

Perdido Key Beach Mouse Update And Habitat Conservation Plan Discussion

Escambia County
Neighborhood and Environmental Services

August 10, 2006

Perdido Key Beach Mouse Permit Status Update

- 73 projects have been evaluated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
 - 41 projects evaluated did not require additional permitting
 - 32 projects evaluated required additional permitting

Perdido Key Beach Mouse Permit Status Update

• Projects with FWS approval	2
– (Florencia, Magnolia West)	
• Projects with expected approval <30 days	4
– (Serenity, Retreat, Palazzo I, Palazzo II)	
• Projects pending Federal Registry Notice	1
– Norton Bond home-site	
• Projects to be issued through ACOE permit	2
– (Lost Key, Paradise Isle)	
• Projects that have not yet submitted for a take permit	<u>16</u>
	32

Escambia County Sponsored Perdido Key HCP - discussion

- In 1982, Congress amended the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Section 10(a)(1)(B) to authorize FWS to issue a permit for "incidental take" of listed species in an otherwise legal development activity
- A Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) accompanies an application for incidental take. The Purpose of the HCP is to ensure the effects of the development activity are adequately minimized and mitigated.

Escambia County Sponsored Perdido Key HCP - discussion

- A “No Surprises” assurance is provided through Section 10(a)(1)(B) to assure if “unforeseen circumstances” arise after the issuance of HCP, the FWS will not require the commitment of additional land, water, or other natural resources beyond the level otherwise agreed to in the HCP.

Benefits to the County for a Perdido Key HCP

- Development will not have to obtain permits from FWS or FWC
- Permit approval is through the County Development Review Committee and associated deadlines
- Additional stability to permitting to help “jump-start” development on Perdido Key (remove the uncertainty of dealing with State and Federal Agencies)

Benefits to the County for a Perdido Key HCP

- The Perdido Key Drive (SR 292) expansion could be covered in the HCP to deal with all wildlife related issues concurrently with roadway design
- FWS grant funds may be obtained to offset HCP application costs (c.a. \$200-400K)
- Land acquisition can be identified in the HCP to include lands for public access (last year FWS issued funds ranging from \$1.5-10 million per grant)

