

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

How is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service involved in the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Shiloh Launch Complex?

Roles

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has two roles in the proposed project: Cooperating Agency and Regulatory Authority.
- The Federal Aviation Administration is the lead federal agency for the Shiloh Launch Complex Environmental Impact Statement.
- Because the proposed project is located on property managed as a National Wildlife Refuge, the Service will be a Cooperating Agency with the FAA on the EIS.
- Additionally, as a federal agency, the FAA is required to consult with the Service concerning the Service's statutory and trust responsibilities.

Cooperating Agency Responsibilities

- Provide technical assistance in the scoping process.
- Review and comment on proposed actions, alternatives, and impacts.
- Collaborate and provide information only to help resolve disputes.
- Explain the Service's recommendations for natural resource protection and meet regulatory responsibilities.
- Use the cooperatively developed National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Identify Endangered Species Act issues early.

Note: The Council on Environmental Quality provides a process for resolution of disputes between federal agencies.

Regulatory Authority Responsibilities

- Protect federally listed species and critical habitat (Endangered Species Act)
- Protect migratory birds (Migratory Bird Treaty Act)
- Protect bald and golden eagles (Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act)
- Protect cultural resources (National Historical Preservation Act)
- Conserve, manage, and restore refuge resources (National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act)
- Protect wetlands (Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act)
- Ensure compliance by FAA with Section 4(f) (Department of Transportation Act)
- Protect marine mammals and their ecosystems (Marine Mammal Protection Act)

