

*Applicant: Iowa State University, PRT-084859*

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples and discarded shells from wild caught specimens of two species of turtle (*Apalone ater* and *Terrapene coahuila*) from Mexico for scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

*Applicant: Alberto Santos Jr., The Woodlands, TX, PRT-086636*

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

*Applicant: Richard E. Heckert, Kennett Square, PA, PRT-085827*

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

#### **Endangered Marine Mammals and Marine Mammals**

The public is invited to comment on the following applications for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered marine mammals and/or marine mammals. The applications were submitted to satisfy requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*) and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing endangered species (50 CFR part 17) and/or marine mammals (50 CFR part 18). Written data, comments, or requests for copies of the complete applications or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be submitted to the Director (**ADDRESSES** above). Anyone requesting a hearing should give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

*Applicant: Robert J. Merkle, El Dorado, AR, PRT-086954*

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population in Canada for personal use.

*Applicant: Kevin M. Libby, Reno, NV, PRT-087507*

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted from the Viscount Melville polar bear population in Canada for personal use.

*Applicant: Walter O. Kirby, Sacramento, CA, PRT-087684*

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population in Canada for personal use.

*Applicant: Richard R. Childress, Lexington, NC, PRT-087563*

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted from the Southern Beaufort polar bear population in Canada for personal use.

*Applicant: Raymond K. Yu, Los Angeles, CA, PRT-087181*

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population in Canada for personal use.

*Applicant: Lonnie R. Henriksen, Arlington, SD, PRT-087596*

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted from the Southern Beaufort polar bear population in Canada for personal use.

Dated: May 21, 2004.

**Monica Farris,**

*Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Bureau of Indian Affairs**

#### **Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Operations and Maintenance of the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project Upon Transfer**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent and public scoping meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) intends to gather information necessary for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed operations and maintenance of the Flathead Indian Irrigation project upon

transfer. This notice also announces public meetings to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS.

The purpose of this notice is to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS. Comments and participation in this scoping process are encouraged.

**DATES:** Comments on the scope and implementation of this proposal must be received before July 31, 2004. The meeting dates are:

1. June 28, 2004, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Arlee, Montana.
2. June 30, 2004, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Ronan, Montana.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or hand deliver written comments to Mr. Jeffery Loman, Chief, Natural Resources Division, Office of Trust Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Mail Stop-3061, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240. You may also fax comments to Chief, Natural Resources, at (202) 219-0006 or (202) 219-1255.

The first meeting will be held at the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Arlee Community Center, Arlee, Montana.

The second meeting will be held at the Ronan High School Gymnasium, Ronan, Montana.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Jeffery Loman, (202) 208-7373.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (Project) is located on the Flathead Indian Reservation in northwestern Montana. The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) is required to transfer the operations and maintenance of the Project as provided by the 1908 Act of May 29, 1908, Public Law 60-156, 35 Stat. 441 (1908) (the 1908 Act) and the 1948 Act of May 25, 1948, Public Law 80-554, 62 Stat. 269 (1948) (the 1948 Act).

In 1904, the Flathead Indian Allotment Act authorized allotments of land within the Flathead Indian Reservation to members of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes ("tribes") and construction of the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project for "the benefit of Indians" on the Flathead Indian Reservation. 33 Stat. 302. When this Act was amended in 1908, it also authorized the construction of irrigation systems to serve homesteaded lands within the Flathead Indian Reservation and provided for turnover of the operation and maintenance of irrigation works to non-Indian lands served by the Project when certain Project construction repayment conditions had been met. 35 Stat. 450. Further, upon turn over of the project, the 1948 Act called for the operation and

maintenance of the Project under rules and regulations approved by the Secretary.

