actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Categorical exclusions are not the equivalent of statutory exemptions. If exceptions to categorical exclusions apply, under 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 of the Departmental Manual, the departmental categorical exclusions cannot be used. Among the types of actions available for a Categorical Exclusion is for a ''low effect'' HCP/incidental take permit application. A ''low effect'' HCP is defined as an application that, individually or cumulatively, has a minor or negligible effect on the species covered in the HCP [Section 1.4(C)(2)].

The Service may consider the Applicant's project and HCP such a Categorical Exclusion. The Service is soliciting for public comments on this determination. Based upon public comments, the Service may make a final determination that this action is categorically excluded.

The Service has made a preliminary determination that the issuance of the ITP is not a major Federal action significantly effecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA. This preliminary information may be revised due to public comment received in response to this notice and is based on information contained in the EA and HCP. An appropriate excerpt from the FONSI reflecting the Service's finding on the application is provided below:

Based on the analysis conducted by the Service, it has been determined that:

1. Issuance of an ITP would not have significant effects on the human environment in the project area.

2. The proposed take is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity.

3. The Applicant has minimized impacts on the project site to the extent practicable.

4. Other than impacts to the threatened species as outlined in the documentation of this decision, the indirect impacts which may result from issuance of the ITP are addressed by other regulations and statutes under the jurisdiction of other government entities. The validity of the Service's ITP is contingent upon the Applicant's compliance with the terms of the permit and all other laws and regulations under the control of State, local, and other Federal governmental entities.

The Service will also evaluate whether the issuance of a Section 10(a)(1)(B) ITP complies with Section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service Section 7 consultation. The results of the biological opinion, in combination with the above findings, will be used in the final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the ITP.

Dated: September 25, 1997.

Judy L. Jones,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 97–26125 Filed 10–1–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permit for Marine Mammals

On July 24, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 142, Page 39854, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Maurice Sterner, Spring Grove, PA for a permit (PRT–832102) to import a sport-hunted polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) trophy, taken from the Baffin Bay population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on September 17, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

Documents and other information submitted for these applications are available for review by any party who submits a written request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Rm 430, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone (703) 358–2104 or Fax (703) 358–2281.

Dated: September 26, 1997.

Karen Anderson,

Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 97–26098 Filed 10–1–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Operation and Maintenance Rate Adjustment: Fort Belknap Irrigation Project, Montana

ACTION: Notice of proposed irrigation operation and maintenance (O&M) rate adjustment.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs proposes to change the assessment rates for operating and maintaining the Fort Belknap Irrigation Project for 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and subsequent years. The following table illustrates the impact of the rate adjustment.

FORT BELKNAP IRRIGATION PROJECT; IRRIGATION RATE PER ASSESSABLE ACRE

[N/A—Not Applicable]

Year	Present 1997	Proposed 1998	Proposed 1999	Proposed 2000	Proposed 2001	Proposed 2002
Non-Indian	$12.50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Indian	6.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rate (all)	N/A	$12.50	$13.00	$13.50	$14.00	$14.50

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Area Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Billings Area Office, 316 North 26th Street, Billings, Montana 59101–1362, telephone (406) 247–7998.

DATES: Interested parties may submit comments on the proposed rate adjustment. Comments must be submitted on or before November 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: All comments concerning the proposed rate change must be in writing and addressed to: Director, Office of Trust Responsibilities, Attn: Irrigation and Power, MS#4513–MIB, Code 210, 1849 ''C'' Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240, Telephone (202) 208–5480.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The authority to issue this document is vested in the Secretary of the Interior by 5 U.S.C. 301 and the Act of August 14, 1914 (38 Stat. 583, 25 U.S.C. 385). The Secretary has delegated this authority to the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs

pursuant to part 209 Departmental Manual, Chapter 8.1A and Memorandum dated January 25, 1994, from Chief of Staff, Department of the Interior, to Assistant Secretaries, and Heads of Bureaus and Offices.

This notice is given in accordance with § 171.1(e) of part 171, Subchapter H, Chapter 1, of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which provides for the fixing and announcing the rates for annual operation and maintenance assessments and related information of the Fort Belknap Irrigation Project for Calendar Year 1998 and subsequent years.

