

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

Environmental Consultants
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24 September 2024

Mr. Milton Hendrickson
c/o A Place in the Pines Realty
Harvard Building, 97 Market Square #3b
Pinehurst, NC 28374

Dear Mr. Hendrickson:

On 19 September 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 0.27-acre undeveloped lot (LRK #00015273) on Belair Place in Pinehurst, Moore County, North Carolina (NC).

The parcel had a dense overstory of longleaf (*Pinus palustris*) and loblolly (*P. taeda*) pines, a moderately dense midstory of sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*) and turkey (*Quercus laevis*) and blackjack (*Q. marilandica*) oaks, and a moderately dense ground cover of English ivy (*Hedra helix*).

No RCW cavity trees were found on the property. However, the lot is within the cluster core for active SOPI Cluster 56. The nearest known RCW cavity tree (#1330) contains a relic cavity and is located approximately 290 feet (ft.) northeast of the parcel in SOPI 56.

The RCW Recovery Plan (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 ≥ 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.

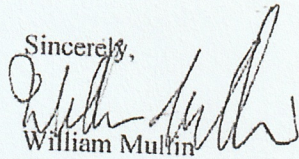
Based on the results of this survey, there are no RCW-related restrictions on developing this residential lot. Please note that the USFWS is recommending minimizing the removal of pine trees ≥ 8 inches in dbh to the extent practicable.

The USFWS will require additional information prior to issuing a response/concurrence to this letter. 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.

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 may 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 Mulrin

Wetland & Wildlife Biologist