

from the Director, Office of Self-Governance whether it has been selected to receive an advance planning grant.

In order to provide sufficient time for tribes/consortia to effectively use the planning and negotiation grants, the following target dates have been established for the awarding of grants.

(1) *Negotiation Grants*: Since agreements for the 1998 fiscal year need to be signed and submitted by July 1, 1998, to allow sufficient time to prepare for negotiations, new participating tribes will be selected and awarded negotiation grants by May 1, 1998.

(2) *Advance Planning Grants*: In order to avoid delays in planning activity and future participation in tribal self-governance, advance planning grants will be awarded to tribes/consortia by July 1, 1998.

Submitting Applications

(1) Applications must be submitted in accordance with the interim rule published in the **Federal Register** on April 23, 1996, and by the deadlines identified in this announcement.

(2) Applications may be mailed or hand-delivered.

(3) Applications which are mailed must be postmarked no later than the date given in this notice for the particular type of grant being applied for.

Dated: January 14, 1998.

William A. Sinclair,

Director, Office of Self-Governance.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

Alaska Land Managers Forum

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice is published in accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) and 41 CFR 101-6.1015(b). The Department of the Interior hereby gives notice of a public meeting of the Alaska Land Managers Forum to be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, January 28, 1998. The meeting will take place in Conference Room 114, 1689 C Street, Anchorage, Alaska. This meeting will be held to receive and discuss work group reports on recreation and tourism. The agenda will also include several briefing items.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ronald B. McCoy at (907) 271-5485 or Sally Rue at (907) 465-4084.

Deborah L. Williams,

Special Assistant to the Secretary for Alaska.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of an Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact, and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit by International Paper Company for Timber Management Practices on its Lands in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: International Paper Company (Applicant) seeks an incidental take permit (ITP) from the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), as amended (Act). The permit would apply to all of the applicant's land holdings in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina that contain the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) (*Picoides borealis*). The applicant has a total of 18 known active clusters in Alabama (2), Georgia (2), South Carolina (9), and Louisiana (5). The applicant wants to eventually transfer its baseline responsibility of 18 RCW clusters to its Southlands Experimental Forest (SEF) in Bainbridge, Georgia where there are currently two active RCW clusters. This ITP would authorize take of the existing 16 RCW groups in Alabama, South Carolina, and Louisiana incidental to timber management activities, plus any clusters in excess of the baseline at SEF.

The Service also announces the availability of an environmental assessment (EA) and Habitat Conservation Plan/Application for Incidental Taking (HCP). Copies of the EA and/or HCP may be obtained by making a request to the Regional Office (see ADDRESSES). Requests must be in writing to be processed. This notice also advises the public that the Service has made a preliminary determination that issuing the ITP is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of the

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is based on information contained in the EA and HCP. The final determination will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10 of the Act and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). The Service specifically requests comment on the appropriateness of the "No Surprises" assurances should the Service determine that an ITP will be granted and based upon the submitted HCP. Although not explicitly stated in the HCP, the Service has, since August 1994, announced its intention to honor a "No Surprises" Policy for applicants seeking ITPs. Copies of the Service's "No Surprises" Policy may be obtained by making a written request to the Regional Office (see ADDRESSES). The Service is soliciting public comments and review of the applicability of the "No Surprises" Policy to this application and HCP.

DATES: Written comments on the permit application, EA, and HCP should be sent to the Service's Regional Office (see ADDRESSES) and should be received on or before February 20, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application, HCP, and EA may obtain a copy by writing the Service's Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Endangered Species Permits), or Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Brunswick Field Office, 4270 Norwich Street, Brunswick, Georgia 31520. Written data or comments concerning the application, EA, or HCP should be submitted to the Regional Office. Requests for the documentation must be in writing to be processed. Comments must be submitted in writing to be processed. Please reference permit number PRT-833203 in such comments, or in requests of the documents discussed herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rick G. Gooch, Regional Permit Coordinator, (see ADDRESSES above), telephone: 404/679-7110; or Mr. Robert Brooks, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Brunswick Field Office, (see ADDRESSES above), telephone: 912/265-9336.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Picoides borealis* (or RCW) is a non-migratory species that once was common in the southern Coastal Plain from east Texas to Florida and north to Maryland,