DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service


Receipt of Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the City Gate Project in Collier County, FL

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Citygate Development, LLC and CG II, LLC (Applicants) request an incidental take permit (ITP) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) for the take of the red-cockaded woodpecker (Picoides borealis) and the Florida panther (Puma (=Felis) concolor coryi). The Applicants propose to develop 240 acres of occupied red-cockaded woodpecker and Florida panther habitat to construct a mixed-use, nonresidential, commercial/industrial office park complex (Project) in Collier County, Florida. The modification of this habitat is expected to result in incidental take, in the form of harm, of one group of red-cockaded woodpeckers and harassment of the Florida panther. The Applicants’ Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) describes the mitigation and minimization measures proposed to address the effects of the Project on the red-cockaded woodpecker and Florida panther. These measures are outlined in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section below.

DATES: Written comments on the ITP application and HCP should be sent to the Southeast Regional Office (see ADDRESSES) and should be received on or before December 16, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the ITP application, Environmental Assessment (EA), and HCP may obtain a copy by writing the Service’s Southeast Regional Office. Please reference permit number TE145823–0 in such requests. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345, or Field Supervisor, South Florida Ecological Services Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960–3559.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Dell, Regional Permit Coordinator (see ADDRESSES), telephone: 404/679–7313; or George Dennis, Ecologist, South Florida Ecological Services Office (see ADDRESSES), telephone: 772/562–3909 ext. 309.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of several methods. Please reference permit application number TE145823–0 in such comments. You may mail comments to the Service’s Regional Office (see ADDRESSES). You may also comment via the internet to david_dell@fws.gov. Please include your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the Service that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at either telephone number listed above (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT). Finally, you may hand deliver comments to either Service office listed above (see 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.

The red-cockaded woodpecker is the only North American woodpecker that excavates its roost and nest cavities in living trees. It is nonmigratory, territorial, and lives in cooperative breeding social units, usually comprising two to six birds, called groups. Nest and roost cavities are almost always excavated in old-age living pines. In south Florida, hydric slash pine flatwoods provide the preferred nesting and foraging habitat for red-cockaded woodpeckers. The most recent surveys estimate the rangewide population of the red-cockaded woodpecker at 4,919 active groups. The estimated breeding population of the red-cockaded woodpecker in Florida is 1,500 groups, with about 75 percent occurring in the Florida Panhandle.

The Florida panther is the last subspecies of Puma still surviving in the eastern United States. Historically occurring throughout the southeastern United States, today the Florida panther is restricted to less than 5 percent of its historical range in one breeding population of approximately 100 animals, located in south Florida. Florida panthers are wide ranging, secretive, and occur at low densities. They require large contiguous areas to meet their social, reproductive, and energetic needs.

Limiting factors for the Florida panther are habitat availability, prey availability, and lack of human tolerance. Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation are among the greatest threats to Florida panther survival, while lack of human tolerance is one of the greatest threats to Florida panther recovery.

The Project proposes construction of a mixed-use, nonresidential, commercial/industrial office park complex that will substantially modify 240 acres comprising primarily pine flatwoods, and will result in take in the form of harm to red-cockaded woodpecker and harassment of the Florida panther, incidental to the carrying out of these otherwise lawful activities. Habitat alteration associated with the proposed development activities will reduce the availability of nesting, foraging, and sheltering habitat for one group of red-cockaded woodpecker. In addition, the loss of this habitat may result in take in the form of harassment of Florida panthers. The Applicants propose to mitigate take of
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service


Receipt of Applications for Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications for permit.

SUMMARY: The public is invited to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species.

DATES: Written data, comments or requests must be received by November 17, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703/358–2281.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Division of Management Authority, telephone 703/358–2104.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Endangered Species

The public is invited to comment on the following application(s) for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Written data, comments, or requests for copies of these complete applications should be submitted to the Director (address above).

Applicant: Robert D. Ray, Mansfield, TX, PRT–192764.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (Damaliscus pygargus pygargus) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Dean G. Grommet, Whitefish, MT, PRT–193960.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (Damaliscus pygargus pygargus) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.


The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (Damaliscus pygargus pygargus) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Michael D. Jenkins, Amarillo, TX, PRT–194838.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (Damaliscus pygargus pygargus) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.


Lisa J. Lierheimer, Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service


Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge, Pike and Gibson Counties, Indiana

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.


SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce that the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the