

The species considered in this recovery plan revision is the Florida panther, *Puma (Felis) concolor coryi*. Historically ranging throughout most of the southeast U.S., the Florida panther has been reduced to a single known wild population estimated to number 30 to 50 adults. This population utilizes approximately two million acres of habitat on public and privately owned lands in south Florida. Threats to the panther are generally related to factors associated with its habitat—availability, destruction, modification, fragmentation, contamination and the types and levels of human activities taking place within habitat areas; and, demographic and genetic factors associated with isolation, population reductions and inbreeding within the small population.

#### Previous Federal Action

This proposed revision represents the second major revision of the recovery plan since its initial approval by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on December 17, 1981. The first major revision was approved on June 22, 1987. Additionally, a minor revision to incorporate a task to address genetic restoration and management was approved on March 13, 1995.

#### Public Comments Solicited

The current Recovery Team elected to expand involvement in the revision process to include other entities; those considered to be potential “stakeholders” in the panther recovery program. Potential stakeholders may represent interests of Native Americans, landowners, conservation organizations, hunters, agriculture, timber, animal rights, property rights, public agencies, education/public outreach, development/real estate, etc.

The Service solicits written input regarding suggested recovery actions/tasks that should be considered in drafting the revised recovery plan. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to drafting the revised plan. Additional opportunities for public review and comment will be available when the revised plan is in draft form.

#### Authority

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

Dated: December 11, 1997.

**David Hankla,**  
Field Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 97-33811 Filed 12-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for an Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit for the Meadowlark Estates Project in San Diego County, CA

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** SunCal Companies has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service for a permit to incidentally take the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) under the authority of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The permit would authorize the incidental take of one pair of gnatcatchers and 12.3 acres of its habitat in the City of San Marcos, San Diego County, California in conjunction with urban development. As part of its permit application, SunCal Companies has prepared a Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan). This notice announces the availability of the Plan and an Environmental Assessment, and describes the proposed action and possible alternatives, solicits written comments, and identifies the Service official to whom questions and comments concerning the Service's proposed action to issue the permit may be directed.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

**DATES:** Written comments on the Plan and Environmental Assessment should be received by the Service on or before January 29, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments regarding the permit application or adequacy of the Environmental Assessment should be addressed to the Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, California 92008. Written comments may be sent by facsimile to telephone (760) 431-9618.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Julie Vanderwier, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Carlsbad address; telephone (760) 431-9440. Individuals wishing copies of the permit application or Environmental Assessment for review should immediately contact the above office. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment

during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.) Monday through Friday at the above Carlsbad address.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act and Federal regulation prohibit the “taking” of a species listed as endangered or threatened. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to “incidentally take” listed species, which is take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for threatened species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.32; regulations governing permits for endangered species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.22.

The Service has under consideration the approval of the Plan and issuance of an Endangered Species Act incidental take permit for the Meadowlark Estates project, a 198.1-acre residential development, in the City of San Marcos, San Diego County, California. The Plan was prepared by HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc., and addresses the loss of 12.3 acres of Diegan coastal sage scrub habitat for up to one pair of coastal California gnatcatchers as a result of constructing 220 single-family estates and 62 single-family homes on approximately 125 acres. Mitigation measures in the Plan include on-site preservation of Diegan coastal sage scrub and other native plant communities, restoration of orchards and manufactured slopes by hydroseeding with coastal sage scrub plant species, and off-site acquisition of 16.35 acres of land in a key location within a regional open space corridor. A Negative Declaration, prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, was certified for this project by the City of San Marcos City Council on May 14, 1996.

The Plan and Environmental Assessment consider six alternatives including the Plan Alternative, a No Action Alternative and alternatives of larger and lesser scope, four of which were selected for detailed analysis.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). The Service will evaluate the application, associated documents, and submitted comments to determine whether the application meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act regulations and section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the

listed species. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: December 22, 1997.

