

statutory maximum interest rate for the period beginning July 1, 2005, is 4½ percent; and (2) has approved the establishment of the debenture interest rate by the Secretary of HUD at 4½ percent for the 6-month period beginning July 1, 2005. This interest rate will be the rate borne by debentures issued with respect to any insured loan or mortgage (except for debentures issued pursuant to section 221(g)(4) with insurance commitment or endorsement date (as applicable) within the latter 6 months of 2005.

For convenience of reference, HUD is publishing the following chart of debenture interest rates applicable to mortgages committed or endorsed since January 1, 1980:

Effective interest rate	On or after	Prior to
9½	Jan. 1, 1980	July 1, 1980.
9⅞	July 1, 1980	Jan. 1, 1981.
11¼	Jan. 1, 1981	July 1, 1981.
12⅞	July 1, 1981	Jan. 1, 1982.
12¾	Jan. 1, 1982	Jan. 1, 1983.
10¼	Jan. 1, 1983	July 1, 1983.
10⅞	July 1, 1983	Jan. 1, 1984.
11½	Jan. 1, 1984	July 1, 1984.
13⅞	July 1, 1984	Jan. 1, 1985.
11⅞	Jan. 1, 1985	July 1, 1985.
11½	July 1, 1985	Jan. 1, 1986.
10¼	Jan. 1, 1986	July 1, 1986.
8¼	July 1, 1986	Jan. 1, 1987.
8	Jan. 1, 1987	July 1, 1987.
9	July 1, 1987	Jan. 1, 1988.
9⅞	Jan. 1, 1988	July 1, 1988.
9⅞	July 1, 1988	Jan. 1, 1989.
9¼	Jan. 1, 1989	July 1, 1989.
9	July 1, 1989	Jan. 1, 1990.
8⅞	Jan. 1, 1990	July 1, 1990.
9	July 1, 1990	Jan. 1, 1991.
8¾	Jan. 1, 1991	July 1, 1991.
8½	July 1, 1991	Jan. 1, 1992.
8	Jan. 1, 1992	July 1, 1992.
8	July 1, 1992	Jan. 1, 1993.
7¾	Jan. 1, 1993	July 1, 1993.
7	July 1, 1993	Jan. 1, 1994.
6⅞	Jan. 1, 1994	July 1, 1994.
7¾	July 1, 1994	Jan. 1, 1995.
8⅞	Jan. 1, 1995	July 1, 1995.
7¼	July 1, 1995	Jan. 1, 1996.
6½	Jan. 1, 1996	July 1, 1996.
7¼	July 1, 1996	Jan. 1, 1997.
6¾	Jan. 1, 1997	July 1, 1997.
7⅞	July 1, 1997	Jan. 1, 1998.
6⅞	Jan. 1, 1998	July 1, 1998.
6⅞	July 1, 1998	Jan. 1, 1999.
5½	Jan. 1, 1999	July 1, 1999.
6⅞	July 1, 1999	Jan. 1, 2000.
6½	Jan. 1, 2000	July 1, 2000.
6½	July 1, 2000	Jan. 1, 2001.
6	Jan. 1, 2001	July 1, 2001.
5⅞	July 1, 2001	Jan. 1, 2002.
5¼	Jan. 1, 2002	July 1, 2002.
5¾	July 1, 2002	Jan. 1, 2003.
5	Jan. 1, 2003	July 1, 2003.
4½	July 1, 2003	Jan. 1, 2004.
5⅞	Jan. 1, 2004	July 1, 2004.
5½	July 1, 2004	Jan. 1, 2005.
4⅞	Jan. 1, 2005	July 1, 2005.

Effective interest rate	On or after	Prior to
4½	July 1, 2005	Jan. 1, 2006.

Section 215 of Title II of Division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004 (Pub. L. 108-199, approved January 23, 2004) amended section 224 of the Act, to change the debenture interest rate for purposes of calculating certain insurance claim payments made in cash. Therefore, effective immediately, for all claims paid in cash on mortgages insured under section 203 or 234 of the National Housing Act and endorsed for insurance after January 23, 2004, the debenture interest rate will be the monthly average yield, for the month in which the default on the mortgage occurred, on United States Treasury Securities adjusted to a constant maturity of 10 years, as found in Federal Reserve Statistical Release H-15. The FHA is in the process of making conforming amendments to applicable regulations to fully implement this recent change to section 224 of the Act.

Section 221(g)(4) of the Act provides that debentures issued pursuant to that paragraph (with respect to the assignment of an insured mortgage to the Secretary) will bear interest at the “going Federal rate” in effect at the time the debentures are issued. The term “going Federal rate” is defined to mean the interest rate that the Secretary of the Treasury determines, pursuant to a statutory formula based on the average yield on all outstanding marketable Treasury obligations of 8- to 12-year maturities, for the 6-month periods of January through June and July through December of each year. Section 221(g)(4) is implemented in the HUD regulations at 24 CFR 221.255 and 24 CFR 221.790.

The Secretary of the Treasury has determined that the interest rate to be borne by debentures issued pursuant to section 221(g)(4) during the 6-month period beginning July 1, 2005, is 4⅞ percent.

HUD expects to publish its next notice of change in debenture interest rates in January 2006.

The subject matter of this notice falls within the categorical exemption from HUD’s environmental clearance procedures set forth in 24 CFR 50.19(c)(6). For that reason, no environmental finding has been prepared for this notice.

(Authority: Sections 211, 221, 224, National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1715b, 1715l, 1715o; Section 7(d), Department of HUD Act, 42 U.S.C. 3535(d)).

Dated: August 26, 2005.