The assessment rates are based on a prepared estimate of the cost of normal operation and maintenance of the irrigation project. Normal operation and maintenance means the expenses we incur to provide direct support or benefit to the project's activities for administration, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation. We must include at least:

(a) Personnel salary and benefits for the project engineer/manager and our employees under his management/control;

(b) Materials and supplies;

(c) Major and minor vehicle and equipment repairs;

(d) Equipment, including transportation, fuel, oil, grease, lease and replacement;

(d) Capitalization expenses;

(e) Acquisition expenses; and

(f) Other expenses we determine necessary to properly perform the activities and functions characteristic of an irrigation project.

Payments

The irrigation operation and maintenance assessments become due based on locally established payment requirements. No water will be delivered to any of these lands until all irrigation charges have been paid.

Interest and Penalty Fees

Interest, penalty, and administrative fees will be assessed, where required by law, on all delinquent operation and maintenance assessment charges as prescribed in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 4, Part 102, Federal Claims Collection Standards; and 42 BIAM Supplement 3, part 3.8 Debt Collection Procedures. Beginning 30 days after the due date interest will be assessed at the rate of the current value of funds to the U.S. Treasury. An administrative fee of $12.50 will be assessed each time an effort is made to collect a delinquent debt; a penalty charge of 6 percent per year will be charged on delinquent debts more than 90-days old and will accrue from the date the debt became delinquent. No water will be delivered to any farm unit until all irrigation charges have been paid. After 180-days a delinquent debt will be forwarded to the United States Treasury for further action in accordance with Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–134).

Dated: September 24, 1997.

Ada E. Deer,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 97–26161 Filed 10–1–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–02–U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID–933–1430–01; IDI–8659]

Termination of Recreation and Public Purpose Act Classification; Idaho

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice terminates a Recreation and Public Purpose Act Classification on 160 acres so the lands can be clear listed to the State of Idaho pursuant to Sections 2275 and 2276, Revised Statutes, as amended (43 U.S.C. 851 and 852).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 2, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine D. Foster, BLM Idaho State Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho 83709, 208–373–3863.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 21, 1974, 160 acres were classified as suitable for Recreation and Public Purposes. The classification is hereby terminated and the segregation for the following described lands is hereby terminated:

T. 45 N., R. 2 W., B.M.

Section 2: SE¼SW¼ (formerly Lot 13), SW¼SE¼.

Section 14: NE¼NE¼, NE¼SW¼.

The area described above aggregates 160 acres in Benewah County.

At 9:00 a.m. on October 2, 1997, the Recreation and Public Purposes Classification will be terminated. However these lands will remain closed to location and entry under the public land laws and the mining laws, as they are currently segregated from appropriation by virtue of a valid In Lieu Selection application by the State of Idaho.

Dated: September 22, 1997.

Jimmie Buxton,

Branch Chief, Lands and Minerals.

[FR Doc. 97–26156 Filed 10–1–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–66–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT–924–5420–00–E027; MTM 86650]

Application for Recordable Disclaimer of Interest; Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States of America, pursuant to the provisions of Section 315 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1745 (1994)), proposes to disclaim all interest in the following described land to Ruth O'Connell, the owner of record:

A tract of land located in the SW¼, sec. 36, T. 12 N., R. 6 W., Principal Meridian, Montana, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the southwesterly corner of Brewery Lode, M.S. 1355 also known as Corner No. 4; thence N 13°48′26″ W, 522.92 feet along the westerly boundary of said M.S. No. 1355; thence N 74°51′58″ E, 278.46 feet along the southerly boundaries of Blocks 4 and 5 of the Brewery Lode addition to Marysville; thence along a 335.00-foot radius curve to the left having an arc length of 198.33 feet, along the southerly boundaries of Blocks 3 and 4 of the Brewery Lode addition to Marysville; thence S 13°09′41″ E, 249.76 feet along the easterly boundary of M.S. No. 1355 to Corner No. 1 of M.S. No. 1355; thence S 39°42′56″ W, 258.00 feet along the southerly boundary of M.S. No. 1355 to NE corner of Tract F of the Brewery Lode addition to Marysville; thence S 76°16′34″ W, 107.65 feet along the northerly boundary of Tract F of the Brewery Lode addition to Marysville; thence S 13°47′26″ E, 79.64 feet along the westerly boundary of Tract F of the Brewery Lode addition to Marysville; thence S 39°42′56″ W, 181.60 feet along the southerly boundary of M.S. No. 1355 to the point of beginning.

The land described contains 3.77 acres in Lewis and Clark County.

DATES: Comments or objections should be received by December 31, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments or objections should be sent the State Director, Montana State Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandra Ward, BLM Montana State Office, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107, 406–255–2949.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The above-described land is a portion of the