Board Meeting Minutes of

Friends of the Wildlife Corridor

March 29, 2017, 8:30 AM, Santa Ana NWR conference room

Board members: Debralee Rodriguez, John Thaxter, Lois Hughes, Jim Chapman, Roy Robles, Sharon Slagle, Tiffany Kersten, John McClung, Rick Ramke.
USFWS staff: Gisela Chapa, Rob Jess.
Guests: Karen Hernandez.
Call-in: Victoria Cappadona.

Action Items from Previous Meeting

1. **Rob. 3/7/2017.** Send Sharon points to include in letter to incoming DOI secretary and appropriate Congressional leaders regarding border fence.
2. **Fundraising Committee. 3/28/2017.** Present recommendations for fundraising.
3. **Bob, Lois.** Follow up with the City of Roma regarding purchase of Friends' canoes and equipment for $1,500. Resolution: Roma City Council will purchase canoes for $1500. Sharon will send invoice.

New Action Items

1.) **Sharon. 4/25/2017.** Invoice Roma for canoes.
2.) **Debralee. 4/25/2017.** Meet with Karen and Gisela regarding vinyl patches for Salinasville, and bring recommendation back to Board.
3.) **Fundraising Committee. 4/25/2017.** Present recommendations for fundraising activities for seedling survivorship research site.
4.) **Lois.** Send Sharon proposed agenda for meeting in April to discuss information from 2016 national Friends training.
5.) **Debralee.**Send Doodle poll for date for above meeting.
6.) **John T.** Find volunteer to work at Nature Store on weekends, especially Sunday afternoons.
7.) Rob.Check on agreements with CBP regarding access to FWS tract south of Hidalgo Pumphouse.

Agenda Topics

Apologies

Bryan Winton

Guest Introductions and Announcements

None

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approved

Financial Report

No items of concern.

Nature Store Report

Karen reported that store sales total in February 2017 (including Coastal Expo and online sales) was $14,596. Sales total in February 2016 were $17,300. Volunteers who have been working weekends for Karen are leaving; Karen solicited help for weekend work for the off-season.

USFWS Staff Report, STRC, Rob

- The complex will probably experience a 12% funding cut after April 28. Service funding is currently operating under a continuing resolution. Overhead projects are on hold through September. The priority programs, habitat restoration and the urban program, will continue to function.
- Rob is meeting with CBP to map strategic areas for road access assuming that the proposed extension of the border fence will happen. Three styles of fence or wall are being considered by the Administration, including a 30' tall concrete wall on the north side of the levee. Rob is trying to get Secy Zinke to visit the area.

USFWS Staff Report, SANWR, Gisela

- The Urban Transportation Initiative meeting was held to discuss how to overcome barriers to visitation at SANWR. Among the ideas discussed were bus and hike-and-bike transportation and marketing.
- 21 students attended the photo workshop.
- SANWR had >1,400 visitors during spring break.
- Raul hosted a field trip to SANWR for Capt. D. Salinas Elementary in Donna. The students run a "minitropolis" (Salinasville) with a wildlife refuge, including student park rangers (first through fifth grade). Gisela requested that FWC buy patches for their uniforms.

Committee Reports: Land Acquisition, chair Rick

FWC properties to be sold to USFWS have been surveyed but not appraised. New FWS guidelines require further title work; the current title policies attached to the deeds are not sufficient. FWS needs bids on title services. FWS has no money for this work currently due to the continuing resolution (no budget) and expected budget cut of at least 10% after April 28. Staff complications also have delayed work. The amount of money required to buy the properties is unknown until appraisals happen. Money is expected to come from emergency in-holding funds, but this is not guaranteed. Yvette (Region 2 Realty) will proceed with work, when possible, on individual properties; that is, FWC won't insist on selling all properties at once.

Committee Reports: Fundraising, chair Debralee

None

Committee Reports: Grants, chair Sharon

Seedling bids were sent to 11 growers; 4 responded. No update on NFWF grant application to redo Sal del Rey video.

Committee Reports: Communications, chair Rick

Newsletter will be posted first week of April. Send articles and photos to Rick at rwramke@gmail.com. Thank you to Gisela and Alyssa (intern) for articles. Rick will add SANWR Calendar of Events to the FWC website.

Committee Reports: Volunteer Coordination, chair John T.

None

New Business

- Tiffany described a field trip to an FWS tract south of the Hidalgo Pumphouse. The tract has trails that are not maintained. Tiffany will send the Board information on any future similar events.
- Lois requested a 4-hour meeting in which Lois, Debralee, and Victoria will present information they learned from the national Friends training.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 25, 2017
8:30 AM SANWR conference room

Adjournment

9:58 AM
Call in at B5 [redacted], PIN B5 [redacted]

Board Meeting Minutes of

Friends of the Wildlife Corridor

April 28, 2017, 8:30 AM, Santa Ana NWR conference room. Call in at 1[redacted], PIN [redacted].

Board members: Debralee Rodriguez, John Thaxter, Lois Hughes, Jim Chapman, Roy Robles, Sharon Slagle, Tiffany Kersten, Kelly Smith (by phone), Rick Ramke.
USFWS staff: Rob Jess.
Guests: Karen Hernandez.

Action Items from Previous Meeting

1.) **Sharon. 4/25/2017.** Invoice Roma for canoes. Status: Done. No response yet from Roma.
2.) **Debralee. 4/25/2017.** Meet with Karen and Gisela regarding vinyl patches for Salinasville, and bring recommendation back to Board. Status: No progress; Debralee will arrange to meet with Gisela.
3.) **Fundraising Committee. 4/25/2017.** Present recommendations for fundraising activities for seedling survivorship research site. Status: Committee hasn't met yet.
4.) **Debralee.** Send Doodle poll for date for above meeting. Status: Not enough responses to justify a meeting.
5.) **John T.** Find volunteer to work at Nature Store on weekends, especially Sunday afternoons. Status: John is working weekends at the nature store but we need more workers. John will appeal to Master Naturalists again with Kelly's help.
6.) **Rob**. Check on agreements with CBP regarding access to FWS tract south of Hidalgo Pumphouse. Status: No such agreement exists.

New Action Items

Kelly and John will work together to appeal to Master Naturalists to volunteer in the Nature Store.

Agenda Topics

Apologies

None

Guest Introductions and Announcements

None

Votes

- Approved: Minutes of previous meeting's minutes.
- Approved: $100 for lunch for the Boy Scout/FWC plant sale, May 20.

- Approved: Donate 500 plants to Texan by Nature PSJA project.
- To be voted via email: $250 for refreshments, June 3 Family Day at SANWR.

Financial Report

No items of concern.

Nature Store Report

Karen reported that sales total in March 2017 was about $11,000. (Sales total in March 2016 was about $14,000.)

USFWS Staff Report, STRC, Rob

- Celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of SANWR will be held in 2018. Sharon will apply for a $500 grant to support the event.
- June 3, 2017 is Family Day at SANWR. Bryan is asking for $250 for refreshments. Sharon will send an email vote.
- Gisela asked Rick to look into Google Ads for the STRC.
- Texan by Nature is supporting a PSJA initiative to encourage other school districts to become certified schoolyard habitat districts. The project was selected as the 2017 Conservation Wrangler (http://texanbynature.org/programs/conservation-wrangler/), and an event will be held November 8 or 9, 2017.
- STRC now has a Twitter account. Please share any information with Gisela to be posted via Twitter.
- Hidalgo County Precinct 2 will be pursuing construction of a hike-and-bike trail to connect PSJA to SANWR.
- Gisela will share weekly Urban updates on Mondays.
- A border wall national meeting was held yesterday, 4/27/17, at SANWR. A border wall proposal will be publicized next week.
- The Complex will be more strategic in future regarding winter volunteers, which will probably result in fewer volunteers. All volunteers will be housed at Marinoff. Sharon asked Rob if the FWC need for FWS volunteers in the Nature Store was considered. He said no but that he will make sure that such volunteers will be made available to us.
- Rob has asked Bryan and Gisela to review SANWR tram costs and benefits.

Committee Reports: Communications, chair Rick

Sales through our online store are continuing. Rick and our website provider are working on an issue with the USPS plug-in to make the shipping charges realistic.

Committee Reports: Fundraising, chair Debralee

The committee hasn't met, but they are interested in working with Bryan on a walk/run fundraising event.

Committee Reports: Government Relations, chair Jim

Jim asked Rob about Friends advocacy that could be controversial (such as border fence/wall issues). Rob asked that he be kept informed on any such efforts.

Committee Reports: Grants, chair Sharon

- The Boy Scout/FWC plant sale will be May 20. Sharon asked for a vote to provide $100 for lunch for the event; this was approved.
- Sharon signed an agreement with the Student Conservation Association for a 26-week intern to assist Kim in the re-veg program. Funding comes from the seedling account.

- Sharon met with Bryan and Richard Moore on the video on Sal del Rey funded by FWS with funds administered by FWC.
- Sharon is working with Gisela on funding plans for a project to replicate PSJA's schoolyard district model to additional districts (the Texan by Nature project mentioned above). FWC will administer the funds. Sharon asked for a **vote** to donate to the project 500 plants from our 1,500-plant allocation for administering the seedling account; the donation was **approved**.
- American Forest will contribute an extra $10,000 to STRC reforestation in 2018 based on their recent contest.

Committee Reports: Land Acquisition, chair Rick

CBP and the Corps of Engineers wants to rebuild an overgrown boat ramp on our property near El Calaboz. Rick is negotiating with them and will report on the results at the next meeting.

Committee Reports: Volunteer Coordination, chair John T.

John T. will work with Kelly to contact Master Naturalists again to solicit volunteer help in the nature store.

New Business

Tiffany described the environmental impact of balloons released into the environment; see https://balloonsblow.org/. The SPI Lantern Fest on May 10 will be just such a release. This FB group is pushing back: SPI Against Lantern Festival.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 31, 2017
8:30 AM SANWR conference room

Adjournment

9:40 AM

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Border Wall System/Enforcement Zone Project

Thursday, April 27, 2017
10:00 AM (Central) – 11:30 AM (Central)

Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge
3325 Green Jay, Alamo, TX 78516

AGENDA:

9:45 **DOI Starts Conference Line**
- B5 [redacted] Conference code: B5 [redacted] #

10:00 – 10:15 **CBP: Border Wall System Program Background**
- Executive Order
- U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) RGV FY17

10:15 – 10:30 **CBP: Border Wall System Project Overview**
- Location, Scope, & Anticipated Schedule
- Planning Activities (Real Estate/Records Property Research)

10:30 – 11:00 **CBP & USFWS: Project Coordination**
- Recap of Meeting with DOI
- Project Coordination Process
- Current Coordination Efforts
- Benefits of Border Wall System
- Communications Path Forward

11:00 – 11:15 **USFWS Questions & Concerns**

11:15 – 11:30 **CBP: Action Items & Next Steps**

CBP Attendees:

- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Director, Border Patrol & Air and Marine Program Management Office (BPAM PMO)
- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Environmental Branch Chief, BPAM PMO
- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Division Chief, RGV Sector, USBP
- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Communications Director, RGV Sector, USBP

DOI Attendees:

- Rob Jess, Refuge Manager
- Ernesto Reyes, USFWS

IBWC Attendees:

- Juan Uribe, Area Operations Manager
- Francisco Martinez, Assistant Area Operations Manager

Conversation Contents

Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

"(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) >
Sent: Thu May 04 2017 17:22:02 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "robert_jess@fws.gov" <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, "ernesto_reyes@fws.gov" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Subject: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Rob and Ernesto – Thank you for taking time to meet with us last week at the refuge, I appreciate you hosting us and all of the information and concerns each of you provided.

One of the action items from last week that we discussed was related to the possible need for a special use permit to conduct geotechnical testing along the levee. In discussions with our Chief Engineer ((b) (6), (b) (7)), he indicates that we should be able to install all geotechnical borings on the river side of the levee (approx. two thirds up from the toe of the levee) and access the boring locations from the top of the levee without having to access through the refuge. I am hoping this is good news for you and I believe it would still be useful for us to drive/walk the levee adjacent to the refuge to identify any concerns/recommendations you have for planning and design purposes. I was looking at the potential for a site visit on May 25th with our design contractor. Would you be available for a meeting and site walk on this date?

Thank you,

(b) (6), (b)
Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol and Air & Marine
Program Management Office
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Phone: (b) (6), (b)
Cell: (b) (6), (b)

"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent: Fri May 05 2017 08:01:18 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
CC: "robert_jess@fws.gov" <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

(b) (6)

It was good meeting you and placing a face with the name, and glad that you were able to attend the meeting. I am available on the 25th or any other day of that week for now. Rob is off today, but will be in on Monday to respond.

Ernesto

On Thu, May 4, 2017 at 6:22 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) > wrote:

> Rob and Ernesto – Thank you for taking time to meet with us last week at the refuge, I appreciate you hosting us and all of the information and concerns each of you provided.
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> Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief
> Border Patrol and Air & Marine
> Program Management Office
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> Phone: (b) (6), (b)
> Cell: (b) (6), (b)

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Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Fri May 05 2017 08:04:12 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

I have made myself available for May 25th and open for the rest of the week if the date changes.

Ernesto
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Date: Thu, May 4, 2017 at 6:22 PM
Subject: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
To: "robert_jess@fws.gov" <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, "ernesto_reyes@fws.gov" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

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Border Patrol and Air & Marine
Program Management Office
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Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

"Winton, Bryan" <bryan_winton@fws.gov>

From:	"Winton, Bryan" <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
Sent:	Fri May 05 2017 08:12:12 GMT-0600 (MDT)

To:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
CC:	Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, "Whitehead, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Borings on the levee will need to be coordinated/permitted by IBWC (NOT FWS). Whether we own the land (and they have an easement) or we do, the clearance to do borings in the levee must be authorized by IBWC. We can give them permission to access the levee from our land but borings in the levee need cleared by the entity responsible for flood control, so the work isn't performed in a manner that jeopardizes the integrity of the levee.

bryan

On Fri, May 5, 2017 at 9:04 AM, Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov> wrote:

> I have made myself available for May 25th and open for the rest of the week if the date changes.
>
> Ernesto
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> Date: Thu, May 4, 2017 at 6:22 PM
> Subject: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
> To: "robert_jess@fws.gov" <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, "ernesto_reyes@fws.gov" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
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Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

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Bryan R. Winton, Refuge Manager
Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3325 Green Jay Road
Alamo, Texas 78516
(956) 784-7521 office; (956) 874-4304 cell

"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Fri May 05 2017 08:30:10 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Winton, Bryan" <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
CC:	Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, "Whitehead, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Thanks, I will let him know to coordinate with IBWC which he probaly already has, sice they were at our meeting too.

Ernesto

On Fri, May 5, 2017 at 9:12 AM, Winton, Bryan <bryan_winton@fws.gov> wrote:

> Borings on the levee will need to be coordinated/permitted by IBWC (NOT FWS). Whether we own the land (and they have an easement) or we do, the clearance to do borings in the levee must be authorized by IBWC. We can give them permission to access the levee from our land but borings in the levee need cleared by the entity responsible for flood control, so the work isn't performed in a manner that jeopardizes the integrity of the levee.
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> On Fri, May 5, 2017 at 9:04 AM, Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov> wrote:
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> > I have made myself available for May 25th and open for the rest of the week if the date changes.
> >
> > Ernesto

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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) >
Date: Thu, May 4, 2017 at 6:22 PM
Subject: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
To: "robert_jess@fws.gov" <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, "ernesto_reyes@fws.gov" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

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"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Fri May 05 2017 08:32:16 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) >, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Subject:	Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

(b) (6)

Just make sure you coordinate with IBWC to get a permit for drilling on the levee which you probaly already have coordinated.

Ernesto

On Thu, May 4, 2017 at 6:22 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) wrote:

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Ernesto Reyes

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
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3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: "(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) >
Sent: Fri May 05 2017 11:48:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Yes, we have working with IBWC to address the geotech work on the levee. Thank you

From: Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 7:32 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

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Ernesto

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> Border Patrol and Air & Marine
> Program Management Office
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

> Phone: (b) (6), (b)
> Cell: (b) (6), (b)

--
Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Fri May 05 2017 12:11:11 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

FYI
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Date: Fri, May 5, 2017 at 12:48 PM
Subject: RE: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
To: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>

Yes, we have working with IBWC to address the geotech work on the levee. Thank you

From: Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 7:32 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

(b) (6),

Just make sure you coordinate with IBWC to get a permit for drilling on the levee which you probaly already have coordinated.

Ernesto

On Thu, May 4, 2017 at 6:22 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) wrote:

> Rob and Ernesto – Thank you for taking time to meet with us last week at the refuge, I appreciate you hosting us and all of the information and concerns each of you provided.
>
> One of the action items from last week that we discussed was related to the possible need for a special

use permit to conduct geotechnical testing along the levee. In discussions with our Chief Engineer (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), he indicates that we should be able to install all geotechnical borings on the river side of the levee (approx. two thirds up from the toe of the levee) and access the boring locations from the top of the levee without having to access through the refuge. I am hoping this is good news for you and I believe it would still be useful for us to drive/walk the levee adjacent to the refuge to identify any concerns/recommendations you have for planning and design purposes. I was looking at the potential for a site visit on May 25th with our design contractor. Would you be available for a meeting and site walk on this date?

Thank you,

(b) (6), (b)
Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol and Air & Marine
Program Management Office
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Phone: (b) (6), (b)
Cell (b) (6), (b)

--
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(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Fri May 05 2017 12:15:50 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Thanks Ernesto. I will wait to hear from Rob and then we can confirm the date and time.

