

Tonopah NV 89049  
Landholding Agency: Energy  
Property Number: 41201020001  
Status: Excess  
Directions: Nellis AFB  
Reasons: Extensive deterioration

#### New Jersey

3 Tracts  
Delaware Water Nat'l Rec. Area  
Montague Co: Sussex NJ 07827  
Landholding Agency: Interior  
Property Number: 61201020002  
Status: Unutilized  
Directions: Nos. 10839-5, 11233, and 11400  
Reasons: Extensive deterioration

8 Tracts  
Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Rec. Area  
Walpack NJ 07881  
Landholding Agency: Interior  
Property Number: 61201020003  
Status: Unutilized  
Directions: Nos. 7055-1, 7107-1, 7613, 7820-2, 8201, 8215-1, and 8215-2  
Reasons: Extensive deterioration

Tract 603-1  
Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Rec. Area  
Pahaquarry Co: Warren NJ 07825  
Landholding Agency: Interior  
Property Number: 61201020004  
Status: Unutilized  
Reasons: Extensive deterioration

Tract 10208  
Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Rec. Area  
Sandyston Co: Sussex NJ 07826  
Landholding Agency: Interior  
Property Number: 61201020005  
Status: Unutilized  
Reasons: Extensive deterioration

#### Oregon

Painted Hills Quarter  
37375 Bear Creek Rd.  
Mitchell Co: Wheeler OR 97750  
Landholding Agency: Interior  
Property Number: 61201020006  
Status: Unutilized  
Reasons: Extensive deterioration

#### Pennsylvania

9 Tracts  
Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Rec. Area  
Dingmans Ferry Co: Pike PA 18328  
Landholding Agency: Interior  
Property Number: 61201020007  
Status: Unutilized  
Directions: Nos. 1077, 8548, 8548-#51, 10139, 10552, 10964, 11329, 11904, and 12104  
Reasons: Extensive deterioration

3 Bldgs.  
Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Rec. Area  
Middle Smithfield Co: Monroe PA 18301  
Landholding Agency: Interior  
Property Number: 61201020008  
Status: Unutilized  
Directions: Bldg Nos. 919, 1359, and 1522  
Reasons: Extensive deterioration

Tract 7300  
Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Rec. Area  
Bushkill Co: Pike PA 18324  
Landholding Agency: Interior  
Property Number: 61201020009  
Status: Unutilized  
Reasons: Floodway and Extensive deterioration

3 Tracts

Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Rec. Area  
Milford Co: Pike PA 18337  
Landholding Agency: Interior  
Property Number: 61201020010  
Status: Unutilized  
Directions: Nos. 12415, 12424, and 12848  
Reasons: Floodway and Extensive deterioration

#### Virginia

Bldg. SDA-215  
Naval Support Activity  
Norfolk VA 23551  
Landholding Agency: Navy  
Property Number: 77201020006  
Status: Excess  
Reasons: Secured Area and Extensive deterioration

#### Washington

Watermaster's Office  
205 N. Washington Way  
George Co: Grant WA 98848  
Landholding Agency: Interior  
Property Number: 61201020011  
Status: Unutilized  
Reasons: Extensive deterioration

4 Bldgs.

Naval Base  
Kitsap WA  
Landholding Agency: Navy  
Property Number: 77201020005  
Status: Unutilized  
Directions: Bldg. Nos. 499, 806, 929, and 5436  
Reasons: Secured Area

#### Land

##### Maryland

Site A: 6.2 acres  
Naval Support Activity  
Indian Head MD 20640  
Landholding Agency: Navy  
Property Number: 77201020003  
Status: Underutilized  
Reasons: Secured Area  
[FR Doc. 2010-9766 Filed 4-29-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210-67-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

**[FWS-R4-R-2009-N284; 40136-1265-0000-S3]**

### Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, Highlands and Polk Counties, FL

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability: Draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of a draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment (Draft CCP/EA) for Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge

