



## Report of Conversation

Conversation Type: Phone Conversation

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Client: ISL

Job: Levy County EIS

Project/Task  
Number: 10122.08 Task 002

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Date: April 9, 2010

Time: 8:30 AM

Contact: Charlie Pedersen  
Waccasassa District Biologist  
Florida Division of Forestry

Phone: 532-955-2253

Ext: [Click and type extension]

ICF Employee: Bill Baber  
Senior Wildlife Biologist  
Portland, Oregon

Phone: 503-525-6167

Ext: [Click and type extension]

Subject: **Status of red-cockaded woodpeckers on the Goethe State Forest**

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The closest red cockaded woodpecker (RCW) cluster to the LNP site is cluster #52, which is abandoned. Mr. Pedersen doesn't expect any RCW movement into this area because the habitat has become unsuitable, and there no habitat restoration activities are planned there. The closest active clusters to the LNP site are #'s 53, 80 & 90. Considering the distance to the LNP site (at least 1.5 miles), he wouldn't expect movement from these birds into the LNP site. The Goethe State Forest (SF) uses a rough rule of thumb to estimate the foraging range of RCWs- ¼ mile radius around an active cluster and the presence of at least 240 ac of pine flatwoods habitat. There were some historic RCW populations on private lands 7-8 miles from the Goethe SF.

The Goethe SF has an active program to bolster RCW populations on the Forest. Birds from outside the Goethe are translocated onto the forest. The goal is to build up subpopulations of 30+ active clusters to ensure population stability. The USFWS recognizes 3 subpopulations on the Goethe SF: south of Highway 121, north of Highway 121, and on private lands north of Highway 121. The subpopulation south of Highway 121 is growing, while the subpopulation north of

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Highway 121 is static. Other management actions include tree thinning, prescribed fire, and mechanical treatments to reduce the midstory/understory. Not much good RCW flatwood habitat left in areas surrounding the Goethe SF.

Mr. Petersen was not aware of any Florida scrub jay populations on the Goethe SF. There is not much sandhill and scrub habitat present on the Forest that could support scrub jays. Suitable scrub jay habitat is present near the Withlacoochee River and along the Cross Florida Greenway. He suggested I contact Craig Faulhaber, the Scrub Jay Conservation Coordinator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (352-732-1225).

**Baber, Bill**

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**From:** Pedersen, Charlie [pedersc@doacs.state.fl.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 09, 2010 9:58 AM  
**To:** Baber, Bill  
**Cc:** Hardin, Dennis; Cahal, Bobby; Gilpin, Tom  
**Subject:** Goethe State Forest  
**Attachments:** GSF\_RCWmap\_aerial.jpg; GSF\_RCWmap.jpg; gsf\_RCWclusters.kml

Mr. Baber,

Attached please find two maps of red cockaded woodpecker trees on the southern half of Goethe State Forest, and a google earth file showing cluster locations and names.

The maps are dated January 2010 to indicate they are current through the 2009 nesting and fledging season. The nearest cluster to the proposed construction site, Cluster 52, is abandoned. Clusters 53, 87, 88, 89, 90, and 91 were used in the 2009 translocation program. Clusters 53, 89 and 90 were used to house birds translocated from Osceola National Forest in October 2009. As of January, these three clusters were still active.

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Birds are entangled by their feet and men by their tongues.

