recover some of the expenses they incur in providing services on public lands. These local governments receive funds under various Federal land payment programs such as the National Forest Revenue Act, the Mineral Lands Leasing Act, and the Taylor Grazing Act. PILT payments supplement the payments that local governments receive under these other programs.

The PILT Act requires that the Governor of each state furnish the Department of the Interior with a listing of payments disbursed to local governments by the states on behalf of the Federal Government under 12 statutes described in Section 4 of the Act (31 U.S.C. 6903). The Department of the Interior uses the amounts reported by the states to reduce PILT payments to units of general local government from that which they might otherwise receive. If such listings were not furnished by the Governor of each affected state, the Department would not be able to compute the PILT payments to units of general local government within the states in question.

The information collection supporting the PILT Act was initially administered by the Bureau of Land Management, within the Department of the Interior, as “Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT Act), Statement of Federal Land Payments, (43 CFR 1881),” OMB control #1004–0109. However, in fiscal year 2004, administrative authority for the PILT program was transferred from the Bureau of Land Management to the Office of Budget within the Office of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior. Applicable DOI regulations pertaining to the PILT program to be administered by the Office of the Secretary were published as a final rule in the Federal Register on December 7, 2004. Recently, the Office of Budget, within the Office of the Secretary, requested emergency approval of the information collection as “Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT Act), Statement of Federal Land Payments, (43 CFR 44),” OMB approved the information collection under control #1093–0005. The Office of Budget, Office of the Secretary is now planning to extend the information collection approval for the standard 3 years in order to enable the Department of the Interior to continue to comply with the PILT Act.

II. Data

(1) Title: Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT Act), Statement of Federal Land Payments, (43 CFR 44).

OMB Control Number: 1093–0005.

Current Expiration Date: 11/30/2006.

Type of Review: Information Collection: Renewal.

Affected Entities: State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 43.

Frequency of response: Annual.

(2) Annual reporting and recordkeeping burden.

Total annual reporting per respondent: 50 hours.

Total annual reporting: 2150 hours.

(3) Description of the need and use of the information: The statutorily-required information is needed to compute payments due units of general local government under the PILT Act (31 U.S.C. 6901–6907). The Act requires that the Governor of each state furnish a statement as to amounts paid to units of general local government under 12 revenue-sharing statutes in the prior fiscal year.

III. Request for Comments

The Department of the Interior invites comments on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) The accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the collection and the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose or provide information to or for a federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; to train personnel and to be able to respond to a collection of information, to search data sources, to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Construction of a Commercial Development in Lake County, FL

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice: receipt of application for an incidental take permit; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) Application and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Hancock Commons, LLC (applicant) requests an ITP for a duration of 5 years under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The applicant anticipates taking about 3.7 acres of sand skink (Neoseps reynoldsii)—occupied habitat incidental to constructing a shopping center and associated amenities in Lake County, Florida (Project). The applicant’s HCP describes the mitigation and minimization measures the applicant proposes to address the effects of the Project to the sand skink.

DATES: We must receive any written comments on the ITP application and HCP on or before December 18, 2006.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to review the application and HCP, you may obtain a copy by writing the Field Supervisor at our Jacksonville Field Office, 6620 Southpoint Drive South, Suite 310, Jacksonville, FL, 32216, or by making an appointment to visit during normal business hours. If you wish to comment, you may mail or hand deliver comments to the Jacksonville Field Office, or you may email comments to paula_sisson@fws.gov. For more information on reviewing documents and public comments and submitting comments, see SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Paula Sisson, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Jacksonville Field Office (see ADDRESSES), telephone: 904/232–2580, ext. 126.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Review and Comment

Please reference permit number TE132462–0 in all requests or
comments. Please include your name and return address in your email message. If you do not receive a confirmation from us that we have received your email message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. 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.

**Background:** Due to the reduction in quality and acreage and the rapid development of xeric (bare, scrub-like areas with sandy soils, open canopies) upland communities, the sand skink is reportedly declining throughout most of its range. By some estimates, as much as 90 percent of the scrub ecosystem has already been lost to residential development and conversion to agriculture, primarily citrus groves.

**Applicant’s Proposal:** The applicant is requesting take of 3.7 acres of occupied sand skink habitat incidental to the construction of a shopping center (Hancock Commons) on 13.96 acres in Lake County, Florida. Hancock Commons is located south of State Road 50 and east of Hancock Road, in Section 27, Township 22 South, Range 26 East, near Clermont.

The proposed Hancock Commons development will consist of approximately 38,100 square feet of shopping center space that will support a bank, a fast-food restaurant, a sit-down restaurant, and retail sale. Currently, the property consists primarily of xeric oak forest with scattered open patches of sand and a disturbed area along the western boundary.

The Applicant proposes to mitigate for 3.7 acres of impacts by purchasing a 5.43-acre parcel in Polk County, FL, within the boundaries of the Lake Wales Ridge. This property is being referred to as the Eddinger Mitigation Property and is located south of State Road 60, west of Walk-in-the-Water Road, in Section 6, Township 31 South, Range 29 East. This property consists of three tax parcels, the northern two of which are being utilized to mitigate for the impacts associated with the Hancock Commons development.

The Service has determined that the Applicant’s proposal, including the proposed mitigation and minimization measures, will have a minor or negligible effect on the species covered in the HCP. Therefore, the ITP is a “low-effect” project and qualifies for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 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.

We will evaluate the HCP and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). If we determine that the application meets those requirements, we will issue the ITP for incidental take of the sand skink. We will also evaluate whether issuance of the section 10(a)(1)(B) ITP complies with section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service section 7 consultation. We will use the results of this consultation, in combination with the above findings, in the final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the ITP.

**Authority:** We provide this notice under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). If we determine that the application meets those requirements, we will issue the ITP for incidental take of the sand skink. We will also evaluate whether issuance of the section 10(a)(1)(B) ITP complies with section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service section 7 consultation. We will use the results of this consultation, in combination with the above findings, in the final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the ITP.

**EIS Availability:** To obtain a single, printed or CD–ROM copy of the draft EIS, you may contact the Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Public Information Office (MMS 5034), 1201 St. Peter Street, Suite 400, New Orleans, Louisiana 70116 (504) 544-3500 (voice) or 544-3737 (TTY) or MMS, 1205 New Jersey Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 387-8544 (voice) or 202-387-8576 (TTY) or 1-877-674-6877 (voice) or 1-888-387-8544 (voice). Our practice is to make the Notice of Availability (NOA) and notice of public hearing available in the Federal Register. The draft EIS, and the Notice of Availability (NOA) are available in printed or CD–ROM format on the Minerals Management Service web site at: http://www.gom.mms.gov.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Minerals Management Service**

**Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Western and Central Gulf of Mexico, Oil and Gas Lease Sales for Years 2007–2012**

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

**SUMMARY:** The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on tentatively scheduled 2007–2012 oil and gas leasing proposals in the Western and Central Gulf of Mexico (GOM), off the states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

**CONTACT:** Our practice is to make the Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Public Hearings.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Public Hearings.