

and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS/EIR. The primary purpose of the scoping process is to identify important issues raised by the public, related to the proposed action. Written comments from interested parties are invited to ensure that the full range of issues related to the permit request are identified. Only written comments will be accepted at the public meeting.

In addition, you may submit written comments by mail or facsimile transmission (see **ADDRESSES**). Our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and /or homes addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organization or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: October 27, 2006.

**Ken McDermond,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Receipt of 13 Applications for Incidental Take Permits for Residential Construction in Charlotte County, FL

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

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of incidental take permit (ITP) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Peter Famulari, Robert Lavelle, and Jeffrey Leonard (Applicants) each request ITPs pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species

Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The Applicants anticipate taking about 5.42 acres combined of Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) (scrub-jay) foraging and sheltering habitat incidental to lot preparation for the construction of 13 residential units and supporting infrastructure in Charlotte County, Florida (Project). The destruction of 5.42 acres of foraging and sheltering habitat is expected to result in the take of five families of scrub-jays. The Applicants' Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) describes the mitigation and minimization measures proposed to address the effects of the Projects to the Florida scrub-jay.

**DATES:** Written comments on the ITP applications and HCP should be sent to the South Florida Ecological Services Office (see **ADDRESSES**) and should be received on or before December 7, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the applications and HCP may obtain a copy by writing the Service's South Florida Ecological Services Office. Please reference Deep Creek Batch HCP in such requests. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the South Florida Ecological Services Office, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Trish Adams, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, South Florida Ecological Services Office, Vero Beach, Florida (see **ADDRESSES**), telephone: 772-562-3909, extension 232.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of several methods. Please reference permit numbers TE136149-0, TE136150-0, TE136151-0, TE136153-0, TE136154-0, TE136155-0, TE136157-0, TE136158-0, TE136159-0, TE136160-0, TE136161-0, TE136162-0, and TE136163-0, in such comments. You may mail comments to the Service's South Florida Ecological Services Office (see **ADDRESSES**). You may also comment via the Internet to [trish\\_adams@fws.gov](mailto:trish_adams@fws.gov). Please also include your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from us that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Finally, you may hand deliver comments to the Service office listed under **ADDRESSES**. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from

the administrative record. We will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. There may also be other circumstances in which we would withhold from the administrative record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Residential construction for the Deep Creek Batch HCP will take place within Section 09, Township 40, Range 23, Punta Gorda, Charlotte County, Florida, on 13 lots. Each of these lots is within scrub-jay occupied habitat.

The lots combined encompass about 5.42 acres, and the footprint of the homes, infrastructure, and landscaping preclude retention of scrub-jay habitat on each of these respective lots. In order to minimize take on site, the Applicants propose to mitigate for the loss of 5.42 acre of scrub-jay habitat by contributing a total of \$392,390 to the Florida Scrub-jay Conservation Fund administered by The Nature Conservancy or acquisition of 10.83 acres of credit at a Service approved conservation bank. The Florida Scrub-jay Conservation Fund is earmarked for use in the conservation and recovery of scrub-jays and may include habitat acquisition, restoration, and/or management.

The Service has determined that the Applicants' proposals, including the proposed mitigation and minimization measures, will individually and cumulatively have a minor or negligible effect on the species covered in the HCP. Therefore, the ITPs are "low-effect" projects and qualify as categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)(40 CFR 1506.6), as provided by the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2 Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6 Appendix 1). This preliminary information may be revised based on our review of public comments that we receive in response to this notice. Low-effect HCPs are those involving (1) minor or negligible effects on federally listed or candidate species and their habitats, and (2) minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources.

The Service will evaluate the HCP and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the applications meet the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq.). If it

is determined that those requirements are met, the ITPs will be issued for the incidental take of the Florida scrub-jay. The Service will also evaluate whether issuance of the section 10(a)(1)(B) ITPs comply with section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service section 7 consultation. The results of this consultation, in combination with the above findings, will be used in the final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the ITPs.

**Authority:** This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: October 5, 2006.

**Paul Souza,**

*Field Supervisor, South Florida Ecological Services Office.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Fourteenth Regular Meeting; Proposed Resolutions, Decisions, and Agenda Items Being Considered; Taxa Being Considered for Amendments to the CITES Appendices; Public Meeting; Request for Comments or Information; Observer Information**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We, the United States, as a Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), may submit proposed resolutions, decisions, and agenda items for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the Parties to CITES. We may also propose amendments to the CITES Appendices for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The fourteenth regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP14) will be held in The Hague, Netherlands, June 3–15, 2007.

