DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Construction of an Industrial Facility in Brevard 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). Michael Richardson (applicant) requests an incidental take permit (ITP) for a duration of 5 years pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The applicant anticipates taking approximately 2.2 acre (ac) of Florida scrub-jay (Alphelocoma coerulescens)—occupied habitat incidental to constructing an industrial facility in Brevard 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 scrub-jay.

DATES: We must receive any written comments on the ITP application and HCP on or before June 8, 2007.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to review the application and HCP, you may write the Field Supervisor at our Jacksonville Field Office, 6620 Southpoint Drive South, Suite 310, Jacksonville, FL, 32216, or make 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 e-mail comments to erin_gawera@fws.gov. For more information on reviewing documents and public comments and submitting comments, see SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin Gawera, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Jacksonville Field Office (see ADDRESSES); telephone: 904/232–2580, ext. 121.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Review and Comment

Please reference permit number TE151087–0 for Michael Richardson in all requests or comments. Please include your name and return address in your e-mail message. If you do not receive a confirmation from us that we have received your e-mail 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. There may be 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. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Background

The Florida scrub-jay (scrub-jay) is found exclusively in peninsular Florida and is restricted to xeric uplands (predominately in oak-dominated scrub). Increasing urban and agricultural development has resulted in habitat loss and fragmentation, which have adversely affected the distribution and numbers of scrub-jays.

The total estimated population is between 7,000 and 11,000 individuals. The decline in the number and distribution of scrub-jays in east-central Florida has been exacerbated by tremendous urban growth in the past 50 years. Much of the historic commercial and residential development has occurred on the dry soils which previously supported scrub-jay habitat. Much of this area of Florida was settled early because few wetlands restricted urban and agricultural development. Due to the effects of urban and agricultural development over the past 100 years, much of the remaining scrub-jay habitat is now relatively small and isolated. What remains is largely degraded due to the exclusion of fire, which is needed to maintain xeric uplands in conditions suitable for scrub-jays.

Applicant’s Proposal

The applicant is requesting take of approximately 2.2 ac of occupied scrub-jay habitat incidental to the construction of an industrial facility. The project is located within Section 23, Township 25 South, Range 36 East, Rockledge, Brevard County, Florida, on the west side of Riomar Drive near its southern terminus.

Development of the project, including infrastructure, parking areas and landscaping, preclude retention of scrub-jay habitat onsite. Therefore, the applicant proposes to mitigate for the loss of 2.2 ac of occupied scrub-jay habitat by donating $44,880 to the Florida Scrub-Jay Fund administered by The Nature Conservancy. Funds in this account are earmarked for use in the conservation and recovery of scrub-jays and may include habitat acquisition, restoration, and/or management.

We have determined that the applicant’s proposal, including the proposed mitigation and minimization measures, would have minor or negligible effects on the species covered in the HCP. Therefore, the ITP is a “low-effect” project and qualifies for categorical exclusions 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. A low-effect HCP is one 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 Florida scrub-jay. 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 our final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the ITP.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Minerals Management Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submitted for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of an information collection (1010–0051).

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are notifying the public that we have submitted to OMB an information collection request (ICR) to renew approval of the paperwork requirements in the regulations under 30 CFR 250, Subpart L, “Oil and Gas Production Measurement, Surface Commingling, and Security.”

We are among those delegated to the Minerals Management Service (MMS) the authority to prescribe rules and regulations to administer leasing of the OCS. Such rules and regulations will apply to all operations conducted under a lease. Operations on the OCS must preserve, protect, and develop oil and natural gas resources in a manner that is consistent with the need to make such resources available to meet the Nation’s energy needs as rapidly as possible; to balance orderly energy resource development with protection of human, marine, and coastal environments; to ensure the public a fair and equitable return on the resources of the OCS; and to preserve and maintain free enterprise competition. The Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1701, et seq.) at section 1712(b)(2) prescribes that an operator will “develop and comply with such minimum site security measures as the Secretary deems appropriate, to protect oil or gas produced or stored on a lease site or on the Outer Continental Shelf from theft.” These authorities and responsibilities are among those delegated to the Minerals Management Service (MMS). This information collection request addresses the regulations at 30 CFR part 250, subpart L, “Oil and Gas Production Measurement, Surface Commingling, and Security,” and the associated supplementary notices to lessors and operators (NTLs) intended to provide clarification, description, or explanation of these regulations.

Regulations implementing these responsibilities are under 30 CFR part 250. Responses are mandatory. No questions of a “sensitive” nature are asked. MMS will protect proprietary information according to 30 CFR 250.197, “Data and information to be made available to the public,” and 30 CFR Part 252, “OCS Oil and Gas Information Program.”

MMS uses the information collected under subpart L to ensure that the volumes of hydrocarbons produced are measured accurately, and royalties are paid on the proper volumes. Specifically, MMS needs the information to:

- Determine if measurement equipment is properly installed, provides accurate measurement of production on which royalty is due, and is operating properly;
- Obtain rates of production data in allocating the volumes of production measured at royalty sales meters, which can be examined during field inspections;
- Ascertain if all removals of oil and condensate from the lease are reported;
- Determine the amount of oil that was shipped when measurements are taken by gauging the tanks rather than being measured by a meter;
- Ensure that the sales location is secure and production cannot be removed without the volumes being recorded; and
- Review proving reports to verify that data on run tickets are calculated and reported accurately.

Frequency: The frequency varies by section, but is primarily monthly or on occasion.

Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: Approximately 130 Federal OCS oil and gas or sulphur lessees.

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping “Hour” Burden: The estimated annual “hour” burden for this information collection is a total of 8,533 hours. The following chart details the individual components and estimated hour burdens. In calculating the burdens, we assumed that respondents perform certain requirements in the normal course of their activities. We consider these to be usual and customary and took that into account in estimating the burden.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citation 30 CFR 250 subpart L</th>
<th>Reporting or recordkeeping requirement</th>
<th>Hour burden minutes</th>
<th>Average number of annual responses</th>
<th>Annual burden hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1202(a)(1), (b)(1); 1203(b)(1); 1204(a)(1).</td>
<td>Submit application for liquid hydrocarbon or gas measurement procedures or changes; or for commingling of production or changes.</td>
<td>11 ........................</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>3,993</td>
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Fees