

that it is the only woodpecker that excavates its roost and nest cavities in living pine trees. Each group member has its own cavity, although there may be multiple cavities in a single pine tree. The aggregate of cavity trees is called a cluster. RCWs forage almost exclusively on pine trees and they generally prefer pines greater than 10 inches diameter at breast height. Foraging habitat is contiguous with the cluster. The number of acres required to supply adequate foraging habitat depends on the quantity and quality of the pine stems available.

The RCW is endemic to the pine forests of the Southeastern United States and was once widely distributed across 16 States. The species evolved in a mature fire-maintained ecosystem. The RCW has declined primarily due to the conversion of mature pine forests to young pine plantations, agricultural fields, and residential and commercial developments, and to hardwood encroachment in existing pine forests due to fire suppression. The species is still widely distributed (presently occurs in 13 southeastern States), but remaining populations are highly fragmented and isolated. Presently, the largest populations occur on federally owned lands such as military installations and national forests.

In South Carolina, there are an estimated 681 active RCW clusters as of 1994; 67 percent are on Federal lands, 6 percent are on State lands, and 27 percent are on private lands. The populations on public lands are generally stable, and in some cases are increasing. The overall population trend on private lands in South Carolina, on the other hand, is downward. Most RCW populations on private lands are relatively small and isolated.

The Applicant's land in Orangeburg County hosts a small and isolated population of RCWs. As of 1995, there were 2 active RCW clusters; 1 breeding group and 1 solitary adult male. The nearest known RCW group occurs on private lands approximately 2.5 miles to the north of the Gasque/Felkel tract near Ellore. The nearest known RCW concentration (greater than 5 groups) occurs over 10-15 miles away on the Manchester State Forest/Shaw Air Force Base to the north in Sumter County, and on the privately-owned Norfolk Southern property located south of the Gasque/Felkel tract in Dorchester County. The Applicants propose to harvest timber on their property for supplemental income. Timber harvesting activities may result in death of, or harm to, any remaining RCWs through the loss of nesting and foraging habitat.

The EA considers the environmental consequences of three alternatives, including the proposed action. The proposed action alternative is issuance of the incidental take permit and implementation of the HCP as submitted by the Applicants. The HCP will provide for the provisioning of 4 clusters with artificial starts and cavities on suitable habitat on the Sandhills State Forest in Chesterfield County. The Sandhills State Forest is part of a designated recovery population for the RCW in the South Carolina Sandhills Physiographic Province. The State Forest has a total of 46,000 acres of which 40,000 acres are manageable pine lands (predominately longleaf pine). The State Forest currently has 55 active RCW groups with a long-term goal of increasing the population to assist with the recovery of the South Carolina Sandhills population. The HCP will also involve the translocation of any juveniles produced by the breeding pair on the Gasque/Felkel property to the provisioned sites at the Sandhills State Forest. Finally, the HCP will involve monitoring the provisioned sites for a specified time period at the State Forest to determine success of the provisioning efforts. The HCP provides a funding source for the mitigation measures.

Dated: January 9, 1996.
Noreen K. Clough,
Regional Director.
[FR Doc. 96-3566 Filed 2-15-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) Contest

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Service announces the dates and locations of the 1996 Federal Duck Stamp Contest; the public is invited to attend.

DATES: 1. The 1996 contest opens for submission July 1, 1996.

2. The public may view the 1996 Federal Duck Stamp Contest entries on Tuesday, October 15, 1996, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in the Department of the Interior Auditorium.

3. This year's judging will be held from October 16-17, 1996, beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 16, and continuing at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 17.

4. Persons wishing to enter this year's contest may submit entries anytime after Monday, July 1, but *all* must be postmarked no later than midnight Sunday, September 15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Requests for complete copies of the regulations, reproduction rights and the display and participation agreements should be addressed to: Federal Duck Stamp Contest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW., Suite 2058, Washington, DC 20240.

Location of Contest: Department of the Interior Building, Auditorium (C Street entrance), 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. Lita F. Edwards, Telephone (202) 208-4354 or Fax (202) 208-6296.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following *five* eligible species for the 1996-97 duck stamp contest are as follows:

- (1) Canada Goose
- (2) Greater Scaup
- (3) Green-Winged Teal
- (4) Northern Pintail
- (5) Black Duck

The primary author of this document is Mrs. Lita F. Edwards, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Dated: February 6, 1996.
John G. Rogers, Jr.,
Director.
[FR Doc. 96-3562 Filed 2-15-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

Bureau of Land Management [CACA 35919]

California; Classification of Public Lands

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.
ACTION: Notice, CA-35919.

SUMMARY: The following described lands have been examined and found suitable for classification for recreation and public purposes under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) of June 14, 1926, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 et. seq.). The Bureau of Land Management will reclassify 160 acres of public land in San Bernardino County to facilitate the Colorado River Law Enforcement Shooting Range Project.

DATE: Comments must be received by April 1, 1996. Adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director.

ADDRESS: Bureau of Land Management, Area Manager, Needles Resource Area, 101 W. Spikes Road, Needles, California, 92363.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George R. Meckfessel, Planning & Environmental Coordinator, (619) 326-3896.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 9, 1996 a decision was made