



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Northwest Regional Office

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Mr. Boone Cole, Chairman
Jocko Valley Irrigation District
P.O. Box 639
St. Ignatius, Montana 59865

Mr. Ray Swenson, Chairman
Mission Irrigation District
P.O. Box 639
St. Ignatius, Montana 59865

Mr. Paul Guenzler, Chairman
Flathead Irrigation District
P.O. Box 639
St. Ignatius, Montana 59865

Dear Chairmen:

On December 26, 2024, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) published in the *Federal Register* (89 FR 105090) its annual notice of proposed rate adjustments for Indian Irrigation Projects. We proposed adjustments to the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project's (FIIP) 2026 rates. The public comment period closed on February 24, 2025, and BIA did not receive any comments on FIIP. Our notice with final 2026 rates will be published in the *Federal Register* soon, which will defer the proposed rate increase for FIIP's "A" and "B" acres. We are not deferring or changing the proposed increase to the Minimum Charge Per Tract. Here is the relevant information in the soon-to-be published notice:

Project Name	Rate Category	Final 2025 Rate	Final 2026 Rate
Flathead Irrigation Project	Basic per acre – A	\$39.00	\$39.00
	Basic per acre – B	\$19.50	\$19.50
	Minimum Charge per tract	\$75.00	\$200.00

We understand you are facing Montana's annual deadline to determine assessments to be levied against each tract. While our final rate notice has not been published yet, we trust this provides you with sufficient information to meet the State's deadline.

If you have any questions, please contact Bear Hughes, Acting Project Manager, FIIP at Gene.Hughes@bia.gov.

Sincerely,

Kurt Fredenberg
BIA Northwest Regional Director, Acting