



The Florida Panhandle's

PERDIDO KEY BEACH MOUSE



Peromyscus polionotus trissyllepsis

The Perdido Key Beach Mouse is found only on the small barrier island, Perdido Key, in northwest Florida. It has a small body, haired tail, large ears and eyes. Its head and body length is 2.7 - 3.3in and its tail is 1.7 - 2.5in. Its coloration is grayish to brown with a very pale-yellow hue white underparts that reach to the lower border of the eyes and ears. The Perdido Key Beach Mouse is a federally and state listed endangered species. In 2014, Escambia County was issued an Incidental Take Permit from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service under a Habitat Conservation Plan. This plan allows for Escambia County to directly manage the beach mouse and conduct monitoring efforts.

Evolutionary Origin

- 1 The Perdido Key Beach Mouse evolved as a subspecies of the Oldfield mouse (*P. polionotus*).
- 2 This occurred through geographic isolation and genetic divergence when the Oldfield mouse reached Perdido Key.
- 3 This caused the Perdido Key Beach mouse to adapt with lighter fur with more white on the face, cheeks, belly, and tail.
- 4 Other subspecies include the Alabama Beach Mouse, Santa Rosa Island Beach Mouse, Choctawhatchee Beach Mouse, St. Andrew Beach Mouse, Southeastern Beach Mouse, Pallid Beach Mouse (extinct), and Anastasia Island Beach Mouse.



Habitat Conservation Plan

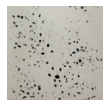
Properties with federally-designated Perdido Key Beach Mouse habitat or properties that currently hold an Authorization of Coverage a.k.a. "Beach Mouse Permit" are required to abide by the rules and standards found in the Perdido Key Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The programs and policies contained in the HCP ensure any activities carried out are done so in a way that protects beach mice, sea turtles, shorebirds, and the habitats they rely on.

Scan Me!



Monitoring

- 1 Deploy track tubes with sunflower seeds, ink card with (animal safe) ink, and a track card
- 2 Check every other month where cards are removed, ink/pads are replaced as needed, and tubes are rebaited. Data in the field is collected using Survey123
- 3 Measure footprints on cards following parameters:
 - <4.5mm - House Mouse
 - 4.5-5.5mm - Juvenile Beach Mouse
 - 5.5-6.7mm - Beach Mouse
 - 6.7-8.3mm - cotton mouse
 - >8.3mm - cotton rat
- 4 Update survey123 and maps after data has been analyzed



How YOU can help

- Walk dogs on a leash and pick up after them. Dogs are prohibited on the beach throughout Escambia County except in official dog parks.
- Stay out of sensitive conservation areas. Use official dune walkovers to access the beach and only park in designated areas. Motorized vehicles are prohibited from the beach and dune systems.
- Leave Only Footprints: Remove all personal belongings at the end of your beach day. Ensure any trash is properly disposed of and flatten sandcastles and fill in holes.
- Lights Out: Turn off lights at night or only use red or amber lights.

