

existing Wolf Lake #2 well site, and Galena well site. Development would include construction of a gas gathering pipeline connecting the well sites to existing production facilities at Marathon's Beaver Creek gas field. The applicant's proposed pipeline right-of-way is approximately 5.5 miles long, and would include a primary and secondary products pipelines, a water disposal pipeline, and communications and electric power lines, all of which would be buried. Pipeline construction would take place during the 2000/2001 winter season and is anticipated to take 30 to 40 days. No maintained roads would be constructed within the pipeline right-of-way, which would be allowed to revegetate following construction. Existing roads would be used for access to the well sites. Several small gas conditioning units and a telecommunications building would be located at each well site.

The USFWS has determined that an EIS will be prepared to evaluate the

potential direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts of constructing the proposed project, and to identify alternatives that would protect the resources of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. The environmental review will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*) as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508, and the pertinent regulations of the USFWS. The EIS will also discuss the possible impacts attendant to potential development of future gas wells in the vicinity that would utilize the proposed pipeline. Upon Completion of the Draft EIS, a Notice of Availability will be published in the **Federal Register**.

David B. Allen,

Regional Director, Region 7, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 99-6620 Filed 3-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Letters of Authorization To Take Marine Mammals

ACTION: Notice of issuance of Letters 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), notice is hereby given that Letters of Authorization to take polar bears and Pacific walrus incidental to oil and gas industry activities have been issued to the following companies:

Company	Activity	Date issued
ARCO Alaska	Exploration (KIAN)	February 8, 1999.
ARCO Alaska	Exploration (Meltwater North)	February 8, 1999.
ARCO Alaska	Exploration (Palm)	February 8, 1999.
ARCO Alaska	Exploration (Fiord)	February 8, 1999.
ARCO Alaska	Exploration (Cairn)	February 8, 1999.
ARCO Alaska	Production (Prudhoe Bay)	February 8, 1999.
BP Exploration (Alaska)	Production (Prudhoe Bay)	February 8, 1999.
BP Exploration (Alaska)	Exploration (Snowcap)	February 8, 1999.
BP Exploration (Alaska)	Exploration (Flaxman Island)	February 8, 1999.
BP Exploration (Alaska)	Exploration (Pt. Thomson)	February 8, 1999.
BP Exploration (Alaska)	Exploration (Genesee)	February 8, 1999.
BP Exploration (Alaska)	Exploration (Northstar)	February 8, 1999.
Western Geophysical	Exploration (Seismic)	February 8, 1999.
ARCO Alaska	Exploration (Alpine)	February 18, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Rosa Meehan or Mr. John W. Bridges at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammal Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, (800) 362-5148 or (907) 786-3800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All Letters of Authorization were issued in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Rule and Regulations "Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities" [64 FR 4328].

Dated: March 8, 1999.

David B. Allen,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 99-6617 Filed 3-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-670-7122-6606]; CACA 35511]

Recirculated Supplement; Environmental Impact Statement; Notice of availability; Imperial Project; Proposed Gold Mining/Processing Operations; Imperial County, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Recirculated Draft Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Imperial Project Proposed Gold Mining/Processing Operation, Imperial County, California.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, notice is hereby given of the availability for comment of the

Recirculated Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report, which adds a new, lower threshold of significance to assess the significance of Project-related impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) on "endangered, rare or threatened species" listed under the state or federal Endangered Species Acts. This change affects only the assessment of the significance of impacts under CEQA; BLM's threshold of significance to assess the significance of Project-related impact on these same biological resources under NEPA remains as described in the Draft.

