

for the documents must be in writing to be adequately processed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rick G. Gooch, Regional Permit Coordinator, Atlanta, Georgia (see ADDRESSES above), telephone: 404/679-7110; or Mr. Jay Herrington at the Jacksonville, Florida, Field Office (see ADDRESSES above), telephone: 904/232-2580.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Aphelocoma coerulescens is geographically isolated from other species of scrub-jays found in Mexico and the Western United States. The Florida scrub-jay is found exclusively in peninsular Florida and is restricted to scrub habitat. The total estimated population is between 7,000 and 11,000 individuals. Due to habitat loss and degradation throughout the state of Florida, it has been estimated that the Florida scrub-jay population has been reduced by at least half in the last 100 years. Surveys indicate that one family of Florida scrub-jays inhabits the Project site. Construction of the Project's infrastructure and subsequent construction of the condominium will likely result in the death of, or injury to, *Aphelocoma coerulescens* incidental to the carrying out of the otherwise lawful activities. Habitat alteration associated with property development will reduce the availability of feeding, shelter, and nesting habitat.

The EA considers the consequences of the three alternatives. The first alternative, the proposed action alternative, is issuance of an ITP with the requirement that all lost habitat be mitigated by replacement via acquisition of habitat off of the barrier island. Further, this alternative provides for restrictions of construction activity, purchase of offsite habitat for the Florida scrub-jay, establishment of an endowment fund for managing the offsite acquired habitat, and donation of the additional offsite habitat. The HCP provides a funding mechanism for these mitigation measures. The second alternative is issuance of an ITP with mitigation on the barrier island. Cumulative impacts of historical development has left the remaining scrub habitat extremely fragmented and spatially isolated. Consequently, predation rates have increased and reproductive success has decreased. This alternative discusses the consequences of this mitigation approach to the overall success of achieving effective habitat/species replacement. The no action alternative may result in loss of habitat for *Aphelocoma coerulescens* and exposure of the applicant to Section 9 of the Act.

As stated above, the Service has made a preliminary determination that the issuance of an amended ITP is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA. This preliminary information may be revised due to public comment received in response to this notice and is based on information contained in the EA, HCP, and appropriate amendments. An appropriate excerpt from the FONSI reflecting the Service's finding on the application is provided below:

Based on the analysis conducted by the Service, it has been determined that:

1. Issuance of an ITP would not have significant effects on the human environment in the project area.
2. The proposed take is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity.
3. The applicant has ensured that adequate additional funding will be provided to implement the measures proposed in the submitted HCP.
4. Other than impacts to endangered and threatened species as outlined in the documentation of this decision, the indirect impacts which may result from issuance of the ITP are addressed by other regulations and statutes under the jurisdiction of other government entities. The validity of the Service's ITP is contingent upon the Applicant's compliance with the terms of his permit and all other laws and regulations under the control of State, local, and other Federal governmental entities.

The Service will also evaluate whether the issuance of the amended Section 10(a)(1)(B) ITP complies with Section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service Section 7 consultation. The results of the biological opinions, in combination with the above findings, will be used in the final analysis to determine whether or not to issue this ITP.

Dated: March 20, 1998.

H. Dale Hall,

Deputy Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 98-7885 Filed 3-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

United States Geological Survey

Technology Transfer Act of 1986

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey.

ACTION: Notice of proposed cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) negotiations.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is contemplating entering into a

2-year Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with Esso Explorations Inc., to complete and publicly release in digital form, a map of sedimentary basins of the world. The VZG Research Institution in Moscow, Russia, originally produced a paper copy of this map but because of financial reasons, had to stop work on producing it in digital form. Under this CRADA, Esso Exploration Inc. will participate in the compilation, act as technical advisor/editor, provide GIS formats, and support the project financially. The U.S. Geological Survey will acquire data, finish compiling, and prepare the map in full digital GIS format. The map will be released to the public upon completion.

ADDRESSES: If any other parties are interested in participating in this CRADA or in similar activities with the USGS, please contact: Dr. Thomas S. Ahlbrandt, Central Energy Resources Team, Box 25046, MS 939, Denver, Colorado 80225; telephone (303) 236-5776; E-mail:ahlbrandt@usgs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is to meet the USGS requirement stipulated in the Survey Manual.

Dated: March 6, 1998.

P. Patrick Leahy,

Chief, Geologic Division.

[FR Doc. 98-7861 Filed 3-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-31-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-933-98-1320-01; COC 61653]

Colorado; Notice of Invitation for Coal Exploration License Application, Bowie Resources Limited

Pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended, and to Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart 3410, members of the public are hereby invited to participate with Bowie Resources Limited in a program for the exploration of unleased coal deposits owned by the United States of America in the following described lands located in Delta County, Colorado:

T. 13 S., R.91 W., 6th P.M.

Sec. 2, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 3, lots 1 to 3, inclusive, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 11, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

The area described contains approximately 562.31 acres.

The application for coal exploration license is available for public inspection during normal business hours under serial number COC 61653 at the Bureau