

"A" attached hereto and made a part hereof, which lands lie within or adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Rogue River National Forest, Oregon, highlighted in gold on the land interchange map, are hereby transferred from the Secretary of the Army to the Secretary of Agriculture, subject to reservations described in Exhibit "B" attached hereto and made a part hereof, and to outstanding rights or interests of record and to such continued use by the Corps of Engineers of all of these lands which are necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Applegate Lake Project for its intended purposes. The Portland District, Corps of Engineers will retain administration of all outgrants as they are not assignable.

(2) The National Forest System Lands described in Exhibit "C", attached hereto and made a part hereof, which are a part of the Rogue River National Forest, Oregon, highlighted in red on the land interchange map, are hereby transferred from the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Army, subject to outstanding rights or interests of record.

(3) Pursuant to Section 2 of the aforesaid Act of 26 July 1956, the National Forest lands transferred to the Secretary of the Army by this order are hereby subject only to the laws applicable to the Department of the Army lands comprising the Applegate Lake. The Department of the Army lands transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture by this order are hereby subject to the laws applicable to lands acquired under the Act of 1 March 1911 (36 Stat. 961), as amended.

This order will be effective as of date of publication in the Federal Register.

Dated: December 7, 1995.

Togo D. West, Jr.,
Secretary of the Army.

Dated: May 6, 1996.

Dan Glickman,
Secretary of Agriculture.

EXHIBIT "A" TO JOINT ORDER OF INTERCHANGE LEGAL DESCRIPTION FOR THE AREAS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE APPELATE LAKE PROJECT

[Department of the Army Fee Acquired Lands, Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon]

	Acreage
T. 40 S., R. 3 W., Section 30, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, portions of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	50.72
T. 40 S., R. 4 W., Section 25, portion of S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	1.08
Section 35, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	40.02
Section 36	1 656.66
T. 41 S., R. 3 W., Section 6, lots 1, 2, 3, 4, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	441.68

EXHIBIT "A" TO JOINT ORDER OF INTERCHANGE LEGAL DESCRIPTION FOR THE AREAS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE APPELATE LAKE PROJECT—Continued

[Department of the Army Fee Acquired Lands, Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon]

	Acreage
T. 41 S., R. 4 W., Section 1, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$	200.00
Section 2, S $\frac{1}{2}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	1 564.40
Section 3, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	80.00
Section 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	80.00
Section 10, E $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	1 561.26
Section 11, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	80.00
Total acres	2,755.82

¹ Acres as deeded.

Exhibit "B" to Joint Order of Interchange Corps of Engineers Reservations for the Areas To Be Transferred to the Department of Agriculture for the Applegate Lake Project

a. Reserving a perpetual flowage easement for the purpose of inundation, saturation, percolation, and wave action which may result from a pool, including backwater effect therefrom created by operation of the Applegate Lake Project by the Corps at a water elevation of 1,987 feet above mean sea level, U.S.C. & G.S. datum at the dam, including temporary fluctuations above this elevation resulting from wave and surge action due to wind and other uncontrollable or unpredictable forces.

b. Reserving the rights to enter upon all National Forest lands lying within the Applegate Lake Project area, together with rights of ingress and egress for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining the project for its intended purposes, mainly flood control, irrigation, water supply, and water quality control. Also reserved is ingress and egress to piezometer and seismograph instruments and a water storage site located at and below the dam axis.

EXHIBIT "C" TO JOINT ORDER OF INTERCHANGE LEGAL DESCRIPTION FOR THE AREAS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ARMY FOR THE APPELATE LAKE PROJECT

[Rogue River National Forest Lands, Willamette Meridian, Rogue River National Forest, Jackson County, Oregon]

	Acreage
T. 40 S., R. 3 W., Section 30, those portions of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ lying west- erly of the existing Corps of Engineers fence line and east- ern right-of-way of the Jackson County road	17.16

EXHIBIT "C" TO JOINT ORDER OF INTERCHANGE LEGAL DESCRIPTION FOR THE AREAS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ARMY FOR THE APPELATE LAKE PROJECT—Continued

[Rogue River National Forest Lands, Willamette Meridian, Rogue River National Forest, Jackson County, Oregon]

	Acreage
T. 40 S., R. 4 W., Section 25, those portions of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ lying east of the easterly right- of-way of the relocated Jack- son County road	49.12
Total acres	66.28

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Rural Utilities Service

Municipal Interest Rates for the Fourth Quarter of 1996

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of municipal interest rates on advances from insured electric loans for the fourth quarter of 1996.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service hereby announces the interest rates for advances on municipal rate loans with interest rate terms beginning during the fourth calendar quarter of 1996.

