



Public Notice

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to pave an existing grass landing strip located at the Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge. The aviation program exists to conduct aerial surveys of endangered species such as sea turtles, manatees and brown pelicans, collect aerial photography of forest cover and habitat condition, and to provide support for hurricane relief, law enforcement, administrative flights and firefighting. The Service is proposing to pave the landing strip to enhance safety, reduce operational and maintenance costs, and to provide an all-weather surface that can be used to evacuate the aircraft in anticipation of hurricanes. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Service has reviewed a variety of alternatives, including leaving the landing strip in its current condition (no action), moving the base of operations to other airports in the area, and paving the existing landing strip. Copies of the draft Environmental Assessment are available by calling the number provided below.

The Service is soliciting public comment on this proposed action. The deadline for providing comments is February 20, 2004. Written comments may be mailed or faxed to the following address:

Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex
P.O. Box 510
Boqueron, PR 00622
Fax: (787)255-6725
Phone: (787)851-7258.

The mission of the US Fish and Wildlife Service is to work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.