From: Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

(b) (6)

It was good meeting you and placing a face with the name, and glad that you were able to attend the meeting. I am available on the 25th or any other day of that week for now. Rob is off today, but will be in on Monday to respond.

Ernesto

On Thu, May 4, 2017 at 6:22 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) > wrote:

> Rob and Ernesto – Thank you for taking time to meet with us last week at the refuge, I appreciate you hosting us and all of the information and concerns each of you provided.
>
> One of the action items from last week that we discussed was related to the possible need for a special use permit to conduct geotechnical testing along the levee. In discussions with our Chief Engineer ((b) (6), (b) (7)(C)), he indicates that we should be able to install all geotechnical borings on the river side of the levee (approx. two thirds up from the toe of the levee) and access the boring locations from the top of the levee without having to access through the refuge. I am hoping this is good news for you and I believe it would still be useful for us to drive/walk the levee adjacent to the refuge to identify any concerns/recommendations you have for planning and design purposes. I was looking at the potential for a site visit on May 25th with our design contractor. Would you be available for a meeting and site walk on this date?
>
> Thank you,
>
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> Border Patrol and Air & Marine
> Program Management Office
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> Phone: (b) (6), (b)
> Cell: (b) (6), (b)

--
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"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent: Fri May 05 2017 12:16:41 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Sounds good!

On Fri, May 5, 2017 at 1:15 PM (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) wrote:

> Thanks Ernesto. I will wait to hear from Rob and then we can confirm the date and time.
>
> **From:** Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
> **Sent:** Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
> **To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> **Cc:** robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
>
> (b) (6)
>
> It was good meeting you and placing a face with the name, and glad that you were able to attend the meeting. I am available on the 25th or any other day of that week for now. Rob is off today, but will be in on Monday to respond.
>
> Ernesto
>
> On Thu, May 4, 2017 at 6:22 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) wrote:
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> > Rob and Ernesto – Thank you for taking time to meet with us last week at the refuge, I appreciate you hosting us and all of the information and concerns each of you provided.
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> > Thank you,
> >
> > (b) (6), (b)
> > (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> > Border Patrol and Air & Marine
> > Program Management Office
> > (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> > Phone: (b) (6), (b)
> > Cell: (b) (6), (b)

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Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: "(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tue May 09 2017 14:28:10 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, "robert_jess@fws.gov" <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Rob – Just circling back with you on the below email regarding your availability for a planning meeting on Thursday May 25th. Please let me know if you have availability.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

From: Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

(b) (6),

It was good meeting you and placing a face with the name, and glad that you were able to attend the meeting. I am available on the 25th or any other day of that week for now. Rob is off today, but will be in on Monday to respond.

Ernesto

On Thu, May 4, 2017 at 6:22 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) wrote:

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>
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Thank you,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Border Patrol and Air & Marine
Program Management Office
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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Fax:956-787-8338

"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>

From:	"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Sent:	Wed May 10 2017 14:09:03 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
CC:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

(b) (6)
It looks like Ernesto and I are available to meet with you on Thursday, May 25th. We can meet here at Santa Ana and go from there? Let us know a time and we'll see you then.
rob

On Tue, May 9, 2017 at 3:28 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) wrote:

> Rob – Just circling back with you on the below email regarding your availability for a planning meeting on Thursday May 25th. Please let me know if you have availability.
>
> Thank you,

Paul

From: Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

[redacted]

It was good meeting you and placing a face with the name, and glad that you were able to attend the meeting. I am available on the 25th or any other day of that week for now. Rob is off today, but will be in on Monday to respond.

Ernesto

On Thu, May 4, 2017 at 6:22 PM, [redacted] wrote:

> Rob and Ernesto – Thank you for taking time to meet with us last week at the refuge, I appreciate you hosting us and all of the information and concerns each of you provided.
>
> One of the action items from last week that we discussed was related to the possible need for a special use permit to conduct geotechnical testing along the levee. In discussions with our Chief Engineer ([redacted]), he indicates that we should be able to install all geotechnical borings on the river side of the levee (approx. two thirds up from the toe of the levee) and access the boring locations from the top of the levee without having to access through the refuge. I am hoping this is good news for you and I believe it would still be useful for us to drive/walk the levee adjacent to the refuge to identify any concerns/recommendations you have for planning and design purposes. I was looking at the potential for a site visit on May 25th with our design contractor. Would you be available for a meeting and site walk on this date?
>
> Thank you,
>
> [redacted]
> Border Patrol and Air & Marine
> Program Management Office
> [redacted]
> Phone: [redacted]
> Cell: [redacted]

--
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--
robert jess
project leader
south texas refuge complex
alamo, texas

"(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) >

From:	"(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent:	Wed May 10 2017 15:10:45 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Subject:	RE: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Thank you Rob. I will confirm a time with our Project Engineer and sent a meeting invite for the 25th.

From: Jess, Robert [mailto:robert_jess@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 1:09 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>; kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

(b) (6)
It looks like Ernesto and I are available to meet with you on Thursday, May 25th. We can meet here at Santa Ana and go from there? Let us know a time and we'll see you then.
rob

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> Rob – Just circling back with you on the below email regarding your availability for a planning meeting on Thursday May 25th. Please let me know if you have availability.
>
> Thank you,
>
> (b) (6)
> **From:** Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
> **Sent:** Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
> **To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> **Cc:** robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
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> (b) (6),
> It was good meeting you and placing a face with the name, and glad that you were able to attend the meeting. I am available on the 25th or any other day of that week for now. Rob is off today, but will be in on Monday to respond.
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> Ernesto
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> (b) (6), (b)
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> Border Patrol and Air & Marine
> Program Management Office
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> Phone: (b) (6), (b)
> Cell: (b) (6), (b)

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Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
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--
robert jess
project leader
south texas refuge complex
alamo, texas

"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu May 11 2017 08:32:16 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Date: Wed, May 10, 2017 at 4:10 PM
Subject: RE: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
To: "Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Cc: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>

Thank you Rob. I will confirm a time with our Project Engineer and sent a meeting invite for the 25th.

From: Jess, Robert [mailto:robert_jess@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 1:09 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>; kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

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rob

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> Rob – Just circling back with you on the below email regarding your availability for a planning meeting on Thursday May 25th. Please let me know if you have availability.
>
> Thank you,
>
> (b) (6)
> **From:** Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
> **Sent:** Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
> **To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> **Cc:** robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
>
> (b) (6),
> It was good meeting you and placing a face with the name, and glad that you were able to attend the meeting. I am available on the 25th or any other day of that week for now. Rob is off today, but will be in on Monday to respond.
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> > One of the action items from last week that we discussed was related to the possible need for a special use permit to conduct geotechnical testing along the levee. In discussions with our Chief Engineer ((b) (6), (b) (7)(C)), he indicates that we should be able to install all geotechnical borings on the river side of the levee (approx. two thirds up from the toe of the levee) and access the boring locations from the top of the levee without having to access through the refuge. I am hoping this is good news for you and I believe it would still be useful for us to drive/walk the levee adjacent to the refuge to identify any concerns/recommendations you have for planning and design purposes. I was looking at the potential for a site visit on May 25th with our design contractor. Would you be available for a meeting and site walk on this date?

Thank you,

(b) (6), (b)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Border Patrol and Air & Marine
Program Management Office
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Phone: (b) (6), (b)
Cell: (b) (6), (b)

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robert jess
project leader
south texas refuge complex
alamo, texas

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Fax:956-787-8338

"Gardiner, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>

From:	"Gardiner, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu May 11 2017 14:05:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
CC:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

I plan to attend with you Ernesto.

On Fri, May 5, 2017 at 9:04 AM, Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov> wrote:

> I have made myself available for May 25th and open for the rest of the week if the date changes.
>
> Ernesto
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: [redacted]
> Date: Thu, May 4, 2017 at 6:22 PM
> Subject: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
> To: "robert_jess@fws.gov" <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, "ernesto_reyes@fws.gov" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
>
> Rob and Ernesto – Thank you for taking time to meet with us last week at the refuge, I appreciate you hosting us and all of the information and concerns each of you provided.
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> One of the action items from last week that we discussed was related to the possible need for a special use permit to conduct geotechnical testing along the levee. In discussions with our Chief Engineer ([redacted]), he indicates that we should be able to install all geotechnical borings on the river side of the levee (approx. two thirds up from the toe of the levee) and access the boring locations from the top of the levee without having to access through the refuge. I am hoping this is good news for you and I believe it would still be useful for us to drive/walk the levee adjacent to the refuge to identify any concerns/recommendations you have for planning and design purposes. I was looking at the potential for a site visit on May 25th with our design contractor. Would you be available for a meeting and site walk on this date?
>
> Thank you,
>
> [redacted]
> Border Patrol and Air & Marine
> Program Management Office
> [redacted]
> Phone: [redacted]
> Cell: [redacted]
>
> --
> Ernesto Reyes
> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
> Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
> Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
> 3325 Green Jay Rd
> Alamo, Texas 78516
> Tel:956-784-7560
> Fax:956-787-8338

--

E. Dawn Gardiner
Assistant Field Supervisor
Texas Coastal Ecological Services Field Office
P.O. Box 81468
Corpus Christi, TX 78468-1468

(361) 994-9005 x 259
(361) 533-6765 work cell

"(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From:	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent:	Wed May 17 2017 16:53:02 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Subject:	RE: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Rob and Ernesto – We were hoping to have our design contractor on board this week so that we could proceed with this meeting and unfortunately there has been a delay. We are now looking at June 7th or 8th. Would you both have availability on either of those dates?

Thank you.

From: Jess, Robert [mailto:robert_jess@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 1:09 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>; kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

(b) (6)
It looks like Ernesto and I are available to meet with you on Thursday, May 25th. We can meet here at Santa Ana and go from there? Let us know a time and we'll see you then.
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On Tue, May 9, 2017 at 3:28 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) wrote:

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> Thank you,
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> (b) (6)
> **From:** Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
> **Sent:** Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
> **To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> **Cc:** robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
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> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> Border Patrol and Air & Marine
> Program Management Office
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> Phone: (b) (6), (b)
> Cell: (b) (6), (b)

--
Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

--
robert jess
project leader
south texas refuge complex
alamo, texas

"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu May 18 2017 06:06:16 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
CC:	"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

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"Andrew, Jonathan" <jonathan_andrew@ios.doi.gov>

From:	"Andrew, Jonathan" <jonathan_andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Sent:	Thu May 18 2017 06:09:53 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
CC:	[redacted] "Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Brent Range <brent_range@nps.gov>
Subject:	Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

I am as well - an announcement will be forthcoming but Brent Range NPS Superintendent at Organ Pipe will be the new coordinator. I will copy him here and it would be helpful for him to attend and also have a general overview of the situation in South Texas.

Hopefully these dates will work for a visit to the Valley.

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> > **Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2017 1:09 PM
> > **To:** [redacted]
> > **Cc:** Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>; kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
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> > > **Sent:** Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
> > > **To:** [redacted]
> > > **Cc:** robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
> > > **Subject:** Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
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--
Jon Andrew
Interagency Borderlands Coordinator
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

202-320-0718 (cell)

"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu May 18 2017 07:44:37 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>, Robert Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Here is the rescheduled dates!

Ernesto
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Date: Wed, May 17, 2017 at 5:53 PM
Subject: RE: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
To: "Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Cc: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>

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Cc: Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>; kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
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"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu May 18 2017 07:47:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, "Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

FYI. Might meet Jon Andrews new replacement if he can make it on these proposed dates.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Andrew, Jonathan** <jonathan_andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, May 18, 2017 at 7:09 AM
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
To: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Cc: [redacted] "Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Brent Range <brent_range@nps.gov>

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[redacted]
Border Patrol and Air & Marine
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[redacted]
Phone: [redacted]
Cell: [redacted]

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202-320-0718 (cell)

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"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>

From:	"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Sent:	Mon May 22 2017 06:21:31 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
CC:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>
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> > Border Patrol and Air & Marine
> > Program Management Office
> > (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> > Phone: (b) (6), (b)
> > Cell: (b) (6), (b)

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Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator

> Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
> 3325 Green Jay Rd
> Alamo, Texas 78516
> Tel:956-784-7560
> Fax:956-787-8338

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robert jess
project leader
south texas refuge complex
alamo, texas

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robert jess
project leader
south texas refuge complex
alamo, texas

"Andrew, Jonathan" <jonathan_andrew@ios.doi.gov>

From:	"Andrew, Jonathan" <jonathan_andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Sent:	Mon May 22 2017 06:32:41 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>
CC:	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Brent and I might try to make this meeting and maybe take a little time to look around the Valley that week.

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 8:21 AM, Jess, Robert <robert_jess@fws.gov> wrote:

> (b) (6)
>
> It looks like we're all available either June 7th or 8th...
> Let us know,
> rob
>
> On Wed, May 17, 2017 at 5:53 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) wrote:
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> Rob and Ernesto – We were hoping to have our design contractor on board this week so that we could proceed with this meeting and unfortunately there has been a delay. We are now looking at June 7th or 8th. Would you both have availability on either of those dates?
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> Thank you.
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> **From:** Jess, Robert [mailto:robert_jess@fws.gov]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2017 1:09 PM
> **To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> **Cc:** Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>; kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

(b) (6)
It looks like Ernesto and I are available to meet with you on Thursday, May 25th. We can meet here at Santa Ana and go from there? Let us know a time and we'll see you then.
rob

On Tue, May 9, 2017 at 3:28 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) wrote:

> Rob – Just circling back with you on the below email regarding your availability for a planning meeting on Thursday May 25th. Please let me know if you have availability.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Paul
>
> **From:** Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
> **Sent:** Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
> **To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> **Cc:** robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
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> (b) (6),
> It was good meeting you and placing a face with the name, and glad that you were able to attend the meeting. I am available on the 25th or any other day of that week for now. Rob is off today, but will be in on Monday to respond.
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Jon Andrew
Interagency Borderlands Coordinator
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

202-320-0718 (cell)

[redacted]

From:	"[redacted]" >
Sent:	Mon May 22 2017 07:35:16 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Subject:	RE: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Thank you Rob. Can we set the meeting time for 9AM on June 7th? We can meet at your visitor center?

From: Jess, Robert [mailto:robert_jess@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 5:22 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>; kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>; Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>; Sonny Perez

<sonny_perez@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

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To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) >
Cc: Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>; kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
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Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

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Thank you,

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Border Patrol and Air & Marine
Program Management Office
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
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"Andrew, Jonathan" <jonathan_andrew@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Andrew, Jonathan" <jonathan_andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon May 22 2017 07:38:20 GMT-0600 (MDT)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Brent Range

To: <brent_range@nps.gov>

CC: "Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>, "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

If this firms up - Brent and I will plan to get into town on the 6th.

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 9:35 AM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) wrote:

> Thank you Rob. Can we set the meeting time for 9AM on June 7th? We can meet at your visitor center?
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> **Sent:** Monday, May 22, 2017 5:22 AM
> **To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> **Cc:** Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>; kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>; Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>; Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>
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> > > **From:** Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
> > > **Sent:** Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
> > > **To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Cc: robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

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> Cell (b) (6), (b)

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Ernesto Reyes
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Jon Andrew
Interagency Borderlands Coordinator
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

202-320-0718 (cell)

"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>

From:	"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Sent:	Mon May 22 2017 08:30:04 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) >
CC:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

To all,
It looks like we have a set date and time for our meeting:

June 7th - 0900
Santa Ana Conference room

If you have any questions, please let me know...
rob

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 8:35 AM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) > wrote:

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> > (b) (6),
> > **From:** Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
> > **Sent:** Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
> > **To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> > **Cc:** robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
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"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon May 22 2017 11:06:37 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

This could be the wall design for this meeting.

Ernesto
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jess, Robert** <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, May 22, 2017 at 9:30 AM
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
To: "(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>

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Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

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--
Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

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"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon May 22 2017 12:48:09 GMT-0600 (MDT)

To: "Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Looks like Jon Andrew will be coming with his replacement for the June 7th Border Fence meeting with CBP at SA at 9am.

Ernesto

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Andrew, Jonathan** <jonathan_andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Mon, May 22, 2017 at 8:38 AM
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
To: [redacted] Brent Range <brent_range@nps.gov>
Cc: "Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>, "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>

If this firms up - Brent and I will plan to get into town on the 6th.

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> **From:** Jess, Robert [mailto:robert_jess@fws.gov]
> **Sent:** Monday, May 22, 2017 5:22 AM
> **To:** [redacted] >
> **Cc:** Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>; kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>; Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>; Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>
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> Thank you,
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> Paul
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> **From:** Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
> **Sent:** Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
> **To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> **Cc:** robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
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202-320-0718 (cell)

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"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>

From:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu May 25 2017 05:38:48 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Ernesto,

I would like to come down for this. Probably fly in on the 6th and out the evening of the 7th (not

sure I want to drive again it was a long drive), or is Jon staying longer?

Chuck Ardizzone
Project Leader
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"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu May 25 2017 06:32:57 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

I think Jon might stay a day longer to show his replacement what infrastructure we have here, so you might send Jon an email to see what his plan is for that week.

Ernesto

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From:	"(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent:	Tue May 30 2017 23:29:48 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Brent Range <brent_range@nps.gov>
Subject:	RE: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

All - I apologize but we will need to postpone this meeting due to a conflict with some of the participants. Would you be available to have this meeting at the refuge during the last week of June (week of June 26th).

Thank you,

(b) (6)

From: Reyes, Ernesto
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 5:06:16 AM
To
Cc: Jess, Robert; Jonathan Andrew; kelly mcdowell; Dawn Whitehead
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

I'm available either day.