Brian D. Montgomery,
Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Safe Harbor Agreement and Receipt of Application for an Enhancement of Survival Permit Associated With the Restoration of Habitat and Reintroduction of Utah Prairie Dogs on Private Land in Sevier County, UT

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Mr. Mitchel Pace (Applicant/Cooperator) has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an Enhancement of Survival Permit (ESP) for the Utah prairie dog pursuant to section 10(a)1(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), as amended (Act). This permit application includes a proposed Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) between the Applicant and the Service. The proposed SHA and permit would become effective upon signature of the SHA and would remain in effect for 25 years. This notice is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), section 10 of the Act, and the Service’s Safe Harbor Policy (64 FR 32717). The Service requests information, views, and opinions from the public via this notice. Further, the Service is soliciting information regarding the adequacy of the SHA as measured against the Service’s Safe Harbor Policy and the regulations that implement it.

DATES: Written comments on the permit application must be received on or before October 7, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the proposed SHA and the permit application may obtain copies by writing the Service’s Mountain-Prairie Regional Office, Denver, Colorado. Documents also will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Regional Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 134 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807, or the Utah Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2369 West Orton Circle, West Valley City, Utah 84119. Written data or comments concerning the proposed SHA and/or permit application must be submitted to the Regional Office and must be in

writing to be processed. Comments must be submitted in writing to be adequately considered in the Service's decision-making process. Please reference permit number TE-106063 in your comments, or in the request for the documents discussed herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pat Mehlhop, Regional Safe Harbor Coordinator (see **ADDRESSES**), telephone (303) 236-4215, or Henry Maddux, Utah Field Supervisor (see **ADDRESSES**), telephone (801) 975-3330.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Utah prairie dog is the westernmost member of the genus *Cynomys*. The species' range, which is limited to the southwestern quarter of Utah, is the most restricted of all prairie dog species in the United States. Distribution of the Utah prairie dog has been greatly reduced due to disease (plague), poisoning, drought, and human-related habitat alteration. Protection of this species and enhancement of its habitat on private land will benefit recovery efforts.

The primary objective of this proposed SHA is to implement voluntary conservation measures to benefit the species and the landowner. Through this agreement, the landowner will receive relief from any section 9 liability under the Act beyond that which exists at the time the agreement is signed ("regulatory baseline"). The private land immediately to the south of the property contains an active Utah prairie dog colony approximately 2 hectares (5 acres) in size. This colony abuts the fence line, but does not extend onto the property to be addressed in the proposed SHA due to unsuitable habitat. To benefit the Utah prairie dog, foraging and visual surveillance habitat will be enhanced by thinning decadent stands of brush and by increasing forage quantity and quality using mechanical and herbicidal treatments and reseeding native grasses and forbs. The habitat improvements will be maintained throughout the term of the permit through managed grazing, additional brush treatments if necessary, and to some degree by the Utah prairie dogs themselves. The Cooperator will receive an ESP that authorizes incidental take of the covered species above the Cooperator's baseline responsibilities, as defined in the SHA.

The Service has evaluated the impacts of this action under the NEPA and determined that it warrants categorical exclusion as described 516 DM 6, Appendix 1, section 1.4 C.(1). The Service will evaluate whether the issuance of the ESP complies with section 7 of the Act by conducting an

intra-Service section 7 consultation on the issuance of the permit. The result of the biological opinion, in combination with the above finding and any public comments will be used in the final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the requested ESP, pursuant to the regulations that guide issuance of the type of permit.

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*).

Dated: July 26, 2005.

Elliott N. Sutta,

Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of Four Applications for Incidental Take Permits for Construction of Single-Family Homes in Brevard County, FL

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Eugene T. Butler, Carlos E. Gauthier, Robert Moren, and Kheino A. Phidd (Applicants) individually request an incidental take permit (ITP) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), as amended (Act). The Applicants anticipate taking a combined total of about 1.03 acres of Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) (scrub-jay) foraging, sheltering, and possibly nesting habitat incidental to lot preparation for the construction of single-family homes and supporting infrastructure in Brevard County, Florida (Projects). Requested permit duration is one year for all applicants, except for Moren, who requests a 10-year permit term. The destruction of 1.03 acre of foraging, sheltering, and possibly nesting habitat is expected to result in the take of three families of scrub-jays.

Each of the Applicants' Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) describe the mitigation and minimization measures proposed to address the effects of the proposed Project to the Florida scrub-jay. These measures are outlined in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below. We have determined that each Applicant's proposal, including the proposed mitigation and minimization measures, will individually and cumulatively have a minor or negligible

effect on the species covered in the HCPs. Therefore, the ITPs are "low-effect" projects and qualify as categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as provided by the Department of Interior Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6, Appendix 1). We announce the availability of the HCPs for the incidental take applications. Copies of the HCPs may be obtained by making a request to the Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). Requests must be in writing to be processed. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the ITP applications and HCPs should be sent to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**) and should be received on or before October 7, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the applications and HCPs may obtain a copy by writing the Service's Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia. Please reference permit number TE099682-0, for Butler, number TE099683-0, for Gauthier, number TE099684-0, for Moren, and number TE099685-0, for Phidd, in such requests. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Endangered Species Permits), or Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6620 Southpoint Drive South, Suite 310, Jacksonville, Florida 32216-0912.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Dell, Regional HCP Coordinator, (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 404/679-7313, facsimile: 404/679-7081; or Ms. Paula Sisson, General Biologist, Jacksonville Field Office, Jacksonville, Florida (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 904/232-2580, ext. 126.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of several methods. Please reference permit number TE099682-0, for Butler, number TE099683-0, for Gauthier, number TE099684-0, for Moren, and number TE099685-0, for Phidd, in such comments. You may mail comments to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). You may also comment via the Internet to http://www.david_dell@fws.gov. Please submit comments over the internet as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from us that we have received your