With this notice, we, the Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service): describe proposed resolutions, decisions, and agenda items that the United States is considering submitting for consideration at CoP14; describe proposed amendments to the CITES Appendices (species proposals) that the United States is considering submitting for consideration at CoP14; invite your

comments and information on these proposals; announce a public meeting to discuss these proposals; and provide information on how non-governmental organizations based in the United States can attend CoP14 as observers.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held on December 11, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. We will consider written information and comments you submit concerning potential species proposals, and proposed resolutions, decisions, and agenda items that the United States is considering submitting for consideration at CoP14, and other items relating to CoP14, if we receive them by December 22, 2006.

#### **ADDRESSES:**

##### **Public Meeting**

The public meeting will be held in the Rachel Carson Room, in the Department of the Interior at 18th and C Streets, NW., Washington, DC. Directions to the building can be obtained by contacting the Division of Management Authority (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, below). Due to building security in the Department of the Interior, persons planning to attend the meeting must notify the Division of Management Authority by December 8, 2006, to allow us sufficient time to provide the building security staff with a list of persons planning to attend. For more information, see “Announcement of Public Meeting” under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

##### **Comment Submission**

Comments pertaining to proposed resolutions, decisions, and/or agenda items should be sent to the Division of Management Authority; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 North Fairfax Drive; Room 700; Arlington, VA 22203; or via E-mail at: [cop14@fws.gov](mailto:cop14@fws.gov); or via fax at: 703-358-2298. Comments pertaining to species proposals should be sent to the Division of Scientific Authority; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 North Fairfax Drive; Room 750; Arlington, VA 22203; or via e-mail at: [scientificauthority@fws.gov](mailto:scientificauthority@fws.gov); or via fax at: 703-358-2276.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information pertaining to proposed resolutions, decisions, and agenda items contact: Acting Chief, Division of Management Authority, Branch of CITES Operations; phone 703-358-2095; fax 703-358-2298; E-mail: [cop14@fws.gov](mailto:cop14@fws.gov). For information pertaining to species proposals contact: Robert R. Gabel, Chief, Division of Scientific Authority; phone 703-358-1708; fax 703-358-2276; E-mail: [scientificauthority@fws.gov](mailto:scientificauthority@fws.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, hereinafter referred to as CITES or the Convention, is an international treaty designed to control and regulate international trade in certain animal and plant species that are now or potentially may become threatened with extinction. These species are listed in Appendices to CITES, which are available on the CITES Secretariat's Web site at <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/index.shtml>. Currently, 169 countries, including the United States, are Parties to CITES. The Convention calls for biennial meetings of the Conference of the Parties, which reviews its implementation, makes provisions enabling the CITES Secretariat in Switzerland to carry out its functions, considers amendments to the list of species in Appendices I and II, considers reports presented by the Secretariat, and makes recommendations for the improved effectiveness of CITES. Any country that is a Party to CITES may propose amendments to Appendices I and II, and resolutions, decisions, and/or agenda items for consideration by all the Parties.

This is our second in a series of **Federal Register** notices that, together with announced public meetings, provide you with an opportunity to participate in the development of the U.S. negotiating positions for CoP14. We published our first CoP14-related **Federal Register** notice on January 20, 2006 (71 FR 3319), and with it we requested information and recommendations on species proposals and proposed resolutions, decisions, and agenda items for the United States to consider submitting for consideration at CoP14. You may obtain information on that **Federal Register** notice from the following sources: for information on proposed resolutions, decisions, and agenda items, contact the Division of Management Authority (**ADDRESSES**); and for information on species proposals, contact the Division of Scientific Authority (**ADDRESSES**). Our regulations governing this public process are found in 50 CFR 23.31–23.39.

CoP14 is scheduled to be held in The Hague, Netherlands, June 3–15, 2007.

##### **I. Recommendations for Resolutions, Decisions, and Agenda Items for the United States To Consider Submitting for CoP14**

In our **Federal Register** notice published on January 20, 2006 (71 FR