

and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, or 45 CFR part 74, Administration of Grants to Non-Profit Recipients.

2. PHS Grants Policy Statement, and

3. Appropriate Cost Principles: OMB Circular A-21, Educational Institutions, OMB Circular A-87, State and Local Governments, and OMB Circular A-122, Non-profit Organizations.

L. Objective Review Process

Applications meeting eligibility requirements that are complete, responsive, and conform to this program announcement will be reviewed by an Objective Review Committee (ORC) in accordance with IHS objective review procedures. The objective review process ensures a nationwide competition for limited funding. The ORC will be comprised of IHS (40% or less) and other federal or non-federal individuals (60% or more) with appropriate expertise. The ORC will review each application against established criteria. Based upon the evaluation criteria, the reviewers will assign a numerical score to each application, which will be used in making the final funding decision. Approved applications scoring less than 60 points will not be considered for funding.

M. Results of the Review

The results of the objective review are forwarded to the Acting Associate Director, Office of Human Resources (OHR), for final review and approval. The Acting Associate Director, OHR, will also consider the recommendations from the Director, Division of Health Professions, Recruitment and Training, and the Grants Management Branch. Applicants are notified in writing on or about August 1, 1996. A Notice of Grant Award will be issued to successful applicants. Unsuccessful applicants are notified in writing of disapproval. A brief explanation of the reasons the application was not approved is provided along with the name of an IHS official to contact if more information is desired.

Dated: February 21, 1996.

Michael H. Trujillo,

Assistant Surgeon General Director.

[FR Doc. 96-4931 Filed 3-1-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit From Sage Development Company, LLC, Daphne, AL

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Sage Development Company, LLC, (Applicant), has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The proposed permit would authorize for a period of 30 years the incidental take of an endangered species, the Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*), known to occupy a 25.7-acre tract of land owned by the Applicant on the Fort Morgan Peninsula, Baldwin County, Alabama. The Application proposes to construct a project known as The Dunes, which will include 3 condominium complexes, 38 single family/duplex lots, their associated landscaped grounds and parking areas, recreational amenities, and dune walkover structures (Project).

The Service also announces the availability of an environmental assessment (EA) and habitat conservation plan (HCP) for the incidental take application. Copies of the EA or HCP may be obtained by making requests to the addresses below. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10^c of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act Regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the permit application, EA and HCP should be received on or before April 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing the Service's Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia. Persons wishing to review the EA or HCP may obtain a copy by writing the Regional Office or the Jackson, Mississippi, Field Office. Requests must be written to properly process requests. Documents will also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Regional Office, or the Field Office. Written data or comments concerning the application, EA, or HCP should be submitted to the Regional Office. Please reference permit under PRT-811416 in such comments.

Regional Permit Coordinator (TE),
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875

Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345, (telephone 404/679-7110, FAX 404/679-7081). Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A, Jackson, Mississippi 39213 (telephone 601/965-4900, FAX 601/965-4340).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Will McDearman at the above Jackson, Mississippi, Field Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Alabama beach mouse (ABM), *Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*, is a subspecies of the common oldfield mouse *Peromyscus polionotus* and is restricted to the dune systems of the Gulf Coast of Alabama. The known change of ABM extends from Fort Morgan eastward to the western terminus of Alabama Highway 182, including the Perdue Unit on the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge. The sand dune systems inhabited by this species are not uniform; several habitat types are distinguishable. The species inhabits primary dunes, interdune areas, secondary dunes, and scrub dunes. The depth and area of these habitats from the beach inland varies. Population surveys indicate that this subspecies is usually more abundant in primary dunes than in secondary dunes, and usually more abundant in secondary dunes than in scrub dunes. Optimal habitat consists of dune systems with all dune types. Though fewer ABM inhabit scrub dunes, these high dunes can serve as refugia during devastating hurricanes that overwash, flood, and destroy or alter secondary and frontal dunes. ABM surveys on the Applicant's property reveal habitat occupied by ABM. The Applicant's property contains designated critical habitat for the ABM. Construction of the Project may result in the death of, or injury to, ABM. Habitat alterations due to condominium placement and subsequent human habitation of the project may reduce available habitat for food, shelter, and reproduction.

The EA considers the environmental consequences of several alternatives. One action proposed is the issuance of the incidental take permit based upon submittal of the HCP as proposed. This alternative provides for restrictions that include placing no habitable structures seaward of the designated ABM critical habitat, establishment of walkover structures across designated critical habitat, a prohibition against housing or keeping pet cats, ABM competitor control and monitoring measures, scavenger-proof garbage containers, creation of educational and information brochures on ABM conservation, and

the minimization and control of outdoor lighting. Further, the HCP proposes to provide an endowment to acquire ABM habitat off-site or otherwise perform some other conservation measure for the ABM. The HCP provides a funding source for these mitigation measures. Another alternative is consideration of a different project design that further minimizes permanent loss of ABM habitat. A third alternative is no-action, or deny the request for authorization to incidentally take the ABM.

