



## Red-cockaded Woodpecker Call to Action

### Your comments needed on the RCW proposed rule.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to move the red-cockaded woodpecker from endangered to threatened under the Endangered Species Act. With this proposed change would come new rules for landowners and their forest management. We strongly encourage all forest landowners and managers in the Southeast to submit comments in the Federal Register on these newly proposed rules.

### The newly proposed rule includes two points that landowners should speak out on:

1. Requires a government-approved management plan for forest management activities to be “exempt” from punishment for incidental harm to RCWs
2. Requires ½ mile buffer around cavity trees where no herbicides/pesticides can be used, which greatly limits landowners’ ability to manage habitat

### Watch FLA’s Webinar on RCW Proposed Rules

If you missed the Zoom/Webinar last week- [here's the link](#) to listen to FLA's Dr. Lauren Ward talking about these proposals and how they could affect you and your forest management.

**Please Submit Written Comments:** Submitting written comments online is the easiest and most effective way you can let your voice be heard on this issue. [Click here](#) to easily submit comments using FLA’s suggested text – simply add your story and submit!

### Optional Oral Public Comments via Zoom

WHAT: A great way to enhance your written comment, is to attend the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's virtual public hearing.

WHEN: Tuesday, December 1st 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. ET

WHERE: Zoom - [click here to pre-register](#) for the USFWS Public Zoom meeting

HOW: Keep comments short (about 2 minutes) and concise to make the most impact

*The virtual public informational meeting from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. ET will precede the hearing on this proposed rule. Please note that due to the Service’s rules, they won’t be able to directly respond to your oral comments during the meeting.*