

100 ft. on each side of centerlines described as beginning at a point on the northern military reservation boundary known as the traditional Main Entrance Road that bears S. 77°04'52" E., a distance of 16,263.20 feet from the Southeast corner, Section 9, Township 15 North, Range 17 West of the New Mexico Principal Meridian;

Thence S. 18°58'59" W., 4,376.63 ft.;

Thence S. 23°12'51" W., 1,484.17 ft.;

Thence S. 45°29'10" E., 4,101.73 ft.;

Less approximately 1,855 ft. passing through the Cantonment Area.

(Utility Row #1)

50 ft. on each side of centerlines described as beginning at a point that bears S. 21°40'01" W., 826.96 ft. from the beginning point of the Main Entrance road;

Thence S. 71°12'02" E., 1,692.58 ft.;

Thence S. 20°13'16" W., 5,812.64 ft.

(Radar/Optics Site #2 Road)

50 ft. on each side of centerlines described as beginning at a point that bears S. 20°05'16" W., 2,666.29 ft. from the beginning point of the Main Entrance road;

Thence N. 61°40'03" W., 2,455.85 ft.

(Utility Row #2)

50 ft. on each side of centerlines described as beginning at a point that bears S. 19°07'14" W., 3,804.88 ft. from the beginning point of the Main Entrance road;

Thence S. 68°32'05" E., 1,557.76 ft.

All bearings and distances are planimetric projections based on U.S. Geological Survey Maps and drawing C-1, Real Property Requirements—Site Map, Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, dated 3-17-94. This description should be considered subject to correction by survey.

The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is to enable the Bureau of Indian Affairs to allow use of the improvements and land for the purposes described in the summary above.

For a period of 90 days from the date of publication of this notice, all persons who wish to submit comments, suggestions, or objections in connection with the proposed withdrawal may present their views in writing to the Albuquerque District Manager of the Bureau of Land Management.

The application will be processed in accordance with the regulations set forth in 43 CFR part 2300.

For a period of 2 years from the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register, the land will be segregated as specified above unless the application is denied or canceled or the withdrawal is approved prior to that date. No temporary uses will be permitted during this segregative period except as specified in the Memorandum of Agreement between the Navajo Nation and Zuni Pueblo for the benefit and use of their respective people. The environmental cleanup actions by the Department of the Army and TPL, Inc. are not affected by the segregation.

The temporary segregation of the land in connection with a withdrawal application or proposal shall not affect administrative

jurisdiction over the land, and the segregation shall not have the effect of authorizing any use of the land by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Dated: October 26, 1995.

Charna R. Lefton,

Acting District Manager.

[FR Doc. 95-27057 Filed 10-31-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-FB-P

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) by Potlatch Corporation for Timber Harvesting and Management in Calhoun, Cleveland, and Bradley Counties in South-Central Arkansas

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Potlatch Corporation (Applicant) is seeking an ITP from the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act), as amended. The permit would authorize the take of the red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), an endangered species, in Calhoun, Cleveland, and Bradley Counties in south-central Arkansas, for a period of 30 years. The proposed incidental take would be the inadvertent harvest of an unknown RCW cavity tree during forest management on land owned by the Applicant or other privately owned land where the Applicant has purchased timber.

The Service also announces the availability of a habitat conservation plan (HCP) and EA. The Applicant's HCP describes conservation measures that will be taken to avoid accidentally harvesting cavity trees. Also, the HCP delineates other measures to conserve cavity trees, cavity tree clusters, and RCW foraging habitat. The EA prepared by the Service describes the environmental consequences of issuing or denying the ITP. As stated in the EA, the Service proposes to issue the requested permit. This proposal is based on a preliminary determination that the Applicant has satisfied the requirements for permit issuance and that the HCP provides conservation benefits to RCWs that exceed the impact of inadvertently harvesting cavity trees. Copies of the EA and HCP may be obtained by making a written request to the Regional Office [See ADDRESSES below]. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of

the Act and National Environmental Policy Act Regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). **DATES:** Written comments on the permit application, EA, and HCP should be received on or before December 1, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application, HCP, and EA may obtain a copy by writing the Service's Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia. Requests for the documents must be in writing to be processed. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Regional Office, or the Jackson, Mississippi, Field Office. Written data or comments concerning the application, EA, or HCP should be submitted to the Regional Office. Please reference permit under PRT-807952 in such comments:

Regional Permit Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (404-679-7110, fax 404-679-7081)

Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A, Jackson, Mississippi 39213 (601-965-4900, fax 601-965-4340)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Will McDearman, Jackson, Mississippi, Field Office or Rick Gooch at the Atlanta, Georgia, Regional Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act (Act), and implementing regulations, prohibits the take of RCWs. Take, in part, is defined as an activity that kills, injures, harms, or harasses a listed endangered or threatened species. Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act provides an exemption, under certain circumstances, to the Section 9 prohibition if the taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of otherwise lawful activities.

The RCW is the only woodpecker in North America that excavates its roosting and nesting cavities in live pine trees. Cavities are located in heartwood that is usually infected and softened by the red-heart fungus (*Phellinus pini*). Mature trees usually 80 or more years old are typically selected for cavities because the heartwood is sufficiently large for a cavity and the incidence of red-heart fungus is greater in older trees. RCWs do not excavate and place cavities in sapwood.