Ernesto

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Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

(b) (6)

It was good meeting you and placing a face with the name, and glad that you were able to attend the meeting. I am available on the 25th or any other day of that week for now. Rob is off today, but will be in on Monday to respond.

Ernesto

On Thu, May 4, 2017 at 6:22 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) > wrote:

> Rob and Ernesto – Thank you for taking time to meet with us last week at the refuge, I appreciate you hosting us and all of the information and concerns each of you provided.
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> One of the action items from last week that we discussed was related to the possible need for a special use permit to conduct geotechnical testing along the levee. In discussions with our Chief Engineer (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)), he indicates that we should be able to install all geotechnical borings on the river side of the levee (approx. two thirds up from the toe of the levee) and access the boring locations from the top of the levee without having to access through the refuge. I am hoping this is good news for you and I believe it would still be useful for us to drive/walk the levee adjacent to the refuge to identify any concerns/recommendations you have for planning and design purposes. I was looking at the potential for a site visit on May 25th with our design contractor. Would you be available for a meeting and site walk on this date?
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> Thank you,
>
> (b) (6), (b)
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> Border Patrol and Air & Marine
> Program Management Office
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> Phone: (b) (6), (b)
> Cell (b) (6), (b)

--
Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

--
robert jess
project leader
south texas refuge complex
alamo, texas

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Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

"Andrew, Jonathan" <jonathan_andrew@ios.doi.gov>

From:	"Andrew, Jonathan" <jonathan_andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Sent:	Wed May 31 2017 05:47:28 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
CC:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Brent Range <brent_range@nps.gov>, "Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

That works for me.

On Wed, May 31, 2017 at 1:29 AM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) > wrote:

> All - I apologize but we will need to postpone this meeting due to a conflict with some of the participants. Would you be available to have this meeting at the refuge during the last week of June (week of June 26th).
>
> Thank you,
>
> (b) (6)

From: Reyes, Ernesto
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 5:06:16 AM
To: ENRIQUEZ, PAUL
Cc: Jess, Robert; Jonathan Andrew; kelly mcdowell; Dawn Whitehead
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

I'm available either day.

Ernesto

On Wed, May 17, 2017 at 5:53 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) wrote:

> Rob and Ernesto – We were hoping to have our design contractor on board this week so that we could proceed with this meeting and unfortunately there has been a delay. We are now looking at June 7th or 8th. Would you both have availability on either of those dates?

Thank you.

From: Jess, Robert [mailto:robert_jess@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 1:09 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>; kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

(b) (6),

It looks like Ernesto and I are available to meet with you on Thursday, May 25th. We can meet here at Santa Ana and go from there? Let us know a time and we'll see you then.
rob

On Tue, May 9, 2017 at 3:28 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) > wrote:

> Rob – Just circling back with you on the below email regarding your availability for a planning meeting on Thursday May 25th. Please let me know if you have availability.
>
> Thank you,
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> (b) (6),
> **From:** Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
> **Sent:** Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
> **To:** ENRIQUEZ, PAUL <paul.enriquez@cbp.dhs.gov>
> **Cc:** robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
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> > Border Patrol and Air & Marine
> > Program Management Office

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Phone: (b) (6), (b)
Cell (b) (6), (b)

--
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--
Jon Andrew
Interagency Borderlands Coordinator
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

202-320-0718 (cell)

"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>

From:	"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Sent:	Wed May 31 2017 06:18:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CC: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Brent Range <brent_range@nps.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Paul,
We'll have to move some meetings around so we'll need a specific day as soon as possible.
rob

On Wed, May 31, 2017 at 12:29 AM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) > wrote:

> All - I apologize but we will need to postpone this meeting due to a conflict with some of the participants. Would you be available to have this meeting at the refuge during the last week of June (week of June 26th).
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> Thank you,
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> (b) (6)

From: Reyes, Ernesto
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 5:06:16 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Jess, Robert; Jonathan Andrew; kelly mcdowell; Dawn Whitehead

Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

I'm available either day.

Ernesto

On Wed, May 17, 2017 at 5:53 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) > wrote:

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> Thank you.
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> **From:** Jess, Robert [mailto:robert_jess@fws.gov]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2017 1:09 PM
> **To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> **Cc:** Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>; kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
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(b) (6)

From: Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) >
Cc: robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

(b) (6)

It was good meeting you and placing a face with the name, and glad that you were able to attend the meeting. I am available on the 25th or any other day of that week for now. Rob is off today, but will be in on Monday to respond.

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> Border Patrol and Air & Marine
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> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> Phone: (b) (6), (b)
> Cell: (b) (6), (b)

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> --
> robert jess
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> south texas refuge complex
> alamo, texas

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(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: "(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wed May 31 2017 07:25:28 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "'Jess, Robert'" <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Thanks Rob. I believe we will try for Wednesday or Thursday of that week but will identify a specific date ASAP and get back to the group.

From: Jess, Robert [mailto:robert_jess@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 5:19 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Reyes, Ernesto; Brent Range; Jonathan Andrew; kelly mcdowell; Dawn Whitehead; Bryan Winton; Sonny Perez
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

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We'll have to move some meetings around so we'll need a specific day as soon as possible.
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From: Reyes, Ernesto
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 5:06:16 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Jess, Robert; Jonathan Andrew; kelly mcdowell; Dawn Whitehead

Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

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> **Cc:** Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>; kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
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> > **From:** Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
> > **Sent:** Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
> > **To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> > **Cc:** robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
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One of the action items from last week that we discussed was related to the possible need for a special use permit to conduct geotechnical testing along the levee. In discussions with our Chief Engineer ([redacted]), he indicates that we should be able to install all geotechnical borings on the river side of the levee (approx. two thirds up from the toe of the levee) and access the boring locations from the top of the levee without having to access through the refuge. I am hoping this is good news for you and I believe it would still be useful for us to drive/walk the levee adjacent to the refuge to identify any concerns/recommendations you have for planning and design purposes. I was looking at the potential for a site visit on May 25th with our design contractor. Would you be available for a meeting and site walk on this date?

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[redacted]
[redacted]
Border Patrol and Air & Marine
Program Management Office
[redacted]
[redacted]
Phone: [redacted]
Cell: [redacted]

--
Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
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project leader
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alamo, texas

"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Wed May 31 2017 07:33:08 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

FYI
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jess, Robert** <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, May 31, 2017 at 7:18 AM
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
To: "(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Brent Range <brent_range@nps.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>

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Thank you,

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Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 5:06:16 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Jess, Robert; Jonathan Andrew; kelly mcdowell; Dawn Whitehead

Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

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Cc: Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>; kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
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> **Subject:** Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
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Dawn Gardiner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>

From:	Dawn Gardiner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Sent:	Wed May 31 2017 11:20:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
CC:	"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>, "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Brent Range <brent_range@nps.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Thursday is a better day for me.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 31, 2017, at 8:25 AM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) > wrote:

> Thanks Rob. I believe we will try for Wednesday or Thursday of that week but will identify a specific date ASAP and get back to the group.
>
> **From:** Jess, Robert [mailto:robert_jess@fws.gov]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, May 31, 2017 5:19 AM
> **To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> **Cc:** Reyes, Ernesto; Brent Range; Jonathan Andrew; kelly mcdowell; Dawn Whitehead; Bryan Winton; Sonny Perez
> **Subject:** Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
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[redacted]
Border Patrol and Air & Marine
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[redacted]
Phone: [redacted]
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--
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From:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Sent:	Wed May 31 2017 14:41:31 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

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> One of the action items from last week that we discussed was related to the possible need for a special use permit to conduct geotechnical testing along the levee. In discussions with our Chief Engineer ((b) (6), (b) (7)(C)), he indicates that we should be able to install all geotechnical borings on the river side of the levee (approx. two thirds up from the toe of the levee) and access the boring locations from the top of the levee without having to access through the refuge. I am hoping this is good news for you and I believe it would still be useful for us to drive/walk the levee adjacent to the refuge to identify any concerns/recommendations you have for planning and design purposes. I was looking at the potential for a site visit on May 25th with our design contractor. Would you be available for a meeting and site walk on this date?
>
> Thank you,
>
> (b) (6), (b)
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> Border Patrol and Air & Marine
> Program Management Office
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> Phone (b) (6), (b)
> Cell: (b) (6), (b)

--
Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

--
robert jess
project leader
south texas refuge complex
alamo, texas

--
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Fax:956-787-8338

Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>

From: Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Jun 01 2017 06:42:48 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

Ok just wanted to check before I canceled my travel. Thanks!

Sent from my IPhone

Chuck Ardizzone
Project Leader
Texas Coastal ESFO
US Fish and Wildlife Service
17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
Houston, TX 77508
C: 713-882-1912

On Jun 1, 2017, at 7:21 AM, Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov> wrote:

> The meeting next week got cancelled until sometime on the last week of June. Waiting to hear back from CBP on the date, and Jon said he was available that week, and will be coming with his replacement. I will let you know as soon as CBP picks a date.
>
> Ernesto
>
> On Wed, May 31, 2017 at 3:44 PM, Ardizzone, Chuck <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov> wrote:
>
> > Guess I am asking did Jon coming or not? If not I will cancel my travel.
> >
> > **Chuck Ardizzone**
> > Project Leader
> > Texas Coastal Ecological Services
> > U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
> > 17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
> > Houston, TX 77058
> > W: (281) 286-8282 Ext 228
> > C: (713) 882-1912
> > F: (281) 488-5882
> >
> > ***"Leaders must learn to discipline their disappointments. It's not what happens to us, it is what we choose to do about what happens that makes the difference in how our lives turn out."***
> >
> > ***Jim Rohn***
> >
> > ***"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are***

a leader"

John Quincy Adams

On Wed, May 31, 2017 at 3:41 PM, Ardizzone, Chuck <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov> wrote:

> Just to be clear next weeks meeting is cancelled? If so I need to cancel my travel.

Chuck Ardizzone
Project Leader
Texas Coastal Ecological Services
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
Houston, TX 77058
W: (281) 286-8282 Ext 228
C: (713) 882-1912
F: (281) 488-5882

"Leaders must learn to discipline their disappointments. It's not what happens to us, it is what we choose to do about what happens that makes the difference in how our lives turn out."

Jim Rohn

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader"

John Quincy Adams

On Wed, May 31, 2017 at 8:33 AM, Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov> wrote:

> FYI
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Jess, Robert** <robert_jess@fws.gov>
> Date: Wed, May 31, 2017 at 7:18 AM
> Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge
> To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) >
> Cc: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Brent Range <brent_range@nps.gov>, Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>
>
> (b) (6)
> We'll have to move some meetings around so we'll need a specific day as soon as possible.
> rob
>
> On Wed, May 31, 2017 at 12:29 AM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> wrote:
All - I apologize but we will need to postpone this meeting due to a conflict with some of the participants. Would you be available to have this meeting at the refuge during the last week of June (week of June 26th).

Thank you,

(b)
(6)

From: Reyes, Ernesto
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 5:06:16 AM
To: ex 6 & 7c ex 6
Cc: Jess, Robert; Jonathan Andrew; kelly mcdowell; Dawn Whitehead

Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

I'm available either day.

Ernesto

On Wed, May 17, 2017 at 5:53 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> wrote:

Rob and Ernesto – We were hoping to have our design contractor on board this week so that we could proceed with this meeting and unfortunately there has been a delay. We are now looking at June 7th or 8th. Would you both have availability on either of those dates?

Thank you.

From: Jess, Robert [mailto:robert_jess@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 1:09 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>; kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

ex 6
It looks like Ernesto and I are available to meet with you on Thursday, May 25th. We can meet here at Santa Ana and go from there? Let us know a time and we'll see you then.
rob

On Tue, May 9, 2017 at 3:28 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) > wrote:

Rob – Just circling back with you on the below email regarding your availability for a planning meeting on Thursday May 25th. Please let me know if you have availability.

Thank you,

ex 6

From: Reyes, Ernesto [mailto:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 7:01 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) >
Cc: robert_jess@fws.gov; Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Possible Site Meeting at Santa Ana Refuge

(b) (6)

It was good meeting you and placing a face with the name, and glad that you were able to attend the meeting. I am available on the 25th or any other day of that week for now. Rob is off today, but will be in on Monday to respond.

Ernesto

On Thu, May 4, 2017 at 6:22 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) wrote:

> Rob and Ernesto – Thank you for taking time to meet with us last week at the refuge, I appreciate you hosting us and all of the information and concerns each of you provided.
>
> One of the action items from last week that we discussed was related to the possible need for a special use permit to conduct geotechnical testing along the levee. In discussions with our Chief Engineer ((b) (6), (b) (7)(C)), he indicates that we should be able to install all geotechnical borings on the river side of the levee (approx. two thirds up from the toe of the levee) and access the boring locations from the top of the levee without having to access through the refuge. I am hoping this is good news for you and I believe it would still be useful for us to drive/walk the levee adjacent to the refuge to identify any concerns/recommendations you have for planning and design purposes. I was looking at the potential for a site visit on May 25th with our design contractor. Would you be available for a meeting and site walk on this date?
>
> Thank you,
>
> (b) (6), (b)
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> Border Patrol and Air & Marine
> Program Management Office
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
> Phone (b) (6), (b)
> Cell: (b) (6), (b)

--
Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

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> > > > robert jess
> > > > project leader
> > > > south texas refuge complex
> > > > alamo, texas
> > > >
> > > > --
> > > > Ernesto Reyes
> > > > U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
> > > > Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
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> > > > 3325 Green Jay Rd
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> > > --
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> > > south texas refuge complex
> > > alamo, texas
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> > > --
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Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

Label: "Border Folder"

Created by:kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov

Total Messages in label:10 (4 conversations)

Created: 05-17-2017 at 13:27 PM

Conversation Contents

Invitation: Texas Border Wall GeoTech (Tom Harvey) - will call Kelly @ Thu May 4, 2017 1:30pm - 2pm (kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov)

Attachments:

/2. Invitation: Texas Border Wall GeoTech (Tom Harvey) - will call Kelly @ Thu May 4, 2017 1:30pm - 2pm (kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov)/1.1 invite.ics
/2. Invitation: Texas Border Wall GeoTech (Tom Harvey) - will call Kelly @ Thu May 4, 2017 1:30pm - 2pm (kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov)/1.2 invite.ics

Joy Nicholopoulos <joy_nicholopoulos@fws.gov>

From:	Joy Nicholopoulos <joy_nicholopoulos@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu May 04 2017 10:18:37 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov, thomas_harvey@fws.gov
Subject:	Invitation: Texas Border Wall GeoTech (Tom Harvey) - will call Kelly @ Thu May 4, 2017 1:30pm - 2pm (kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov)
Attachments:	invite.ics invite.ics

Texas Border Wall GeoTech (Tom Harvey) - will call Kelly more details »

When Thu May 4, 2017 1:30pm – 2pm Mountain Time

Video call https://plus.google.com/hangouts/_/doi.gov/joy-nicholopoul

Calendar kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov

Who
- joy_nicholopoulos@fws.gov - organizer
- stacey_garcia@fws.gov - creator
- thomas_harvey@fws.gov
- kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov

Going? Yes - Maybe - No more options »

Invitation from Google Calendar

You are receiving this email at the account kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov because you are subscribed for invitations on calendar kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov.

To stop receiving these emails, please log in to https://www.google.com/calendar/ and change your notification settings for this calendar.

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to modify your RSVP response. Learn More.

Label: "Border Wall FOIA 2017"

Created by:monica_kimbrough@fws.gov

Total Messages in label:21 (3 conversations)

Created: 05-17-2017 at 13:44 PM

Conversation Contents

Re: Media Inquiry - Border interview question

"Gray, Lesli" <lesli_gray@fws.gov>

From:	"Gray, Lesli" <lesli_gray@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Aug 23 2016 09:15:41 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Beth Britt <beth_britt@fws.gov>
CC:	Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>, Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Media Inquiry - Border interview question

Resending because I received Kelly's out of office message so including Monica on the email. Lesli

On Tue, Aug 23, 2016 at 10:07 AM, Gray, Lesli <lesli_gray@fws.gov> wrote:

> Hi Beth, just received a call from Meredith Manning, a reporter with WFAA (Dallas ABC station). WFAA is beginning a new program, Verify, where they are helping people trackdown/verify answers to their questions. They are currently working on the following question - "Is it possible to build a border wall across the U.S. Border?" Meredith has contacted us because they are traveling to South Texas starting tomorrow and would like to visit Laguna Atascosa NWR. They would like to talk with the refuge about potential environmental impacts of a wall (she mentioned ocelot) the morning of August 25th. She said they are not looking for any political spin on this just what it might mean for the species/environment at/near the refuge. Please advise how you would like me to respond. Lesli
>
> --
> ***PLEASE NOTE UPDATED PHONE #***
>
> Lesli A. Gray
> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
> Public Affairs Specialist
> 972-439-4542
> lesli_gray@fws.gov
> www.fws.gov/southwest

--
PLEASE NOTE UPDATED PHONE #

Lesli A. Gray

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Public Affairs Specialist
972-439-4542
lesli_gray@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/southwest

"Britt, Beth" <beth_britt@fws.gov>

From:	"Britt, Beth" <beth_britt@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Aug 23 2016 09:46:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Vanessa Kauffman <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
CC:	Lesli Gray <lesli_gray@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>, Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Media Inquiry - Border interview question

Hi Vanessa and Gavin,
Please see below... I know we are referring all "wall" questions to headquarters, but this one is a bit different and rather urgent as they are planning a visit to our NWR on 25 August, and we would like to provide verbiage (which I assume says something to the effect of we wouldn't address the impact of a hypothetical wall) and guidance to our Refuge staff.
Thank you,
Beth

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Gray, Lesli** <lesli_gray@fws.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 23, 2016 at 9:07 AM
Subject: Media Inquiry - Border interview question
To: Beth Britt <beth_britt@fws.gov>
Cc: Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>

Hi Beth, just received a call from Meredith Manning, a reporter with WFAA (Dallas ABC station). WFAA is beginning a new program, Verify, where they are helping people trackdown/verify answers to their questions. They are currently working on the following question - "Is it possible to build a border wall across the U.S. Border?" Meredith has contacted us because they are traveling to South Texas starting tomorrow and would like to visit Laguna Atascosa NWR. They would like to talk with the refuge about potential environmental impacts of a wall (she mentioned ocelot) the morning of August 25th. She said they are not looking for any political spin on this just what it might mean for the species/environment at/near the refuge. Please advise how you would like me to respond.
Lesli

--

PLEASE NOTE UPDATED PHONE #

Lesli A. Gray
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Public Affairs Specialist
972-439-4542
lesli_gray@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/southwest

--
Beth Britt
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region
External Affairs
d 505.248.6285
m 505.252.3046
beth_britt@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/southwest

Arizona | New Mexico | Oklahoma | Texas

Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>

From:	Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Aug 23 2016 10:14:18 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Britt, Beth" <beth_britt@fws.gov>
CC:	Vanessa Kauffman <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>, Lesli Gray <lesli_gray@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>, Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov, amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov
Subject:	Re: Media Inquiry - Border interview question

They may say this is not political but it is highly charged politically regardless. I think this should go to the Department and so am ccing them here for their advice on how to proceed.

