

mandated that these lands be administered by the Secretary through the Fish and Wildlife Service "for the conservation of wildlife, and for the development of the agricultural, recreational, industrial, and related purposes specified in this Act."

The 43,890-acre Refuge contains three large man-made lakes and numerous small ponds totaling 9,000 acres, 26,000 acres of forest and brush land, 5,000 acres of cropland, 2,000 acres of grassland, and 2,000 acres of administrative lands. The Refuge supports an extensive variety of plant and animal species, hosts 1.2 million recreational visitors per year, provides facilities for industrial tenants, and sponsors cooperative farmers and permittee graziers. The 4,050-acre Crab Orchard Wilderness, the first wilderness area designated in the State of Illinois, is within the Refuge.

Dated: September 29, 2000.

Marvin E. Moriarty,
Acting Regional Director.

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Operation and Maintenance Rate Adjustment for the Colorado River Irrigation Project, Arizona

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rate adjustment.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs proposes to adjust the assessment rates for operating and maintaining the Colorado River Irrigation Project for the 2001 irrigation season.

DATES: Interested parties may submit comments on the proposed rate adjustment. Comments must be submitted on or before December 4, 2000.

ADDRESSES: All comments concerning the proposed rate adjustment must be in writing and addressed to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Director of Trust Responsibilities, ATTN: Irrigation and Power, Mail Stop 3061, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240, telephone; (202) 208-5480.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Region, P.O. Box 10, Phoenix, Arizona 85001; telephone (602) 379-6956.

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. The new rates are specified in the following schedule.

This notice is given in accordance with Section 171.1(e) and 171.1(g) 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 Bureau of Indian Affairs irrigation projects.

Background

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 salaries 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;
- (e) Capitalization expenses;
- (f) Acquisition expenses; and
- (g) 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 shall 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 over 90 days old and will accrue from the date the debt became delinquent. No water shall be delivered to any farm unit until all irrigation charges have been paid. Within 180 days a delinquent debt will be forwarded to the U.S. Treasury for further action in accordance with Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-134).

Rate Adjustment

The following table illustrates the impact of the rate adjustment:

COLORADO RIVER IRRIGATION PROJECT
[Irrigation rate per assessable acre]

	Present 2000	Proposed 2001	Proposed 2002
Up to 5 acre-feet/acre	\$38.50	\$37.00	\$37.00.
Excess Water/acre-foot	17.00	Unchanged	Unchanged.

Determinations and Certifications

Regulatory Planning and Review (E.O. 12866): This rate adjustment is not a significant regulatory action and has

been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

Regulatory Flexibility Act: This rate making is not a rule for the purposes of

the Regulatory Flexibility Act because it is "a rule of particular applicability relating to rates" (5 U.S.C. § 601(2)).

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act: This rate adjustment imposes no unfunded

mandates on any governmental or private entity and is in compliance with the provisions of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

Takings Implication Assessment (E.O. 12630): The Department has determined that this rate adjustment does not have significant "takings" implications.

Federalism (E.O. 13132): The Department has determined that this rate adjustment does not have significant Federalism effects because it pertains solely to Federal-tribal relations and will not interfere with the roles, rights, and responsibilities of states.

Civil Justice Reform (E.O. 12988): The Department has certified to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that this rate adjustment meets the applicable standards provided in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988.

Paperwork Reduction Act: This rate adjustment does not contain collections of information requiring approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): The Department has determined that this rate adjustment does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and that no detailed statement is required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Public Comment Solicitation

Interested persons may submit written comments regarding the proposed rate adjustment to the location identified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to request that we consider withholding your name, street address, and other contact information (such as Internet address, FAX, or phone number) from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will honor your request to the extent allowable by law. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: September 27, 2000.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs

[FR Doc. 00-25531 Filed 10-4-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-910-00-0777XQ-241A]

Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, and Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council; Notice of Meeting Locations and Times

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Combined Resource Advisory Council meeting locations and times.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Council meetings will be held as indicated below. Topics for discussion will be a presentation and discussion of Fiscal Year 2000 operations, and outlook for Fiscal Year 2001 of the BLM in Nevada; opening and closeout reports of the three RACs; implementation of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998; breakout meetings of the three RACs; and other topics the Councils may raise. There will be luncheon speakers both days.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council. The public comment period for the Council meeting will be at such times during the meeting as determined by the State Director, and at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 27. Individuals who plan to attend and need further information about the meeting or need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Robert Stewart at the Nevada State Office, BLM, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, telephone (775) 861-6586.

DATES, TIMES: The Council will meet on Thursday, October 26, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday, October 27, 2000, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., or when business is complete, at The Casa Blanca Hotel in Mesquite, Nevada. If due to unforeseeable problems this site is not available, the meeting will be rescheduled. Public comment will be received at the discretion of the State Director, as meeting moderator, with a

general public comment period on Friday, October 27, 2000, at 2 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Stewart, Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Communications, BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, Nevada, 89502-7147, telephone (775) 861-6586.

Dated: September 29, 2000.

Robert V. Abbey,

Nevada State Director.

[FR Doc. 00-25551 Filed 10-04-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-924-1430-ET; MTM 89002]

Public Land Order No. 7463; Withdrawal of Public Land for Devil's Elbow Recreation Site; Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public Land Order.

SUMMARY: This order withdraws 100.81 acres of public land from surface entry and mining for a period of 20 years for protection and development of a Bureau of Land Management public campground and day use recreation area. The land has been and will remain open to mineral leasing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 5, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sandra Ward, BLM Montana State Office, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107, 406-255-2949, or Susie Williams, BLM Butte Field Office, P.O. Box 3388, Butte, Montana 59702-3388, 406-494-7634.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (1994), it is ordered as follows:

1. Subject to valid existing rights, the following described land is hereby withdrawn from settlement, sale, location or entry under the general land laws, including the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. Ch. 2 (1994)), but not from leasing under the mineral leasing laws, for protection and development of Devil's Elbow Recreation Site:

Principal Meridian, Montana

T. 11 N., R. 2 W.,

Sec. 23, that portion of the E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ lying east of the York Road (State Highway 280) as set out on the Certificate of Survey (COS) filed under Document No. 259800 and tracts 7 and 8 as set out on the COS filed under Document No. 452285/T;