

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service**

[Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2025-0082; FXES11140400000-256-FF04EF4000]

**Receipt of Incidental Take Permit Application and Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan for the Sand Skink and Blue-tailed Mole Skink; Polk County, FL; Categorical Exclusion**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from Lennar Homes (Smokey Groves) (applicant) for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act. The applicant requests the ITP to take the federally listed threatened sand skink and blue-tailed mole skink incidental to the construction of a mixed density residential development in Polk County, Florida. We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant's proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP), and on the Service's preliminary determination that the proposed permitting action may be eligible for a categorical exclusion pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of Interior's (DOI) NEPA regulations, and the DOI Departmental Manual (DM). To make this preliminary determination, we prepared a draft screening form and NEPA statement for HCPs, which is available for public review. We invite comment from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies.

**DATES:** We must receive your written comments on or before October 14, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Obtaining Documents:* The documents this notice announces, as well as any comments and other materials that we receive, will be available for public inspection online in Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2025-0082; at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

*Submitting Comments:* If you wish to submit comments on any of the documents, you may do so in writing by one of the following methods:

- *Online:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2025-0082;

- *U.S. mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2025-0082; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB/3W, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Erin Gawera, by U.S. mail (see **ADDRESSES**), by telephone at 904-404-2464 or via email at [erin\\_gawera@fws.gov](mailto:erin_gawera@fws.gov). Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from Lennar Homes (Smokey Groves) (applicant) for an ITP under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The applicant requests the ITP to take federally listed sand skinks (*Neoseps (=Plestiodon) reynoldsi*) and blue-tailed mole skinks (*Eumeces egerrigius lividus*) (skinks) incidental to the construction and operation of a mixed density residential development in Polk County, Florida. We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant's HCP, and on the Service's preliminary determination that this proposed ITP may qualify for a categorical exclusion pursuant to NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), DOI's NEPA regulations (43 CFR part 46), and the DOI's Departmental Manual (516 DM 8.5(C)(2)). To make this preliminary determination, we prepared a draft screening form and NEPA statement for HCPs, both of which are available for public review.

**Proposed Project**

The applicant requests a 15-year ITP to take skinks via the conversion of approximately 9.71 acres (ac) of occupied nesting, foraging, and sheltering skink habitat incidental to the construction and operation of a mixed density residential development on 279.50-acres, Parcel #s 28-28-17-000000-033000, 28-28-18-000000-010000, 28-28-08-000000-044030, and 28-28-07-000000-022010 in Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17 & 18, Township 28 South, Range 28 East, Polk County, Florida. The applicant proposes to mitigate for take of the skinks by purchasing credits equivalent to 19.42 ac of skink-occupied habitat within a Service-approved conservation bank. The Service would require the applicant to purchase the credits prior to engaging in any phase of the project.

**Our Preliminary Determination**

The Service has made a preliminary determination that reasonably

foreseeable effects of the applicant's proposed project, including the construction of the buildings and associated infrastructure (*i.e.*, electric, water, and sewer lines), would have a minor effect on the skinks and the human environment, and no extraordinary circumstances in 43 CFR 43.215 apply. Reasonably foreseeable effects encompass effects of implementation of the action including effects of the action in addition to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future effects.

Therefore, we have preliminarily determined that the proposed ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit would be a low-effect ITP that may qualify for application of a categorical exclusion (516 DM 8.5(C)(2)), pursuant to NEPA, the DOI's NEPA regulations, and the DOI DM. A low-effect ITP is one that would result in (1) negligible or minor individual or cumulative effects on species covered in the HCP; (2) no significant effects on the human environment; and (3) reasonably foreseeable effects that would not result in significant effects to the human environment.

**Next Steps**

The Service will evaluate the application and public comments received to determine whether to issue the requested permit. We will also conduct an intra-Service consultation pursuant to section 7 of the ESA to evaluate the effects of the proposed take. After considering the preceding and other matters, we will determine whether the permit issuance criteria of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA have been met. If met, the Service will issue ITP number PER16854790 to Lennar Homes (Smokey Groves).

**Public Availability of Comments**

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made available to the public. If you submit a comment at <https://www.regulations.gov>, your entire comment, including any personal identifying information, will be posted on the website. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, such as your address, phone number, or email address, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Moreover, all submissions from organizations or

businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

## Authority

The Service provides this notice under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.32), NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and DOI's implementing regulations (43 CFR part 46).

### José J. Rivera,

Manager, Division of Environmental Review, Florida Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-LE-2025-0572; FXLE18110900000-256-FF09L00000; OMB Control Number 1018-0092]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Federal Fish and Wildlife Applications and Reports—Law Enforcement

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

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are proposing to renew an information collection without change.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 10, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on the information collection request (ICR) by one of the following methods (please reference 1018-0092 in the subject line of your comments):

- *Internet (preferred):* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-LE-2025-0572.

- *Email:* [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov).
- *U.S. mail:* Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Madonna L. Baucum, Service Information Collection Clearance

Officer, by email at [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov), or by telephone at (703) 358-2503. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), all information collections require approval under the PRA. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

(1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology (e.g., permitting electronic submission of response).

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. 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.

**Abstract:** The Endangered Species Act (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) makes it unlawful to import or export wildlife or wildlife products for commercial purposes without first obtaining an import/export license (see 16 U.S.C. 1538(d)). The ESA also requires that fish or wildlife be imported into or exported from the United States only at a designated port, or at a nondesignated port under certain limited circumstances (see 16 U.S.C. 1538(f)). This information collection includes the following permit/license application forms:

### Form 3-200-2, “Designated Port Exception Permit”

Under 50 CFR 14.11, it is unlawful to import or export wildlife or wildlife products at ports other than those designated in 50 CFR 14.12, unless you qualify for an exception. The following exceptions allow qualified individuals, businesses, or scientific organizations to import or export wildlife or wildlife products at a nondesignated port:

- (a) To export the wildlife or wildlife products for scientific purposes;
- (b) To minimize deterioration or loss; or
- (c) To relieve economic hardship.

To request authorization to import or export wildlife or wildlife products at nondesignated ports, applicants must complete Form 3-200-2. Designated port exception permits can be valid for up to 2 years. We may require a permittee to file a report on activities conducted under authority of the permit.

### Forms 3-200-3a, “Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit Application Form: Import/Export License—U.S. Entities,” and 3-200-3b, “Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit Application Form: Import/Export License—Foreign Entities” (Paper and Electronic)

It is unlawful to import or export wildlife or wildlife products for commercial purposes without first obtaining an import/export license (50 CFR 14.91). Applicants located in the United States must complete Form 3-200-3a to request this license. Foreign applicants that reside or are located outside the United States must complete Form 3-200-3b to request this license.