

**IDENTIFICATION:** The [Alabama Beach Mouse](#) (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*) and the [Perdido Key Beach Mouse](#) (*Peromyscus polionotus trissylepsis*) have haired tails, relatively large ears and protuberant eyes. Their body is about 3 inches long with pale gray coloration above a white abdomen that blends well with the sandy soils and dune vegetation of their habitat.

They are nocturnal herbivores that feed primarily on the seeds of sea oats and beach grass. When these seeds are scarce, especially in the late winter or early spring, beach mice may consume invertebrates or fruiting bodies of sea rocket.

Both species were provided protection as an endangered species on 6-6-85. The decline of these mice has been attributed to the impact of coastal development, recreational activity, and tropical storms on its fragile coastline habitat. They survive in a very limited amount of shoreline habitat in Baldwin County. Critical habitat was designated for both species and includes coastal tracts located from the tip of Fort Morgan to the west end of Perdido Key.

**FORESTRY CONSIDERATIONS:** These mice are found on beach dunes and in pine areas adjacent to the dunes. It is unlikely that forestry operations would occur in beach mouse habitat but care should be taken if such operations are planned and conducted. Forestry operations could impact beach mouse populations and habitat quality.

**DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTY:** The mice are found only in Baldwin County on coastal dunes from Mobile Bay to Perdido Bay and on the west end of Perdido Key.



Photo Credit: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service



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