

# DR. J.H. CARTER III & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Environmental Consultants  
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**16 April 2024**

Timothy Archibald, AIA  
Midwest Architecture Studio, Inc.  
269 Market Square, Suite A  
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Dear Mr. Archibald:

On 11 April 2024, a biologist from Dr. J. H. Carter III & Associates, Inc. (JCA) conducted a red-cockaded woodpecker (*Dryobates borealis*=*Picoides borealis*) (RCW) survey of a 1.12-acre undeveloped lot (ID #00021493) on Lake Dornoch Drive in Pinehurst, Moore County, North Carolina (NC).

The property had a moderately dense overstory of longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), a moderately dense midstory of blackjack (*Quercus marilandica*) and turkey (*Q. laevis*) oaks and no ground cover.

A known RCW cavity tree (#4752) with an inactive start was observed on the parcel during the site visit. No additional RCW cavity trees were observed on the parcel, which is located within the cluster core of inactive SOPI Cluster 60.

The RCW Recovery Plan (United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) 2003) defines a cluster as the aggregation of cavity trees used and defended by a group of RCWs plus a 200-ft. buffer of contiguous forest. The Recovery Plan also outlines the minimum acreage, distribution and stocking levels of foraging habitat required to conserve a family group of RCWs. Foraging habitat is defined as stands of pine or pine-hardwood more than 30 years old, located within one-half mile of, and contiguous to, an active or managed RCW cluster. Landowners within RCW habitat have a responsibility to minimize the removal of RCW foraging habitat (pine trees  $\geq 10$  inches in diameter at breast height (dbh)) and must notify the USFWS Raleigh Area Field Office prior to such removals.

Property development within a cluster and associated foraging habitat, if not carefully conducted, is potentially harmful to RCWs and may violate the Endangered Species Act if not specifically authorized by the USFWS. Removing pine trees within the cluster contributes to

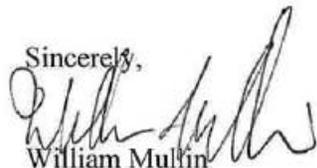
habitat fragmentation, making RCWs more vulnerable to predation and more susceptible to having other species take over their cavities.

Based on the results of this survey, there are RCW-related restrictions on developing this residential lot. The known cavity tree (#4752) has a 50 foot no disturbance buffer. Please note that the USFWS is recommending minimizing the removal of pine trees  $\geq 8$  inches in dbh to the extent practicable.

*The USFWS will require additional information prior to issuing a response/concurrence to this letter.* You will need the USFWS concurrence to obtain your building permits. To obtain that concurrence submit this letter along with the attached cover page (completed) and a site plan to the USFWS Raleigh Area Field Office in, North Carolina. The letter and associated materials can be sent to [Raleigh@fws.gov](mailto:Raleigh@fws.gov).

The RCW survey results are valid for a period of **one year** from the date of this letter. A copy of this letter along with a letter from the USFWS will be required when you request a building permit from your local Planning and Zoning office. If a RCW constructs a cavity in a pine tree on the aforementioned lot within the one-year time frame, this letter **does not** allow disturbance (within 50 ft.) or removal of the cavity tree. You must get additional approval from the USFWS for removal or disturbance of a RCW cavity tree.

Please feel free to call if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,  
  
William Mulfin  
Wetland & Wildlife Biologist