(NWR) for public review and comment. In this Draft CCP/EA, we describe the alternative we propose to use to manage this refuge for the 15 years following approval of the final CCP.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by June 1, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** You may obtain a copy of the Draft CCP/EA by writing to: Mr. Bill Miller, Lake Wales Ridge NWR, Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960; telephone: 561/715-0023. You may also access and download the document from the Service's Web site at <http://southeast.fws.gov/planning> under "Draft Documents."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Bill Miller, Lake Wales Ridge NWR, Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex; telephone: 561/715-0023.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Introduction

With this notice, we continue the CCP process for Lake Wales Ridge NWR. We started the process through a notice in the **Federal Register** on June 20, 2008 (73 FR 35149). For more about the refuge and our CCP process, please see that notice.

Lake Wales Ridge NWR is a unit of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex (NWR Complex) and is administered by and co-managed with Pelican Island and Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuges, colloquially termed the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex (NWR Complex).

#### Background

##### The CCP Process

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, requires us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose for developing a CCP 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 our policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least

every 15 years in accordance with the Administration Act.

### CCP Alternatives, Including Our Proposed Alternative

We developed three alternatives for managing the refuge and chose "Alternative B" as the proposed alternative. A full description of each alternative is in the Draft CCP/EA. We summarize each alternative below.

#### *Alternative A—Current Management (No Action)*

Alternative A would continue present management activities and programs. Management emphasis would continue to focus on maintaining existing habitats for rare, threatened, and endangered species through partnerships and management agreements. Primary management activities would continue to include providing infrequent and limited habitat management through: (1) Application of prescribed fire (Merritt Island NWR Complex provides fire program staff); (2) rare, threatened, and endangered species monitoring, utilizing partnerships; (3) litter and debris control; and (4) exotic, invasive, and nuisance species' control. Alternative A represents the anticipated conditions of the refuge for the next 15 years, assuming current funding, staffing, policies, programs, and activities continue.

This alternative would reflect actions that include managing habitats for rare, threatened, and endangered species. Both Federal- and State-listed species are found on the refuge. Habitat management actions are intended to benefit rare, threatened, and endangered species, but there is limited active management of other species and habitats due to the current level of resources. As a result, the refuge would continue to rely almost entirely on the actions and assistance of partners and volunteers who conduct a wide array of resource management activities, including monitoring of key refuge resources.

Management coordination would occur primarily between the refuge and the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Working Group (LWREWG)—a consortium of Federal, State, local, and non-governmental land management organizations. The LWREWG shares natural area management information in an effort to increase the understanding and awareness of the Lake Wales Ridge ecosystem.

Land acquisition would continue based on the availability of willing sellers within the refuge's approved acquisition boundary, and where opportunities arise, through the

LWREWG, or other initiatives on a case-by-case basis. Since the refuge is neither staffed nor funded, management agreements with partner agencies/organizations would be a primary focus.

The refuge would remain closed, and access for management purposes would be conducted solely through the refuge's special use permit process. On a case-by-case basis, extremely limited access for environmental education and interpretation opportunities might occur. The refuge would actively support key Lake Wales Ridge ecosystem partner-managed lands that are open to public use by identifying and updating links to partner Web sites on the refuge's official Web site.

The refuge would remain unstaffed and administered through the Pelican Island NWR Complex. Volunteer activities would continue to be supported through the Merritt Island Wildlife Association and the Pelican Island NWR Complex staff. Partnerships through the LWREWG and the Service's North and South Florida Ecological Services field offices would continue. The refuge would continue to opportunistically seek funding for habitat management, monitoring, and other program areas through alternative sources.

#### *Alternative B—Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species (Proposed Action)*

This alternative expands the actions under Alternative A with a greater amount of habitat management focusing primarily on restoring and enhancing habitats to benefit the needs of rare, threatened, and endangered species. A total of 17 plants and 6 animals are federally listed species on the 1,842-acre refuge; 1 federal candidate species is known to occur on the refuge. Some of these species are protected nowhere else but on refuge lands. In addition, this endemic-rich refuge is home to at least 33 State-listed species, including 5 plant and 6 animal species that are not listed federally.