As of August of 2002, there were 134,788 total acres in the project; 127,535 of which were assessed acres, with 7,252 designated as temporarily non-assessed acres. Approximately 10 percent of the project's irrigated lands are held in trust by the United States for the benefit of individual Indian landowners and for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes. Trust land totals 11,771 acres, while land in fee status totals 115,764 acres. The primary source of the water for the Project originates from the Mission Mountains which border the east side of the reservation. Project facilities include 17 major storage reservoirs, 1,300 miles of canals and laterals and more than 10,000 structures. The project is divided into the Mission, Post, Pablo, Camas, and Jocko divisions. Primary irrigated crops are hay and alfalfa, grains, potatoes, canola, and some fruit orchards.

Currently, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Flathead Agency Superintendent is the Officer in Charge of the Project and administers activities through the Irrigation Systems Manager. The Irrigation Systems Manager supervises the operation and maintenance of the Project works.

Non-Indian irrigation interests are represented by three irrigation districts, the Flathead Irrigation District, the Mission Irrigation District, and the Jocko Valley Irrigation District. These Districts signed repayment contracts with the United States in 1928, 1931, and 1934 respectively, and are collectively represented by the Flathead Joint Board of Control (FJBC), which is chartered under state law and represents only owners of fee lands. Individual Indians and the tribes that irrigate lands held in trust by the United States are statutorily excluded from representation by the FJBC.

Repayment of Project construction conditions were fulfilled in early January 2004. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, the tribes and the FJBC are developing proposed standard operating procedures for the Project and are proposing to contract the management of the Project under a Cooperating Management Entity, made up of representatives from the FJBC and the tribes with BIA providing oversight functions and maintaining its traditional role as trustee.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has been delegated the responsibility to serve as the Lead Agency for National Environmental Policy Act compliance in connection with the proposed

operations and maintenance of the Flathead Indian Irrigation project upon transfer. Issues to be addressed in the environmental analysis include, but are not limited to, irrigation and farming, rights-of-ways, treaty-protected fisheries, aquatic habitat, biological resources, wildlife habitat, and Indian traditional and cultural properties and resources.

Alternatives to the proposed operations and maintenance of the project to be examined in the EIS may include a variety of measures, such as various Project management control structures, certain operating and maintenance methods or procedures, system rehabilitation, and alternative water delivery regimes. The range of environmental issues and alternatives will be further developed based upon comments received during the scoping process.

**Authority:** This notice is published in accordance with section 1501.7, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 1.6) and is within in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.1.

Dated: May 27, 2004.

**David W. Anderson,**

*Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 04-12814 Filed 6-4-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-W7-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[ES-930-04-1310-MSES 047099]

#### Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease, Mississippi

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease, MSES 047099, Forrest County, Desoto N.F., Mississippi, was timely filed and accompanied by all required rentals and royalties. No valid lease has been issued affecting the lands. The lessee has agreed to new lease terms for rental and royalties at rates of \$10 per acre and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$  percent. Payment of \$500 in administrative fees and a \$155 publication fee has been made.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Ann Dickerson, Land Law Examiner, BLM Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston

Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia at (703) 440-1512.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the lease effective the date of termination, May 1, 2002, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above. This is in accordance with section 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 199(d) and (e)).

Dated: April 14, 2004.

**Michael D. Nedd,**

*State Director.*

[FR Doc. 04-12754 Filed 6-4-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NM-010-1430-ES; NMMN 100202]

#### Notice of Realty Action; Recreation and Public Purpose (R&PP) Act Classification; New Mexico

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of realty action.

**SUMMARY:** The following public lands in Sandoval County, New Mexico have been examined and found suitable for classification for patent to the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). The Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District proposes to use the lands for an outdoor classroom and administrative site.

#### New Mexico Principal Meridian

T. 20 N., R. 1 W., Sec. 5, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  and W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

Containing 15.00 acres, more or less.

The lands are not needed for Federal purposes. Patent is consistent with current BLM land use planning and would be in the public interest.

The patent will be subject to the following terms, conditions and reservations:

1. Provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and all applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior.

2. A right-of-way for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

3. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the minerals.

4. All valid existing rights documented on the official public land records at the time of patent issuance.