

include changes so minor (*e.g.*, reduction in pile size) that the changes do not affect the previous analyses, mitigation and monitoring requirements, or take estimates (with the exception of reducing the type or amount of take).

2. A preliminary monitoring report showing the results of the required monitoring to date and an explanation showing that the monitoring results do not indicate impacts of a scale or nature not previously analyzed or authorized.

- Upon review of the request for renewal, the status of the affected species or stocks, and any other pertinent information, NMFS determines that there are no more than minor changes in the activities, the mitigation and monitoring measures will remain the same and appropriate, and the findings in the initial IHA remain valid.

Dated: October 15, 2026.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Draft Revised Management Plans for the ACE Basin, Elkhorn Slough, and Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserves; Notice of Proposed Boundary Changes

AGENCY: Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is soliciting comments from the public regarding a proposed revision of the management plans for the Ashepoo-Combahee-Edisto Basin (ACE Basin) National Estuarine Research Reserve in South Carolina, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve in California, and Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Alabama. A management plan provides a framework to guide a reserve's programs, track progress toward meeting its goals, and identify potential opportunities or changes in direction. It is also used to guide programmatic evaluations of a reserve. Management plan revisions are required at least every five years. These draft revised

management plans are intended to replace the ACE Basin Research Reserve, Elkhorn Slough Research Reserve, and Weeks Bay Research Reserve management plans, which were approved in 2011, 2007, and 2017, respectively. NOAA is also considering requests to change the boundary of each reserve and is simultaneously soliciting comments from the public on the proposed boundary changes.

DATES: Comments must be received at the appropriate address (see **ADDRESSES**) on or before November 19, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The draft revised management plan for the ACE Basin Research Reserve can be downloaded or viewed at: dnr.sc.gov/marine/NERR. The draft revised management plan for the Elkhorn Slough Research Reserve can be downloaded or viewed at: elkhornslough.org/MP. The draft revised management plan for the Weeks Bay Research Reserve can be downloaded or viewed at: outdooralabama.com/WeeksBayNERRManagementPlan. Each plan is also available by sending a written request to the point of contact identified below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

For the ACE Basin Research Reserve, you may submit comments by email to Elaine.Vaudreuil@noaa.gov. Include "Comments on draft ACE Basin Research Reserve Management Plan" in the subject line of the message. For the Elkhorn Slough Research Reserve, you may submit comments by email to Gemma.Waaland@noaa.gov. Include "Comments on draft Elkhorn Slough Research Reserve Management Plan" in the subject line of the message. For the Weeks Bay Research Reserve, you may submit comments by email to Matt.Chasse@noaa.gov. Include "Comments on draft Weeks Bay Research Reserve Management Plan" in the subject line of the message. The written comments NOAA receives are considered part of the public record, and the entirety of the comment, including the name of the commenter, email address, attachments, and other supporting materials, will be publicly accessible. Sensitive personally identifiable information, such as account numbers and Social Security numbers, should not be included with the comment. Comments that are not related to the management plan for the ACE Basin, Elkhorn Slough, or Weeks Bay Research Reserves, or that contain profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language, will not be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: ACE Basin Research Reserve: Elaine Vaudreuil, NOAA's Office for Coastal

Management, Elaine.Vaudreuil@noaa.gov, (202) 936–6008; Elkhorn Slough Research Reserve: Gemma Waaland, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, gemma.waaland@noaa.gov, (707) 495–2623; Weeks Bay Research Reserve: Matt Chasse, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, Matt.Chasse@noaa.gov, (240) 628–5417.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to 15 CFR 921.33(c), the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources must revise the management plans for the ACE Basin Research Reserve, the Elkhorn Slough Research Reserve, and the Weeks Bay Research Reserve, respectively, at least every five years. If approved by NOAA, the revised management plan for the ACE Basin Research Reserve will replace the plan previously approved in 2011; the revised management plan for the Elkhorn Slough Research Reserve will replace the plan previously approved in 2007; and the revised management plan for the Weeks Bay Research Reserve will replace the plan previously approved in 2017.

Management plans outline a reserve's strategic goals and objectives; administrative structure; programs for conducting research and monitoring, education, and training; resource protection, restoration, and manipulation plans; public access and visitor use plans; consideration for future land acquisition; and facility development to support reserve operations.

