



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
South Florida Ecological Services Office
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

October 18, 2018

Dear Conservation Partner;

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is announcing the availability of our draft environmental impact statement (dEIS) and a habitat conservation plan (HCP) associated with the incidental take permit (ITP) applications of eleven Collier County landowners under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Each of the landowners, collectively known as the Eastern Collier Property Owners, LLC, requests a 50-year ITP for the Florida panther and 18 other Federal or State-listed species for take incidental to residential and commercial development, earth mining, and low-intensity rural-land activities in a defined portion of Collier County, Florida.

The Service invites you to provide comments regarding the dEIS during the 45-day public comment period from October 19, 2018, through December 3, 2018. Your comments can be submitted electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov> and must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the closing date. Any comments received after the closing date may not be considered in the final decision on these actions.

A Notice of Availability for the dEIS will be published in the *Federal Register* under Docket Number FWS-R4-ES-2018-0079. You may obtain copies of the dEIS and HCP from the internet at the following location: <http://www.regulations.gov> (search for Docket Number FWS-R4-ES-2018-0079). You may submit written comments by one of the following methods:

- Internet: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2018-0079; or
- Hard Copy: Via U.S. mail or hand-delivery to Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R4-ES-2018-0079; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

We look forward to your participation in the EIS process.

Sincerely,

Roxanna Hinzman
Field Supervisor
South Florida Ecological Services Office