DATES: Written comments must be post-marked or otherwise delivered by 4:30 p.m. on May 19, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Imperial County Planning/Building Department, 939 Main Street, El Centro, California 92243.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Glen Miller (760) 337-4400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document is a supplement to the analysis of biological resources in the November 1997 Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report ("EIS/EIR") for the proposed Imperial Project ("Project"). As discussed in the Draft EIS/EIR, the Project is a proposal by Glamis Imperial Corporation to develop an open-pit, precious metal mining operation utilizing heap leach processes which is located entirely on public lands administered by the BLM in eastern Imperial County, California. In response to a recent decision by the San Diego County Superior Court, this supplement adds a new, lower threshold of significance to assess the significance of Project-related impacts under CEQA on "endangered, rare or threatened species" listed under the state or federal Endangered Species Acts. This change affects only the assessment of the significance of impacts under CEQA; BLM's threshold of significance to assess the significance of Project-related impact on these same biological resources under NEPA remains as described in the Draft EIS/EIR. This supplement explicitly relies on and incorporates by reference the underlying data, biological surveys, and other relevant information in the Draft EIS/EIR regarding biological resources; no new factual information is included in this supplement. Based upon this new, lower threshold of significance under CEQA, this supplement finds significant and unavoidable under CEQA the impacts resulting from the loss of on-site habitat for the desert tortoise, Gila woodpecker and peregrine falcon; the loss of individual desert tortoise; and the cumulative effects of the identified cumulative projects on habitat for listed species and on individual desert tortoise. BLM's assessment of these same effects under NEPA remains unchanged from that presented in the Draft EIS/EIR; that these effects can and will be mitigated below the level of significance. Written comments regarding this supplement will be received during a 60-day public review period, but only comments received which are within the scope of this supplement will be addressed in the Final EIS/EIR.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review. Individual respondents may request confidentially. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of

Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: March 12, 1999.

Thomas Zale,
Acting Field Manager, El Centro Resource Area.
[FR Doc. 99-6576 Filed 3-17-99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-84-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID-040-1610-00]

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Thompson Creek Mine Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Final SEIS)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management is a cooperating agency with the USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region (lead agency) in considering the Thompson Creek Mining Company's proposed Supplemental Plan of Operations to address concerns about potential acid rock drainage from the Thompson Creek Mine.

Since 1983 the Thompson Creek Mine (Mine) has produced molybdenum from its operation on public and private lands in Custer County, about 30 miles southwest of Challis, Idaho. The Mine employs about 200 people and has proven ore reserves for an estimated 15 more years of molybdenum production. The Mine is administered by an Interagency Task Force consisting of State and Federal permitting agencies.

The Bureau of Land Management's Acting Idaho State Director, Elena Daly, and the Forest Service's Regional Forester, Jack A. Blackwell, have issued a Record of Decision (ROD) to approve operations of the Thompson Creek Mine for the 1999 operating season in accordance with Alternative 2 of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Final SEIS). Alternative 2 allows operation of a pyrite reduction circuit and modifications to the treatment of tailings and waste rock.

This decision is an interim measure to minimize adverse environmental impacts which could result from the potential for acid rock drainage from the Mine's tailings facility and waste rock dumps. This interim decision will ensure that the tailings embankment can be built with non-pyritic sands in 1999, to minimize the potential for acid rock drainage. This decision will allow the pyrite reduction circuit to continue without interruption or shutdown, and provide time needed to complete consultation under the Endangered Species Act before a long term decision is made. This decision is based on the current determination that short term operation of the pyrite reduction circuit and modifications to the treatment of tailings and waste rock are not an irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources that have the effect of foreclosing the formulation or implementation of any reasonable and prudent alternative measures which may be included in the final biological opinions that result from consultation. This interim decision will remain in effect in 1999 until a long term decision can be implemented. The BLM and USES anticipate making the long term decision by the fall of 1999.

Formal consultation with the National Fisheries Service (NMFS) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been initiated. Discussion with these agencies and other State and Federal agencies with authority over the Mine's operation has taken place, and all agree that implementation of Alternative 2 during the 1999 construction season (estimated to start as early as May 1) is desirable to prevent potential adverse impacts resulting from acid rock drainage potential in the tailings and waste rock facilities.

DATES: Those actions pertaining to the public lands administered by the BLM may be appealed under BLM administrative appeal rights (43 CFR part 4). If an appeal is taken, the notice of appeal (and, if also submitted, the petition for stay) must be postmarked or received at the address stated below within 30 days of publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Record of Decision for the Thompson Creek Mine Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement may be obtained by contacting Wallace Evans at BLM—Idaho State Office, 1387 South Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709-1657, (208) 373-3803, or Tom Buchta at the USDA Forest Service Intermountain Region, Federal Building, 324 25th Street, Ogden, UT 84401, (801) 625-5663. Written appeal of actions pertaining to