In particular, this draft revised management plan for ACE Basin identifies four goals that the reserve will work toward over the next five years: Enable South Carolina's communities, residents, and visitors to protect coastal resources; advance knowledge about coastal and estuarine ecosystems through research and monitoring; apply science and stewardship to balance long-term protection of the ACE Basin's natural and cultural resources with enjoyment by current and future generations; and enhance the capacity of the reserve to contribute to the ACE Basin community, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and the National Estuarine Research Reserve System through effective operations and communication. Since the last management plan, ACE Basin has engaged with new audiences and partners, filled some identified staffing needs, adapted training programs to include more virtual content, and successfully acquired lands that were

previously privately owned “in-holdings” adjacent to the reserve’s boundary. These parcels are now proposed for addition to the reserve’s boundary. The revised management plan, once approved, would serve as the guiding document for the ACE Basin Research Reserve for the next five years.

This draft revised management plan for Elkhorn Slough identifies five goals that the reserve will work toward over the next five years: Increase scientific understanding of estuarine ecosystems to inform conservation strategies; lead development and implementation of collaborative science-based conservation strategies to protect and restore native habitats in the Elkhorn Slough; increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the Elkhorn Slough; improve coastal decision-making through increased skills, knowledge, and access to key resources; and provide administrative leadership and resources necessary to improve the operations and infrastructure of the reserve. Since the last management plan, Elkhorn Slough has engaged with new audiences and partners; acquired 10 new parcels, nine of which were incorporated into the boundary in 2020 and one of which is now proposed for addition to their boundary; updated and added state-of-the-art interpretive exhibits to their visitor’s center and remodeled their outdoor teaching spaces; expanded their trail access; and continued to build upon their tidal wetland program through new marsh restoration projects. The revised management plan, once approved, would serve as the guiding document for the Elkhorn Slough Research Reserve for the next five years.

This draft revised management plan for Weeks Bay identifies four goals that the reserve will work toward over the next five years: Serve as a model to other coastal ecosystems through biologically diverse and resilient ecosystems within the Weeks Bay watershed; inform decisions affecting estuaries and coastal watersheds through an understanding of coastal ecosystems from science and monitoring; improve ecological appreciation to advance coastal literacy, conservation, and resiliency; and enhance the community sense of stewardship and appreciation of the local ecosystems. Since the last management plan, Weeks Bay has engaged with new audiences and partners, improved the resilience of their environmental monitoring capabilities, expanded training programs that incorporate reserve data, and successfully acquired lands adjacent to the reserve’s boundary.

Eleven parcels acquired by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Lands Division, and the State of Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust Program, as well as additional state-owned water bottoms, are now proposed for addition to the reserve’s boundary. The revised management plan, once approved, would serve as the guiding document for the Weeks Bay Research Reserve for the next five years.

NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management analyzes the environmental impacts of the proposed approval of this management plan, as well as the proposed boundary change, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*

The public is invited to comment on the draft revised management plans. NOAA will take these comments into consideration when deciding whether to approve the revised management plans in whole or in part.

The public is also invited to comment on the proposal by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, as lead agency for managing the ACE Basin Research Reserve, to incorporate 12 state-owned parcels acquired since 2011 into the reserve’s approved boundary, as described in the draft management plan; the proposal by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, as lead agency for managing the Elkhorn Slough Research Reserve, to incorporate one state-owned parcel acquired since 2020 into the reserve’s approved boundary, as described in the draft management plan; and the proposal by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, as lead agency for managing the Weeks Bay Research Reserve, to incorporate 11 state-owned parcels acquired since 2017 and additional state-owned water bottoms into the reserve’s approved boundary, as described in the draft management plan. Pursuant to 15 CFR 921.33(a), NOAA may require public notice, including notice in the **Federal Register** and an opportunity for public comment, before approving a boundary change. NOAA will take public comments into consideration when deciding whether to approve this proposed boundary change in whole or in part.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*; 15 CFR 921.33.

Keelin S. Kuipers,

Acting Director, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DOD–2026–OS–2278]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSD(A&S)), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: 60-Day information collection notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995*, the OUSD(A&S), DoD (referred to herein as “the Department”, “Department of War” or “DoW”) announces proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by December 21, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Mail: Department of War, Office of the Director of Administration and Management, Oversight and Compliance Directorate, Regulatory Division, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Mailbox #24, Suite 05F16, Alexandria, VA 22350–1700.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, docket number and title for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and