

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****Notice To Announce the Revision of the Alabama Beach Mouse Recovery Plan**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice to announce the revision of the Alabama beach mouse recovery plan; request for information.

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, announce our intention to prepare a separate species recovery plan for the Alabama beach mouse (ABM) (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*), which is listed as endangered throughout its range, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). A 1987 multi-species recovery plan addressed recovery needs for three subspecies of the old field mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus*) that inhabit the beaches and dunes of the Gulf coast of Alabama and Florida—the ABM, the Choctawhatchee beach mouse (*P. p. allphrys*), and the Perdido Key beach mouse (*P. p. trissyllepsis*). The 1987 recovery plan is being revised to prepare a separate species recovery plan for the ABM. A separate species recovery plan is needed for the ABM in order to incorporate new information related to the range of the species, to update information regarding known habitat, and to update the framework for addressing problems of the species and for prioritizing actions necessary for recovery. The ABM recovery plan will not include recovery information on the Choctawhatchee beach mouse or the Perdido Key beach mouse. Recovery plans for the Choctawhatchee beach mouse and the Perdido Key beach mouse will be updated or revised at a later date.

To ensure a comprehensive revision, we are soliciting information on the ABM's population status and trends, threats, and conservation efforts.

**DATES:** Information related to this notice must be received by December 2, 2003, to be considered in the initial stages of the revision. However, we will accept information and comments submitted after this date for consideration at later stages in the recovery planning process until further notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Information should be mailed to the Daphne Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Drawer 1190, Daphne, AL 36526. Information may also be sent via fax to 251-441-6222 or through the Internet Web site for the

ABM recovery plan at <http://daphne.fws.gov>.

Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Daphne Field Office at 1208 Main Street, Daphne, Alabama.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Lori McNease at the above mailing address (telephone 251-441-5867, fax 251-441-6222, e-mail [alabamabeachmouse@fws.gov](mailto:alabamabeachmouse@fws.gov)).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

The ABM was listed as endangered under the Act on June 6, 1985 (50 FR 23884). Upon listing a species, section 4(f) of the Act requires the preparation and implementation of a recovery plan and revisions to such plans as necessary. Under section 4(f)(1)(B), each plan, at a minimum, must contain—(a) a description of such site-specific management actions as may be necessary to achieve the plan's goal for conservation and survival of the species; (b) objective, measurable criteria that, when met, would result in a determination, in accordance with the provisions of this section, that the species be removed from the list; and (c) estimates of the time required and the cost to carry out those measures needed to achieve the plan's goal and to achieve intermediate steps toward that goal.

In addition, recovery plans must include a concise summary of the current status of the species and its life history, and an assessment of the factors that led to population declines and/or which are impeding recovery. The plan must also include a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation program for gauging the effectiveness of recovery measures and overall progress toward recovery.

In 1987, we issued a multi-species recovery plan for three listed beach mice along the Gulf coast of Alabama and Florida. The plan is being revisited at this time in order to prepare a separate species recovery plan for the ABM. An Alabama Beach Mouse Recovery Team, consisting of governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as species experts and stakeholders, was established to draft this revision.

Since the development of the 1987 plan, significant research has been accomplished and important conservation and recovery activities have been undertaken. As a result, we have a greater knowledge of the species, its status, and distribution. These advances in our understanding of the ABM make a revision of the ABM

recovery plan necessary at this time. The revised ABM recovery plan will serve as a basis for future recovery efforts, guide research to ensure that new information will contribute toward the greatest research needs, and enable effective monitoring to allow us to track the status of the ABM and the factors that may affect the species.

A schedule for completing the revised ABM recovery plan will be made available on the internet website for the ABM recovery plan when it is developed by the recovery team (*see ADDRESSES*). Draft sections of the Work in Progress will also be made available on the internet website to provide interested stakeholders an opportunity to review and provide input on the revised plan during its development. Once all sections of the revised plan have been drafted, we will publish a notice of availability of the draft recovery plan in the **Federal Register** and will formally solicit public comment on the draft prior to finalizing the plan.

**Information Solicited**

To ensure that the revised ABM recovery plan is based on the best available data, we are soliciting information on historical and current abundance; historical and current distribution and movements; population status and trends; genetics; current or planned activities that may adversely impact the species; and ongoing efforts to protect the ABM along the Alabama Gulf coast. We request that all data, information, and comments be accompanied by supporting documentation such as maps, bibliographic references, or reprints of pertinent publications.