RCWs are non-migratory, territorial, and live in family units that are called groups. A group usually consists of a breeding pair, offspring of the current year, and one or more male helpers that are offspring from previous years. Each bird has a roost cavity that, collectively,

comprise a cluster of cavity trees occupied by the group. Other cavities that are abandoned, inactive, or under construction may also occur in the cluster. RCWs forage for invertebrates on pine trees within and surrounding the cluster. Birds usually forage on larger and older pines. The foraging area will vary in size depending upon habitat quality, but birds generally forage within a one-half mile radius of the cluster.

Suitable habitat in the southern pine forest also consists of a vegetation structure affected by and maintained by fire. Encroachment of fire intolerant hardwoods into the forest midstory, particularly within clusters, can cause RCWs to abandon cluster and foraging habitat.

The number of RCW groups persisting today represents about 1 percent of the historical population that occupied the pre-Columbian southern pine forest. The decline of the RCW was initiated by the deforestation of the fire-maintained southern pine ecosystem at the turn of this century. Subsequent habitat loss and fragmentation has been caused by urbanization, fire exclusion, and forest management practices. Where forests exist today, most are either unsuitable or uninhabited by RCWs due to short harvest rotations, clear cutting, infrequently prescribed fire, and insufficient cluster and foraging habitat.

About 44 RCW groups inhabit land owned by the Applicant in south-central Arkansas. In the Draft RCW Procedures Manual for Private Lands (Draft Manual), the Service has proposed minimum forest management guidelines to avoid taking RCWs. The Draft Manual's recommendations provide the minimum quantitative and qualitative standards to avoid harm and harassment as a result of modifying RCW foraging and cluster habitat. The Applicant's HCP will provide cluster and foraging habitat in excess of that minimally recommended in the Draft Manual. Minimum foraging habitat guidelines recommend 3,000 ft² of pine basal area (≥ 10" DBH) within a 0.5 mile radius area of each active cluster. The Applicant's plan, which relies on uneven-aged forest management and select harvesting, currently provides an average of 8,188 ft² pine basal area for each RCW cluster. This quantity is about 2.7 times the minimum recommendation, and is about 96 percent of the amount (8,490 ft²) the Service has established for foraging habitat on Federal lands at the higher standard of RCW recovery-level management. As the Applicant's foraging stands become fully stocked by the all-aged management objective, a

target of 14,596 ft² of basal area may be obtained, about 1.7 times the amount recommended in the Service's RCW recovery plan.

Cluster management in the HCP involves measures to identify, mark, and map cavity trees, using an integrated Geographic Information System. Within each cluster, the Applicant will control hardwood encroachment, provide suitable replacement cavity trees, and prohibit the cutting of any active or inactive cavity tree. Active cavity trees lost due to natural factors such as lightning and wind will be replaced using artificial cavity inserts. Also, cavity restrictor plates will be installed when cavities are threatened by pileated woodpecker activity. The number of breeding pairs and the status of each cavity tree and cluster (active vs. inactive) will be determined every 3 years by the Applicant's monitoring and survey program.

The HCP also establishes annual employee training to effectively implement all elements of the plan. Such training includes the field identification of cavity trees, the provisions of records and monitoring, and all other elements of cluster and foraging habitat management.

An accidental harvest of a cavity tree associated with an unknown cluster is possible, though the Service believes the HCP minimizes such a chance. Even so, the net expected effect of the HCP and ITP is that the RCW population will either be sustained or increased. The EA considers the environmental consequences of two alternatives; issue the requested permit as conditioned by the HCP, or take no action (deny permit). The Service finds the greatest conservation benefits accompany the HCP and proposed permit. RCW management according to minimum private landowner guidelines, accompanying permit denial, would provide less conservation benefit. The Service's proposed alternative is to issue the requested ITP, based upon the submitted HCP. The principal environmental consequence of permit issuance is to sustain or enhance the status of the RCW, via implementation and funding the mitigation and minimization measures as outlined above.

Dated: October 23, 1995.

Noreen K. Clough,
Regional Director.

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Minerals Management Service

Minerals Management Advisory Board, Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Scientific Committee (SC); Announcement of Plenary Session

This Notice is issued in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix I, and the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-63, Revised.

The Minerals Management Advisory Board OCS SC will meet in plenary sessions on Wednesday, November 29, and Thursday, November 30, 1995, at the Washington Dulles Airport Hilton, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon, Virginia 22071, telephone (703) 478-2900.

The OCS SC is an outside group of scientists which advises the Director, MMS, on the feasibility, appropriateness, and scientific value of the MMS, OCS Environmental Studies Program (ESP).

Below is a schedule of meetings that will occur.

The SC will meet in plenary session on Wednesday, November 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Committee will also meet in plenary session on Thursday, November 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Discussion will focus on:

- Committee Business and Resolutions.
- Environmental Studies Program Status Review.
- MMS Goals and Objectives.

The meetings are open to the public. Approximately 30 visitors can be accommodated on a first-come-first-served basis at the plenary session.

A copy of the agenda may be requested from the MMS by writing Ms. Phyllis Clark at the address below.

Other inquiries concerning the OCS SC meeting should be addressed to Dr. Ken Turgeon, Executive Secretary to the OCS Scientific Committee, Minerals Management Service, 381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4310, Herndon, Virginia 22070. He may be reached by telephone at (703) 787-1717.

Dated: October 18, 1995.

Thomas Gernhofer,
Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.

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Summary of Minerals Management Service Workshops on Expanded Use of Royalty-In-Kind (RIK) Procedures

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.