Section 215 of Division G, Title II of Public Law 108–199, enacted January 23, 2004 (HUD’s 2004 Appropriations Act) amended section 224 of the Act, to change the debenture interest rate for purposes of calculating certain insurance claim payments made in cash. Therefore, for all claims paid in cash on mortgages insured under section 203 or 234 of the National Housing Act and endorsed for insurance after January 23, 2004, the debenture interest rate will be the monthly average yield, for the month in which the default on the mortgage occurred, on United States Treasury Securities adjusted to a constant maturity of 10 years, as found in Federal Reserve Statistical Release H-15. The Federal Housing Administration has codified this provision in HUD regulations at 24 CFR 203.405(b) and 24 CFR 203.479(b).

Section 221(g)(4) of the Act provides that debentures issued pursuant to that paragraph (with respect to the assignment of an insured mortgage to the Secretary) will bear interest at the “going Federal rate” in effect at the time the debentures are issued. The term “going Federal rate” is defined to mean the interest rate that the Secretary of the Treasury determines, pursuant to a statutory formula based on the average yield on all outstanding marketable Treasury obligations of 8- to 12-year maturities, for the 6-month periods of January through June and July through December of each year. Section 221(g)(4) is implemented in the HUD regulations at 24 CFR 221.255 and 24 CFR 221.790.

The Secretary of the Treasury has determined that the interest rate to be borne by debentures issued pursuant to section 221(g)(4) during the 6-month period beginning January 1, 2013, is 1% percent.

The subject matter of this notice falls within the categorical exemption from HUD’s environmental clearance procedures set forth in 24 CFR 50.19(c)(6). For that reason, no environmental finding has been prepared for this notice.
ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comment/information.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of an incidental take permit (ITP) application and a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Palmetto Lake Hamilton—Highway 17, LLC (the applicant) requests an ITP under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The applicant anticipates taking about 1.71 acres of sand skink (Neospeps reynoldsi) and bluetail mole skink (Eumeces egregius lividus) (skinks) foraging, breeding, and sheltering habitat incidental to land preparation and construction of a Dollar General Store, including a storm water retention area and parking lot, in Polk County, Florida (project). The applicant’s HCP describes the mitigation and minimization measures proposed to address the effects of the project on the skinks.

DATES: We must receive your written comments on the ITP application and HCP on or before February 21, 2013.

ADDRESSES: See the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section below for information on how to submit your comments on the ITP application and HCP. You may obtain a copy of the ITP application and HCP by writing the South Florida Ecological Services Office, Attn: Permit number TE92046A–0, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960–3559. In addition, we will make the ITP application and HCP available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Elizabeth Landrum, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, South Florida Ecological Services Office (see ADDRESSES); telephone: 772–469–4304.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Submitting Comments

If you wish to comment on the ITP application and HCP, you may submit comments by any one of the following methods:

- Email: Elizabeth_Landrum@fws.gov. Use Attn: Permit number “TE92046A–0” as your message subject line.
- Fax: Elizabeth Landrum, 772–562–4288. Attn.: Permit number “TE92046A–0.”
- U.S. mail: Elizabeth Landrum, South Florida Ecological Services Field Office, Attn: Permit number “TE92046A–0”, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960–3559.

In-person drop-off: You may drop off information during regular business hours at the above office address.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, 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 in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Applicant’s Proposed Project

We received an application from Palmetto Lake Hamilton—Highway 17, LLC (the applicant) for an incidental take permit along with a proposed habitat conservation plan. The applicant requests a 2-year permit under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act (87 Stat. 894; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). If we approve the permit, the applicant anticipates taking a total of approximately 1.71 acres (0.69 hectares (ha)) of sand and blue-tailed mole skink breeding, feeding, and sheltering habitat incidental to land preparation and construction of a Dollar General Store, including a storm water retention area and parking lot, in Polk County, Florida. Construction activities associated with the Dollar General Store will take place within Section 21, Township 28S, Range 27E, Polk County, Florida.

The applicant proposes to mitigate for impacts by purchasing approximately 3.42 mitigation bank credits at the Scrub Conservation Bank in Highlands County, Florida, a Bank within the service area of skinks. The Service listed this species as threatened in 1987 (January 21, 1987; 52 FR 2242). The listing became effective December 7, 1987.

Our Preliminary Determination

The Service has made a preliminary determination that the applicant’s project, including the mitigation measures, will individually and cumulatively have a minor or negligible effect on the species covered in the HCP. Therefore, issuance of the ITP is a “low-effect” project and qualifies as 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). We base our preliminary determination that issuance of the ITP qualifies as a low-effect action on the following three criteria:

1. Implementation of the project would result in minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources; and (3) Impacts of the project, considered together with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable similarly situated projects, would not result, over time, in cumulative effects to environmental values or resources that would be considered significant. This preliminary determination may be revised based on our review of public comments that we receive in response to this notice.

Next Steps

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. The Service 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. 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 ITP. If it is determined that the requirements of the Act are met, the ITP will be issued.

Authority

We provide this notice under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).


Larry Williams,
Field Supervisor, South Florida Ecological Services Office.

[FR Doc. 2013–01168 Filed 1–18–13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service


Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Recovery Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered or threatened species. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), prohibits activities with endangered and threatened species