

Summary of Public Comments Received on Draft Maps for Coastal Barrier Resources System Units P15/P15P, P16/P16P, and FL-63P and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Responses and Recommendations

I. Overview

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) prepared three draft revised maps dated November 10, 2014, for five Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) units in Collier County Florida - Cape Romano Unit P15/P15P, Keewaydin Island Unit P16/P16P, and Tigertail Unit FL-63P. The Service held a 45-day public comment period on the draft maps from February 10 through March 27, 2015. This effort makes progress towards fulfilling a mandate in the Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109-226) to prepare draft revised maps for all CBRS areas, propose additions to the CBRS, and solicit public comments on the draft revised maps.

The Service announced the availability of the draft maps and the opportunity to provide comments in a notice published in the *Federal Register* on February 10, 2015 (80 FR 7491). The Service sent letters dated February 10, 2015, to more than 75 stakeholders including members of Congress; Federal, state, and local officials; and nongovernmental organizations. The draft maps, *Federal Register* notice, and summaries of the proposed boundary changes were made available on the Service's website during the public comment period.

The Service received letters and/or email correspondence from the following three entities during the comment period:

- City of Marco Island (supports proposed changes)
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (no comment on proposed changes)
- An individual (supports proposed changes)

None of the comments opposed any of the proposed changes to the CBRS maps.

Copies of the comments submitted to the Service during the public comment period are available to the public upon request. Requests for copies of the public comments may be submitted to the Service's Headquarters Office or via email to: CBRA@fws.gov.

II. Service Recommendations

The Service has prepared final recommended maps, dated April 10, 2015, for three existing and two new CBRS units, Cape Romano Unit P15/P15P, Keewaydin Island Unit P16/P16P, and Tigertail Unit FL-63P, located in Collier County, Florida. The final recommended maps remove private properties that were inappropriately included within the CBRS in the past and add undeveloped lands and associated aquatic habitat that meet the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) criteria for inclusion within the CBRS (16 U.S.C. 3502(1) and 16 U.S.C. 3503(g)(1)).

The Service has reviewed all comments received on the draft maps dated November 10, 2014; no changes were made to the maps based on the comments that were received.

The maps dated April 10, 2015, reflect the Service's recommended changes to certain CBRS units in Florida; however these changes will only become effective if the revised maps are adopted through legislation enacted by Congress. Copies of the maps and summaries of the recommended changes are available on the Service's website at: www.fws.gov/cbra.

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