G

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 23, 2016, at 11:46 AM, Britt, Beth <beth_britt@fws.gov> wrote:

> Hi Vanessa and Gavin,

Please see below... I know we are referring all "wall" questions to headquarters, but this one is a bit different and rather urgent as they are planning a visit to our NWR on 25 August, and we would like to provide verbiage (which I assume says something to the effect of we wouldn't address the impact of a hypothetical wall) and guidance to our Refuge staff.
Thank you,
Beth

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Gray, Lesli** <lesli_gray@fws.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 23, 2016 at 9:07 AM
Subject: Media Inquiry - Border interview question
To: Beth Britt <beth_britt@fws.gov>
Cc: Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>

Hi Beth, just received a call from Meredith Manning, a reporter with WFAA (Dallas ABC station). WFAA is beginning a new program, Verify, where they are helping people trackdown/verify answers to their questions. They are currently working on the following question - "Is it possible to build a border wall across the U.S. Border?" Meredith has contacted us because they are traveling to South Texas starting tomorrow and would like to visit Laguna Atascosa NWR. They would like to talk with the refuge about potential environmental impacts of a wall (she mentioned ocelot) the morning of August 25th. She said they are not looking for any political spin on this just what it might mean for the species/environment at/near the refuge. Please advise how you would like me to respond. Lesli

--
PLEASE NOTE UPDATED PHONE #

Lesli A. Gray
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Public Affairs Specialist
972-439-4542
lesli_gray@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/southwest

--
Beth Britt
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region
External Affairs
d 505.248.6285
m 505.252.3046
beth_britt@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/southwest

Arizona | New Mexico | Oklahoma | Texas

"Kauffman, Vanessa" <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>

From:	"Kauffman, Vanessa" <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Aug 23 2016 10:18:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
CC:	"Britt, Beth" <beth_britt@fws.gov>, Lesli Gray <lesli_gray@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>, Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov
Subject:	Re: Media Inquiry - Border interview question

Hi:

We have a statement we developed for this since it may have come via the IPaC system. See below. The FAQs clearly outline the main purpose of IPaC.

The 'IPaC Trump Wall' report was not issued, requested or reviewed by the Service and there are no such consultations underway. The "Trump Wall" report you are referring to was created by Outside magazine (http://www.outsideonline.com/2075761/these-are-111-endangered-species-threatened-trumps-border-wall).

The IPaC tool is a database that essentially anyone can use and run and the FAQs on this page will likely answer to most of your topline questions about it, what it's for, who uses, etc.- https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/.,

If the inquiry was just general in nature and not referencing IPaC, you could just discuss the general aspects of consultation. We have fact sheets online.

Section 10 (State, private, etc.)
https://www.fws.gov/endangered/permits/index.html
https://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/permits.pdf

Section 7 (Federal)
https://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/consultations-overview.html
https://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/consultations.pdf

They could also visit the refuge and see this wonderful natural resource that conserves habitat and species, as well as is available for recreational uses.

Best,
Vanessa

On Tue, Aug 23, 2016 at 12:14 PM, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov> wrote:

> They may say this is not political but it is highly charged politically regardless. I think

this should go to the Department and so am ccing them here for their advice on how to proceed.

G

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 23, 2016, at 11:46 AM, Britt, Beth <beth_britt@fws.gov> wrote:

> Hi Vanessa and Gavin,
> Please see below... I know we are referring all "wall" questions to headquarters, but this one is a bit different and rather urgent as they are planning a visit to our NWR on 25 August, and we would like to provide verbiage (which I assume says something to the effect of we wouldn't address the impact of a hypothetical wall) and guidance to our Refuge staff.
> Thank you,
> Beth
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Gray, Lesli** <lesli_gray@fws.gov>
> Date: Tue, Aug 23, 2016 at 9:07 AM
> Subject: Media Inquiry - Border interview question
> To: Beth Britt <beth_britt@fws.gov>
> Cc: Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>
>
> Hi Beth, just received a call from Meredith Manning, a reporter with WFAA (Dallas ABC station). WFAA is beginning a new program, Verify, where they are helping people trackdown/verify answers to their questions. They are currently working on the following question - "Is it possible to build a border wall across the U.S. Border?" Meredith has contacted us because they are traveling to South Texas starting tomorrow and would like to visit Laguna Atascosa NWR. They would like to talk with the refuge about potential environmental impacts of a wall (she mentioned ocelot) the morning of August 25th. She said they are not looking for any political spin on this just what it might mean for the species/environment at/near the refuge. Please advise how you would like me to respond. Lesli
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> ***PLEASE NOTE UPDATED PHONE #***
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> Lesli A. Gray
> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
> Public Affairs Specialist
> 972-439-4542
> lesli_gray@fws.gov
> www.fws.gov/southwest

> --
> *Beth Britt*
> *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region*
> *External Affairs*
> *d 505.248.6285*
> *m 505.252.3046*
> *beth_britt@fws.gov*
> *www.fws.gov/southwest*
>
> *Arizona | New Mexico | Oklahoma | Texas*

--

Best,
Vanessa C. Kauffman
Division of Public Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: EA
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803703-358-2138 (direct)

571-319-6342 (cell)
vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov
Visit us online at: http://www.fws.gov

"Shire, Gavin" <gavin_shire@fws.gov>

From:	"Shire, Gavin" <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Aug 23 2016 11:12:26 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Kauffman, Vanessa" <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>
CC:	"Britt, Beth" <beth_britt@fws.gov>, Lesli Gray <lesli_gray@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>, Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, Amanda Degroff <amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov>
Subject:	Re: Media Inquiry - Border interview question

I don't think the first statement is applicable here as they are just asking about a theoretical wall, but I do think the consultation part is useful. However, I'd still like folks in DOI OCO to respond with how they want to proceed.

G

On Tue, Aug 23, 2016 at 12:18 PM, Kauffman, Vanessa <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov> wrote:

> Hi:

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Beth

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From: **Gray, Lesli** <lesli_gray@fws.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 23, 2016 at 9:07 AM
Subject: Media Inquiry - Border interview question
To: Beth Britt <beth_britt@fws.gov>
Cc: Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>

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--
PLEASE NOTE UPDATED PHONE #

Lesli A. Gray
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Public Affairs Specialist
972-439-4542
lesli_gray@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/southwest

--
Beth Britt
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Arizona | New Mexico | Oklahoma | Texas

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Best,
Vanessa C. Kauffman

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703-358-2649 (o)
703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

"Britt, Beth" <beth_britt@fws.gov>

From:	"Britt, Beth" <beth_britt@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Aug 23 2016 11:14:50 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Shire, Gavin" <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
CC:	"Kauffman, Vanessa" <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>, Lesli Gray <lesli_gray@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>, Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, Amanda Degroff <amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov>
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"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From:	"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent:	Tue Aug 23 2016 11:32:13 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Britt, Beth" <beth_britt@fws.gov>
CC:	"Shire, Gavin" <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, "Kauffman, Vanessa" <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>, Lesli Gray <lesli_gray@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>, Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, Amanda Degroff <amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov>

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Jessica Kershaw
Senior Adviser & Press Secretary
U.S. Dept of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
202-208-6416

Vanessa Kauffman <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>

From:	Vanessa Kauffman <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Aug 23 2016 11:38:37 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
CC:	"Britt, Beth" <beth_britt@fws.gov>, "Shire, Gavin" <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, Lesli Gray <lesli_gray@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>, Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, Amanda Degroff <amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov>
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Subject:	Re: Media Inquiry - Border interview question

Folks - At this point, I think it's fine to move forward with a process based answer based on what you pulled together below. I wanted to wait for further guidance on general talkers for this issue but it's not pertinent if it means we'll miss the deadline here so please proceed withe programmatic information as you've outlined below.

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> > Date: Tue, Aug 23, 2016 at 9:07 AM
> > Subject: Media Inquiry - Border interview question
> > To: Beth Britt <beth_britt@fws.gov>
> > Cc: Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>
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PLEASE NOTE UPDATED PHONE #

Lesli A. Gray
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Public Affairs Specialist
972-439-4542
lesli_gray@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/southwest

--

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m 505.252.3046
beth_britt@fws.gov
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Best,
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"Shire, Gavin" <gavin_shire@fws.gov>

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Sent:	Tue Aug 23 2016 15:40:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
CC:	Vanessa Kauffman <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>, "Britt, Beth" <beth_britt@fws.gov>, Lesli Gray <lesli_gray@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>, Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, Amanda Degroff <amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov>
Subject:	Re: Media Inquiry - Border interview question

Thanks. We will talk about biological issues that can arise when barriers are erected in general and the consultation process for dealing with such things, but decline to be drawn into specifics proposed by anyone.

G

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"Kimbrough, Monica" <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>

From:	"Kimbrough, Monica" <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Aug 23 2016 16:10:24 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Lesli Gray <lesli_gray@fws.gov>
CC:	Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Beth Britt <beth_britt@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Media Inquiry - Border interview question

Lesi - Based on most recent email, will you be following up with media to give them the information provided below?

Kelly - Please provide the pertinent information from Vanessa's email below to Laguna Atascosa NWR staff as an FYI since these reporters plan to visit the refuge.

Thanks,
Monica

Monica Kimbrough
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USFWS, National Wildlife Refuge System
Southwest Region
office: 505-248-7419
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Subject:	Re: Media Inquiry - Border interview question

Hi Monica, I spoke to Tom a bit ago and we are trying to determine if there is a location where the reporter can see the existing wall at either Santa Ana NWR or the Lower Rio Grande NWR. I have let Meridith know that we would follow up once we have this information. Lesli

Lesli Gray
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U.S. Dept of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
202-208-6416

"Harvey, Thomas" <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>

From:	"Harvey, Thomas" <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Aug 23 2016 17:26:57 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Aaron Archibeque <Aaron_Archibeque@fws.gov>
CC:	Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Britt <beth_britt@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>, Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Media Inquiry - Border interview question

I was contacted by Lesli Gray who said these reporters from Dallas were hoping to go to So TX NWRC to view the border barrier on Thurs. Lesli suggested having our refuge folks show them the existing barrier without the presence of EA which I told her would not be acceptable. Since no qualified refuge staff are available Thurs and as Kelly recommended, I suggested to Lesli she put the reporters in touch with CBP who could show them the barrier. I told her one possibility would be to set up a follow up call for them with Kelly to discuss barrier biological issues which she thought would be a good idea.

Tom

Forwarded message ----------
From: **Kimbrough, Monica** <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 23, 2016 at 4:10 PM
Subject: Fwd: Media Inquiry - Border interview question
To: Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Lesli Gray <lesli_gray@fws.gov>
Cc: Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Beth Britt <beth_britt@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>

Lesi - Based on most recent email, will you be following up with media to give them the information provided below?

Kelly - Please provide the pertinent information from Vanessa's email below to Laguna Atascosa NWR staff as an FYI since these reporters plan to visit the refuge.

Thanks,
Monica

Monica Kimbrough
Assistant Refuge Supervisor
USFWS, National Wildlife Refuge System
Southwest Region
office: 505-248-7419
cell: 505-366-4628

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Kershaw, Jessica** <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 23, 2016 at 3:36 PM
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - Border interview question
To: Vanessa Kauffman <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>
Cc: "Britt, Beth" <beth_britt@fws.gov>, "Shire, Gavin" <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, Lesli Gray <lesli_gray@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>, Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, Amanda Degroff <amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov>

Folks - At this point, I think it's fine to move forward with a process based answer based on what you pulled together below. I wanted to wait for further guidance on general talkers for this issue but it's not pertinent if it means we'll miss the deadline here so please proceed withe programmatic information as you've outlined below.

On Tue, Aug 23, 2016 at 1:38 PM, Vanessa Kauffman <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov> wrote:

> It's the first two paras below.
>
> Vanessa
>
> Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 23, 2016, at 1:32 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> thanks all - can you please share the TPs that have been prepared to respond to the Outside report that you elude to below?
>
> On Tue, Aug 23, 2016 at 1:14 PM, Britt, Beth <beth_britt@fws.gov> wrote:
> > All,
> > We will await DOI OCO guidance in the Southwest Region. We are prepared to provide overarching consultation information at any time.
> > Thanks,
> > Beth
> >
> > On Tue, Aug 23, 2016 at 11:12 AM, Shire, Gavin <gavin_shire@fws.gov> wrote:
> > > I don't think the first statement is applicable here as they are just asking about a theoretical wall, but I do think the consultation part is useful. However, I'd still like folks in DOI OCO to respond with how they want to proceed.
> > >
> > > G
> > >
> > > On Tue, Aug 23, 2016 at 12:18 PM, Kauffman, Vanessa <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov> wrote:
> > > > Hi:
> > > >
> > > > We have a statement we developed for this since it may have come via the IPaC system. See below. The FAQs clearly outline the main purpose of IPaC.
> > > >
> > > > The 'IPaC Trump Wall' report was not issued, requested or reviewed by the Service and there are no such consultations underway. The "Trump Wall" report you are referring to was created by Outside magazine (http://www.outsideonline.com/2075761/these-are-111-endangered-species-threatened-trumps-border-wall).
> > > >
> > > > The IPaC tool is a database that essentially anyone can use and run and the FAQs on this page will likely answer to most of your topline questions about it, what it's for, who uses,
> > > > etc.- https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/.,
> > > >
> > > > If the inquiry was just general in nature and not referencing IPaC, you could just discuss the general aspects of consultation. We have fact sheets online.
> > > >
> > > > Section 10 (State, private, etc.)
> > > > https://www.fws.gov/endangered/permits/index.html
> > > > https://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/permits.pdf

Section 7 (Federal)
https://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/consultations-overview.html
https://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/consultations.pdf

They could also visit the refuge and see this wonderful natural resource that conserves habitat and species, as well as is available for recreational uses.

Best,
Vanessa

On Tue, Aug 23, 2016 at 12:14 PM, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov> wrote:

> They may say this is not political but it is highly charged politically regardless. I think this should go to the Department and so am ccing them here for their advice on how to proceed.
>
> G
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Aug 23, 2016, at 11:46 AM, Britt, Beth <beth_britt@fws.gov> wrote:
>
>> Hi Vanessa and Gavin,
>> Please see below... I know we are referring all "wall" questions to headquarters, but this one is a bit different and rather urgent as they are planning a visit to our NWR on 25 August, and we would like to provide verbiage (which I assume says something to the effect of we wouldn't address the impact of a hypothetical wall) and guidance to our Refuge staff.
>> Thank you,
>> Beth
>>
>> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
>> From: **Gray, Lesli** <lesli_gray@fws.gov>
>> Date: Tue, Aug 23, 2016 at 9:07 AM
>> Subject: Media Inquiry - Border interview question
>> To: Beth Britt <beth_britt@fws.gov>
>> Cc: Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>
>>
>> Hi Beth, just received a call from Meredith Manning, a reporter with WFAA (Dallas ABC station). WFAA is beginning a new program, Verify, where they are helping people trackdown/verify answers to their questions. They are currently working on the following question - "Is it possible to build a border wall across

the U.S. Border?" Meredith has contacted us because they are traveling to South Texas starting tomorrow and would like to visit Laguna Atascosa NWR. They would like to talk with the refuge about potential environmental impacts of a wall (she mentioned ocelot) the morning of August 25th. She said they are not looking for any political spin on this just what it might mean for the species/environment at/near the refuge. Please advise how you would like me to respond. Lesli

--

PLEASE NOTE UPDATED PHONE #

Lesli A. Gray
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Public Affairs Specialist
972-439-4542
lesli_gray@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/southwest

--

Beth Britt
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region
External Affairs
d 505.248.6285
m 505.252.3046
beth_britt@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/southwest

Arizona | New Mexico | Oklahoma | Texas

--

Best,
Vanessa C. Kauffman
Division of Public Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: EA
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803703-358-2138 (direct)

571-319-6342 (cell)
vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov
Visit us online at: http://www.fws.gov

--

Gavin Shire
Chief of Public Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

MS: EA
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
703-358-2649 (o)
703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

--

Beth Britt
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region
External Affairs
d 505.248.6285
m 505.252.3046
beth_britt@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/southwest

Arizona | New Mexico | Oklahoma | Texas

--

Jessica Kershaw
Senior Adviser & Press Secretary
U.S. Dept of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
202-208-6416

--

Jessica Kershaw
Senior Adviser & Press Secretary
U.S. Dept of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
202-208-6416

--

Tom Harvey
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Deputy Regional Chief / NWRS
Southwest Region, Albuquerque, NM
505-248-6645, 6460 fax
505-238-4355 cell

Label: "Border Wall FOIA 2017"

Created by:monica_kimbrough@fws.gov

Total Messages in label:21 (3 conversations)

Created: 05-17-2017 at 13:44 PM

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5

Attachments:

/3. Fwd: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5/3.1 Border fence study.pdf
/3. Fwd: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5/6.1 Hemmed-in_Border Article on Corridors.pdf
/3. Fwd: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5/6.2 Chertoff's Monster.pdf
/3. Fwd: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5/6.3 Environmental Impacts of a Border Fence.pdf
/3. Fwd: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5/6.4 TransboundaryConservation.pdf

Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>

From:	Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu Aug 04 2016 12:31:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Ken Garrahan <Ken_Garrahan@fws.gov>
CC:	juliette_fernandez@fws.gov, monica_kimbrough@fws.gov
Subject:	Fwd: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5

Ken,
Please be sure to check with our Div of Bio Sciences and any border RMs that may have anything to contribute as well. Thanks

Tom

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Spangle, Steve" <steve_spangle@fws.gov>
Date: August 4, 2016 at 11:26:19 AM PDT
To: "Calhoun, Jean" <jean_calhoun@fws.gov>
Cc: "Tincher, Chris" <chris_tincher@fws.gov>, Johnna Roy <johnna_roy@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Dawn Gardiner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5

Excellent--thanks Jean...

On Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 11:23 AM, Calhoun, Jean <jean_calhoun@fws.gov> wrote:

> Chris,
>
> Here are a couple of peer-reviewed articles on border wall impacts on wildlife. I'm sure there are more. I'll let you know if I find/hear of others.
>
> thanks
> Jean
>
> Jean A. Calhoun
> Assistant Field Supervisor
> Tucson Office- Arizona Ecological Services
> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
> 201 N. Bonita Avenue, Suite 141
> Tucson, Arizona 85745
> Tel: (520) 670-6150, ext. 223
> Jean_Calhoun@fws.gov
>
> On Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 10:05 AM, Spangle, Steve <steve_spangle@fws.gov> wrote:
>
> > I am unaware of any "peer-reviewed, scientific studies which document impacts of border fence construction or operations on native wildlife populations." The question is very specific to the border fence. More generally, the effects of impenetrable obstacles on wildlife populations is well-documented in the literature, however.
> >
> > On Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 9:57 AM, Tincher, Chris <chris_tincher@fws.gov> wrote:
> >
> > > Apologies for the extremely short deadline. Please see the request below.
> > >
> > > HQ is looking for a response to a Question for the Record from the hearing "The Consequences of Federal Land Management along the US Border to Rural Communities and National Security."
> > >
> > > > **Q.** There have been periodic claims in the press that border fence construction has resulted in impacts to wildlife. Is the Department of the Interior aware of any peer-reviewed, scientific studies which document impacts of border fence construction or operations on native wildlife populations?
> > >
> > > At this time we are not being asked to provide copies of any of the materials so indicating an affirmative response with key scientific records should be sufficient. If you anticipate more time is needed to complete this request, please notify me as soon as possible.
> > >
> > > I will compile information from our Region and CLA will coordinate with Jon Andrew on the final response.
> > >
> > > As always, please remember emails are considered records and may be called for during a FOIA.
> > >
> > > Chris
> > >
> > > Christine R. Tincher

Congressional Liaison / Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Southwest Region
New Mexico * Arizona * Texas * Oklahoma

Office: (602) 242-0210, except Wednesdays
Mobile: (505) 449-8776
Email: chris_tincher@fws.gov

****

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Gustavson, Angela** <angela_gustavson@fws.gov>
Date: Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 9:04 AM
Subject: QFR on border fence
To: Chris Tincher <Chris_Tincher@fws.gov>
Cc: Roya Mogadam <Roya_Mogadam@fws.gov>, Lisa Jones <lisa_m_jones@fws.gov>, Alyssa Hausman <alyssa_hausman@fws.gov>

Hi Chris,

On April 28th, Jon Andrew testified on behalf of the Department before the HNR Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations at a hearing entitled "The Consequences of Federal Land Management along the U.S. Border to Rural Communities and National Security."

The Department received QFRs and they need our help with a couple, including this one below.

7. There have been periodic claims in the press that border fence construction has resulted in impacts to wildlife. Is the Department of the Interior aware of any peer-reviewed, scientific studies which document impacts of border fence construction or operations on native wildlife populations?

Could Region 2 please provide a response to this QFR by COB Friday, if possible?

Thanks,

Angela

Angela Gustavson
Deputy Chief
Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office: 703-358-2253
Mobile: 202-909-5105
angela_gustavson@fws.gov

--
Steve Spangle, Field Supervisor
Arizona Ecological Services Office

Note new address:
DOI U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
9828 North 31st Avenue, #C3
Phoenix, Arizona 85051-2517

602/242-0210

--
Steve Spangle, Field Supervisor
Arizona Ecological Services Office

Note new address:
DOI U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
9828 North 31st Avenue, #C3
Phoenix, Arizona 85051-2517

602/242-0210

"Garrahan, Ken" <ken_garrahan@fws.gov>

From:	"Garrahan, Ken" <ken_garrahan@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu Aug 04 2016 13:30:51 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Bill Radke <Bill_Radke@fws.gov>, Sid Slone <sid_slone@fws.gov>, Sally Flatland <sally_flatland@fws.gov>, Elaine Johnson <elaine_johnson@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>, Mitch Sternberg <mitch_sternberg@fws.gov>
CC:	Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <Thomas_Harvey@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5

Please see the email string below and respond directly to Chris Tincher, cc to Tom Harvey and Monica Kimbrough. Information requested is in bold text.

Thanks

Ken

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Thomas Harvey** <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>
Date: Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 12:31 PM
Subject: Fwd: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5
To: Ken Garrahan <Ken_Garrahan@fws.gov>
Cc: juliette_fernandez@fws.gov, monica_kimbrough@fws.gov

Ken,
Please be sure to check with our Div of Bio Sciences and any border RMs that may have anything to contribute as well. Thanks

Tom

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Spangle, Steve" <steve_spangle@fws.gov>
> **Date:** August 4, 2016 at 11:26:19 AM PDT
> **To:** "Calhoun, Jean" <jean_calhoun@fws.gov>
> **Cc:** "Tincher, Chris" <chris_tincher@fws.gov>, Johnna Roy <johnna_roy@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Dawn Gardiner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
> **Subject: Re: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5**
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> > As always, please remember emails are considered records and may be called for during a FOIA.
> >
> > Chris
> >
> > Christine R. Tincher
> > Congressional Liaison / Public Affairs Specialist
> > U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Southwest Region
> > New Mexico * Arizona * Texas * Oklahoma
> >
> > Office: (602) 242-0210, except Wednesdays
> > Mobile: (505) 449-8776
> > Email: chris_tincher@fws.gov
> >
> > **********
> >
> > ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> > From: **Gustavson, Angela** <angela_gustavson@fws.gov>
> > Date: Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 9:04 AM
> > Subject: QFR on border fence
> > To: Chris Tincher <Chris_Tincher@fws.gov>
> > Cc: Roya Mogadam <Roya_Mogadam@fws.gov>, Lisa Jones <lisa_m_jones@fws.gov>, Alyssa Hausman

<alyssa_hausman@fws.gov>

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Thanks,

Angela

Angela Gustavson
Deputy Chief
Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office: 703-358-2253
Mobile: 202-909-5105
angela_gustavson@fws.gov

--
Steve Spangle, Field Supervisor
Arizona Ecological Services Office

Note new address:
DOI U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
9828 North 31st Avenue, #C3
Phoenix, Arizona 85051-2517

602/242-0210

--
Steve Spangle, Field Supervisor
Arizona Ecological Services Office

Note new address:
DOI U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
9828 North 31st Avenue, #C3
Phoenix, Arizona 85051-2517

602/242-0210

--
Kenneth A. Garrahan, Chief, Division of Visitor Services, Southwest Region
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1306
500 Gold Avenue SW
4'th Floor, Room 4504
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

505.248.6632 (o)
505.850.8644 (c)
505.248.6621 (fax)

"Flatland, Sally" <sally_flatland@fws.gov>

From:	"Flatland, Sally" <sally_flatland@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu Aug 04 2016 13:54:41 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Chris Tincher <chris_tincher@fws.gov>
CC:	Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5
Attachments:	Border fence study.pdf

I am sure most are aware of this one, but this was completed on the Buenos Aires NWR

Thank you, Sally

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Garrahan, Ken** <ken_garrahan@fws.gov>
Date: Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 12:30 PM
Subject: Fwd: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5
To: Bill Radke <Bill_Radke@fws.gov>, Sid Slone <sid_slone@fws.gov>, Sally Flatland <sally_flatland@fws.gov>, Elaine Johnson <elaine_johnson@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez

<sonny_perez@fws.gov>, Mitch Sternberg <mitch_sternberg@fws.gov>
Cc: Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <Thomas_Harvey@fws.gov>

Please see the email string below and respond directly to Chris Tincher, cc to Tom Harvey and Monica Kimbrough. Information requested is in bold text.

Thanks

Ken

--

Sally A. Flatland
Wildlife Refuge Manager
Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 109
Sasabe, AZ 85633
(520) 823-4251 office x102
(520) 823-4247 fax
(520) 240-0503 cell

Buenos Aires NWR Website
Find us on Facebook!

Celebrating 100 years of migratory bird conservation
Learn more! #birdyear

"Kimbrough, Monica" <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>

From:	"Kimbrough, Monica" <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu Aug 04 2016 14:07:00 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Flatland, Sally" <sally_flatland@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5

Thank you for your quick response, Sally!

Monica Kimbrough
Assistant Refuge Supervisor
USFWS, National Wildlife Refuge System
Southwest Region
office: 505-248-7419

cell: 505-366-4628

On Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 1:54 PM, Flatland, Sally <sally_flatland@fws.gov> wrote:

> I am sure most are aware of this one, but this was completed on the Buenos Aires NWR
>
> Thank you, Sally
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Garrahan, Ken** <ken_garrahan@fws.gov>
> Date: Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 12:30 PM
> Subject: Fwd: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5
> To: Bill Radke <Bill_Radke@fws.gov>, Sid Slone <sid_slone@fws.gov>, Sally Flatland <sally_flatland@fws.gov>, Elaine Johnson <elaine_johnson@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>, Mitch Sternberg <mitch_sternberg@fws.gov>
> Cc: Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <Thomas_Harvey@fws.gov>
>
> Please see the email string below and respond directly to Chris Tincher, cc to Tom Harvey and Monica Kimbrough. Information requested is in bold text.
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>
> Ken
>
> --
> **Sally A. Flatland**
> **Wildlife Refuge Manager**
> **Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge**
> **P.O. Box 109**
> **Sasabe, AZ 85633**
> **(520) 823-4251 office x102**
> **(520) 823-4247 fax**
> **(520) 240-0503 cell**
>
> Buenos Aires NWR Website
> Find us on Facebook!
>
>
>
>
> ***Celebrating 100 years of migratory bird conservation***
> ***Learn more!* #birdyear**

"Tincher, Chris" <chris_tincher@fws.gov>

From:	"Tincher, Chris" <chris_tincher@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu Aug 04 2016 14:35:05 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Flatland, Sally" <sally_flatland@fws.gov>
CC:	Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5

Thank you, Sally. I have heard from ES, but did not receive this document.
Chris

Christine R. Tincher
Congressional Liaison / Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Southwest Region
New Mexico * Arizona * Texas * Oklahoma

Office: (602) 242-0210, except Wednesdays
Mobile: (505) 449-8776
Email: chris_tincher@fws.gov

****

On Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 12:54 PM, Flatland, Sally <sally_flatland@fws.gov> wrote:

> I am sure most are aware of this one, but this was completed on the Buenos Aires NWR
>
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>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Garrahan, Ken** <ken_garrahan@fws.gov>
> Date: Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 12:30 PM
> Subject: Fwd: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5
> To: Bill Radke <Bill_Radke@fws.gov>, Sid Slone <sid_slone@fws.gov>, Sally Flatland <sally_flatland@fws.gov>, Elaine Johnson <elaine_johnson@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>, Mitch Sternberg <mitch_sternberg@fws.gov>
> Cc: Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <Thomas_Harvey@fws.gov>
>
> Please see the email string below and respond directly to Chris Tincher, cc to Tom Harvey and Monica Kimbrough. Information requested is in bold text.
>
> Thanks
>
> Ken
>
> --

Sally A. Flatland
Wildlife Refuge Manager
Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 109
Sasabe, AZ 85633
(520) 823-4251 office x102
(520) 823-4247 fax
(520) 240-0503 cell

Buenos Aires NWR Website
Find us on Facebook!

Celebrating 100 years of migratory bird conservation
Learn more! #birdyear

"Garrahan, Ken" <ken_garrahan@fws.gov>

From:	"Garrahan, Ken" <ken_garrahan@fws.gov>
Sent:	Fri Aug 05 2016 07:15:00 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Chris Tincher <chris_tincher@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <Thomas_Harvey@fws.gov>, Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5
Attachments:	Hemmed-in_Border Article on Corridors.pdf Chertoff's Monster.pdf Environmental Impacts of a Border Fence.pdf TransboundaryConservation.pdf

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Perez, Chris** <chris_perez@fws.gov>
Date: Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 3:46 PM
Subject: Re: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5
To: "Perez, Sonny" <sonny_perez@fws.gov>
Cc: Imer DeLaGarza <imer_delagarza@fws.gov>, Hilary Swarts <hilary_swarts@fws.gov>, Jonathan Moczygemba <jonathan_moczygemba@fws.gov>, Kimberly Wahl <kimberly_wahl@fws.gov>, Boyd Blihovde <boyd_blihovde@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Gisela Chapa <gisela_chapa@fws.gov>, Robert Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Mitch Sternberg <mitch_sternberg@fws.gov>, Ken Garrahan <ken_garrahan@fws.gov>

Sonny: Nonetheless, I looked around and did find these articles, but just not a whole lot. I think Bryan had some more. See attached.

On Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 2:41 PM, Perez, Sonny <sonny_perez@fws.gov> wrote:

> Bio Team,
>
> Can you help me with this request? Are any of you aware of any peer-reviewed, scientific studies which document impacts of border fence construction or operations on native wildlife populations?
>
> Please respond to me ASAP but no later than 2PM on Friday, August 5.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Sonny
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Garrahan, Ken** <ken_garrahan@fws.gov>
> Date: Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 2:30 PM
> Subject: Fwd: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5
> To: Bill Radke <Bill_Radke@fws.gov>, Sid Slone <sid_slone@fws.gov>, Sally Flatland <sally_flatland@fws.gov>, Elaine Johnson <elaine_johnson@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>, Mitch Sternberg <mitch_sternberg@fws.gov>
> Cc: Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <Thomas_Harvey@fws.gov>
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> Thanks
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> Ken
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Thomas Harvey** <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>
> Date: Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 12:31 PM
> Subject: Fwd: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5
> To: Ken Garrahan <Ken_Garrahan@fws.gov>
> Cc: juliette_fernandez@fws.gov, monica_kimbrough@fws.gov
>
> Ken,
> Please be sure to check with our Div of Bio Sciences and any border RMs that may have anything to contribute as well. Thanks
>
> Tom
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:

From: "Spangle, Steve" <steve_spangle@fws.gov>
Date: August 4, 2016 at 11:26:19 AM PDT
To: "Calhoun, Jean" <jean_calhoun@fws.gov>
Cc: "Tincher, Chris" <chris_tincher@fws.gov>, Johnna Roy <johnna_roy@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Dawn Gardiner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5

Excellent--thanks Jean...

On Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 11:23 AM, Calhoun, Jean <jean_calhoun@fws.gov> wrote:

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>
> Here are a couple of peer-reviewed articles on border wall impacts on wildlife. I'm sure there are more. I'll let you know if I find/hear of others.
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> thanks
> Jean
>
> Jean A. Calhoun
> Assistant Field Supervisor
> Tucson Office- Arizona Ecological Services
> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
> 201 N. Bonita Avenue, Suite 141
> Tucson, Arizona 85745
> Tel: (520) 670-6150, ext. 223
> Jean_Calhoun@fws.gov
>
> On Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 10:05 AM, Spangle, Steve <steve_spangle@fws.gov> wrote:
>
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>>> **Q. There have been periodic claims in the press that border fence construction has resulted in impacts to wildlife. Is the Department of the Interior aware of any peer-reviewed, scientific studies which document impacts of border fence construction or operations on native wildlife populations?**

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I will compile information from our Region and CLA will coordinate with Jon Andrew on the final response.

As always, please remember emails are considered records and may be called for during a FOIA.

