



Report of Conversation

Conversation Type: Phone Conversation

Client: ISL

Job: Levy County EIS

Project/Task
Number: 10122.08 Task 003

Date: 3-1-2011

Time: 1:30 pm

Contact: Vince Morris
Ecology Unit Leader, Withlacoochee State Forest
Florida Division of Forestry

Phone: 352-754-6777 Ext: 129

ICF Employee: Bill Baber
Senior Wildlife Biologist
Portland, OR

Phone: 503-525-6167 Ext:

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

Two Mile Prairie Tract, Withlacoochee State Forest:

The Central Florida South transmission line would pass along and through the southern boundary of the Two Mile Prairie Tract. Mr. Morris said that there are no known red cockaded woodpecker (RCW) populations from this tract. He indicated that Florida scrub jays are possible where suitable habitat is present. There have been no recent sightings of scrub jays on the Two Mile Prairie tract, but there are historic records from the tract.

Citrus Tract, Withlacoochee State Forest:

The Citrus to Brookridge transmission line would pass along and through the western boundary of the Citrus Tract. Red cockaded woodpecker populations are present on the Citrus tract, but the closest clusters are more than 4 miles from the proposed transmission line route. Mr. Morris indicated that the project would not impact these RCW clusters. If transmission line construction

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includes widening of the existing corridor, potential future habitat for RCWs could be removed. There are no historic records for scrub jays along the proposed transmission line route.

Populations of two state listed plants are known from the Citrus tract along the proposed transmission line route (i.e., pygmy pipes, *Monotropsis reynoldsiae*; Scrub stylisma, *Stylisma abdita*), and other listed plants could be present as well. Mr. Morris indicated that state listed plants could be impacted if the existing transmission line corridor is widened. There may be a need for survey and mitigation under this scenario.

Mr. Morris asked that the Withlacoochee State Forest be kept up to date on any transmission line construction plans through the Citrus Tract.