Dated: February 26, 1996.

Noreen K. Clough,
Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 96-4933 Filed 3-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for Timber Management Practices in Conecuh and Monroe Counties, Alabama by MacMillan Bloedel Timberlands, Incorporated

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: MacMillan Bloedel Timberlands, Incorporated, (Applicant) has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The proposed permit would authorize for a period of 30 years the incidental take of a threatened species, the Red Hills salamander, *Phaeognathus hubrichti*, known to occupy lands owned by the Applicant in Conecuh and Monroe Counties, south-central Alabama.

The Service also announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the incidental take application. The Applicant's HCP describes *Phaeognathus hubrichti* conservation measures to be employed to address the anticipated level of incidental take. The EA prepared by the Service describes the environmental consequences of issuing or denying the Applicant's request for an incidental take permit. As stated in the EA, the Service proposes to issue the requested permit. This proposal is based on a preliminary determination that the Applicant has satisfied the requirements for permit issuance and that the HCP provides conservation benefits to *Phaeognathus hubrichti*. This notice also advises the public that the Service has made a preliminary determination that issuing the incidental take permit is not a major

Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Finding of No Significant Impact is based on information contained in the EA and HCP. The final determination will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10⁶ of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act Regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). Copies of the EA and HCP may be obtained by making a written request to the Regional Office [See ADDRESSES below]. Note that requests must be in writing to be properly processed.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before April 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing the Service's Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia. Persons wishing to review the EA or HCP may obtain a copy by writing the Regional Office or the Jackson, Mississippi, Field Office. Documents will also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Regional Office, or the Field Office. Written data or comments concerning the application, EA, or HCP should be submitted to the Regional Office. Please reference permit number PRT-811415 in such comments:

Regional Permit Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia (404-679-7110, fax 404-679-7081)
Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A, Jackson, Mississippi 39213 (601-965-4900, fax 601-965-4340)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Will McDearman, Jackson, Mississippi Field Office or Rick Gooch at the Atlanta, Georgia Regional Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act, and implementing regulations, prohibits the take of threatened and endangered species. Take, in part, is defined as an activity that kills, injures, harms, or harasses a listed endangered or threatened species.

Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act provides an exemption, under certain circumstances, to the Section 9 prohibition if the taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of an otherwise lawful activities.

Phaeognathus hubrichti is a plethodontid salamander and the sole member of its genus. Its range is confined to a small area of southern Alabama. Portions of the Applicant's lands in the Red Hills physiographic

province of south-central Alabama are occupied by this species. According to the surveys identified in the HCP, the Applicant owns approximately 3,800 acres within the species' historic range in Conecuh and Monroe Counties. The Applicant's HCP attempts to define certain management prescriptions according to known occurrences of *Phaeognathus hubrichti* as well as the species' habitat selection preferences. The HCP identifies three habitat classifications: Optimal; Moderately Suitable; and Marginal. The Applicant owns approximately 1,200 acres; 1,300 acres; and 1,300 acres, respectively of each habitat type.

Within the Optimal habitats of the Applicant's properties encompassed by the HCP, either no timber harvests will occur or very limited single tree selections with at least 90 percent hardwood canopy maintained. To minimize impacts to the soil, any trees removed from optimal habitat will be felled by chain saw and pulled from the area by cable, or other applicable method with no heavy machinery permitted in the area.

Within the Moderately Suitable habitats of the Applicant's properties encompassed by the HCP, an increased level of selective cutting (followed by natural regeneration of tree species characteristic of *Phaeognathus hubrichti* habitat), provided hardwood canopy cover is not reduced by more than 35 percent.

Within the Marginal to Unsuitable habitats, options on these areas will include normal silvicultural practices, such as clearcutting, select tree harvest, chemical and mechanical site preparation, replanting, and prescribed burning. Clear-cut areas will be planted with pine or hardwood seedlings. Site preparation methods vary depending on the site but usually will include a combination of herbicides and fire. Although rotation lengths may change in the future due to economic and/or biological considerations, plantations are currently managed on a pulpwood/sawtimber rotation averaging 20-35 years. Prescribed burning rotations range from 3 to 7 years.

Pest or disease infested trees are removed from all habitat classification, if necessary, to prevent further infection of healthy trees. Forested buffers of approximately 50 feet width will be maintained above and below areas classified as *Phaeognathus hubrichti* Optimal habitat. Timber harvesting will be conducted within these buffers with at least 50 percent of the canopy cover maintained.

The HCP also contained funding for the development of an integrated