One key to this alternative is a focused effort to expand management activities through the implementation of a frequent, routine prescribed fire program to restore pyrogenic habitats to pre-fire exclusion conditions. This focused approach would provide for the restoration of a mosaic of suitable habitats, including xeric scrub lands, sandhills, open sand patches, and ephemeral wetlands necessary to maintain and expand populations of the refuge's rare, threatened, and endangered species. This restorative process may exceed the 15-year life of the CCP for some habitats. Once pre-fire exclusion conditions are attained, fire

return intervals would be adapted based on rare, threatened, and endangered species and habitat responses provided through fire effects monitoring. As habitats are restored, the refuge would investigate potential expansion of rare, threatened, or endangered species introduction/reintroduction projects, coordinating and collaborating with partners through the LWREWG to identify best management opportunities.

This alternative would expand the monitoring efforts under Alternative A to provide additional active efforts to monitor rare, threatened, and endangered species. Monitoring efforts would be increased by the assistance of additional staff and trained volunteers, and through academic research. Greater effort would be made to recruit academic researchers to study and monitor rare, threatened, and endangered species. Under this alternative, we would increase efforts to control invasive and nuisance species; increase coordination with researchers and partners to investigate rare, threatened, and endangered species' response to changing patterns of suitable habitats; and assume a leadership role in identifying the impacts of climate change on rare, threatened, and endangered species.

This alternative would continue pursuing completion of the acquisition boundary, based on the availability of willing sellers, and prioritizing acquisition efforts on unprotected, undeveloped inholdings where threats of habitat loss and constraints to habitat management are greatest. We would evaluate a variety of land protection and conservation measures, including land swaps, to protect high-quality properties.

Expanding public awareness and support for the refuge and partner-managed lands of the Lake Wales Ridge ecosystem would be an important component of this alternative. Even though the refuge would remain closed to visitor use, we would implement a range of visitor service opportunities (e.g., environmental education and interpretation, and wildlife observation and photography), which would be controlled through an approval process. We would implement guided tours provided by Service staff or Service partners on a case-by-case basis and permitted through our special use permit process. In addition, we would develop and conduct an annual refuge day where guided tours, information, and refuge awareness through community outreach would be provided. Updated messages on both the refuge's Web site and brochure would be provided, focusing on the needs of

rare, threatened, and endangered species. Further, we would work with partners to incorporate these messages in information distributed by them.

We would increase involvement with governmental and non-governmental partners through the LWREWG and would be positioned to increase Service presence with other partner organizations when opportunities arise. Coordination with both the North and South Florida Ecological Services field offices for funding and recovery direction would be expanded to optimize listed species management. Opportunities to build additional support through the Merritt Island Wildlife Association, Pelican Island Preservation Society, and Friends of the Carr Refuge would increase.

The refuge would gain staff to fulfill the goals, objectives, and strategies identified in the CCP, and staff would be situated to manage all day-to-day operations. The Lake Wales Ridge NWR is presently administered remotely and has no dedicated staff or budget. The refuge is approximately 130 miles from fire management support (Merritt Island NWR Complex) and approximately 100 miles from its Pelican Island NWR Complex management team. This situation considerably challenges all day-to-day operations and management necessary to provide for the needs of rare, threatened, and endangered species and the habitats they occupy.

This alternative would propose a 5-member staff, including a wildlife refuge specialist (assistant refuge manager), a private lands biologist, a botanist/biologist, a biological science technician, and a fire/forestry technician to manage refuge programs and provide a Service presence currently lacking in the Lake Wales Ridge system of naturally managed lands. The proposed staff would be in close proximity to refuge lands in order to manage day-to-day operations. To support operations and maintenance, we would enter into memoranda of understanding or other agreements with partners and/or secure independent spaces for equipment storage, operational functions, and administrative needs. This alternative would bolster management by investigating opportunities to enter into management agreements and other options with partner land management agencies and organizations, enabling partner management of Service properties in accordance with the CCP, subsequent step-down plans, and Service policies. We would continue to share facilities, equipment, utilities, and staff with Pelican Island and Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuges. The

Merritt Island NWR Complex would continue to provide fire program staff.

