

describes, evaluates, and compares four alternatives for managing the natural resources and public use opportunities for the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. One of the alternatives represents the Service's Proposed Action. The four alternatives are:

Alternative A. This alternative is the No Action alternative as required by National Environmental Policy Act regulations. Selection of this alternative would maintain the status quo; there would be no significant changes to current management practices. This alternative serves as the baseline from which to compare the other three alternatives.

Alternative B. This alternative represents the Service's Proposed Action; that is, the alternative currently recommended for approval. Selection of this alternative would include expansion of the Refuge by acquiring remaining islands and embayments, which total to over 8,000 acres. Alternative B would emphasize restoration and reforestation of native bottomland floodplain forest to the Ohio River. Opportunities for all six priority public uses would improve, including an increased importance on environmental education and outreach programs.

Alternative C. This alternative would increase Refuge habitat diversity with increased management of early successional habitat. This habitat would also be more favorable for many game species and associated expanded consumptive recreational uses. Fishing, hunting and trapping allowable by state laws regulations would be offered and promoted. Selection of this alternative would also increase acquisition to over 8,000.

Alternative D. This alternative would manage Refuge lands to provide and maximize undisturbed resting, feeding, and breeding areas for wildlife, especially migratory birds. All visitation would be tightly regulated and confined to certain designated areas. Hunting and fishing would be eliminated from all Refuge lands under this Alternative. Boating and shore use would also be prohibited on Refuge lands. Selection of this alternative would also increase acquisition to over 8,000 acres.

Dated: February 2, 2001.

**G. Adam O'Hara,**

*Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Letters of Authorization To Take Marine Mammals

**AGENCY:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of a letter of authorization to take marine mammals incidental to oil and gas industry activities.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implementing regulations [50 CFR 18.27(f)(3)], notice is hereby given that a Letter of Authorization to take polar bears incidental to oil and gas industry exploration activities has been issued to the following company:

*Company:* BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.

*Activity:* Production.

*Location:* Northstar.

*Date Issued:* January 9, 2001.

**CONTACT:** Mr. John W. Bridges at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, (800) 362-5148 or (907) 786-3810.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Letters of Authorization are issued in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Rules and Regulations "Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities (65 FR 16828; March 30, 2000)."

Dated: January 29, 2001.

**David B. Allen,**

*Regional Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-020-1430-EU]

#### Termination of Desert Land Entry Classification and Segregation; Nevada

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This action terminates the desert-land classification N-58996, dated April 8, 1982, and also terminates the segregation for desert-land entries N-24429, N-24431, and N-24432, dated December 18, 1996. The land will be opened to the operation of the public land laws, including location and entry under the mining laws.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 16, 2001.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary L. Figarelle, Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445, 775-623-1500.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The desert-land classification for N-58996 was made on April 8, 1982, pursuant to Section 7 of the Taylor Grazing Act (43 U.S.C., etc. seq.). When entry to the land was allowed on December 18, 1996 for desert-land entries N-24429, N-24431, and N-24432, the lands became segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including location and entry under the mining laws. All three desert-land entrymen withdrew their applications after failing to provide final proof by the deadline of December 28, 2000.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Taylor Grazing Act (43 U.S.C., et. seq.), the desert land classification N-58996 made on April 8, 1982, and the desert-land entries allowed on December 18, 1996, are hereby terminated for the following described lands:

#### Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 41 N., R. 28 E.,

Sec. 2: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 3: S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

Sec. 4: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 9: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ; S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 10: N $\frac{1}{2}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 11: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The area described contains 960 acres in Humboldt County.

1. At 9 a.m. on March 16, 2001, the land described above will be opened to the operation of the public land laws generally, subject to valid existing rights, the provision of existing withdrawals, other segregation of record, and the requirements of applicable law. All valid applications received at or prior to 9 a.m. on March 16, 2001, shall be considered as simultaneously filed at that time. Those received thereafter shall be considered in the order of filing.

2. At 9 a.m. on March 16, 2001, the land described above will be opened to location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregation of record, and the requirements of applicable law. Appropriation of any of the land described in this order under the general mining laws prior to the date and time of restoration is unauthorized. Any such attempted appropriation, including attempted adverse possession under 30 U.S.C. 38 (1988), shall best not rights against the United States. Acts