

National Wildlife Refuges. We furnish this notice in compliance with our comprehensive conservation planning policy to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be considered in the planning process.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by April 11, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments or requests for more information to Ms. Susan Silander, Refuge Manager, Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, P.O. Box 510, Boquerón, PR 00622; Telephone: 787/851-7258; or electronically to: [susan\\_silander@fws.gov](mailto:susan_silander@fws.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** With this notice, we initiate the process for developing a comprehensive conservation plan for Buck Island, Green Cay, and Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuges with headquarters in Boquerón, Puerto Rico.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), requires the Service to develop a comprehensive conservation plan for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose in developing a comprehensive conservation plan is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, plans identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

We establish each unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System with specific purposes. We use these purposes to develop and prioritize management goals and objectives within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to guide which public uses will occur on these refuges. The planning process is a way for us and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation efforts of these important wildlife habitats, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

We will conduct a comprehensive conservation planning process that will provide opportunity for Tribal, State, and local governments; agencies; organizations; and the public to participate in issue scoping and public comment. We request input for issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the management of the Buck Island, Green Cay, and Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuges, with headquarters in Boquerón, Puerto Rico. We invite anyone interested to respond to the following two questions:

1. What problems or issues do you want to see addressed in the comprehensive conservation plan?

2. What improvements would you recommend for the Buck Island, Green Cay, and Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuges?

We have provided the above questions for your optional use; you are not required to provide information to us. Our Planning Team developed these questions to gather information about individual issues and ideas concerning these refuges. Our Planning Team will use comments it receives as part of the planning process; however, we will not reference individual comments in our reports or directly respond to them.

We will also give the public an opportunity to provide input at an open house and public scoping meetings during 2007, to identify issues to be addressed in the plan. These events will be advertised through local media outlets. You may also submit comments anytime during the planning process by writing to the address in the **ADDRESSES** section. All information provided voluntarily by mail, phone, or at public meetings becomes part of our official record (i.e., names, addresses, letters of comment, input recorded during meeting).

We will conduct the environmental review of this project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); NEPA Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508); other appropriate Federal laws and regulations; and our policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations. All comments we receive on our environmental assessment become part of the official public record. We will handle requests for such comments in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, NEPA [40 CFR 1506.6(f)], and other Departmental and Service policies and procedures. When we receive a request, we generally will provide comment letters with the names and addresses of the individuals who wrote the comments.

Buck Island Refuge was established in 1969, and consists of 45 acres. It is an unstaffed refuge administered as part of the Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The island was transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service due to its "value for migratory birds." However, little nesting occurs due to the presence of introduced rates. Visitors to the refuge may see red-billed tropic birds, frigate birds, terns, laughing gulls, and other species in the vicinity of the island.

Green Cay Refuge was established in 1977, and consists of 14 acres. It is an unstaffed refuge administered as part of the Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The island provides critical habitat for one of only two remaining natural populations of the endangered St. Croix ground lizard. Its extirpation from the mainland of St. Croix is generally attributed to the introduction of the small Indian mongoose. Outcrops of lava, tuffs, and breccias are prominent geological features. The island is closed to the public due to fragile habitat and easily disturbed wildlife, such as the St. Croix ground lizard.

Sandy Point Refuge was established in 1984, and consists of 360 acres. It is a staffed refuge administered as part of the Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The island hosts the largest nesting population of endangered leatherback sea turtles under United States jurisdiction. Approximately 11,000 people visit the refuge annually.

**Authority:** This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105-57.

Dated: February 8, 2007.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. E7-4369 Filed 3-9-07; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge, Boquerón, PR

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, intend to gather information necessary to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and associated

environmental documents for the Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge. We furnish this notice in compliance with our comprehensive conservation planning policy to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be considered in the planning process.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by April 11, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments or requests for more information to Ms. Susan Silander, Refuge Manager, Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, P.O. Box 510, Boquerón, PR 00622; Telephone: 787/851-7258; or electronically to: [susan\\_silander@fws.gov](mailto:susan_silander@fws.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** With this notice, we initiate the comprehensive conservation plan for Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge with headquarters in Boquerón, Puerto Rico.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), requires the Service to develop a comprehensive conservation plan for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose in developing a comprehensive conservation plan is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, plans identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

We establish each unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System with specific purposes. We use these purposes to develop and prioritize management goals and objectives within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to guide which public uses will occur on this refuge. The planning process is a way for us and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation efforts of this important wildlife habitat, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with the refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

We will conduct a comprehensive conservation planning process that will provide opportunity for tribal, State, and local governments; agencies; organizations; and the public to participate in issue scoping and public comment. We request input for issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the management of the Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge in Boquerón, Puerto Rico. We invite anyone interested to respond to the following two questions:

1. What problems or issues do you want to see addressed in the comprehensive conservation plan?
2. What improvements would you recommend for the Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge?

We have provided the above questions for your optional use; you are not required to provide information to us. Our Planning Team developed these questions to gather information about individual issues and ideas concerning this refuge. Our Planning Team will use comments it receives as part of the planning process; however, we will not reference individual comments in our reports or directly respond to them.

We will also give the public an opportunity to provide input at an open house and public scoping meetings during 2007, to identify issues to be addressed in the plan. These events will be advertised through local media outlets. You may also submit comments anytime during the planning process by writing to the address in the **ADDRESSES** section. All information provided voluntarily by mail, phone, or at the public meeting becomes part of our official record (i.e., names, addresses, letters of comment, input recorded during meeting).

We will conduct the environmental review of this project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); NEPA Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508); other appropriate Federal laws and regulations; and our policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations. All comments we receive on our environmental assessment become part of the official public record. We will handle requests for such comments in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, NEPA [40 CFR 1506.6(f)], and other Departmental and Service policies and procedures. When we receive a request, we generally will provide comment letters with the names and addresses of the individuals who wrote the comments.

The Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1974 when 587 acres of land were transferred from the Foreign Broadcast Information

Service of the Central Intelligence Agency to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The 1,249-acre Cabo Rojo Salt Flats, previously under private ownership, were purchased and added to the refuge in 1999 for a total of 1,836 acres.

The refuge land was used for cattle ranching, agriculture, and salt production for almost two centuries prior to Service ownership. During that time, much of the native vegetation was replaced by exotic and invasive plants from other regions.

Management of the refuge focuses on restoring native forest vegetation, managing hydrologic conditions in the salt flats, controlling exotic and invasive species, and providing suitable habitat for neotropical migratory birds and native species, such as the endangered yellow-shouldered blackbird.

**Authority:** This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105-57.

Dated: February 8, 2007.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Watercress Darter National Wildlife Refuge

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment for Watercress Darter National Wildlife Refuge in Jefferson County, Alabama.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service intends to gather information necessary to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment for Watercress Darter National Wildlife Refuge. This notice is furnished in compliance with the Service's comprehensive conservation planning policy to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be considered in the planning process.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments must be received by April 26, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Address comments, questions, and requests for more information to Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box