

(202) 962-3277. Grant: \$360,000 for three students each at University of Maryland, University of the District of Columbia, Southeastern University, George Mason University.

Southeast

8. University of Memphis, Professor David N. Cox, University of Memphis, Center for Urban Research & Extension, PO Box 526108, Memphis, TN 38152, (901) 678-4186. Grant: \$118,232 for four students.

9. Alabama A&M University, Professor Constance Jordan-Wilson, Alabama A&M University, Department of Community Planning & Urban Studies, P.O. Box 206, Normal, AL 35762, (205) 851-5425. Grant: \$118,304 for four students.

10. University of Alabama at Birmingham, Ms. Rebecca Falkenberry, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Center for Urban Affairs, 901 South 15th Street, Suite 141, Birmingham, AL 35294, (205) 934-3500. Grant: \$119,264 for four students.

11. Eastern Kentucky University, Professor Terry Busson, Eastern Kentucky University, Department of Government, McCreary 113, Richmond, KY 40475, (606) 622-1019. Grant: \$113,040 for four students.

12. University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Ms. Diane Miller, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Office of Graduate Studies, 615 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37403, (423) 755-4431. Grant: \$120,000 for four students.

Midwest

13. Indiana University, Dr. Leda McIntyre Hall, Indiana University, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, 1700 Mishawaka Avenue, Room A-240, South Bend, IN 46634-7111, (219) 237-4803. Grant: \$99,380 for four students.

14. Mankato State University, Professor Robert A. Barrett, Mankato State University, Urban & Regional Studies Institute, Box 25, Mankato, MN 56002, (507) 389-1714. Grant: \$116,016 for four students.

15. Michigan State University, Dr. Herbert P. Norman Jr., Michigan State University, Urban & Regional Planning Program, 201 UPLA Building, East Lansing, MI 48824-1221, (517) 353-0677. Grant: \$120,000 for four students.

16. University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, Mr. Stephen Percy, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, Center for Urban Initiative, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201, (414) 229-5916. Grant: \$119,400 for four students.

Southwest

17. North Central Texas Council of Governments, Mr. R. Michael Eastland, P.O. Box 5888, Arlington, TX 76005-5888, (817) 695-9101. Grant: \$262,464 for three student each at University of North Texas, University of Texas at Dallas, University of Texas at Arlington.

Great Plains

18. University of Kansas, Dr. Steven Maynard-Moody, University of Kansas, Department of Public Administration, 318 Blake Hall, Lawrence, KS 66045-2157, (913) 864-3527. Grant: \$120,000 for four students.

19. Kansas State University, Professor Robert E. Burns, Kansas State University, Department of Landscape Architecture Regional & Community Planning, 302 Seaton Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506, (913) 532-5961. Grant: \$117,100 for four students.

20. Iowa State University, Professor Riad G. Mahayni, Iowa State University, Department of Community & Regional Planning, 126 Design, Ames, IA 50011-3090, (515) 294-8525. Grant: \$116,156 for four students.

Northwest/Alaska

21. University of Washington, Professor Donald W. Allen, University of Washington, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Box 355754, Seattle, WA 98105, (206) 543-4043. Grant: \$120,000, for four students.

Pacific/Hawaii

22. University of California at Berkeley, Dr. Victor Rubin, University of California at Berkeley, Department of Urban & Regional Development, 316 Wurster Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720, (510) 643-9103. Grant: \$120,000 for four students.

Dated: December 19, 1997.

Paul A. Leonard,

Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.

[FR Doc. 97-33876 Filed 12-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision of Recovery Plan for the Florida Panther

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to revise recovery plan.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces its intent to

revise the recovery plan for the endangered Florida panther, *Puma (Felis) concolor coryi*. The Service established a Recovery Team comprised of key individuals and scientists involved in the Florida panther recovery program to guide the revision process. Additional opportunities for public review and comment will be available when the revised plan is in draft form.

