

Service Field Office. The data and comments must be submitted in writing to be adequately considered in the Service's decision-making process.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ronald Paille, Senior Field Biologist, (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 337/291-3117 or 337/291-3100, facsimile: 337/291-3139.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Grand Bayou/GIWW Freshwater Diversion Project, was funded through the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act on the Fifth Priority Project List. The project purpose is to reduce loss of coastal wetlands within the project area through increased introduction of freshwater from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and by reducing canal-induced saltwater intrusion into the project area.

The proposed project would benefit about 42,690 acres of coastal wetlands by the enlargement of Bayou L'Eau Bleu to increase freshwater inflow. The preferred alternative includes water control structures. They would be installed on the Cutoff Canal, just below its junction with Bayou Pointe au Chien, and on the Island Road Borrow Canal, just west of Bayou Pointe au Chien. These water control structures would be operated to reduce canal-induced saltwater intrusion into project area wetlands.

Dated: March 2, 2000.

Judy L. Jones,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 00-5728 Filed 3-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement for Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement for Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem is available for public review. The FEIS evaluates a proposal to establish an experimental population rule and reintroduce grizzly bears into the Bitterroot Ecosystem in east-central Idaho and western Montana. Six alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, are discussed in the FEIS.

The Bitterroot Ecosystem consists of approximately 44,400 square miles in 10 central Idaho and four western Montana counties, of which 76 percent is in Federal surface ownership. A Citizen Management Committee would be tasked with management implementation responsibility for the experimental population.

Reintroduction could result in grizzly bear recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem in a minimum of 50 years. A recovered grizzly bear population (approximately 280 bears) potentially could kill an average of 6 cattle and 25 sheep and up to 504 wild ungulates per year. Nuisance bear incidents could average 37 per year. Economic analyses indicate grizzly bear recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem would lead to total economic benefits of approximately \$40.4 to \$60.6 million per year.

DATES: Copies of the FEIS will be mailed to government offices, local and regional libraries, and interested parties who specifically requested the FEIS. A Summary of the FEIS will be mailed to all parties on the mailing list who did not specifically request the entire FEIS. Those interested persons not on the FEIS mailing list may request a copy from the project leader at the address below. It is anticipated that the Environmental Protection Agency will publish a Notice of Availability for this FEIS in the **Federal Register** on March 24, 2000. Public comments will be accepted from March 24, 2000, through April 24, 2000. Public comment on the FEIS is solicited pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR 1503.1). All agencies and individuals are urged to provide comments and suggestions regarding the FEIS for our review prior to completion of a Record of Decision. All comments received by the end of the comment period will be considered in preparation of the Record of Decision.

All comments received from individuals on our environmental impact statements become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations [40 CFR 1506.6(f)]. When requested, comment letters with the names and addresses of the individuals who wrote the comments will generally be provided. However, the telephone number of the commenting individual will not be provided in response to such requests to the extent permissible by law. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will

honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Dr. Christopher Servheen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Project Leader, Bitterroot Grizzly Bear FEIS, P.O. Box 5127, Missoula, Montana 59806. The document also is available for viewing and downloading at: <<http://www.r6.fws.gov/endspp/grizzly/>>. Written comments and materials regarding this information should be sent to the Recovery Coordinator at the address given above or can be mailed electronically to <FW6_grizzly@fws.gov>. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Christopher Servheen, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator (see **ADDRESSES** above), at telephone (406) 243-4903.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: March 1, 2000.

Ralph O. Morgenweck,

Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 00-5729 Filed 3-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permit for Marine Mammals

On January 21, 2000, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 65, No. 14, page 3472, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Zachary Sharp, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, University of New Mexico for a permit (PRT-021423) to import canine teeth sections from Atlantic walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus rosmarus*) from Canada for the purpose of scientific research at the University of New Mexico.

Notice is hereby given that on February 24, 2000, 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 permit 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. 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone (703) 358-2104 or Fax (703) 358-2281.

Dated: March 3, 2000.

Kristen Nelson,

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

[FR Doc. 00-5720 Filed 3-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-020-4310-EU; NMNM-102567] A Direct Sale of Public Land to Florise Martinez, Santa Fe, NM.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of realty action.

