

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS–R9–FHC–2009–N0101; 94300–1124–0000–T5]

**Coastal Barrier Resources System Digital Mapping Pilot Project**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of extension of the public comment period on report and draft maps; notice of public meetings via Web cast and teleconference.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), advise the public that we are extending the public review and comment period for the *Report to Congress: John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Digital Mapping Pilot Project* and draft maps. Also, we plan to host public meetings via Web cast and teleconference on the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) Digital Mapping Pilot Project.

**DATES:** *Comment Period:* To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments on the report and draft maps by August 5, 2009.

*Public Meetings:* We will hold public meetings via Web cast and teleconference; see “Public Meetings” and “Meeting Participation Information” under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for meeting dates, times, and registration information.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or hand-deliver (during normal business hours) comments to Katie Niemi, Coastal Barriers Coordinator, Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 860A, Arlington, VA 22203 or send comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to [CBRAcomments@fws.gov](mailto:CBRAcomments@fws.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Katie Niemi, Coastal Barriers Coordinator, (703) 358–2161.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) of 1982 (16 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*)

established the CBRS, a defined set of geographic units located along the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Island coasts. CBRA removes the Federal incentive for development in these high-risk and biologically important coastal barrier habitats by limiting Federal subsidies such as flood insurance within the CBRS. Development can still occur provided that private developers or other non-Federal parties bear the full cost.

The CBRS boundaries are depicted on U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle maps, which are, on average, 30 years old. Because the maps are outdated technologically, the CBRS boundaries do not always align precisely with the geomorphic, cultural, or development features that they were intended to follow. As a result, some properties and projects intended to be eligible for Federal subsidies are not eligible and vice versa. Modernizing the CBRS maps using digital technology addresses the inaccuracies of the outdated maps; corrects errors that adversely affect private property owners; increases efficiencies and accessibility by allowing the integration of CBRS information into digital planning tools; conserves natural resources; and helps preserve the long-term integrity of the CBRS.

The pilot project creates draft revised maps for 70 CBRS units (representing approximately 10 percent of the entire CBRS) and establishes a framework for modernizing the remainder of the CBRS maps. The different types of proposed boundary changes reflected in the draft pilot project maps include:

- Alignment with geomorphic features (e.g., shorelines), development features (e.g., edge of a road, property parcel boundaries), and cultural features (e.g., park boundaries);
- Adjustment to reflect geomorphic change;
- Adjustment to map channel boundaries consistently;
- Addition of associated aquatic habitat;

- Addition of conservation or recreation area to existing Otherwise Protected Areas (OPAs);
- Addition of new OPAs;
- Addition of undeveloped fastland (land above mean high tide) not currently within the CBRS;
- Removal of private land that was inadvertently included within an OPA; and
- Reclassification from System unit to OPA and vice versa.

In cases where we found no compelling evidence to propose a revised boundary, the existing boundary remains unchanged.

For more information on the pilot project, as well as how to get a copy of the report and draft maps, see our April 7, 2009, notice (74 FR 15743) or visit the Service’s Internet site: [http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/coastal\\_barrier.html](http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/coastal_barrier.html).

**Comment Period Extension**

We are extending the public comment period on the *Report to Congress: John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Digital Mapping Pilot Project* and draft maps, which we originally opened on April 7, 2009 (74 FR 15743), to allow additional time for public meetings and submission of comments by the public. If you previously submitted comments, you need not resubmit them; we have already incorporated them into the public record and will fully consider them when we finalize the pilot project maps and submit the report to Congress, per the directives of the Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act of 2005 (CBRA of 2005; Pub. L. 109–226).

**Public Meetings**

We will hold the following public meetings via Web cast and teleconference. The purpose of the meetings is to give the public an overview of the pilot project effort and to offer an opportunity for questions and answers regarding the draft maps contained in the pilot project. See Appendix A for specific units we will discuss for the involved States.

Date	Time (eastern time)	States
July 14, 2009 .....	10 a.m.–12 p.m. ....	Delaware and Louisiana.
July 14, 2009 .....	1–3 p.m. ....	North Carolina and South Carolina.
July 15, 2009 .....	10 a.m.–12 p.m. ....	North Florida.
July 15, 2009 .....	1–3 p.m. ....	South Florida.

**Meeting Participation Information**

These meetings are open to the public. Members of the public planning

to participate must register at [http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/coastal\\_barrier.html](http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/coastal_barrier.html) by close of business

July 10, 2009. Registrants will be provided with instructions for participation via e-mail. If you require

additional accommodations, please notify the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** at least one week prior to the meeting.

#### 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.

#### Appendix A—Pilot Project Units

Below we list the pilot project units for each State, by unit number, unit name, and county.