DATES: These interest rates are effective for interest rate terms that commence during the period beginning October 1, 1996, and ending December 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carolyn Dotson, Loan Funds Control Assistant, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, room 2234-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1522, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: 202-720-1928. FAX: 202-720-4120. E-mail: CDotson@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby announces the interest rates on advances made during the fourth calendar quarter of 1996 for municipal rate electric loans. Pursuant to RUS regulations at 7 CFR 1714.4, each advance of funds on a municipal rate loan shall bear interest at a single rate for each interest rate term. Pursuant to 7 CFR 1714.5, the interest rates on these advances are based on indexes published in the "Bond Buyer" for the four weeks prior to the first Friday of the last month before the beginning of the quarter.

In accordance with 7 CFR 1714.5, the interest rates are established as shown in the following table for all interest rate terms that begin at any time during the fourth calendar quarter of 1996.

Interest rate term ends in (year)	RUS rate (0.000 percent)
2017 or later	5.750
2016	5.750
2015	5.750
2014	5.625
2013	5.625
2012	5.500
2011	5.500
2010	5.500
2009	5.375
2008	5.250
2007	5.125
2006	5.125
2005	5.000
2004	4.875
2003	4.750
2002	4.625
2001	4.625
2000	4.500
1999	4.375
1998	4.125
1997	3.875

Dated: September 13, 1996.

Wally Beyer,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050196A]

Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals; Offshore Seismic Activities in the Beaufort Sea

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of modification of an incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) issued on July 18, 1996, to BP Exploration (Alaska), 900 East Benson Boulevard, Anchorage, AK 99519 (BPXA) to take small numbers of bowhead whales and other marine mammals by harassment incidental to conducting seismic surveys in the Northstar Unit and nearby waters, in the Beaufort Sea in state and federal waters has been

modified. These modifications will: Increase the marine mammal safety zones around the seismic array by 100 meters (m)

(328 ft); allow the activity to move to an area adjacent to the area requested in the application due to severe ice conditions; remove the requirement for use of Big-Eye binoculars because their use diverts observers from performing key observer tasks; require the final report be submitted on or before April 1, 1997, rather than 160 days after completion of the 1996 season; and note the correct scientific name for the bowhead whale.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The authorization is effective from July 18, 1996, until November 1, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The application, authorization, modifications, revised monitoring plan, and environmental assessment are available by writing to the Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225, by telephoning one of the contacts listed below or by leaving a voice mail request at (301) 713-4070.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Hollingshead, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713-2055, Ron Morris, Western Alaska Field Office, NMFS, (907) 271-5006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional taking of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

Permission may be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses, and the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking are set forth.

On April 10, 1996 (61 FR 15884), NMFS published an interim rule establishing, among other things, procedures for issuing authorizations under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA in Arctic waters. For additional

information on the procedures that were followed for this authorization, please refer to that document.

On March 18, 1996, NMFS received an application from BPXA requesting an authorization for the harassment of small numbers of several species of marine mammals incidental to conducting seismic surveys during the open water season in waters in the Northstar Unit and in nearby waters, located in the U.S. Beaufort Sea. The survey is expected to take place between approximately July 20 and October 20, 1996, but would continue longer if ice conditions permit. A detailed description of the work planned is contained in the application and is available upon request (see **ADDRESSES**). A notice of receipt of the application and proposed authorization was published on May 28, 1996 (61 FR 26501) and a 30-day public comment period was provided. An incidental harassment authorization was issued to BPXA on July 18, 1996, and a notice of issuance was published in the Federal Register on July 25, 1996 (61 FR 38715).

On July 23, 1996, NMFS received a letter from Dr. W. John Richardson, Executive Vice-President, LGL Limited. His letter, on behalf of BPXA, recommended three changes to the IHA. Dr. Richardson recommended that: (1) The IHA be amended to note the correct scientific name for bowhead whales; (2) the requirement for use of Big-Eye binoculars be eliminated because their use diverts observers from performing key tasks; and (3) the final report be required on or before April 1, 1997, rather than 160 days after completion of the 1996 season. NMFS has reviewed and concurs with these recommended modifications. Accordingly, conditions 3(b), 6(b)(5), and 7(b) of the IHA were modified on July 26, 1996.

In addition, on August 29 and 30, 1996, NMFS received two letters from BPXA. In the August 29, 1996 letter, NMFS was notified that BPXA wanted to conduct seismic operations in an area west of the original operating area due to ice conditions in and around the Northstar Unit. This letter requested NMFS to modify the IHA to cover this additional area for the incidental harassment of marine mammals during seismic operations. NMFS has reviewed the application and notes that the new area is within the Western Beaufort Sea adjacent to the area proposed for seismic exploration as delineated in figure 2 of the application. As this location removes seismic operations further away from the area used by the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) members for the fall bowhead hunt; the AEWC has indicated its