

program and contract support funds awarded for each contracted program.

Each office has been suballotted funds equal to 85 percent of the total amount provided in FY 1998. From this amount each office should award 70 percent of required contract support to each contract/annual funding agreement meeting the criteria established below. The amount of 70 percent is authorized at this time to ensure that all tribes receive the same level of funding should the appropriations be insufficient to pay full indirect costs.

All contractors and self-governance tribes/consortia with either an approved indirect cost rate, current indirect cost proposal, or FY 1999 approved lump sum amount is eligible for 70 percent of the appropriate total amount to be paid with the first allotment of CSF in FY 1999. After the second allotment of CSF is made (approximately July 31, 1999) all contractors and self-governance tribes/consortia should again receive their pro rata share of CSF, based on the amount provided at that time.

An ongoing/existing contract or annual funding agreement is defined as a BIA program operated by the tribal contractor or compactor on an ongoing basis which has been entered into prior to the current fiscal year. An increase or decrease in the level of funding from year to year for such contracts or annual funding agreements would not affect the designation of such contracts or annual funding agreements as being ongoing. An assumption of additional BIA program responsibilities would be required to trigger a change in designation and is prohibited during this fiscal year in accordance with the following language:

Sec. 328. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds in this Act may be used to enter into any new or expanded self-determination contract or grant or self-governance compact pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975, as amended, for any activities not previously covered by such contracts, compacts or grants. Nothing in this section precludes the continuation of those specific activities for which self-determination and self-governance contracts and grants currently exist or the renewal of contracts, compacts and grants for those activities; implementation of section 325 of Public Law 105-83 (111 Stat. 1597); or compliance with 25 U.S.C. 2005.

Criteria for Determining CSF Need for Ongoing/Existing Contracts/Annual Funding Agreements

CSF for ongoing and existing contracts/annual funding agreements

will be determined using the following criteria:

1. All TPA contracted programs or those programs included in annual funding agreements in FY 1998 and continued in FY 1999, including contracted or annual funding agreement programs moved to TPA in FY 1999, such as New Tribes, Housing Improvement Program, and Road Maintenance.

2. Direct program funding increases due to inflation adjustments and general budget increases.

3. TPA programs started or expanded in FY 1999 that are a result of a change in priorities from other already contracted/annual funding agreement programs.

4. CSF differentials associated with tribally-operated schools that receive indirect costs through the application of the administrative cost grant formula. These differentials are to be calculated in accordance with the criteria prescribed in the Choctaw decision dated September 18, 1992, issued by the Contracting Officer, Eastern Area Office. Copies of this decision can be obtained by calling the telephone number provided in this announcement. Tribes that received differential funding under this category in FY 1998 are eligible to receive funding from this account in FY 1999. Tribes that did not receive differential funding under this category in FY 1998 would not be eligible for funding in FY 1999 due to the Congressional language prohibiting new and expanded contracts in FY 1999.

5. CSF will be distributed to the Office of Self-Governance for ongoing annual funding agreements, on the same basis as area offices.

6. Funds available for Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) programs or reprogrammed from ICWA to other programs will be considered ongoing for the purposes of payment of contract support costs.

7. The use of CSF to pay prior year shortfalls is not authorized.

8. Programs funded from sources other than those listed above that were awarded in FY 1998 and are to be awarded in FY 1999 is considered as ongoing.

Dated: December 21, 1998.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-020-09-1220-00-241A]

Notice of Availability of the Squirrel River Final Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: The Northern Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska has prepared a final environmental impact statement on a proposal to make the Squirrel River, located in northwestern Alaska, a component of the national wild and scenic rivers system. The Final EIS is available January 15, 1999. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act identifies the Squirrel River in section 5(a), and requires the Department of the Interior to conduct a study on the suitability of the river as a worthy addition to the national system. That authority was delegated to the BLM. Draft and final environmental impact statements have been prepared because the National Environmental Protection Act calls for their preparation whenever a proposal results from a study process required by statute.

DATES AND LOCATIONS: Written comments must be received or postmarked on or before February 15, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: .

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Technical information: Lon Kelly, (907) 474-2368

In Kiana and Kotzebue: Randy Meyers, (907) 442-3430

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: An electronic version of the document is available on the Internet at: <http://aurora.ak.blm.gov/squirrel>.

Copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement can be obtained by writing to: Bureau of Land Management, 1150 University Ave., Fairbanks, AK, 99709-3899; or by calling 1-800-437-7021 or (907) 474-2200.

Dated: January 6, 1999.

Lon Kelly,

Squirrel River Coordinator, BLM-Alaska, Northern Field Office.

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