All submissions must contain the submitter's name and address, as well as any association, institution, or business that the person represents. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Respondents may request that we withhold their home address, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish for us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this request prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will not consider anonymous comments. To the extent consistent with applicable law, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or

businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

**Authority:** The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533 (f).

Dated: September 15, 2003.

**Sam D. Hamilton,**

*Regional Director, Southeast Region, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-25087 Filed 10-2-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-930-1430-ET, CACA 7767 and CACA 44322]

#### **Public Land Order No. 7585; Partial Revocation of Executive Order dated February 26, 1852; Withdrawal of Public Lands and Transfer of Jurisdiction; California**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Public Land Order.

**SUMMARY:** This order partially revokes an Executive Order insofar as it affects 6.15 acres of public lands withdrawn for use by the Department of Navy for military purposes. This order also withdraws the same lands from surface entry and mining, and transfers the jurisdiction to the Department of Veterans Affairs, for expansion and operation of the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery.

**DATES:** October 3, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Duane Marti, BLM California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825-1886; (916) 978-4675.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Navy no longer needs the lands for military purposes and concurs with the transfer of jurisdiction. A memorandum of agreement between the Department of Navy and the Department of Veteran Affairs contains provisions relative to future use of the lands by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### **Order**

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (2000), it is ordered as follows:

1. The Executive Order, dated February 26, 1852, which withdrew public lands for military purposes, is hereby revoked insofar as it affects the following described lands:

#### **San Bernardino Meridian**

T. 17 S., R. 4 W.,

Parcels 2, 3, and 4.

The areas described aggregate 6.15 acres in San Diego County.

2. Subject to valid existing rights, the lands described in Paragraph 1, are hereby withdrawn from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws, including the United States mining laws, 30 U.S.C., Ch. 2 (2000), for the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery.

3. Subject to valid existing rights, the jurisdiction of the lands described in Paragraph 1 and their related resource uses are hereby transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs, so that the lands can be managed as part of the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery and shall thereafter be subject to all laws and regulations applicable thereto.

Dated: September 12, 2003.

**Rebecca W. Watson,**

*Assistant Secretary—Land and Minerals Management.*

[FR Doc. 03-25066 Filed 10-2-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-40-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-340-1430-ES; CACA-43408]

#### **Notice of Realty Action; Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Classification; California**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Realty Action.

**SUMMARY:** The following public lands in Lake County, California have been examined and found suitable for classification for lease or conveyance to the Lake County Flood Control and Water Conservation District under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). The Lake County Flood Control and Water Conservation District proposes to construct and maintain a multipurpose trail system on the public lands that would tie into the trail system on their 2,550 acre of adjacent land. The trails would be constructed for non-motorized use, including hiking, equestrian and all-terrain bicycles.

Lease and/or conveyance is consistent with current BLM land use planning and would be in the public interest. The lands are located at:

#### **Mount Diablo Meridian, California**

T. 13 N., R 10 W.

Section 34: NE, S2NW, N2SE.

Section 35: SWNE, W2NW, SENW, SW, W2SE.

The area described contains 720 acres.

The lease/patent, when issued, will be subject to the following terms, conditions, and reservations:

1. Provision of the Recreation and Public Purpose Act and to all applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior.

2. A right-of-way for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

3. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine and remove the minerals.

4. A right-of-way for an access road granted to Bob Neilsen under CACA-31323.

5. A right-of-way for an access road reserved by the Bureau of Land Management on the Adobe Creek Road under CAS-076875.

Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the office of the Bureau of Land Management, Ukiah Field Office, 2550 North State Street, Ukiah, California. Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the lands will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land use laws, including the general mining laws, except for lease and/or conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and leasing under the mineral leasing laws. The segregation for exchange under CACA-30111FD will be revoked. For a period until November 17, 2003, interested persons may submit comments regarding the proposed lease/conveyance or classification of the lands to the Field Manager, Ukiah Field Office, 2550 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482.

*Classification Comments:* Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for the development of hiking, equestrian and all-terrain bicycle trails. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs.

*Application Comments:* Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific use proposed in the application and plan of development, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the land for hiking, equestrian and all-terrain bicycles trails. Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State