#### *Alternative C—Wildlife and Habitat Diversity*

This alternative would serve the needs of key rare, threatened, and endangered species on the refuge, but within the larger context of wildlife and habitat diversity. Under this alternative, focused efforts utilizing prescribed fire to restore habitats to pre-fire exclusion conditions would be proposed, targeting the needs of a wide array of native wildlife and habitats to benefit the larger Lake Wales Ridge and central Florida landscape. We would continue to support recovery efforts of key listed species and expand efforts to provide opportunities targeting the needs of neotropical migratory birds, resident birds, wading and water birds, shorebirds, raptors, cavity-dependent species, and other resident species. Habitats where pines dominate the overstory would be managed to provide more pine stems per acre to promote habitat for cavity-dependent birds. Understory, shrub, and canopy vegetation would be managed to provide for a diversity of wildlife, and snag development would be encouraged to provide cavities and perch sites and to promote insect development. Where appropriate, burn frequencies would be reduced to provide for the production of saw palmetto for use as forage by wildlife, including the Florida black bear. We would investigate management opportunities with the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture and would support management of migratory birds. Through partnerships, we would conduct wading and water bird surveys to better understand our management role at the landscape level. Management to protect important habitat and wildlife corridors would increase under this alternative and invasive and nuisance species control efforts would expand.

This alternative would expand the monitoring efforts under Alternative A. Monitoring of neotropical migratory and resident birds in addition to other resident species would occur. Monitoring efforts would be increased by the assistance of additional staff and trained volunteers, and through academic research. We would take a leadership role in identifying the impacts of climate change on refuge resources, coordinating with researchers and partners to investigate species response to changing patterns of suitable habitats.

Under this alternative, the refuge would remain closed to visitor use except for limited and guided environmental education and

interpretation and wildlife observation and photography opportunities by Service staff or volunteers and partners. Education, interpretation, and outreach messages would focus on the importance of the refuge in the landscape, and would include listed species as key topics. Further, we would work with the partners to incorporate applicable messages into their visitor activities and signage. We would develop and conduct an annual refuge day to promote refuge awareness. This alternative would seek to expand partnerships and would work with the partners, including the LWREWG environmental education subcommittee, to expand environmental education and interpretation opportunities on refuge lands.

As under Alternative B, we would gain staff to be located locally to manage all day-to-day operations of the refuge. This alternative would propose a 4-member staff, including a wildlife refuge specialist (assistant refuge manager), a private lands biologist, a botanist/biologist, and a fire/forestry technician. To support operations and maintenance, we would enter into memoranda of understanding or other agreements with the partners and/or secure independent spaces for equipment storage, operational functions, and refuge administrative needs. This alternative also would bolster management by investigating opportunities to enter into management agreements and other options with partner land management agencies and organizations, enabling partner management of Service properties in accordance with the CCP, subsequent step-down plans, and Service policies. We would continue to share facilities, equipment, utilities, and staff with Pelican Island and Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuges. The Merritt Island NWR Complex would continue to provide fire program staff.

#### **Next Step**

After the comment period ends, we will analyze the comments and address them.

#### **Public Availability of Comments**

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority**

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

Dated: February 18, 2010.

**Jon Andrew,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R8-ES-2010-N087; 1112-0000-81440-F2]

**Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Permits, Santa Cruz County, CA**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received applications from William Menchine and Alicia Stanton and the San Lorenzo Valley Water District (applicants) for incidental take permits under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). We are considering issuing permits that would authorize the applicants' take of the Federally endangered Mount Hermon June beetle (*Polyphylla barbata*) incidental to otherwise lawful activities that would result in the permanent loss of 0.05 acre (2,182 square feet (sq ft)) of Mount Hermon June beetle habitat near Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, California. We invite comments from the public on the applications, which include Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) that fully describe the proposed projects and measures the applicants would undertake to minimize and mitigate anticipated take of the species. We also invite comments on our preliminary determination that the HCPs qualify as "low-effect" plans, eligible for categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. We explain the basis for this determination in our draft Environmental Action Statements and associated Low-Effect Screening Forms, both of which are also available for review.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by June 1, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** You may download a copy of the permit applications, plans, and related documents on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/ventura/>, or you

may request documents by U.S. mail or phone (*see below*). Please address written comments to Diane K. Noda, Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003. You may alternatively send comments by facsimile to (805) 644-3958.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jen Lechuga, HCP Coordinator, at the Ventura address above, or by telephone at (805) 644-1766, extension 224.

