

- Regulation: 24 CFR 984.303(d).

*Project/Activity:* Ithica Housing Authority (IHA), Ithica, NY.

*Nature of Requirement:* HUD's regulation at 24 CFR 984.303(d) limits the extension of a family self-sufficiency (FSS) contract by a public housing agency to two years beyond the initial five-year term.

*Granted By:* Sandra B. Henriquez, Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

*Date Granted:* October 1, 2012.

*Reason Waived:* This waiver was granted due to allow the FSS participant, a person with disabilities who had a series of physical injuries during the term of her FSS contract, to complete her education and employment goals. An additional year was granted.

*Contact:* Laure Rawson, Director, Housing Voucher Management and Operations Division, Office of Public Housing and Voucher Programs, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 4210, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 708-0477.

- Regulation: 24 CFR 985.105(d).

*Project/Activity:* Mid-Iowa Regional Housing Authority (MIRHA), Fort Dodge, IA.

*Nature of Requirement:* HUD's regulation at 24 CFR 985.105(d) states that HUD must conduct an on-site confirmatory review of a public housing authority's performance before changing any annual overall performance rating from troubled to standard or high performer under the Section Eight Management Assessment Program.

*Granted By:* Sandra B. Henriquez, Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

*Date Granted:* November 6, 2012.

*Reason Waived:* HUD granted the waiver because, pursuant to the on-site assessment, a corrective action plan was submitted and approved. Documentation regarding a quality control policy procedure and the use and provision of such logs verified to the HUD field office the correction of the failed indicators and, therefore, an additional review was not warranted.

*Contact:* Laure Rawson, Director, Housing Voucher Management and Operations Division, Office of Public Housing and Voucher Programs, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 4210, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 708-0477.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R4-ES-2013-N056;  
FXES11130400000EA-123-FF04EF1000]

### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Receipt of Application for Incidental Take Permit; Availability of Proposed Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan; Volusia County Council—Engineering, Volusia County, FL

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received an application from Volusia County Council—Engineering (applicant), for a 2-year incidental take permit (ITP; # TE98767A-0) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). We request public comment on the permit application and accompanying proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP), as well as on our preliminary determination that the plan qualifies as low-effect under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). To make this determination, we used our environmental action statement and low-effect screening form, which are also available for review.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by April 8, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** If you wish to review the application and HCP, you may request documents by email, U.S. mail, or phone (see below). These documents are also available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the office below. Send your comments or requests by any one of the following methods.

*Email:* northflorida@fws.gov. Use “Attn: Permit number TE98767A-0” as your message subject line.

*Fax:* Dawn Jennings, Acting Field Supervisor, (904) 731-3045, Attn.: Permit number TE98767A-0.

*U.S. mail:* Dawn Jennings, Acting Field Supervisor, Jacksonville Ecological Services Field Office, Attn: Permit number TE98767A-0, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

*In-person drop-off:* You may drop off information during regular business hours at the above office address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Erin M. Gawera, telephone: (904) 731-3121; email: [erin\\_gawera@fws.gov](mailto:erin_gawera@fws.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

## Background

Section 9 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and our implementing Federal regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17 prohibit the “take” of fish or wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. Take of listed fish or wildlife is defined under the Act as “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct” (16 U.S.C. 1532). However, under limited circumstances, we issue permits to authorize incidental take—i.e., take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity.

Regulations governing incidental take permits for threatened and endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.32 and 17.22, respectively. The Act’s take prohibitions do not apply to federally listed plants on private lands unless such take would violate State law. In addition to meeting other criteria, an incidental take permit’s proposed actions must not jeopardize the existence of federally listed fish, wildlife, or plants.

## Applicant’s Proposal

The applicant is requesting take of approximately 0.87 acres (ac) of Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*)-occupied habitat incidental to construction of a pedestrian trail. The 1.96-ac project is located on the Blue Springs State Park property (parcel #08-18-30-00-0010), within Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, and 17, Township 18 South, Range 30 East, Volusia County, Florida. The applicant’s HCP describes the mitigation and minimization measures the applicant proposes to address the effects of the project to the Florida scrub-jay.

## Our Preliminary Determination

We have determined that the applicant’s proposal, including the proposed mitigation and minimization measures, would have minor or negligible effects on the species covered in the HCP. Therefore, we determined that the ITP is a low-effect project and qualifies for 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). A low-effect HCP is one 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.

## Next Steps

We will evaluate the HCP and comments we receive to determine

whether the ITP 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 these requirements, we will issue the ITP. 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 our final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the ITP. If the requirements are met, we will issue the permit to the applicant.

#### Public Comments

If you wish to comment on the permit application, HCP, and associated documents, you may submit comments by any one of the methods in **ADDRESSES**.

#### Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

#### Authority

We provide this notice under Section 10 of the Act and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: March 1, 2013.

#### Dawn Jennings,

*Acting Field Supervisor, Jacksonville Field Office, Southeast Region.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-HQ-IA-2013-N055;  
FXIA1671090000P5-123-FF09A30000]

##### Endangered Species; Receipt of Applications for Permit

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of applications for permit.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act

(ESA) prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is acquired that allows such activities.

**DATES:** We must receive comments or requests for documents on or before April 8, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** Brenda Tapia, Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, VA 22203; fax (703) 358-2280; or email *DMAFR@fws.gov*.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brenda Tapia, (703) 358-2104 (telephone); (703) 358-2280 (fax); *DMAFR@fws.gov* (email).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Public Comment Procedures

*A. How do I request copies of applications or comment on submitted applications?*

Send your request for copies of applications or comments and materials concerning any of the applications to the contact listed under **ADDRESSES**. Please include the **Federal Register** notice publication date, the PRT-number, and the name of the applicant in your request or submission. We will not consider requests or comments sent to an email or address not listed under **ADDRESSES**. If you provide an email address in your request for copies of applications, we will attempt to respond to your request electronically.

Please make your requests or comments as specific as possible. Please confine your comments to issues for which we seek comments in this notice, and explain the basis for your comments. Include sufficient information with your comments to allow us to authenticate any scientific or commercial data you include.

The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are: (1) Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and (2) Those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations. We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**) or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above (see **ADDRESSES**).

*B. May I review comments submitted by others?*

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the street address listed under **ADDRESSES**. The public may review documents and other information applicants have sent in

support of the application unless our allowing viewing would violate the Privacy Act or Freedom of Information Act. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

#### II. Background

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and in consideration of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), along with Executive Order 13576, “Delivering an Efficient, Effective, and Accountable Government,” and the President’s Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies of January 21, 2009—Transparency and Open Government (74 FR 4685; January 26, 2009), which call on all Federal agencies to promote openness and transparency in Government by disclosing information to the public, we invite public comment on these permit applications before final action is taken.

#### III. Permit Applications

##### A. Endangered Species

Applicant: Montana State University, Department of Ecology, Bozeman, MT; PRT-94913A

The applicant requests a permit to collect samples from wild populations of cheetah, (*Acinonyx jubatus*) and African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*), for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species/scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Adam Hunt, Centerville, UT; PRT-97815A

The applicant requests renewal of their captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the radiated tortoise (*Astrochelys radiata*), to enhance their propagation or survival. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Blue Diablo LLC, Blanco, TX; PRT-97758A

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the scimitar-horned oryx (*Oryx dammah*), addax (*Addax*