

Dated: May 14, 1997.

LaVeen Ponds,

Acting Committee Management Officer, NIH.
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center; Notice of Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors of the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center

Pursuant to Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors of the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center, May 28, 1997. The Executive Committee will meet on May 28 from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 12:30 p.m. in the Medical Board Room (2C116) of the Clinical Center (Building 10) 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland.

The meeting will be entirely open to the public and will discuss financial updates, the Clinical Center Strategic Plan feedback and prioritization, and agenda preparation for the next Board meeting. Attendance by the public will be limited to space available.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Maggi Stakem, Office of the Director, Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center, Building 10, Room 2C146, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 496-4114.

Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Ms. Stakem in advance of the meeting.

This notice is being published less than fifteen days prior to this meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

Dated: May 14, 1997.

LaVeen Ponds,

Acting Committee Management Officer, NIH.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact, and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the Regional Habitat Conservation Plan for the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker on Private Land in the East Texas Pineywoods

SUMMARY: The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Texas Forest Service (TFS) (applicants) have applied for an incidental take permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended. The requested permit would authorize the applicants to enter into Safe Harbor Cooperative Agreements, authorizing future take; and Isolated Group Cooperative Agreements authorizing take (subject to fulfilling mitigative requirements) of isolated groups of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*). Such take would be incidental to lawful land-use activities, such as timbering or residential development, on private and public land (excluding State and Federal land) in the Pineywoods region of east Texas. The permit would only authorize incidental take on specific lands enrolled in this program for which a respective Cooperative Agreement has been signed.

The geographic scope of the Texas red-cockaded woodpecker Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) encompasses the southeastern portion of the Pineywoods Ecoregion of Texas.

It generally consists of a 21-county area that includes all or parts of Angelina, Cherokee, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, and Walker counties. Lands potentially eligible for inclusion in the conservation plan include all privately-owned lands and public lands owned by cities, counties, and municipalities. Priority will be placed on securing Safe Harbor Cooperative Agreements with landowners where the land has the potential to benefit the red-cockaded woodpecker, particularly land with abandoned or inactive clusters, and that is near National Forests. Land in which red-cockaded woodpecker activity or potential habitat occurs outside of the specified geographic boundary may be considered for inclusion in the plan, although priority will be given to land

within the specified geographic region. The duration of the permit is 99 years.

This notice advises the public that the Service has opened the comment period on the permit application and the environmental assessment (EA). The Service specifically requests comment on the appropriateness of the "No Surprises" assurances contained in this application. The permit application includes the Regional Habitat Conservation Plan for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker on Private Land in East Texas (Texas RCW HCP); an Isolated Group incidental take addendum; two separate cooperative agreements with the Service; and two separate cooperative agreements with landowners. The EA package includes a draft EA, and a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which concludes 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 (NEPA) of 1969, as amended.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Act and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). The Service will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of NEPA regulations and section 10(a) of the Act. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the red-cockaded woodpecker subject to the provisions of the Texas RCW HCP. The final NEPA and permit determinations will not be completed until after the end of a 30-day comment period and will fully consider all comments received.

DATES: Written comments on the Texas RCW HCP, Isolated Group Addendum, EA, and draft FONSI must be received within 30 days of the date of publication.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to Mr. Jeffrey A. Reid, Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 701 N. First Street, Lufkin, Texas 75901. Please refer to the Texas RCW HCP when submitting comments. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jeffrey A. Reid, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at the address above or telephone (409) 639-8546. Individuals wishing copies of the documents should contact Mr. Reid. Please refer to Texas