DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
FXES11120400000–167–FF04EF2000]
Endangered and Threatened Wildlife
Plants; Receipt of Application for
an Incidental Take Permit; Availability
of Low-Effect Habitat Conservation
Plan and Associated Documents;
Highlands County, FL
AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice of availability; request for
comment/information.
SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the
availability of an incidental take permit (ITP) and a Habitat Conservation
Plan (HCP). Palmetto Lake Placid, LLC (applicant) requests ITP TE63688B–0
proposed minimization measures and mitigation measures to address the
effects of development on the covered species.
DATES: We must receive your written comments on the ITP application and
HCP on or before January 15, 2016.
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 to the
South Florida Ecological Services
Office, Attn: Permit number TE63688B–0,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1339
20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960–3559.
In addition, we will make the ITP
application and HCP available for
public inspection by appointment
during normal business hours at the
above address.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Elizabeth Landrum, South Florida
Ecological Services Office (see
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Submitting Comments
If you wish to comment on the ITP
application or HCP, you may submit
comments by any one of the following
methods:
Email: elizabeth_landrum@fws.gov.
Use “Attn: Permit number “TE63688B–0”
as your message subject line.
Fax: Elizabeth Landrum, 772–469–
4304. Attn: Permit number “TE63688B–0”
U.S. mail: Elizabeth Landrum, South
Florida Ecological Services Field Office,
Attn: Permit number “TE63688B–0,”
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1339
20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960–3559.
In-person drop-off: You may drop off
comments or request information during
regular business hours at the above
office address.
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 request in your
comments that your personal
identifying information be withheld
from public review, we cannot
guarantee that we will be able to do so.
Applicant’s Proposed Project

We received an application from the applicant for an incidental take permit, along with a proposed habitat conservation plan. The applicant requests an ITP under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). If we approve the application, the applicant anticipates taking a total of approximately 0.87 acres of skink breeding, feeding, and sheltering habitat, incidental to land preparation and construction in Section 17, Township 37 South, Range 30 East, Highlands County, Florida. The applicant plans to begin construction as soon as the ITP is approved. Development of this parcel will include construction of one structure, parking areas, stormwater retention areas, and installation of associated utilities.

The applicant proposes to minimize impacts to skinks by preserving a total of 1.80 acres of skink-occupied habitat at a Service-approved conservation bank. The Service listed the skinks as threatened in 1987 (November 6, 1987; 52 FR 20715), effective December 7, 1987.

Our Preliminary Determination

The Service has made a preliminary determination that the applicant’s project, including the mitigation measures, will individually and cumulatively have a minor or negligible effect on the species covered in the HCP. Therefore, issuance of the ITP is a “low-effect” action and qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1506.6), as provided by the Department of the Interior (516 DM 2 Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6 Appendix 1). We base our preliminary determination that issuance of the ITP qualifies as a low-effect action on the following three criteria: (1) Implementation of the project would result in minor or negligible effects on federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and their habitats; (2) Implementation of the project would result in minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources; and (3) Impacts of the project, considered together with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable similarly situated projects, would not result, over time, in cumulative effects to environmental values or resources that would be considered significant. This preliminary determination may be revised based on our review of public comments that we receive in response to this notice.

Next Steps

The Service will evaluate the HCP and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act. The Service 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. The results of this consultation, in combination with the above findings, will be used in the final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the ITP. If it is determined that the requirements of the Act are met, the ITP will be issued.

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

Dated: December 7, 2015.

Roxanna Hinzman, Field Supervisor, South Florida Ecological Services Office.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Availability of Proposed Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plans, Brevard and Putnam Counties, FL

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comment/information.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received two applications for incidental take permits (ITPs) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Jellyfish Realty, LLC requests a 5-year ITP; and Vulcan Materials Company requests a 20-year ITP. We request public comment on the permit applications and accompanying proposed habitat conservation plans (HCPs), as well as on our preliminary determination that the plans qualify 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 January 15, 2016.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to review the applications and HCPs, 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 TE82957B–0” as your message subject line for Jellyfish Realty, LLC; and “Attn: Permit number TE82956B–0” for Vulcan Materials Company.

Fax: Field Supervisor, (904) 731–3191, Attn: Permit number [Insert permit number].

U.S. mail: Field Supervisor, Jacksonville Ecological Services Field Office, Attn: Permit number [Insert permit number], 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.

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.

Applicants’ Proposals

Jellyfish Realty, LLC

Jellyfish Realty, LLC is requesting take of approximately .53 acre of occupied Florida scrub-jay foraging and sheltering habitat incidental to construction of a veterinary clinic, and they seek a 5-year permit. The .54-acre project is located on parcel number 27–37–06–25–