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

The Mount Hermon June beetle was listed as endangered on January 24, 1997 (62 FR 3616). Section 9 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and our implementing Federal regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR part 17 prohibit the "take" of fish or wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. Take of listed fish or wildlife is defined under the Act as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct" (16 U.S.C. 1532). However, under limited circumstances, we issue permits to authorize incidental take (*i.e.*, take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity). Regulations governing incidental take permits for threatened and endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.32 and 17.22, respectively. The Act's take prohibitions do not apply to Federally listed plants on private lands unless such take would violate State law. In addition to meeting other criteria, an incidental take permit's proposed actions must not jeopardize the existence of Federally listed fish, wildlife, or plants.

Reconstruction of the home's failing foundation and construction of a retaining wall for the Menchine HCP would take place within a 0.44-acre parcel (APN 060-361-03) located at 6 Lyle Way near the city of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, California. The parcel contains Zayante sand soils and vegetation consisting primarily of landscaping. The parcel is presumed to be occupied by the Mount Hermon June beetle, as the species is known to occur approximately 650 feet to the north of the property. Implementation of the project would result in impacts to a total of 0.05 acre (1,993 sq ft) of habitat for the Mount Hermon June beetle. Impacts would result in the permanent loss of 0.04 acre (1,543 sq ft) and the temporary loss of 0.01 acre (450 sq ft) of Mount Hermon June beetle habitat. The Menchines propose to implement the

following measures to minimize and mitigate for the loss of Mount Hermon June beetle habitat within the permit area: (1) Applicants will purchase 0.05 acre (1,993 sq ft) of conservation credits at the Ben Lomond Sandhills Preserve of the Zayante Sandhills Conservation Bank, operated by PCO, LLC; (2) a qualified biologist will oversee construction and provide worker training on the Mount Hermon June beetle and requirements of the HCP; (3) temporary fencing will be installed to demarcate the impact area from the remainder of the property; (4) any life stages of the Mount Hermon June beetle will be captured and relocated if one is observed in an area that would be impacted; (5) dust control measures will be implemented to reduce impacts to the Mount Hermon June beetle and its habitat; (6) the 0.01-acre (450-sq-ft) area of temporary habitat disturbance will be revegetated with native Sandhills plant species; and (7) all exposed soils will be covered with impermeable material if construction occurs during the species' flight season.

The Menchine HCP considers three alternatives to the taking of Mount Hermon June beetle. The No Action alternative would maintain current conditions, the project would not be implemented, and an incidental take permit application would not be submitted to the Service. The second alternative would involve a redesign of the project. The project would be reduced in scale under this alternative; however, is not practical, as the home's foundation requires repair, and a retaining wall is necessary for slope stabilization. The third alternative is the proposed action, which includes issuing an incidental take permit to the applicants, who would then implement the HCP.

Construction of a pump house and pipeline for the Mañana Woods HCP would take place primarily at 140 Elena Court (APN 067-081-55), a 10.6-acre parcel, with a small portion crossing through 324 Blueberry Drive (APN 067-081-41), a 1.8-acre parcel. Both parcels are located just southwest of the City of Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz County, California. The applicant has received authorization from the two landowners to implement the project on private land. Both parcels contain Zayante sand soils with vegetation consisting of native and nonnative plant species and mixed evergreen forest. The parcels are presumed to be occupied by the Mount Hermon June beetle, as the species is known to occur at several locations within 0.75 mile of the project area.

The Mañana Woods project would result in impacts to a total of 0.05 acre