



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Ecological Services, Eastern North Carolina Field Office  
3916 Sunset Ridge Rd.  
Raleigh, North Carolina, 27607

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MOORE COUNTY, NC  
RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER  
RED-ZONE PROJECT REVIEW REQUEST LETTER**

**Project Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Address (Parcel Number and Street Address if Available):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Owner/Authorized Agent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Owner/Authorized Agent Phone Number/Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Owner/Authorized Agent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Moore County online project review process for red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW).

This letter should be used as a cover letter for your project review package for the project named above. Please submit this letter, the project review package (including site plan showing locations of all pine trees to be removed or impacted, with their diameters correctly labeled), and any other project information to the Service for review, in accordance with section 9 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, 87 Stat. 884), as amended (ESA). This letter is only to be used in Moore County, NC. This letter does not complete the review of your project for other listed species. If there are other federally listed species that may be affected by your project, please use the Service's general online review process at this link (<https://www.fws.gov/office/eastern-north-carolina/project-planning-and-consultation>).

To comply with ESA section 9, the complete project review package must be submitted to the Eastern NC Ecological Services Field Office for review. Signing and/or printing of this letter does not automatically submit the project for review. This letter and associated information must be submitted in accordance with the instructions in Step 3 at this link (<https://www.fws.gov/office/eastern-north-carolina-ecological-services/moore-county-rcw->

[consultation](#)). The Service will review the package and provide a written response, typically within 60 days of submittal. Work on the project should not proceed until consultation with the Service is completed.

Please check one or more boxes below to indicate the location and nature of your project. If you cannot check one of these boxes, please visit our website (<https://www.fws.gov/office/eastern-north-carolina-ecological-services/moore-county-rcw-consultation>) for additional information concerning the online review process, or contact our office at 919-856-4520.

**The box below must be checked:**

- ☐ The project site is located within a **Red Zone** on the RCW map (<https://www.fws.gov/media/nc-sandhills-rcw-red-zone-and-clear-zones-safe-harbor-agreement>). I hereby submit this review package in accordance with the instructions at <https://www.fws.gov/office/eastern-north-carolina-ecological-services/moore-county-rcw-consultation> and request review and response from the Service. Work on the project will not proceed until consultation with the Service is completed.

**Check all boxes below that apply to the project (to expedite our review):**

- ☐ Trees greater than or equal to ( $\geq$ )8 inches dbh will be removed.
- ☐ A cavity tree survey has been conducted by a qualified environmental consultant (<https://www.fws.gov/media/selecting-qualified-environmental-consultant-rcw-surveys>), following the USFWS' Survey Protocol, contained in Appendix 4 of the RCW Recovery Plan (<https://www.fws.gov/media/appendix-4-survey-protocol-rcw-recovery-plan>).  
Were cavity trees found on the property?

Inactive.....	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Active.....	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

The red-cockaded woodpecker is endemic to open, mature and old growth pine ecosystems in the southeastern United States. It depends on mature live pine trees for its nesting and roosting sites (called clusters) and for foraging habitat. The Service's Recovery Plan defines the cluster as the aggregation of cavity trees used and defended by a group of red-cockaded woodpeckers and a 200-foot buffer of continuous forest. The Recovery plan also outlines the minimum acreage, distribution, and stocking levels of foraging habitat (stands of southern yellow pine) required to conserve a family group of woodpeckers. Requisite foraging habitat must be found in pine stands contiguous with the cluster and within a 1/2-mile radius of the cluster center (foraging partition). Property development within a cluster and associated foraging habitat, if not carefully conducted, is potentially harmful to the species and may violate the ESA if not specifically authorized by the Service.

Recovery efforts for this species are underway and may result in groups becoming reestablished in areas currently unoccupied by this species. The cumulative loss of foraging and nesting habitat caused by residential and commercial construction is one of the primary threats to the continued existence of the RCW in the North Carolina Sandhills area. The Conservation Measures listed below will help minimize the threats to the RCW.

### Recommended Conservation Measures

1. Planners and builders are encouraged to shift proposed development to avoid removing large pine trees.
2. To maintain suitability of the habitat, take measures to prevent damage to the bole and root system of the remaining longleaf pines.
3. Retain turpentine trees and all old growth longleaf pines that may be on the property.
4. Where cutting is necessary, large branches should be removed or trimmed as a first option instead of complete tree removal.
5. Landscaping should use species native to the Sandhills ecosystem that do not exceed seven feet in height. Exotic invasive plants should be avoided.

Information about the online project review process including instructions, species information, and other information regarding project reviews within North Carolina is available at our website (<https://www.fws.gov/office/eastern-north-carolina-ecological-services/moore-county-rcw-consultation>). If you have any questions, please email [raleigh@fws.gov](mailto:raleigh@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Archambault, Ph.D.  
Acting Field Supervisor  
Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office

Enclosures - project review package