

mitigation site along Cache Creek in Yolo County. Additionally, Teichert will achieve a 2:1 mitigation ratio, consistent with Service mitigation guidelines, by designating, maintaining, and monitoring 22 elderberry replacement seedlings with associated native plants. The habitat at the mitigation site is contiguous with a large habitat block along Cache Creek that is known to support the beetle, and is likely to be able to support this species on a long-term basis. Additional information on the mitigation site is included in the Habitat Conservation Plan.

The proposed action addressed in the Environmental Assessment is the issuance of a permit by the Service to allow the incidental take of beetles incidental to the Esparto Mining Project. The Environmental Assessment focuses on the potential impacts on the beetle that may result from issuance of a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit and implementation of the Habitat Conservation Plan. Impacts on other resources (geology, hydrology, cultural resources, land use and socioeconomics, traffic, air quality, and noise) are discussed in detail in the Environmental Impact Report for the Esparto Mining Project and are summarized in this Environmental Assessment. The mining project would be able to proceed and would have similar environmental impacts to resources other than beetles regardless of whether the incidental take permit is issued. The Proposed Action would result in cumulatively significant impacts to beetles, but these impacts would be fully offset through the mitigation measures described above.

Two alternatives were considered in the Environmental Assessment: the proposed action of issuance of an incidental take permit and a no action alternative. In the no action alternative, no incidental take permit would be issued and the elderberry shrubs would be avoided during mining operations. No off-site alternatives were considered in the Environmental Assessment because Yolo County has already approved the Esparto Mining Project and Phase I mining has already commenced.

All interested agencies, organizations, and individuals are urged to provide comments on the permit application and Environmental Assessment. All comments received by the closing date will be considered in finalizing National Environmental Policy Act compliance and permit issuance or denial. The Service will publish a record on its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: September 27, 1999.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

Deputy Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 99-25926 Filed 10-5-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permit for Marine Mammals

On July 8, 1999, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 64, No. 130, Page 36890, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by John F. Babler, Mahtomedi, MN for a permit (PRT-014002) to import one polar bear (*Ursu maritimus*) trophy taken from the Southern Beaufort Sea population, Canada for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on August 16, 1999, 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.

On May 13, 1999, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 64, No. 92, Page 25898, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Joseph R. Zbyski, Englewood, CO, for a permit (PRT-011393) to import one polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) trophy taken from the Southern Beaufort Sea population, Canada for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on August 16, 1999, 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, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone (703) 358-2104 or Fax (703) 358-2281.

Dated: October 1, 1999.

Kristen Nelson,

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

Documents and other information submitted with the application are available for review, *subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act*, by any

party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the above address within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice.

[FR Doc. 99-26063 Filed 10-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NN-930-08-1040-00]

Availability of Four Draft Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management Plan Environmental Impact Statements (DEISs) and Possible Resource Management Plan Amendments (RMPAs)

The Four documents are for:

- (1) The Taos Field Office,
- (2) The Farmington Field Office,
- (3) The Rio Puerco Area of the Albuquerque Field Office, and
- (4) The Mimbres Area of the Las Cruces Field Office.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability, public open house and public hearing schedule.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of four Draft Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management Plan Environmental Impact Statements (DEISs) and Possible Resource Management Plan Amendments (RMPAs). The four documents are for Taos Field Office, Farmington Field Office, the Rio Puerco Area of the Albuquerque Field Office and the Mimbres Area of the Las Cruces Field Office. The draft documents analyzed the effects of the three alternatives in each of the four documents. The alternatives analyze different methods for restoring and protecting riparian habitats under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management. We would very much appreciate your review and submission of comments on the Drafts so that we can include your contributions in the preparation of the Finals of these four documents. The alternative selected for implementation following review and analysis of comments received on the Draft EIS will be described as the Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management Plan in each of the respective Final EISs.

If an alternative is selected that requires the amendment of the respective Resource Management Plans these Draft documents would be used to satisfy the RMPA requirement. To that end the public comment period is