Chris

Christine R. Tincher
Congressional Liaison / Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Southwest Region
New Mexico * Arizona * Texas * Oklahoma

Office: (602) 242-0210, except Wednesdays
Mobile: (505) 449-8776
Email: chris_tincher@fws.gov

****

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Gustavson, Angela** <angela_gustavson@fws.gov>
Date: Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 9:04 AM
Subject: QFR on border fence
To: Chris Tincher <Chris_Tincher@fws.gov>
Cc: Roya Mogadam <Roya_Mogadam@fws.gov>, Lisa Jones <lisa_m_jones@fws.gov>, Alyssa Hausman <alyssa_hausman@fws.gov>

Hi Chris,

On April 28th, Jon Andrew testified on behalf of the Department before the HNR Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations at a hearing entitled "The Consequences of Federal Land Management along the U.S. Border to Rural Communities and National Security."

The Department received QFRs and they need our help with a couple, including this one below.

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Could Region 2 please provide a response to this QFR by COB Friday, if possible?

Thanks,

Angela

Angela Gustavson
Deputy Chief
Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office: 703-358-2253
Mobile: 202-909-5105
angela_gustavson@fws.gov

--

Steve Spangle, Field Supervisor
Arizona Ecological Services Office

Note new address:
DOI U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
9828 North 31st Avenue, #C3
Phoenix, Arizona 85051-2517

602/242-0210

--

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Kenneth A. Garrahan, Chief, Division of Visitor Services, Southwest Region
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1306
500 Gold Avenue SW
4'th Floor, Room 4504
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

505.248.6632 (o)
505.850.8644 (c)
505.248.6621 (fax)

--
Chris Perez, Wildlife Biologist
Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR
3325 Green Jay Rd.
Alamo, TX 78516
Phone: 956-784-7553
Fax: 956-787-8338

--
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500 Gold Avenue SW
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"Tincher, Chris" <chris_tincher@fws.gov>

From:	"Tincher, Chris" <chris_tincher@fws.gov>
Sent:	Fri Aug 05 2016 10:16:42 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Garrahan, Ken" <ken_garrahan@fws.gov>
CC:	Thomas Harvey <Thomas_Harvey@fws.gov>, Monica Kimbrough <monica_kimbrough@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Congressional: QFR on border fence DD COB Friday, August 5

Thank you!
Chris

Christine R. Tincher
Congressional Liaison / Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Southwest Region
New Mexico * Arizona * Texas * Oklahoma

Office: (602) 242-0210, except Wednesdays
Mobile: (505) 449-8776
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Ken,
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Tom

Sent from my iPhone

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From: "Spangle, Steve" <steve_spangle@fws.gov>
Date: August 4, 2016 at 11:26:19 AM PDT
To: "Calhoun, Jean" <jean_calhoun@fws.gov>
Cc: "Tincher, Chris" <chris_tincher@fws.gov>, Johnna Roy <johnna_roy@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Dawn Gardiner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
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> > Office: (602) 242-0210, except Wednesdays
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> > From: **Gustavson, Angela** <angela_gustavson@fws.gov>
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> > Cc: Roya Mogadam <Roya_Mogadam@fws.gov>, Lisa Jones <lisa_m_jones@fws.gov>, Alyssa Hausman <alyssa_hausman@fws.gov>

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Angela

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Kenneth A. Garrahan, Chief, Division of Visitor Services, Southwest Region
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Chris Perez, Wildlife Biologist
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3325 Green Jay Rd.
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500 Gold Avenue SW
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Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

505.248.6632 (o)
505.850.8644 (c)
505.248.6621 (fax)

Label: "Sierra Club FOIA - CBP"

Created by:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov

Total Messages in label:254 (67 conversations)

Created: 06-01-2017 at 14:20 PM

Conversation Contents

Border Meeting next week at Santa Ana?

"Gardiner, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>

From:	"Gardiner, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu Apr 20 2017 09:55:29 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Jonathan Andrew <jonathan_andrew@ios.doi.gov>
CC:	Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Subject:	Border Meeting next week at Santa Ana?

Good morning Jon. We are not clear on details of the upcoming meeting. I now hear it is at 10 a.m. on the 27. What is the agenda? Who called the meeting?

Thanks!

--

E. Dawn Gardiner
Assistant Field Supervisor
Texas Coastal Ecological Services Field Office
P.O. Box 81468
Corpus Christi, TX 78468-1468

(361) 994-9005 x 259
(361) 533-6765 work cell

"Andrew, Jonathan" <jonathan_andrew@ios.doi.gov>

From:	"Andrew, Jonathan" <jonathan_andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Sent:	Thu Apr 20 2017 10:02:13 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Gardiner, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
CC:	Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Meeting next week at Santa Ana?

I went to Joy on this and thought she may have sent word down.

I did talk with here this AM so you may here this again from her.

Right now we are looking at 10:00 April 27 at Santa Ana office for the meeting. I believe Joy will be there - not sure if

any other RO folks will attend. Rob will represent refuges.

CBP called the meeting and their facility people, (b) (6), (b) (7), (b) (6), (b) (7) will be there to present their plans for work in south Texas (b) (6) was going to send out an agenda but I have not seen one yet - I will pass it on when I get it.

On Thu, Apr 20, 2017 at 11:55 AM, Gardiner, Dawn <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov> wrote:

> Good morning Jon. We are not clear on details of the upcoming meeting.
> I now hear it is at 10 a.m. on the 27. What is the agenda? Who called the meeting?
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> **E. Dawn Gardiner**
> **Assistant Field Supervisor**
> **Texas Coastal Ecological Services Field Office**
> **P.O. Box 81468**
> **Corpus Christi, TX 78468-1468**
>
> **(361) 994-9005 x 259**
> **(361) 533-6765 work cell**

--
Jon Andrew
Interagency Borderlands Coordinator
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

202-208-7431
202-320-0718 (cell)

Conversation Contents

New border wall update

"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>

From:	"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Sent:	Wed Feb 01 2017 10:14:30 GMT-0700 (MST)
To:	Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>, "Harvey, Thomas" <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Beth Ullenberg <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>
CC:	Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Dawn Gardner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>, Boyd Blihovde <boyd_blihovde@fws.gov>, Gisela Chapa <gisela_chapa@fws.gov>
Subject:	New border wall update

Aaron,

Dawn Gardiner (ES- Corpus), Ernesto Reyes (ES- STRC), Bryan Winton and I met yesterday and among other things discussed the proposed new border wall in order to coordinate efforts and communication at local levels. We also spoke to Jon Andrew, as there was information we had that some residences along the western side of the Rio Grande Valley Sector had received notices from CBP that their property was being considered for condemnation by Homeland Security.

The BP RGV Sector did receive an Adminstrative inquiry about existing needs to complete the fence in this Sector and that three sections were identified to which we are well aware.

The bottom line is that the notices received by residences were part of existing issues/concerns with access by Homeland Security and are not part of any new proposal. Though there is much speculation among many, neither Jon in the WO nor local border patrol reps have heard any new information on a set, defined location of a new wall (or completion of the existing wall).

It is all speculation...

We will continue to stay low and work through Beth as media and public inquiries occur until further notice.

--
robert jess

project leader
south texas refuge complex
alamo, texas

Label: "Sierra Club FOIA - CBP"

Created by:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov

Total Messages in label:254 (67 conversations)

Created: 06-01-2017 at 14:21 PM

Conversation Contents

Border Fence Infrastructure (Round 2) Concerns:

Attachments:

/12. Border Fence Infrastructure (Round 2) Concerns:/1.1 Border Wall Talking Points.doc
/12. Border Fence Infrastructure (Round 2) Concerns:/1.2 BP Fence impacts. acreage& tracts breakdown.doc
/12. Border Fence Infrastructure (Round 2) Concerns:/1.3 BP Fence on Refuge.acres.impacts6-30-07.doc
/12. Border Fence Infrastructure (Round 2) Concerns:/1.4 BP028949 D-IM Border Fence in Texas Including Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR for House Committee Hearing 10-09-2007.doc
/12. Border Fence Infrastructure (Round 2) Concerns:/1.5 EIS Border Fence Concerns for South Texas Refuge Complex.doc
/12. Border Fence Infrastructure (Round 2) Concerns:/1.6 Talking Point Excerpts.doc
/12. Border Fence Infrastructure (Round 2) Concerns:/2.1 Border Wall Talking Points.doc
/12. Border Fence Infrastructure (Round 2) Concerns:/2.2 BP Fence impacts. acreage& tracts breakdown.doc
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"Winton, Bryan" <bryan_winton@fws.gov>

From:	"Winton, Bryan" <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
Sent:	Mon Mar 13 2017 09:31:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
CC:	Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>

Subject:	Border Fence Infrastructure (Round 2) Concerns:
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Attached are some of the summaries we put together in 2007 when we learned of Border Infrastructure for the first time. Many of the concerns will be the same. We'll take from these to complete the table Kelly sent this a.m. and add based on other lessons learned since completion of the first 18 segments and 57 miles of fence--some of which is on/near refuge.

--

Bryan R. Winton, Refuge Manager
Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3325 Green Jay Road
Alamo, Texas 78516
(956) 784-7521 office; (956) 874-4304 cell

"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Mon Mar 13 2017 10:59:13 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Border Fence Infrastructure (Round 2) Concerns:
Attachments:	Border Wall Talking Points.doc BP Fence impacts. acreage& tracts breakdown.doc BP Fence on Refuge.acres.impacts6-30-07.doc BP028949 D-IM Border Fence in Texas Including Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR for House Committee Hearing 10-09-2007.doc EIS Border Fence Concerns for South Texas Refuge Complex.doc Talking Point Excerpts.doc

FYI. Here is some good info. that we can still use.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Winton, Bryan** <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Mar 13, 2017 at 10:31 AM
Subject: Border Fence Infrastructure (Round 2) Concerns:
To: Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Cc: Kelly McDowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>

Attached are some of the summaries we put together in 2007 when we learned of Border Infrastructure for the first time. Many of the concerns will be the same. We'll take from these to complete the table Kelly sent this a.m. and add based on other lessons learned since completion of the first 18 segments and 57 miles of fence--some of which is on/near refuge.

--

Bryan R. Winton, Refuge Manager
Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

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(956) 784-7521 office; (956) 874-4304 cell

--
Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Mar 14 2017 06:12:13 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Border Fence Infrastructure (Round 2) Concerns:
Attachments:	Border Wall Talking Points.doc BP Fence impacts. acreage& tracts breakdown.doc BP Fence on Refuge.acres.impacts6-30-07.doc BP028949 D-IM Border Fence in Texas Including Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR for House Committee Hearing 10-09-2007.doc EIS Border Fence Concerns for South Texas Refuge Complex.doc Talking Point Excerpts.doc

Chuck,

Here are some documents that we put together with Refuge in 2007 for Border Fence Issues. Most of these still apply which I used for the Excel spread sheet.

Ernesto
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Date: Mon, Mar 13, 2017 at 10:31 AM
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To: Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
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Fax:956-787-8338

"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>

From:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Mar 14 2017 06:22:43 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
CC:	Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Infrastructure (Round 2) Concerns:

Thanks for all of your hard work on the spread sheet and gathering this information. I forwarded these to Seth and I just cut and pasted the information you provided in the excel spreadsheet into the google document.

Thanks again!

Chuck Ardizzone
Project Leader
Texas Coastal Ecological Services
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
Houston, TX 77058
W: (281) 286-8282 Ext 228
C: (713) 882-1912
F: (281) 488-5882

"Leaders must learn to discipline their disappointments. It's not what happens to us, it is what we choose to do about what happens that makes the difference in how our lives turn out."

Jim Rohn

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader"

John Quincy Adams

On Tue, Mar 14, 2017 at 7:12 AM, Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov> wrote:

> Chuck,
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> Date: Mon, Mar 13, 2017 at 10:31 AM
> Subject: Border Fence Infrastructure (Round 2) Concerns:
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"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Mar 14 2017 06:36:00 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Infrastructure (Round 2) Concerns:

Your welcome. We went through this same painful path in 2007. Dr. Larisa Ford was awesome at putting this info. together in a short amount of time and my role was to coordinate with the

Refuge and be a go between ES and Refuge who were kicking and screaming for such short turnaround requests. At the time we had ES support from Headquarters, and no RO support, so we dealt directly with Headquarters because we had no time to delay for someone to make a decision that had a 2-4 hour turnaround request frequently. Also, we have the same LRGV Refuge Manager Bryan Winton who got here at that time.

Ernesto

On Tue, Mar 14, 2017 at 7:22 AM, Ardizzone, Chuck <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov> wrote:

> Thanks for all of your hard work on the spread sheet and gathering this information. I forwarded these to Seth and I just cut and pasted the information you provided in the excel spreadsheet into the google document.
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Chuck Ardizzone
Project Leader
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> Ernesto Reyes
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Conversation Contents

Border Issue notes for sidebar conversation with Steve and Susan M. at ESPL meeting

"Gardiner, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>

From:	"Gardiner, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Feb 14 2017 09:24:12 GMT-0700 (MST)
To:	Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
CC:	Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Robert Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Subject:	Border Issue notes for sidebar conversation with Steve and Susan M. at ESPL meeting

Chuck- Here are some thoughts to share over dinner or at breaks with other project leaders with border work areas. If you all agree maybe step pieces up to Ted and others...

fyi Ernesto is our Border Representative to DOI Border Task Force and I think each State has one. Jon Andrew is retiring from DOI as the Task force lead in March and he will be coming to STX hopefully with his replacement to get him/her up to speed.

We should send the same message from all FWS offices, ES and Refuges and Fisheries and External Affairs and maybe even Federal Aid. We can have a secure and a wildlife friendly border that provides for legal immigration, flood control, ecotourism, thriving border economies, ranching, etc.

Have a unified border strategy that we get DOI to support: keep sister protected areas at status quo or better and maintain and enhance priority wildlife cross border corridors.

University of Arizona students are preparing a literature synopsis of all peer reviewed studies for Mexican border plus some relevant information on other international borders. Share among border ESFOs and with DOI border coordinator. Check with Tucson ESFO-Erin Fernandez.

We need to get US Border Patrol /ICE agents good training materials on listed species and mig birds for all their new hires at all their stations. Probably something web-based? A smartphone app? Work closely with the Border Patrol Public Lands Liaisons in each state.

Include wildlife passage strategies for highways on both sides of the border, i.e. Rt. 2 in Sonora where there are plans to include passage for wildlife. We need to encourage elsewhere in Mexico as possible.

--

E. Dawn Gardiner
Assistant Field Supervisor
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Corpus Christi, TX 78468-1468

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(361) 533-6765 work cell

"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Feb 14 2017 09:33:36 GMT-0700 (MST)
To:	Jonathan Andrew <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Border Issue notes for sidebar conversation with Steve and Susan M. at ESPL meeting

FYI
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Gardiner, Dawn** <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Date: Tue, Feb 14, 2017 at 10:24 AM
Subject: Border Issue notes for sidebar conversation with Steve and Susan M. at ESPL meeting
To: Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Cc: Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Robert Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>

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United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Texas Coastal Ecological Service Field Office
3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, TX 78516

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R2/ES/02ETCC00-2017-I-0218

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Environmental Branch Chief (A)
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office
ex 6 & 7cex 6 & 7cex 6 & 7c
ex 6 & 7cex 6 & 7cex 6 & 7c

Dear (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Thank you for your letter and environmental assessment received November 10, 2016, regarding the effects of proposed Remote Video Surveillance System (RVSS) Towers on federally listed species in Hidalgo, Cameron, Brooks, and Kenedy counties, Texas. Your project was also evaluated with respect to wetlands and other federal trust fish and wildlife resources.

We understand that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) proposes the construction, operation, and maintenance of 32 RVSS sites to provide long-term, permanent surveillance. Each RVSS tower would be equipped with a suite of sensors and/or communications equipment. The proposed action also includes the construction and maintenance of 850 feet of access drives, and the maintenance and repair of 19 miles of access roads. Access roads will require reconstruction, widening, or straightening of the existing road, and installation of drainage structures including a 30- to 60-foot wide temporary construction disturbance area. Drainage structures may include ditches, culverts, and low-water crossings.

Three types of tower structures are proposed: self-standing towers (SSTs), monopole towers, and relocatable towers. Only the relocatable towers would require guy wires. SSTs could be up to 199 feet high including lightning protection. Monopole towers are single metal poles with reinforced steel and concrete foundations varying from 60 to 199 feet high. Relocatable towers are towed on a trailer and placed on level ground. The guy wires attach to the relocatable tower trailer outrigger infrastructure to stabilize the tower when extended. When fully extended these towers would be up to 120 feet tall.

Construction of SSTs or monopole tower sites results in ground disturbance to a 200-foot x 200-foot area (40,000 square feet). All staging of construction equipment and materials occurs within this footprint. Each permanent tower site footprint is expected to be up to a 100-foot x 100-foot (10,000 square feet) and includes a permanent parking area for vehicles and a perimeter fence. Also, each RVSS tower would be powered by commercial grid power or by solar power with grid or applicable redundant system for backup. The grid power design would be site-specific; however, commercial grid power would be overhead to the permanent disturbed area and then underground where it enters the 100- x 100-foot fenced tower site. Overhead or buried lines outside of the permanent disturbance area would be placed within access road construction buffer areas to the extent possible.

There are several tower locations on the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge along the Rio Grande River that will require a Special Use Permit and a right of way from the Rio Grande Valley Refuge and the Realty Division. The right of way process is done at the Regional Office and can take up to a year. There are some towers planned for the Refuge that could impact habitat, so please coordinate closely with the Refuge

Manager, Bryan Winton at 956-784-7521, to minimize habitat clearing and relocate towers to more disturbed areas. Impacts to Refuge habitat will need to be compensated if avoidance or minimization cannot be achieved.

