



Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

The Shiloh Area: Hotspot for History, Recreation, and Nature

History

Dating back 2,000 years, the Shiloh area includes:

- Native American burial mounds and a shell midden
- 1760s British sugar plantation
- Two slave villages
- Cemetery from Shiloh community

The sugar plantation is eligible for designation on the National Register of Historic Places. This sensitive site is closed to the public to protect the ruins.

Construction and operation of the proposed Shiloh Launch Complex could jeopardize the integrity of these historic sites, unless the potential impacts were mitigated

Recreation

An estimated 200,000 to 300,000 visitors use the Shiloh area each year

Popular recreational activities in the Shiloh area:

- Boating and Fishing
- Waterfowl Hunting
- Bird Watching
- Nature Photography
- Hiking and Biking

The refuge generated more than \$60.4 million in economic benefit for Brevard, Orange, and Volusia counties in Fiscal Year 2011.

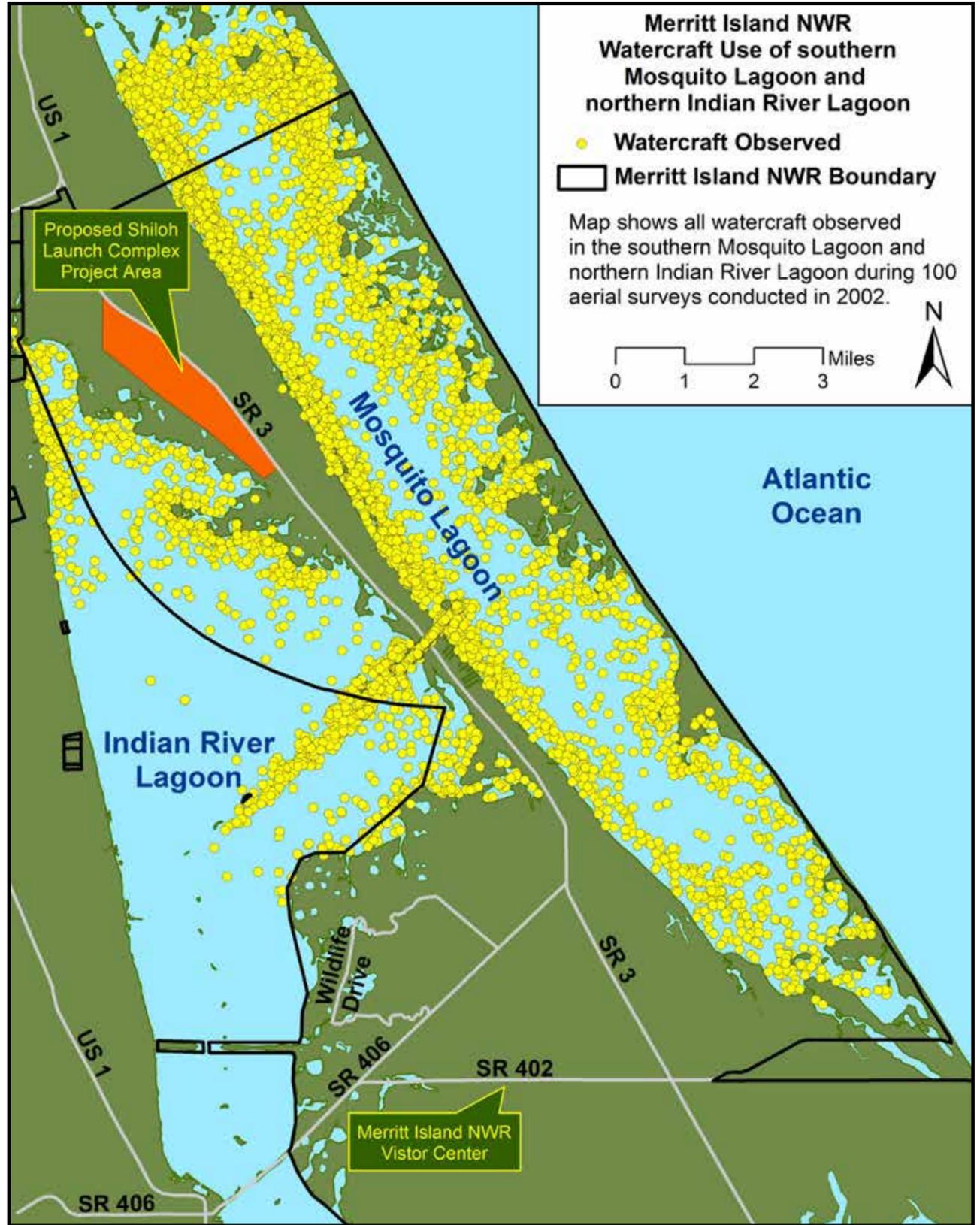
Area closures due to proposed launches and static firing operations could negatively impact access, refuge and Canaveral National Seashore visitation, and the quality of visitor experiences, unless the potential impacts were mitigated.

Nature

Providing high value for a variety of wildlife, the Shiloh area:

- Supports 16 Federally endangered or threatened species
- Supports tens of thousands of wading birds, shorebirds, and waterfowl
- Has nine bald eagle territories within two miles of the proposed launch site
- Is adjacent to an important Scrub Reserve Unit that requires regular prescribed fire
- Is a contiguous landscape with little infrastructure
- Has few invasive species

The construction and operation of the proposed launch site could result in habitat loss and fragmentation, thereby adversely impacting resident and migratory wildlife and fish, unless the potential impacts were mitigated.



All boats observed in 100 overflights in 2002, credit USFWS



Child's grave in Shiloh, credit USFWS



Florida scrub-jay, credit USFWS/Jim Lyon



Gopher tortoise, credit USFWS/Jim Lyon