SUMMARY: The following public land has been found suitable for direct sale under section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 2750, 43 U.S.C. 1713) and at no less than the estimated fair market value. The land will not be offered for sale until at least 60 days after the date of this notice.

New Mexico Principal Meridian

T. 17 N., R. 9 E.,
section 31, lot 25.

The subject public land containing 1.33 acres, more or less will be sold to Florise Martinez of Santa Fe, NM. The sale is for the purpose of resolving unauthorized, inadvertent use of the land for forty years. The proposed sale is for surface rights only. The disposal is consistent with the Taos Resource Area Management Plan dated October 1988, state and local government programs, plans, and applicable regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Interested parties may submit comments on the direct sale on or before April 24, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Taos Field Office Manager, BLM, 226 Cruz Alta Road, Taos, NM 87571.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hal Knox, BLM, Taos Field Office, 226 Cruz Alta Rd., Taos, NM 87571, or at (505) 758-8851.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The direct sale will be subject to:

1. A reservation to the United States of a right-of-way for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States in accordance with the Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

2. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the minerals. A more detailed description of this reservation, which will be incorporated in the patent document or other document of conveyance is available for review at this BLM office.

Publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** will segregate the public land from appropriations under the public land laws including the mining laws but not the mineral leasing laws. This segregation will terminate upon the issuance of a patent or other document of conveyance, 270 days from date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or upon publication of Notice of Termination, which ever occurs first.

Any adverse comments will be evaluated by the State Director who may sustain, vacate, or modify this realty action. In the absence of any objections, this realty action will become the final determination of the Department of the Interior.

Dated: February 17, 2000.

Ron Huntsinger,

Field Office Manager.

[FR Doc. 00-5711 Filed 3-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-AG-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Civil Penalties

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS).

ACTION: Notice Summarizing OCS Civil Penalties Paid, January 1, 1999, through December 31, 1999.

SUMMARY: This notice provides a listing of civil penalties paid January 1, 1999, through December 31, 1999, for violations of the OCS Lands Act. The goal of the MMS OCS Civil Penalties Program is to assure safe and clean operations on the OCS. Through the pursuit, assessment, and collection of civil penalties and referrals for the consideration of criminal penalties, the program is designed to encourage compliance with OCS statutes and regulations. The purpose of publishing the penalties summary is to provide information to the public on violations of special concern in OCS operations

and to provide an additional incentive for safe and environmentally sound operations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Gould (Program Coordinator), (703) 787-1591.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) strengthened section 24 of the OCS Lands Act Amendments of 1978. Subtitle B of OPA 90, titled "Penalties," increased the amount of the civil penalty from a maximum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$20,000 per violation for each day of noncompliance. More importantly, in cases where a failure to comply with applicable regulations constitutes or constituted a threat of serious, irreparable, or immediate harm or damage to life (including fish and other aquatic life); property; any mineral deposit; or the marine, coastal, or human environment; OPA 90 provided the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) with the authority to assess a civil penalty without regard to the requirement of expiration of a period of time allowed for corrective action.

On August 8, 1997 (62 FR 42668), MMS published new regulations implementing the civil penalty provisions of the OCS Lands Act. Written in "plain English," the new question-and-answer format provides a better understanding of the OCS civil penalty process. In addition, the provisions of OPA 90 require the Secretary to adjust the maximum civil penalty to reflect any increases in the Consumer Price Index. The new rule increased the maximum civil penalty to \$25,000 per day, per violation. Please note, subsequent to publishing the new regulations, MMS made several corrections and amendments, including the appeals procedures. These were published at 63 FR 42711, 8/11/98; 64 FR 9066, 2/24/99; 64 FR 9065, 2/24/99 and 64 FR 26257, 5/13/99.

Between August 18, 1990, and January 31, 2000, MMS initiated 297 civil penalty reviews. The MMS assessed 186 civil penalties and collected \$3,539,520 in fines. Thirty-six cases were dismissed, 2 cases were merged, and 73 are under review.

On September 1, 1997, the Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management issued a notice informing lessees and operators of Federal oil, gas, and sulphur leases on the OCS that MMS will annually publish a summary of OCS civil penalties paid. The annual summary will highlight the identity of the party, the regulation violated, and the amount paid. The following table provides a listing of the penalties paid between January 1, 1999, and December