BMPs and Conservation measures are listed in your document and would be implemented as part of the proposed action to avoid impacts to threatened and endangered species and other environmental resources. Conservation measures include CM1a – CM1d, and CM2. In addition, we recommend the following:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) (2000) *Service Guidance on the Siting, Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of Communications Towers* and Service (2013) *Revised Voluntary Guidelines for Communication Tower Design, Siting, Construction, Operation, Retrofitting, and Decommissioning* would be implemented to include actions to reduce nighttime atmospheric lighting and the potential adverse effects of nighttime lighting on migratory bird and nocturnal flying species. The proposed tower sites may be lit for security purposes. Security lighting may consist of a "porch light" on the tower shelter and would be controlled by a motion detector. When so equipped, the light would be shielded to avoid illumination outside the footprint of the tower site. The proposed RVSS may have infrared lighting installed for aviation safety. The heights of the towers will also be limited to 199 feet above ground level as described in the Service guidance.

- Following construction activities, any temporary impact areas will be revegetated with a mixture of nursery plantings or a mixture of 46 native plant seeds (or both).

- Birds would potentially perch on towers, and the threat of striking the towers exists; however, implementation of best management practices recommended by the Service (2000) would greatly reduce the likelihood of such impacts. These recommendations include the collocation of equipment on existing sites to minimize disturbance and obstructions, adjustments to lighting to reduce the likelihood of bird strike, anti-perching devices, and the avoidance of using guy wires and visual markers for the relocatable towers with guy wires.

- Down shield lights from towers and facilities away from brush.

To comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and to avoid impacts to listed avian species, CBP would conduct advance surveys for nesting migratory birds and nests if mechanical control activities occurred during the nesting season (March 15 through September 15). If project activities must be conducted between March and August, we recommend surveying for nests prior to commencing work and if a nest is found, and if possible, the Service recommends a buffer of vegetation (≥50 ft) remain around the nest until young have fledged or the nest is abandoned.

Site Specific Recommendations:

- **Reduce the footprint** of the 30-60 foot wide road for access and utilities as much as possible.

- **Extension of Palm location** – Push site back towards road, and away from the Rio Grande; leave at least 30 foot wildlife corridor along the river for habitat connectivity.

- **BRP FTBOC** – Place tower on west side of the road.

- **FLF Checkpoint** – Could place tower in more open area.

- **FTB Armstrong** – Could place tower in more open area.

- **FTB End of Hwy 4** - Could place tower in more open area.

- **FTB Zone 34** - Could place tower in more open area.

- **HRL Wells Bros Canal** - Could place tower in more open area.
- **BRP Extensions of Palm** - Could place tower in more open area.
- **BRP FTBGC Y** - Could place tower in more open area. A 30 foot wildlife corridor needs to be left along the Rio Grande if not tower stays in place.
- **FLF Checkpoint Tower** - Could place tower in more open area.
- **FTB East of Sable Palm Rd** - Could place tower in more open area.
- **FTB Zone 34** - Could place tower in more open area.
- **HRL Convrete Canal & Levee** - Could place tower in more open area.
- **HRL Green Barn Rd** - Could place tower in more open area.
- **HRL Wells Bros Canal** - Could place tower in more open area.

Based on the project information you submitted and above understanding, your agency made a "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" determination for the Gulf Coast jaguarundi and ocelot. The Service concurs with the information presented and your determination. Your agency made a "no effect" determination on the interior least tern, red-crowned parrot, star cactus, Zapata bladderpod and its critical habitat, ashy dogweed, Walker's manioc, and Texas ayenia. The Service does not provide concurrence for "no effect" determinations, but by making a determination we believe the agency complied with Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide pre-planning information. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Ernesto Reyes at (956) 784-7560.

Sincerely,

for Charles Ardizzone
Field Supervisor

cc:
Assistant Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Corpus Christi, TX
Bryan Winton, LRGVNWR Manager, Alamo, TX
Yvette Truit, Realty Specialist, Albuquerque, NM

United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Texas Coastal Ecological Service Field Office
3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, TX 78516

February 1, 2017

In Reply Refer to:
FWS/R2/ES/02ETCC00-2017-I-0482

(b) (6), (b) (7) (C) Environmental Branch Chief
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Program Management Office
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20229

Dear (b) (6), (b) (7)

Thank you for your letter received November 15, 2016, regarding the effects of proposed vegetation control on federally listed species in Cameron County, Texas. A *Final Biological Assessment Addressing Proposed Tactical Infrastructure Maintenance and Repair along the U.S./Mexico International Border in Texas* (BA) of July 2014 was reviewed. Your project was also evaluated with respect to wetlands and other federal trust fish and wildlife resources.

We understand that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) intends to conduct vegetation control on multiple parcels of the Harlingen Station Area of Responsibility. The vegetation control will include trimming and mowing with various hand and mechanical tools in the parcels identified. Mature trees will be trimmed but will not be removed as part of the proposed action.

To comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and to avoid impacts to listed avian species, CBP would conduct advance surveys for nesting migratory birds and nests if mechanical control activities occurred during the nesting season (March 15 through September 15). If project activities must be conducted between March and September, we recommend surveying for nests prior to commencing work and if a nest is found, and if possible, the Service recommends a buffer of vegetation (≥50 ft) remain around the nest until young have fledged or the nest is abandoned.

Based on the project information submitted and the above understanding, your agency made a "no effect" determination for the interior least tern, ocelot, and jaguarundi. The Service does not provide concurrence for "no effect" determinations, but by making a determination we believe your agency complied with Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. We appreciate the opportunity to provide pre-planning information.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact Ernesto Reyes at (956) 784-7560.

Sincerely,

for Chuck Ardizzone
Field Supervisor

Conversation Contents

excerpts from AP news on wall from Executive Order signed today

"Gardiner, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>

From:	"Gardiner, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Sent:	Wed Jan 25 2017 15:11:29 GMT-0700 (MST)
To:	Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Robert Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Subject:	excerpts from AP news on wall from Executive Order signed today

Trump has insisted many times the border structure will be a wall. The order he signed referred to "a contiguous, physical wall or other similarly secure, contiguous and impassable physical barrier."

The president's orders also call for hiring 5,000 additional border patrol agents, though the increase is subject to congressional approval.

Trump campaigned on pledges to tighten U.S. immigration policies, including strengthening border security and stemming the flow of refugees. His call for a border wall was among his most popular proposals with supporters, who often broke out in chants of "build that wall" during rallies.

To build the wall, the president is relying on a 2006 law that authorized several hundred miles of fencing along the 2,000-mile frontier. That bill led to the construction of about 700 miles of various kinds of fencing designed to block both vehicles and pedestrians.

The Secure Fence Act was signed by then-President George W. Bush, and the majority of that fencing in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California was built before he left office. The last remnants were completed after President Barack Obama took office in 2009.

The Trump administration also must adhere to a decades-old border treaty with Mexico that limits where and how structures can be buil. The 1970 treaty requires that structures cannot disrupt the flow of the rivers, which define the U.S.-Mexico border along Texas and 24 miles in Arizona, according to The International Boundary and Water Commission, a joint U.S.-Mexican agency that administers the treaty.

--

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"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu Jan 26 2017 14:24:28 GMT-0700 (MST)
To:	"Gardiner, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
CC:	Robert Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: excerpts from AP news on wall from Executive Order signed today

Remember that DHS overturned the US/Mexico 1944 treaty by proposing to build in the floodplain against IBWC recommendations because it would cause flooding problems, but the State Department overturned IBWC's reommendations. The only reason that the 3 sections of fence was not built was due to lack of funding. These sections will impact the LRGVNWR if they decide that they need the fence there.

Ernesto

On Wed, Jan 25, 2017 at 4:11 PM, Gardiner, Dawn <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov> wrote:

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Conservation Action Title: Texas Land Acquisition

Bureau: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Project Manager(s): Mitch Sternberg, Zone Biologist, South Texas Gulf Coast

Project Location: South Texas Refuge Complex

Initial Budget: $110,371

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

200K-Texas Land Acquisition*:* We proposed an additional task to expend remaining funds that had been intended for land acquisition in South Texas for the endangered ocelot. We proposed a project to evaluate the effects of Tactical Infrastructure (TI) on bobcats (as a surrogate for ocelots), using GPS radio-telemetry collars and sensor-cameras in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

DESCRIPTION / DISCUSSION OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS / IMPLEMENTATIONS

We monitored movements of bobcats on lands managed by Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (LRGVNWR) in proximity to TI, and movements of ocelots on Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (LANWR). Work on LRGVNWR was to inform us of the movements of wild cats relative to native habitats and TI. Work on LANWR assisted in assessing the size of the ocelot population, and movements of ocelots relative to wildlife corridors and large areas of thornscrub.

Task 1. Assess wild cat use of habitat in relation to TI

Background

Development of border security infrastructure has the potential to interrupt natural wildlife movement and dispersal of wildlife (Flesch *et al.* 2009) and the Border Fence/Wall, hereafter referred to as Tactical Infrastructure (TI), has already begun to do just that (Abhat 2011). Monitoring the movements of wildlife prior to the completion (i.e., complete closure; installation of gates across all roads) of the TI is vital for pre- and post-construction comparison. The study of bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) movement is especially useful, as bobcats can serve as surrogates for studies intending to investigate the implications of development and habitat fragmentation on the endangered ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis)*, which is found in the U.S only in Texas (41 individuals [Hilary Swarts, USFWS, pers. comm.]) and in Arizona (5 individuals recorded since 2009 [Erin Fernandez, USFWS, pers.comm.]).

To monitor wildlife movement with respect to existing wildlife habitat and the TI in south Texas, trapping for bobcats was conducted on a tract of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge that contains a segment of border fence. Within this segment of TI, there are currently four road openings that are planned to be closed when large gates are installed which would further deteriorate the connectivity of the wildlife populations in the area.

Our objectives were to: 1) determine locations where bobcats cross the alignment of the TI, and 2) monitor bobcat use of any wildlife corridors.

Methods

Wildlife monitoring along the border fence infrastructure was implemented on a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service tract of land known as La Coma Tract, located south of Highway 281 in Hidalgo County, Texas. La Coma tract is part of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Wildlife Refuge (LRGVNWR). The tract provides a variety of open to dense woodland habitat (Sternberg 2003).

La Coma tract is bordered on the north by Highway 281 and on the south by the Rio Grande, and surrounded on the east and west by private land developed for agricultural use. The tract is bisected by a 5.21 km segment of incomplete TI and associated concrete flood-retention wall in a segment of infrastructure known as "Segment O-08". Segment O-08 consists of about 6 m tall steel bollard-style fencing with 12 cm gaps between each bollard. The fence sits atop a concrete levee wall with a sheer 4-4.5 m tall concrete face along the south side. Each landowner/roadway opening is roughly 12 m wide, two of which lie within habitat patches used by an abundance of wildlife near the Refuge and therefore are relevant to the current study.

Live-trapping was implemented from 10 December 2014 to 17 December 2014 using standardized USFWS protocols. Seven Tomahawk box-traps attached to live-animal bait-cages containing Eurasian collared doves were deployed along likely bobcat travel routes. Traps were checked at 0800h each morning, closed for the day, and reopened at approximately 1600h. USFWS staff and volunteers were responsible for all chemical immobilizations and handling of trapped bobcats. An intramuscular injection of a combination of Ketamine, Dexmedetomidine and Butorphanol was used for sedation. Sedated bobcats were weighed, sexed, aged, and examined for condition of coat, body, and dental condition. Each bobcat was fitted with a Tellus Ultralight GPS collar. Atipamezole and Naltrexone were used to reverse the initial injection following a period of at least 30 minutes to allow Ketamine to metabolize. Following the reversal injection, bobcats were placed inside an animal carrier and monitored for at least one hour prior to release to ensure a full recovery from anesthesia.

Tellus Ultralight GPS Collars were initially programmed to take a GPS location every three hours; collars would email GPS locations daily. Collars data were monitored daily and

Figure 1. Trapping locations for the three bobcats captured on La Coma tract of Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, near Runn, Hidalgo County, Texas, in December 2014.

occasionally remote updates were sent to the collars altering the GPS schedule when a collared animal came in proximity with the TI, to facilitate a fine-scale understanding of bobcat movement around the fence. Collars were, at times, altered to fix a GPS location every 15 minutes at the cost of expending more of the battery. Consecutive locations that crossed the TI were determined to be crossing events, and crossing events that occurred within an hour were used to assign a likelihood of where the TI was crossed by the bobcats.

Results

In December 2014, we conducted a total of 31 trap-nights on La Coma tract of LRGVNWR. Three bobcats were captured, collared and released in the same area (Figure 1). Bobcat trapping success was 9.6% and total trapping success was 42%. A total of 8,150 GPS locations were recorded for all three bobcats. Bobcat female 01 (BF01) provided 2,488 locations. Bobcat male 02 (BM02) provided 3,325 locations. Bobcat female 03 (BF03) provided 2,337 locations.

BF01 was trapped and collared 12 December 2014 near the edge of mesquite thorn scrub and agricultural land north of the TI and levee wall, and south of State Highway 281. After 193 days the collar was triggered to drop-off by technicians remotely, due to signaling to us that it had a low battery and it was recovered shortly thereafter. BF01 crossed the TI 111 times. Within the hourly limit that we applied, she is suspected of crossing in roadway openings 5 times and around the eastern end of the TI 21 times, and across State Highway (SH) 281 a total of 14 times (Figure 2).

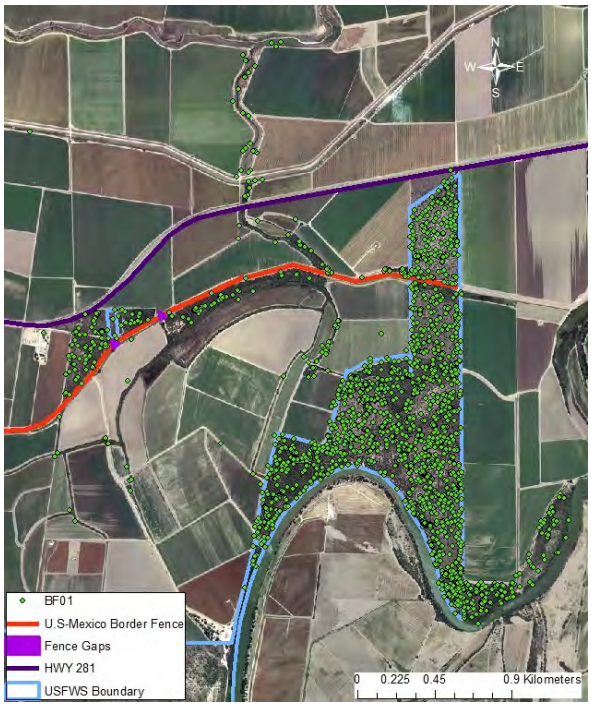

Figure 2. Locations of adult female bobcat BF01 from December 2014 to June 2015 with respect to the Tactical Infrastructure, near Runn, Hidalgo County, Texas.

BM02 was trapped and collared 16 December 2014 along a road created by U.S. Border Patrol, on the Refuge, south of the TI. After 165 days the collar was intentionally dropped remotely due to low battery and successfully recovered shortly thereafter. The collar recorded a total of 3,325 locations (Figure 3), many of which were north of the border fence on Las Palomas Wildlife Management Area, managed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. BM02 crossed into Mexico on 4 January 2015 between the hours of 1700-2000h and returned to the U.S. on 7 January 2015 between the hours of 0500-0800h. BM02 crossed the TI 45 times. Within the hourly limit that we applied, he was suspected of crossing in roadway openings 24 times and around the eastern end of the TI 3 times, and across State Highway (SH) 281 a total of 33 times (Figure 2). BM01 moved across a larger area and often at a greater pace than the females, so his collar was programmed to provide additional GPS location data when he was near the TI, which provided very fine-scale evidence (i.e., 15-minute intervals) of use of two of the roadway openings.

Figure 3. Locations of adult male bobcat BM02 from December 2014 to May 2015 with respect to the border wall infrastructure, near Runn, Hidalgo County, Texas.

BF03 was trapped and collared 16 December 2014 along the east side of the property south of the border infrastructure. After 179 days the collar was intentionally dropped remotely due to low battery and successfully recovered shortly thereafter. The collar recorded a total of 2,337 locations (Figure 4). BF03 crossed the TI 137 times; at least four times at roadway openings and at least 25 times around the eastern end of the TI. BF03 also crossed SH 281 30 times, including following the same route, but not quite arriving at the same Wildlife Management Area, as did BM02 on numerous occasions.

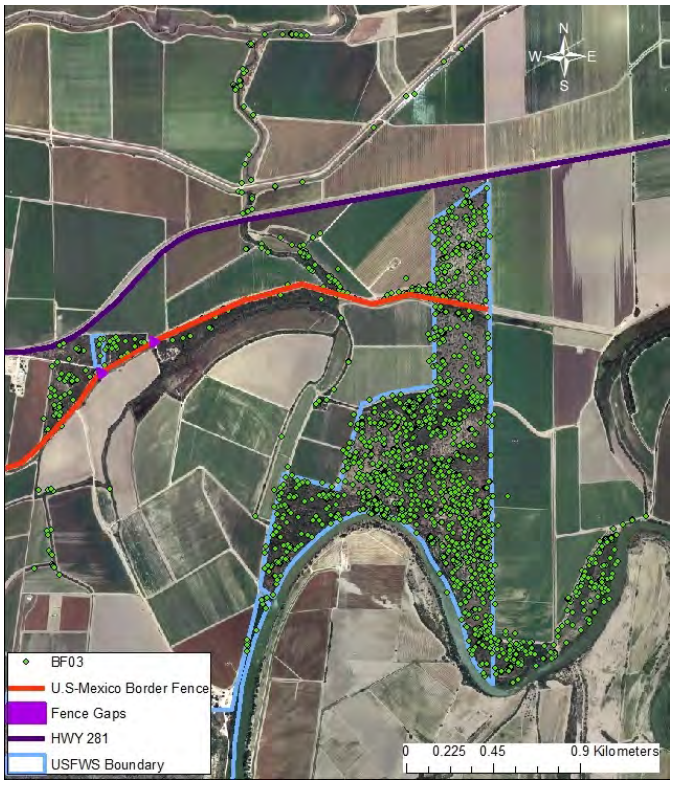

Figure 4. Locations of adult female bobcat BF03 from December 2014 to June 2015 with respect to the border wall infrastructure, near Runn, Hidalgo County, Texas.