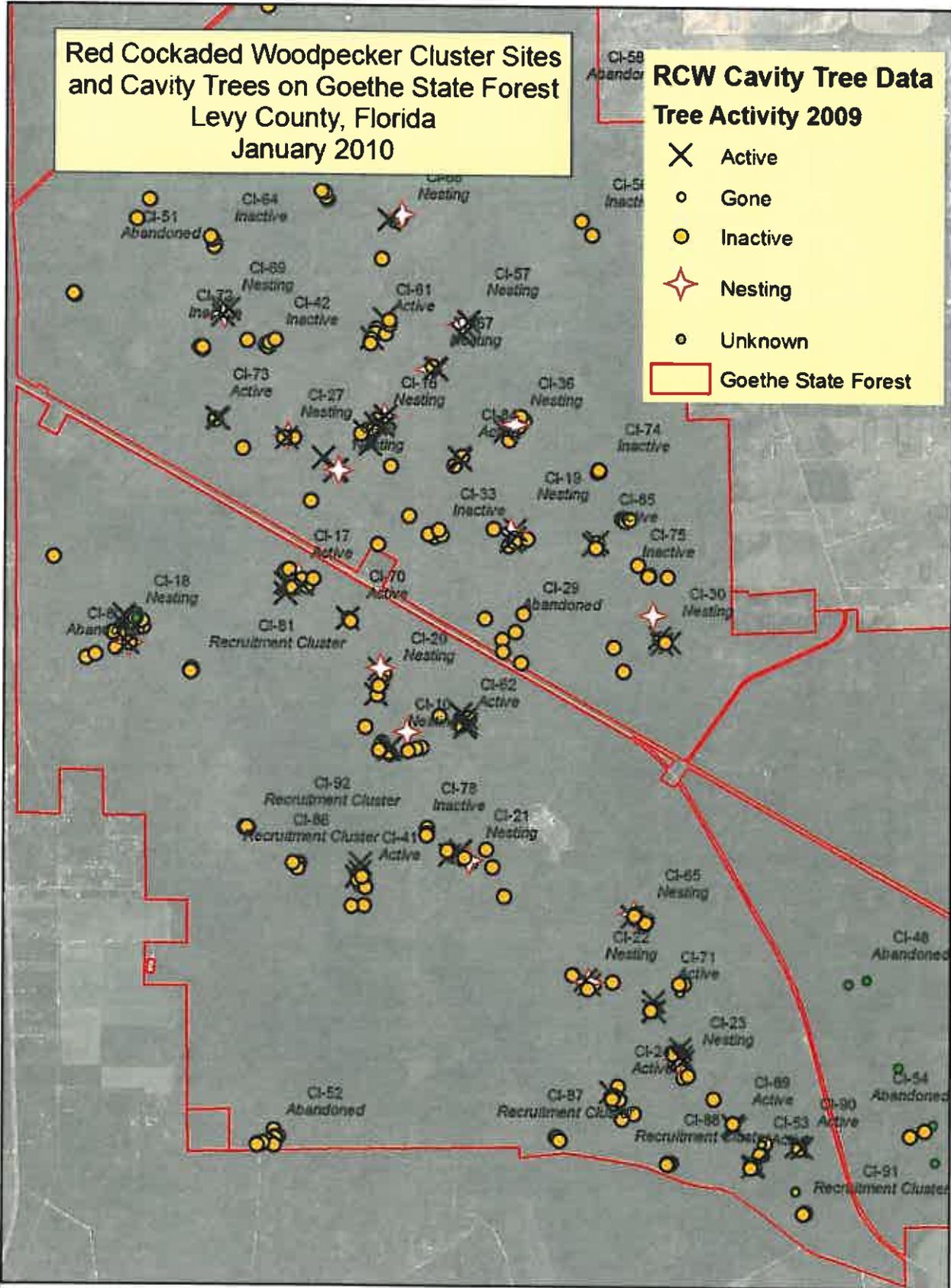
Fortune Cookie from Saigon Legend

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**Red Cockaded Woodpecker Cluster Sites  
and Cavity Trees on Goethe State Forest  
Levy County, Florida  
January 2010**

**RCW Cavity Tree Data  
Tree Activity 2009**

- ✕ Active
- Gone
- Inactive
- ★ Nesting
- Unknown
- ▭ Goethe State Forest



**Red Cockaded Woodpecker Cluster Sites  
and Cavity Trees on Goethe State Forest  
Levy County, Florida  
January 2010**

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