**Thomas Dwyer,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.*

[FR Doc. 97-33848 Filed 12-29-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **Notice of Availability; Addendum #1 to the Assessment Plan: Lower Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Damage Assessment**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of 30-day comment period.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is given that the document entitled: "Assessment Plan Addendum: Lower Fox River/Green Bay NRDA" ("The Addendum") will be available for public review and comment on the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

The assessment, including the activities addressed in this addendum, will be conducted in accordance with guidance of the Natural Resource Assessment Regulations found at 43 CFR Part 11, to the extent applicable. The public review to the Addendum announced by this Notice is provided for in 43 CFR 11.32(c).

Interested members of the public are invited to review and comment on the Addendum. Copies of the Addendum, and the "Assessment Plan: Lower Fox River/Green Bay NRDA" ("The Plan") issued on August 23, 1996 (FR Doc. 96-21520), can be requested from the address listed below. All written comments will be considered and included in the Report of Assessment, at the conclusion of the assessment process.

**DATES:** Written comments on the Addendum must be submitted on or before January 29, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the Addendum and/or the Plan may be made to: Frank Horvath, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3 (ATTN: ES/EC-NRDA), B.H.W. Federal Building, 1 Federal, Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4096.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of this natural resource damage assessment is to confirm and quantify the suspected injuries to natural resources in the Lower Fox River, Green Bay, and Lake Michigan environment resulting from exposure to hazardous

substances released by area paper mills and other potential sources. It is suspected that this exposure has caused injury and resultant damages to trustee resources. The injury and resultant damages will be assessed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended, and the Clean Water Act, as amended. The Addendum addresses additional data collection activities that will be undertaken to provide additional information.

**William F. Hartwig,**

*Regional Director, Region 3 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-33804 Filed 12-29-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### U.S. Geological Survey

#### **Technology Transfer Act of 1986**

**AGENCY:** United States Geological Survey, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) negotiations.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is contemplating entering into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with GEORGIA-PACIFIC CORPORATION to evaluate potential reproductive effects of papermill effluents in largemouth bass.

**INQUIRIES:** If any other parties are interested in similar activities with the USGS, please contact: Timothy S. Gross, PhD, USGS-BRD Florida Caribbean Science Center, 7920 NW 71st St, Gainesville, FL, 32563.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is to meet the USGS requirement stipulated in the Survey Manual.

Dated: December 17, 1997.

**Don W. Minnich,**

*Acting Chief Biologist.*

[FR Doc. 97-33813 Filed 12-29-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### U.S. Geological Survey

#### **Technology Transfer Act of 1986**

**AGENCY:** United States Geological Survey, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) negotiations.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is contemplating

entering into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with GEORGIA-PACIFIC CORPORATION to evaluate potential endocrine-disrupting effects of contaminants in largemouth bass from the lower St. John's River basin.

**INQUIRIES:** If any other parties are interested in similar activities with the USGS, please contact: Timotheer S. Gross, PhD, USGS-BRD Florida Caribbean Science Center, 7920 NW 71st St. Gainesville, FL 32563.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is to meet the USGS requirement stipulated in the Survey Manual.

Dated: December 17, 1997.

**Don W. Minnich,**

*Acting Chief Biologist.*

[FR Doc. 97-33814 Filed 12-29-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[OR-030-08-1220-00: GP8-0055]

#### **Notice of Meeting of Advisory Board for the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center**

**AGENCY:** National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Vale District, Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is given that a meeting of the Advisory Board for the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center will be held on Thursday, January 22, 1998 from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Best Western Sunridge Inn, 1 Sunridge Lane, Baker City, Oregon 97814.

At an appropriate time, the Board will recess for approximately one hour for lunch. Public comments will be received from 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., January 22, 1998. Topics to be discussed area the Interpretive Center's budget and the process in which the Advisory Board can be involved. Dr. John Hunt, Chair of the Department of Resource Recreation and Tourism, University of Idaho, will give a presentation.

**DATES:** The meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. and run to 4:00 p.m., January 22, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will take place at the Best Western Sunridge Inn, One Sunridge Lane, Baker City, Oregon.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David B. Hunsaker, Bureau of Land Management, National Historic Oregon Trail, Interpretive Center, PO Box 987,