation would impede tribal economic growth).

Just like BIA’s surface leasing regulations, tribal regulations under the HEARTH Act pervasively cover all aspects of leasing. *See* Guidance for the Approval of Tribal Leasing Regulations under the HEARTH Act, NPM–TRUS–29 (effective Jan. 16, 2013) (providing guidance on Federal review process to ensure consistency of proposed tribal regulations with Part 162 regulations and listing required tribal regulatory provisions). Furthermore, the Federal government remains involved in the tribal land leasing process by approving the tribal leasing regulations in the first instance and providing technical assistance, upon request by a tribe, for the development of an environmental review process. The Secretary also retains authority to take any necessary actions to remedy violations of a lease or of the tribal regulations, including terminating the lease or rescinding approval of the tribal regulations and reassuming lease approval responsibilities. Moreover, the Secretary continues to review, approve, and monitor individual Indian land leases and other types of leases not covered under the tribal regulations according to the Part 162 regulations.

Accordingly, the Federal and tribal interests weigh heavily in favor of preemption of State and local taxes on lease-related activities and interests, regardless of whether the lease is governed by tribal leasing regulations or Part 162. Improvements, activities, and leasehold or possessory interests may be subject to taxation by the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Dated: July 29, 2015.

Kevin K. Washburn,
Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[15X L1109AF LLUT980300
L11100000.PH0000 24–1A]

Utah Resource Advisory Council/ Recreation Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Utah Resource Advisory Council (RAC)/Recreation Resource Advisory Council (RecRAC) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The BLM-Utah RAC will meet September 9, 2015, from 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., and the BLM-Utah RAC/RecRAC will meet September 10, 2015, from 8:00 a.m.–Noon.

ADDRESSES: The RAC/RecRAC will meet at the San Juan County Public Library, Monticello Branch, 80 North Main, Monticello, Utah.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sherry Foot, Special Programs Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, 440 West 200 South, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101; phone (801)539–4195; or, sfoot@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 9, 2015, the RAC will take a field tour of Alkali Ridge, in Blanding, Utah. A 15-minute briefing will be held at the San Juan County Library, Monticello Branch, 80 North Main, Monticello, Utah, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Topics of discussion will be: Reviewing archaeological sites; discussions on the Tread Lightly! anti-looting campaign, the transportation system in relation to the Richfield decision on transportation management plans in Utah, and oil and gas leasing. After the field tour, the RAC will meet at the San Juan County Library for a business meeting. Further discussion on topics will include: Anti-looting, Richfield litigation, programmatic agreement for travel management planning, the Moab Master Leasing Plan, and updates on the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan Amendment for Livestock Grazing. On September 10, the RAC/RecRAC will listen to fee presentations from the BLM and the Ashley National Forest. The BLM will present proposals to increase fees at Monticello Field Office Campgrounds

and the Sand Flats Recreation Area. The Ashley National Forest will present a proposal to increase their Christmas tree permit fees.

A one-hour public comment period will take place September 10, from 9:30–10:30 a.m., where the public may address the RAC. Written comments may also be sent to the BLM at the address listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

The meeting is open to the public; however, transportation, lodging, and meals are the responsibility of the participating individuals.

Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to leave a message or question for the above individual. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Replies are provided during normal business hours.

Authority: 43 CFR 1784.4–1.

Kent Hoffman,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. 2015–19564 Filed 8–7–15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[F–14902–A, F–14902–A2; LLAK940000–
L14100000–HY0000–P]

Alaska Native Claims Selection

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of decision approving lands for conveyance.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that an appealable decision will be issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), approving conveyance of the surface estate in the lands described below to Napaskiak Incorporated, pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

DATES: Any party claiming a property interest in the lands affected by the decision may appeal the decision in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR part 4. Please see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for the time limits for appealing the decision.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the decision may be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513–7504.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The BLM by phone at 907–271–5960 or by