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Dear Applicant:

We welcome your interest in falconry. The sport provides recreation without exerting heavy pressure on native species. Few persons, however, fully understand the demands of falconry. The novice seldom appreciates the numerous requirements and responsibilities incurred with the possession of a wild bird of prey (raptor). The fact that raptor population conservation imposes extra responsibility upon the person who wishes to remove any raptor from the wild for their own enjoyment.

This Department does not want to unduly inhibit the practice of falconry, but we must also discharge our obligation to protect the raptor population. Falconry permits, therefore, are issued only to persons who meet rather stringent requirements. They must, among other things, pass a comprehensive written examination, provide knowledge of policy and regulations, find a permitted falconer to sponsor any apprentice applicants and build and maintain a mew that adequately houses the raptor.

We are adamant that persons interested in falconry be adequately informed and prepared so they may properly meet their obligations to the raptor in their care. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the following:

- State & Federal Regulations
- North American Falconer's Association (NAFA)
- Publications can be found at: www.n-a-f-a.com & <http://www.themodernapprentice.com>
- New Mexico Falconers Association www.nmfalconers.com
- Master Falconers in your local area, potential sponsors

A state falconry application is also enclosed. After you have read the entire packet, complete the application if you are willing to undertake the responsibilities a falconry permit would place upon you.

Effective January 1, 2012: The Federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service no longer requires each falconer to have a federal falconry permit; however, they still have authority over raptors and you still need a State permit. The State regulation 19.35.8 NMAC was developed to coincide with the federal rules.

Sincerely,

Special Use Permits Manager
Law Enforcement Division