We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability of an incidental take permit (ITP) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Mr. Aguirre (applicant) requests an ITP pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The applicant anticipates taking about 0.23 acre of Florida scrub-jay (Aphelocoma coerulescens) (scrub-jay) foraging and sheltering habitat incidental to lot preparation for the construction of a single-family residence and supporting infrastructure in Charlotte County, Florida (project). The applicant’s HCP describes the mitigation and minimization measures proposed to address the effects of the project on the scrub-jay.

DATES: We must receive your written comments on the ITP application and HCP on or before May 12, 2008.

ADDRESSES: See the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section below for information on how to submit your comments on the ITP application and HCP. You may obtain a copy of the ITP application and HCP by writing the South Florida Ecological Services Office, Attn: Permit number TE172415-0, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960–3559. If you have any questions about this notice, you can contact the Field Supervisor, South Florida Ecological Services Office, (772) 562–3909, ext. 232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In this notice, we provide an initial determination that the application meets the requirements of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). We may issue the ITP for incidental take of the scrub-jay if our analysis determines that the proposed mitigation and minimization measures will have a minor or negligible effect on the species covered in the HCP. Therefore, the ITP is a “low-effect” project and qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as provided by the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2 Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6 Appendix 1). Low-effect HCPs are those involving (1) minor or negligible effects on federally listed or candidate species and their habitats and (2) minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources.

Based on our review of public comments on this notice, we may revise this preliminary determination. We will evaluate the HCP and comments submitted to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). If we determine that the application meets the requirements, we will issue the ITP for incidental take of the scrub-jay. We will also evaluate whether issuance of the section 10(a)(1)(B) ITP complies with section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service section 7 consultation. We will use the results of this consultation, in combination with the above findings, in the final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the ITP.

Authority: We provide this notice pursuant to Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: March 7, 2008.

Paul Souza,
Field Supervisor, South Florida Ecological Services Office.
[FR Doc. E8–7564 Filed 4–9–08; 8:45 am]
Background

Section 4(g) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) instructs the Secretary to implement a system in cooperation with the states to monitor effectively for not less than five years the status of any species that is delisted due to recovery. The intent of this monitoring is to determine whether the species should be proposed for relisting under the normal listing procedures, relisted under the emergency listing authority of the Act, or kept off of the list because it remains neither threatened nor endangered. For the Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment of the Gray Wolf [71 FR 15266; (March 27, 2006)], the Monitoring Plan focuses on reviewing and evaluating (1) population characteristics of the DPS, (2) threats to the DPS, and (3) implementation of legal and management commitments that are important in reducing threats to the DPS or maintaining threats at sufficiently low levels.

For the delisted DPS, focusing the Monitoring Plan on these three aspects is necessary and sufficient to ensure that the DPS does not decrease to the point of again meeting the definition of threatened or endangered without an appropriate and timely response from the Service. Winter and late-winter estimates of wolf populations in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan have demonstrated that wolves in the DPS have surpassed their numerical recovery criteria for a sufficient period due to a reduction in threats over the last 25 years. The protection and management of wolves by states, tribes, and federal land management agencies will be critical in conserving the DPS.

Since delisting, state and tribal laws and regulations have become the primary mechanism to protect wolves from their primary former threat—excessive human-caused mortality.

The Monitoring Plan for the DPS will be focused within the borders of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula (UP) of Michigan, where wolf populations have attained the numerical recovery criteria specified in the Recovery Plan for the Eastern Timber Wolf. The delisting of the DPS was based on wolf recovery in those states. Therefore, it is not necessary to conduct intensive monitoring in other parts of the DPS. The Service is interested, however, in reviewing any data regarding the existence of individual wolves or wolf populations outside of the core recovery areas, especially in the Northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Additionally, the Service is interested in obtaining disease and parasite data from wolves found in other portions of the DPS that may suggest a new or increasing threat that may impact wolves in the core recovery areas.

On June 4, 2007, the Service announced the availability of its draft plan to monitor the WGLDPS of the Gray Wolf for public review and comment (72 FR 30819). After the comment period closed on July 5, 2007, the Service reviewed each comment received and prepared responses to substantive comments. The Service posted those comments and its responses on the Internet—see http://www.fws.gov/midwest/wolf/pdm/.

Author

The primary author of this notice of document availability is Phil Delphey (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section).

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).


Charlie Wooley,
Deputy Regional Director, Midwest Region.

[FR Doc. E8–7570 Filed 4–9–08; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management


Alaska Native Claims Selection

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of decision approving lands for conveyance.

SUMMARY: As required by 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that an appealable decision approving lands for conveyance pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will be issued to Ounalashka Corporation. The lands are in the vicinity of Unalaska, Alaska, and are located in:

U.S. Survey No. 8426, Alaska.

Containing 109.95 acres.

Seward Meridian, Alaska

T. 74 S., R. 116 W., Secs. 5, 6, and 10; Secs. 9, 10, 11, and 12; Secs. 20, 21, and 22.

Containing approximately 2,470 acres.

T. 72 S., R. 118 W., Sec. 19.

Containing approximately 637 acres.

T. 72 S., R. 119 W., Sec. 7. 18, and 19.

Containing approximately 1,855 acres.

Aggregating approximately 17,491 acres.

The subsurface estate in these lands will be conveyed to The Aleut Corporation when the surface estate is conveyed to Ounalashka Corporation. Notice of the decision will also be published four times in the Dutch Harbor Fisherman.

DATES: The time limits for filing an appeal are:

1. Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision shall have until May 12, 2008 to file an appeal.

2. Parties receiving service of the decision by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal.

Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the decision may be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513–7504.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Bureau of Land Management by phone at 907–271–5960, or by e-mail at ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunication device (TTD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a...