

Alternative 1, the proposed action, consists of the issuance of an incidental take permit to the County of Kern, and implementation of the Plan and its Implementing Agreement. This alternative is preferred because: (1) It satisfies the purpose and needs of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Kern County Waste Management Department; (2) measures have been incorporated to avoid and minimize incidental take to the greatest extent practicable; and (3) unavoidable impacts are mitigated by the permanent protection of approximately 755 acres of habitat at an approved preserve and the enhancement of approximately 963 acres surrounding the Bakersfield Metropolitan Landfill. Under Alternative 2, the no action alternative, the Service would not issue an incidental take permit. The Department would likely proceed with the continued operation, maintenance, and closure of those eight landfill sites which do not provide habitat for listed species. However, this alternative would not allow the Department to continue operations that would result in take of listed species at the six landfill sites where listed species or their habitats

occur. Under this alternative, the Department also would not enhance the value of the Bakersfield Metropolitan Landfill and its buffer as habitat for the San Joaquin kit fox, nor would it contribute to the permanent protection of listed species habitat through purchase of credits at an approved preserve. Alternative 3 entails closure of one or more of the existing landfill sites and development of new waste facilities on alternate sites. Development of alternate sites, however, would likely result in equal or greater impacts to listed species because most suitable alternate sites also provide habitat for listed species.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). The Service will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act regulations and section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit will be

issued for the incidental take of the listed species. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: June 27, 1997.

**Thomas J. Dwyer,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.*

[FR Doc. 97-18063 Filed 7-9-97; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Issuance of Permits for Marine Mammals**

On May 8, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 89, Page 25201, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by the following individual for a permit to import a sport-hunted polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) from Canada for personal use.

Applicant/address	Population	PRT-
Jeffrey Sorg, Kalispell, MT .....	Southern Beaufort .....	827890

Notice is hereby given that on June 25, 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 permits 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: July 3, 1997.

**Karen Anderson,**

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

[FR Doc. 97-17981 Filed 7-9-97; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[NM-930-1990-01]

**New Mexico: Public Notice of Legal Financial Guarantees Acceptable to the Bureau of Land Management That Are Allowable Under New Mexico State Law**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of mining claims under the general mining laws; Surface management: Forms of legal financial guarantees allowable under New Mexico State law.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) amended the surface management regulations at 43 CFR 3809 on February 28, 1997 (62 FR 9093). The amendment requires each BLM State Director to consult with the appropriate State authorities to determine which financial instruments listed in 43 CFR 3809.1-9(k) are allowable under State law.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 31, 1997.

**ALLOWABLE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS:** The BLM has consulted with the Director, Mining and Minerals Division of the

Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department to determine which of the financial instruments listed in 43 CFR 3809.1-9(k) are allowable under New Mexico State Mining Act rules to satisfy the financial assurance requirements related to mining reclamation. All listed financial instruments are allowable under State Mining Act rules. Specifically, surety bonds, cash, irrevocable letters of credit, certificates of deposit or savings accounts, negotiable U.S., state, and municipal securities or bonds; and investment-grade rated securities having a Standard and Poor's rating of AAA or AA or equivalent rating.

**ADDRESS:** Inquiries should be sent to the Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office, Land and Minerals Support Team, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115. For further information contact: Bill Dalness, (505) 439-7405.

Dated: June 30, 1997.

**Gilbert J. Lucero,**

*Acting State Director.*

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