Number	Name	County
<b>Delaware (1 Map)</b>		
DE-07 .....	Delaware Seashore .....	Sussex.
DE-07P .....	Delaware Seashore .....	Sussex.
H01 .....	North Bethany Beach .....	Sussex.
<b>North Carolina (9 Maps)</b>		
NC-01 .....	Pine Island Bay .....	Currituck, Dare.
NC-05P .....	Roosevelt Natural Area .....	Carteret.
NC-06 .....	Hammocks Beach .....	Onslow.
NC-06P .....	Hammocks Beach .....	Onslow, Carteret.
L05 .....	Onslow Beach Complex .....	Onslow.
L06 .....	Topsail .....	Onslow.
L07 .....	Lea Island Complex .....	Pender, New Hanover.
L08 .....	Wrightsville Beach .....	New Hanover.
L09 .....	Masonboro Island .....	New Hanover.
<b>South Carolina (1 Map)</b>		
M02 .....	Litchfield Beach .....	Georgetown.
M03 .....	Pawleys Inlet .....	Georgetown.
<b>Florida (27 Maps)</b>		
<b>North Florida</b>		
FL-01 .....	Fort Clinch .....	Nassau.
FL-01P .....	Fort Clinch .....	Nassau.
P04A .....	Usinas Beach .....	St. Johns.
P05 .....	Conch Island .....	St. Johns.
P05P .....	Conch Island .....	St. Johns.
P08 .....	Ponce Inlet .....	Volusia.
P08P .....	Ponce Inlet .....	Volusia.
FL-13P .....	Spessard Holland Park .....	Brevard.
P09A .....	Coconut Point .....	Brevard.
P09AP .....	Coconut Point .....	Brevard.
FL-73P .....	De Soto .....	Manatee.
FL-78 .....	Rattlesnake Key .....	Manatee.
FL-78P .....	Rattlesnake Key .....	Manatee.
FL-82 .....	Bishop Harbor .....	Manatee.
FL-80P .....	Passage Key .....	Manatee.
FL-81 .....	Egmont Key .....	Hillsborough.
FL-81P .....	Egmont Key .....	Hillsborough.
FL-83 .....	Cockroach Bay .....	Hillsborough.
FL-85P .....	Sand Key .....	Pinellas.
P26 .....	Pepperfish Keys .....	Dixie.
FL-89 .....	Peninsula Point .....	Franklin.
FL-93 .....	Phillips Inlet .....	Bay.
FL-93P .....	Phillips Inlet .....	Bay.
FL-94 .....	Deer Lake Complex .....	Walton.
<b>South Florida</b>		
P10A .....	Blue Hole .....	Indian River, St. Lucie.
FL-14P .....	Pepper Beach .....	St. Lucie.
P11 .....	Hutchinson Island .....	St. Lucie.
P11P .....	Hutchinson Island .....	St. Lucie.
FL-15 .....	Blowing Rocks .....	Martin, Palm Beach.
FL-16P .....	Jupiter Beach .....	Palm Beach.
FL-17P .....	Carlin .....	Palm Beach.
FL-18P .....	MacArthur Beach .....	Palm Beach.
FL-19 .....	Birch Park .....	Broward.

Number	Name	County
FL-19P	Birch Park	Broward.
FL-20P	Lloyd Beach	Broward.
P14A	North Beach	Broward.
FL-39	Tavernier Key	Monroe.
FL-40	Snake Creek	Monroe.
FL-43	Channel Key	Monroe.
FL-44	Toms Harbor Keys	Monroe.
FL-45	Deer/Long Point Keys	Monroe.
FL-46	Boot Key	Monroe.
FL-64P	Clam Pass	Collier.
P17A	Bowditch Point	Lee.
FL-67	Bunche Beach	Lee.
FL-67P	Bunche Beach	Lee.
P21	Bocilla Island	Charlotte.
P21P	Bocilla Island	Charlotte.
P22	Casey Key	Sarasota.
FL-72P	Lido Key	Sarasota.

**Louisiana (13 Maps)**

LA-01	Isle Au Pitre	St. Bernard.
LA-02	Grand Island	St. Bernard.
S04	Timbalier Bay	Lafourche.
S05	Timbalier Islands	Terrebonne, Lafourche.
S06	Isle Dernieres	Terrebonne.
S07	Point au Fer	Terrebonne, St. Mary.

Dated: June 18, 2009.  
**Marvin E. Moriarty,**  
*Acting Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.*  
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R1-R-2009-N109; 1265-0000-10137-S3]

**Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County, OR**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), intend to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (refuge). We will also prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential effects of various CCP alternatives. We provide this notice in compliance with our CCP policy to advise the public, other Federal and State agencies, and Tribes of our intentions, and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to consider during the planning process.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by

October 15, 2009. We will hold public meetings and will announce meeting details on the refuge's Web site (see **ADDRESSES**).

**ADDRESSES:** Additional information about the CCP planning process is available on the Internet at: <http://www.fws.gov/malheur>. Send your comments or requests for information by any of the following methods.

*E-mail:*  
[FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov](mailto:FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov).  
 Include "Malheur CCP" in the subject line of the message.

*Fax:* Attn: Tim Bodeen, (541) 493-2405.

*U.S. Mail:* Tim Bodeen, Project Leader, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, 36391 Sodhouse Lane, Princeton, OR 97221.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tim Bodeen, Project Leader, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, phone (541) 493-2612.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

*The CCP Process*

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) (Administration Act), 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 plan 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 and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Improvement Act.

Each unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System was established for specific purposes. We use these purposes as the foundation for developing and prioritizing the management goals and objectives for each refuge within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to determine how the public can use each refuge. The planning process is a way for us and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives that will ensure the best possible approach to wildlife, plant, and habitat conservation, 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.

Our CCP planning process provides participation opportunities for Tribal, State, and local governments; agencies; organizations; and the public. At this