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# FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH

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NAS PENSACOLA

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June 11, 1979

Captain D. B. Gilbert

Commanding Officer  
Naval Air Station  
Pensacola, Florida 32508

Dear Captain Gilbert:

In response to your letter (00L) requesting an endangered species survey on the Pensacola Naval Air Station, I visited and surveyed that installation on 30 May 1979. Mr. Bruce Tanner kindly and enthusiastically led me on a tour of the Station; I thank him for his hospitality. The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is very appreciative of your interest in and concern for the state's endangered and threatened species.

Enclosed is a table depicting all federally and state listed species occurring or potentially occurring on the Naval Air Station. It is very doubtful that any portion of the Station will ever be designated Critical Habitat for any species currently listed on the federal list. However, should the Perdido Bay beach mouse, a possible resident there (I observed possible beach mouse sign during my visit) and currently on the state list, ever be federally listed, which is a real possibility, portions of the Station would almost certainly be designated Critical Habitat for that species. That particular mouse occurs only between Perdido and Pensacola bays.

Dr. Steve Humphrey of the University of Florida is under contract to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to survey the state's endangered and threatened rodents, including the Perdido Bay beach mouse. I have informed him of the rodent sign I observed on the Station, and he is anxious to investigate. He will shortly be contacting Mr. Tanner, whom I have already discussed this with, to arrange a visit to the Station. That visit should take place within the next few weeks.

*FMO*  
*G*  
*Bruce*

For your further information and convenience, I am providing the following brief habitat descriptions for all resident or potentially resident listed species:

Perdido Bay beach mouse: Dry, sandy, sparsely vegetated coastal dunes.

Bobcat: Virtually all terrestrial habitats except residential and urban areas.

Peregrine falcon: Coastal dunes during migration, and, where the birds winter, areas with dead stubs standing among scattered ponds and sloughs, impoundments and marshy lakes, or any area supporting large numbers of ducks, coots, gulls, herons or pigeons.

Snowy plover: Expansive open, dry, sandy beaches for breeding; both dry and tidal sand flats for foraging.

Brown pelican: Shallow estuarine waters for feeding; sand spits and offshore sand bars for loafing and roosting.

Bald eagle and osprey: Impoundments or rivers with expanses of open water.

Southeastern kestrel and eastern kestrel: Open pine forests, clearings containing dead trees, open edges of river bottoms, suburban areas, and urban areas.

Pigeon hawk: Coastal beaches, open areas, and woodland borders.

Marsh hawk: Open areas, including grassy fields, pastures and marshes.

Golden eagle: Habitat characteristics unknown for Florida; only a few valid sightings for entire state, most of which were from the panhandle.

American oystercatcher: Broad, open coastal beaches, mud flats and spoil islands.

Least tern: Open, flat, gravelly, or sandy areas.

Little blue heron, snowy egret, and Louisiana heron: Shallow wetland areas.

Marian's marsh wren: Saltwater or brackish marshes containing blackrush and/or cordgrass.

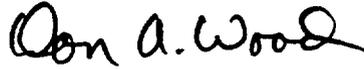
Atlantic ridley, Atlantic loggerhead, and leatherback turtles: Coastal areas.

American alligator: Edges of lakes, ponds and rivers, and the interiors of swamps and marshes.

Atlantic sturgeon: Escambia River and Pensacola Bay.

I hope I have been helpful; please contact me if I may be of further service. Thank you again for consulting us regarding this matter.

Cordially,



Don A. Wood  
Endangered Species Coordinator

7766/mb5/33-35

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Bruce Tanner  
Dr. Steve Humphrey  
Dr. Jim Baker

8/20/77