DATES: Comments from all interested parties must be received by March 2, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials concerning the recovery plan revision should be sent to Dennis B. Jordan, Recovery Team Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 110450, Gainesville, Florida 32611-0450. Copies of the current recovery plan are available at the same address. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dennis B. Jordan at the above address, (telephone 352/846-0546; facsimile 352/846-0841).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals or plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for recognizing the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and costs for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that a public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The species considered in this recovery plan revision is the Florida panther, *Puma (Felis) concolor coryi*. Historically ranging throughout most of the southeast U.S., the Florida panther has been reduced to a single known wild population estimated to number 30 to 50 adults. This population utilizes approximately two million acres of habitat on public and privately owned lands in south Florida. Threats to the panther are generally related to factors associated with its habitat—availability, destruction, modification, fragmentation, contamination and the types and levels of human activities taking place within habitat areas; and, demographic and genetic factors associated with isolation, population reductions and inbreeding within the small population.

Previous Federal Action

This proposed revision represents the second major revision of the recovery plan since its initial approval by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on December 17, 1981. The first major revision was approved on June 22, 1987. Additionally, a minor revision to incorporate a task to address genetic restoration and management was approved on March 13, 1995.

Public Comments Solicited

The current Recovery Team elected to expand involvement in the revision process to include other entities; those considered to be potential “stakeholders” in the panther recovery program. Potential stakeholders may represent interests of Native Americans, landowners, conservation organizations, hunters, agriculture, timber, animal rights, property rights, public agencies, education/public outreach, development/real estate, etc.

The Service solicits written input regarding suggested recovery actions/tasks that should be considered in drafting the revised recovery plan. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to drafting the revised plan. Additional opportunities for public review and comment will be available when the revised plan is in draft form.

Authority

The authority for this action is Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: December 11, 1997.

David Hankla,
Field Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 97-33811 Filed 12-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for an Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit for the Meadowlark Estates Project in San Diego County, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: SunCal Companies has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service for a permit to incidentally take the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) under the authority of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The permit would authorize the incidental take of one pair of gnatcatchers and 12.3 acres of its habitat in the City of San Marcos, San Diego County, California in conjunction with urban development. As part of its permit application, SunCal Companies has prepared a Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan). This notice announces the availability of the Plan and an Environmental Assessment, and describes the proposed action and possible alternatives, solicits written comments, and identifies the Service official to whom questions and comments concerning the Service's proposed action to issue the permit may be directed.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

DATES: Written comments on the Plan and Environmental Assessment should be received by the Service on or before January 29, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the permit application or adequacy of the Environmental Assessment should be addressed to the Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, California 92008. Written comments may be sent by facsimile to telephone (760) 431-9618.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Julie Vanderwier, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Carlsbad address; telephone (760) 431-9440. Individuals wishing copies of the permit application or Environmental Assessment for review should immediately contact the above office. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment

during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.) Monday through Friday at the above Carlsbad address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act and Federal regulation prohibit the “taking” of a species listed as endangered or threatened. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to “incidentally take” listed species, which is take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for threatened species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.32; regulations governing permits for endangered species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.22.

The Service has under consideration the approval of the Plan and issuance of an Endangered Species Act incidental take permit for the Meadowlark Estates project, a 198.1-acre residential development, in the City of San Marcos, San Diego County, California. The Plan was prepared by HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc., and addresses the loss of 12.3 acres of Diegan coastal sage scrub habitat for up to one pair of coastal California gnatcatchers as a result of constructing 220 single-family estates and 62 single-family homes on approximately 125 acres. Mitigation measures in the Plan include on-site preservation of Diegan coastal sage scrub and other native plant communities, restoration of orchards and manufactured slopes by hydroseeding with coastal sage scrub plant species, and off-site acquisition of 16.35 acres of land in a key location within a regional open space corridor. A Negative Declaration, prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, was certified for this project by the City of San Marcos City Council on May 14, 1996.

The Plan and Environmental Assessment consider six alternatives including the Plan Alternative, a No Action Alternative and alternatives of larger and lesser scope, four of which were selected for detailed analysis.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). The Service will evaluate the application, associated documents, and submitted comments to determine whether the application meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act regulations and section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the