Discussion

Like much of the remaining natural landscape in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, the La Coma tract is a stand of viable habitat segmented and isolated by roads, development, and other barriers. The likelihood of the closure of all openings in the Tactical Infrastructure to additionally fragment and degrade the use of the remaining habitat for wildlife, especially in areas used by the endangered ocelot, makes it important to study the impacts of the fence infrastructure on wildlife movement before, during, and following completion of the TI (Abhat 2011).

The preservation of wildlife corridors and critical habitat patches along the border fence is essential for preserving viable habitat for wildlife, including the endangered ocelot (Grigione and Myrkalo, 2004). The three collared bobcats in our study often crossed the TI at roadway openings on the levee. The home ranges of the females centered on the larger patch of habitat on the eastern portion of the Refuge and therefore they did not cross at the roadway openings often. This aligns with previous findings that female bobcats tend to remain within a single fragment while males more often range between multiple fragments (Tigas *et. al.* 2002). The same movement patterns are found in ocelots (Laack 1991), highlighting the need for large, connected patches of habitat.

The roadway opening to the west (1.08 km from the closest thornscrub patch) was never used by the bobcats, likely as it was so far removed from any significant patch of habitat. The movements of BM02 and BF03 between the USFWS Refuge tract and the TPWD Wildlife Management Area, as well as findings in Abhat (2011), are direct evidence of the need to protect wildlife corridors to maintain connectivity between larger tracts of preserved habitat for the benefit of wildlife. Specific to the current study, roadway openings in the TI near habitat remain critical to maintaining wildlife connectivity.

Other Lessons Learned

Theft of FWS game cameras on nearby refuge tracts, presumably by traffickers of illegal goods or undocumented immigrants, did affect our decision to place game cameras in more useful locations for ocelot monitoring (i.e., at LANWR). Trapping of bobcats was very successful and provided valuable input regarding wild cat movement relative to TI. Based on input we received during the monthly inter-agency conference calls, we re-aligned our efforts to more directly impact ocelot conservation and recovery by applying more of our resources towards actions on LANWR than along the Rio Grande. Through the Borderlands Management Taskforce, the Refuge has begun reviewing photos from the Texas Department of Transportation's cameras in the Drawbridge Program for wildlife occurrences in these areas along the Rio Grande. The GPS collars will be reused repeatedly for ocelot conservation. The battery and drop-off mechanism will be replaced at the Refuge's cost and they will be used for ocelot or bobcat monitoring in subsequent years.

Task 2. Assess the size of the population of ocelots and their movements on LANWR

Background

The endangered ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) is found in the U.S only in Texas (41 ocelots [Hilary Swarts, USFWS, pers. comm.]) and in Arizona (5 individuals recorded since 2009 [Erin Fernandez, USFWS, pers. comm.]). The final rule listing the ocelot as endangered in the U.S. (47 FR 31670, July 21, 1982) stated that the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range posed the greatest threat to the survival of the ocelot in the U.S. The ocelot's range and distribution in the U.S. have been drastically reduced in the last two centuries. Over 90% of the dense thornscrub habitat that supported the ocelot in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas has been altered for agricultural and urban development (Jahrsdoerfer and Leslie 1988, Tremblay *et al.* 2005).

Our objectives were to: 1) determine the size of the ocelot population on and around LANWR, and 2) document ocelot use of any wildlife corridors, specifically those crossing roadways.

Methods

To assess the ocelot population status as well as their movements on and around LANWR, ocelots were live-trapped, as well as photographed using remote game cameras. IAA funds were used to accomplish the monitoring of ocelots from December 2014 to September 2015. Live-trapping was implemented from December 2014 to June 2015 using standardized USFWS protocols as described briefly under Task 1 above. All larger adult ocelots were fitted with a Tellus Ultralight GPS collar, or an Advanced Telemetry Systems VHF radiocollar, if a juvenile ocelot. GPS data was provided by email or downloaded from the field, as per bobcats under Task 1.

Results

We live-trapped for a total of 2,344 trap-nights from December to June 2015 and captured six ocelots, some multiple times (Figure 5). Significantly more VHF-tracking was needed by staff as smaller, juvenile ocelots are not appropriate carriers for the larger GPS collars, although several GPS collars were used on ocelots (Figure 6). Staff collected 148 VHF locations for three ocelots, and 3,059 GPS locations for three ocelots.

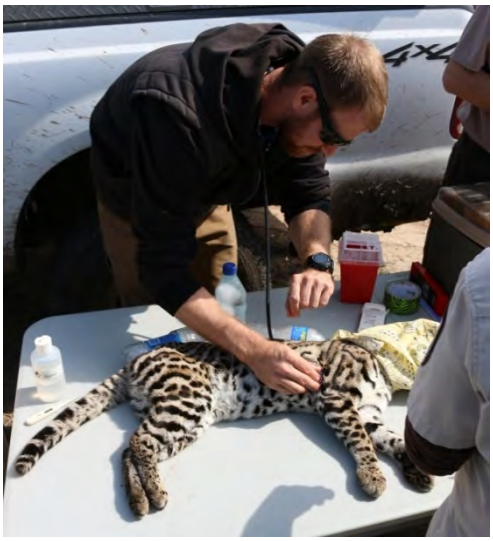

Figure 5. Ocelot that was live-trapped in January 2015 as part of the population monitoring conducted each year at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Cameron County, Texas. Refuge Intern is observing heartrate as part of health-monitoring during sedation of the ocelot. Photo credit, Eric Hope for USFWS.

During the fall trapping season, the known ocelots varied from month to month, from 11-14 individuals, depending on newly-discovered (young) ocelots and the death of some ocelots, most of the latter, while crossing roadways. Game cameras were used to identify and monitor the movements of 14 ocelots during the season, including cameras funded through the current project, as well as cameras funded by Refuges and partners. Cameras photographed numerous

ocelots during the season and greatly assisted us in efficiently targeting where to trap for certain ocelots, and cameras provided data about the status of some more elusive ocelots that we had not been able to trap previously.

Figure 6. Male ocelot 263 photographed by a game camera within the hog-proof pen of a rainwater catchment at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Cameron County, Texas. Note the black GPS collar that was attached to the ocelot during population monitoring in 2014-15.

Discussion

The accuracy of GPS collar data is important for the monitoring of wild cats for many reasons. One reason is that we are lacking specific information about ocelot denning and kitten survival. GPS collar data provide the added ability of resource managers to accurately depict when and where a female ocelot may have kittens based on the limited movement seen typically around a den. A second reason is the added ability to recognize and map areas where ocelots traverse the landscape of linear habitat (i.e., corridors) and roadways, sometimes successfully. This example is best illustrated by the movements of a (typically) young male ocelot when it leaves LANWR and begins exploring the area, looking for a new territory. Similar movements have been noted for female ocelots in the 1990s when the population was slightly larger (USFWS unpubl. data). These ocelot movement data are analyzed and form the basis for USFWS assisting state and federal departments of transportation in maintaining wildlife connectivity in the area for ocelots.

These movements inform us as to what habitat conditions ocelots are able and willing to use to traverse in a mostly unfriendly landscape on their way to establish a new territory of their own as an adult. The GPS data for all of these ocelots will be the basis for a model being developed by USFWS Region 2 Biologists in FY16 that will predict movements of ocelots across the landscape, and modelling ocelot recovery based on their predicted movements of ocelots across the landscape, as well as soils that can or currently do sustain ocelot habitat, and a strategic land acquisition and landowner partnership plan.

Discovery of three new (young) ocelots, some observed by cameras previously, and then by trapping, demonstrated that the LANWR ocelot population is still reproducing, and given previous years' estimates of ocelots on LANWR, the population is relatively stable. This does not diminish the fact that ocelots are at extreme risk of extinction in Texas in the next 50 years (Haines *et al.* 2006) given that the vast majority of habitat formerly used by ocelots has been converted or severely fragmented (Tremblay *et al.* 2005) and that vehicles strikes are the major factor in the death of ocelots in Texas still today (Haines *et al.* 2005; Hilary Swarts, USFWS, pers. comm.). USFWS and its partners need to cooperatively manage, acquire, protect, and restore areas that are or could be used by ocelots, and corridors between Texas populations, and between populations in Texas and Mexico (Grigione *et al.* 2009, Abhat 2011), however highly fragmented, must be functional if the ocelot is ever to be removed from the Endangered Species List.

Funds Expended

Living stipends for Refuge Interns	$12,070.40
Field supplies	$15,604.45
Game cameras and camera supplies	$23,549.40
Tellus Ultralight GPS collars	$59,146.75
Total funding expended	$110,371.00

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Dave Kuhn and Greta Schmidt for significant contributions to data analysis and the report. We thank Ondina Diaz, Roy Reyna, Boyd Blihovde, Bryan Winton, and Jonathan Moczygemba for supporting this project on the National Wildlife Refuges. Thanks also to Heather Frederick, Eric Hope, Becca Thomas-Kuzilik, Pat McGovern, and Hilary Swarts for incorporating this project into the ocelot population monitoring work. Thanks to those responsible for the Inter-agency Agreement that made this study possible; namely, Mary Anderson, Larisa Ford, Grant Harris, Rob Jess, Kelly McDowell, John Petrilla, Ernesto Reyes, Liz Trujillo, and Customs and Border Protection.

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U.S. Customs and Border Protection

NOV 28 2016

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services, Corpus Christi Field Office
ATTN: Dawn Gardiner
6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5837, Classroom West, Room 118
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Dear Ms. Gardiner:

RE: Proposed Remote Video Surveillance System Tower Upgrade, Brownsville, Fort Brown, Harlingen, Falfurrias, and Kingsville Stations' Areas of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol, Rio Grande Valley Sector, Texas

Dear Ms. Gardiner:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is pleased to forward on behalf of the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) the *draft Biological Assessment for Remote Video Surveillance System Tower Upgrade, Brownsville, Fort Brown, Harlingen, Falfurrias, and Kingsville Stations' Areas of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol, Rio Grande Valley Sector, Texas*.

USBP is proposing to construct, operate, and maintain 40 Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the USBP Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). The Proposed Action is located within Hidalgo, Cameron, Brooks, and Kenedy counties, Texas. Each RVSS consists of a tower equipped with a suite of sensors and/or communications equipment. The RVSS system provides radar or video data feeds to the command and control (C2) modular facilities located at each of the USBP stations. The C2 facilities integrate and display data from all their respective RVSS and relay towers deployed within the USBP's BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) currently lists 16 Federally endangered species and one candidate species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, as occurring in Hidalgo and Starr counties, Texas. Of these Federally listed and candidate species, five species, northern aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis*) (NAF), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis albescens*), and jaguarundi (*Puma yagouaroundi*) have the potential to occur within the range of potential direct or indirect effects resulting from the Proposed Action.

Critical Habitat has been designated for one of these 16 species: piping plover; however, no adverse modification of piping plover Critical Habitat would occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

CBP has prepared a draft biological assessment for the five Federally listed species with the potential to occur within the range of effects resulting from the Proposed Action. CBP has determined the Proposed Action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the NAF, piping plover, red knot, ocelot, and jaguarundi. Supporting evidence for these determinations can be found in the enclosed draft biological assessment. CBP respectfully requests USFWS's concurrence on its determinations at this time. Your agency should also receive a copy of the draft environmental assessment for this project, as well.

Thank you for your assistance in our planning efforts. If you have any questions, please contact me at (949) 643-6392 or by e-mail at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

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Environmental Protection Specialist
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosures

cc:

Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
3325 Green Jay Road
Alamo, Texas 78516

DRAFT

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

FOR REMOTE VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM TOWER UPGRADE BROWNSVILLE, FORT BROWN, HARLINGEN, FALFURRIAS, AND KINGSVILLE STATIONS' AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY U.S. BORDER PATROL, RIO GRANDE VALLEY SECTOR, TEXAS

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C.

NOVEMBER 2016

DRAFT

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
REMOTE VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM TOWER UPGRADE
BROWNSVILLE, FORT BROWN, HARLINGEN, FALFURRIAS, AND KINGSVILLE STATIONS'
AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY
U.S. BORDER PATROL, RIO GRANDE VALLEY SECTOR, TEXAS
U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 2016

Project Proponent:

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U.S. Customs & Border Protection
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ES-1

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION 1-1

1.1 LOCATION 1-1
1.2 DEFINITION OF ACTION AREA 1-1
1.3 PROPOSED ACTION 1-4
1.3.1 Tower Characteristics 1-10
1.3.2 Construction of RVSS Towers 1-15
1.3.3 Operation and Maintenance of RVSS Towers 1-17
1.3.4 Access Drive and Access Road Construction, Maintenance, and Repair 1-18
1.3.5 Conservation Measures 1-21
1.3.5.1 CM1 - General Construction 1-21
1.3.5.2 CM2 - Preventing the Establishment and Expansion of Non-native, Invasive Plants 1-23

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES AND HABITAT 2-1

2.1 CONSULTATION HISTORY 2-1
2.2 NORTHERN APLOMADO FALCON (*FALCO FEMORALIS SEPTENTRIONALIS*) 2-1
2.3 OCELOT (*LEOPARDUS PARDALIS*) 2-1
2.4 GULF COAST JAGUARUNDI (*PUMA YAGOUAROUNDI*) 2-2
2.5 PIPING PLOVER (*CHARADRIUS MELODUS*) 2-2
2.6 RED KNOT (*CALIDRIS CANUTUS RUFA*) 2-2

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE 3-1

3.1 NORTHERN APLOMADO FALCON 3-1
3.2 OCELOT AND GULF COAST JAGUARUNDI 3-1
3.3 PIPING PLOVER AND RED KNOT 3-2

4.0 EFFECTS OF ACTION 4-1

4.1 DIRECT EFFECTS 4-1
4.1.1 Northern Aplomado Falcon 4-2
4.1.2 Ocelot and Gulf Coast Jaguarundi 4-3
4.1.3 Piping Plover and Red Knot 4-3
4.2 INDIRECT EFFECTS 4-4
4.3 INTERRELATED AND INTERDEPENDENT EFFECTS 4-4
4.4 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS 4-5

5.0 DETERMINATION OF EFFECT 5-1

6.0 REFERENCES 6-1

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1. Project Vicinity Map 1-2
Figure 1-2. Typical Noise Contours 1-3
Figure 1-3. Proposed Action in Brownsville Station's AOR 1-5
Figure 1-4. Proposed Action in Fort Brown Station's AOR 1-6
Figure 1-5. Proposed Action in Harlingen Station's AOR 1-7
Figure 1-6. Proposed Action in Falfurrias Station's AOR 1-8
Figure 1-7. Proposed Action in Kingsville Station's AOR 1-9
Figure 1-8. Typical Profile of SST Tower 1-11
Figure 1-9. Typical Monopole Tower Profile 1-12
Figure 1-10. Proposed RVSS Elements 1-13
Figure 1-11. Tower Construction Footprint Schematic 1-16

LIST OF TABLES

Table ES-1 List of Federally Protected Species Potentially Affected by the RGV RVSS Project ES-2
Table 1-1. A-Weighted (dBA) Sound Levels of Construction Equipment 1-1
Table 1-2. RGV RVSS Upgrade Tower Locations 1-19

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A. Protected Species List
Appendix B. Brownsville, Fort Brown, Harlingen, Falfurrias, and Kingsville Stations' Site and Road Maps

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Biological Assessment (BA) evaluates the beneficial and adverse effects resulting from proposed U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) actions in south Texas within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector, which includes portions of Hidalgo, Cameron, Brooks, and Kenedy counties, Texas. CBP proposes the upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance System (RVSS) Program within the USBP Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs).

USBP is the mobile uniformed law enforcement subcomponent of CBP responsible for patrolling and securing America's borders between the ports of entry. As directed by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Analysis of Alternatives (AoA), CBP is investing in the USBP border security technology plan for the RGV Sector. Accordingly, the new plan incorporates both the quantitative analysis of science and engineering experts and the real-world operational assessment of USBP on the ground (DHS 2011). This plan includes the utilization of RVSS to provide long-range, persistent surveillance, enabling USBP personnel to detect, track, identify, and classify illegal entries through a series of integrated sensors and tower-based surveillance equipment.

As described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Corpus Christi Ecological Services Field Office, a total of 16 listed and one candidate species are found within Hidalgo, Cameron, Brooks, and Kenedy counties, Texas, and are protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (USFWS 2016) (Table ES-1; Appendix A). Critical Habitat has been designated for one of these 16 species, piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*); however, no adverse modification of piping plover Critical Habitat would occur as a result of the Proposed Action because none of the tower sites or associated roads are within Critical Habitat.

A preliminary review of the biology, distribution, and threats to survival identified 13 listed and one candidate species and Critical Habitat for one species, which would not be directly or indirectly affected by the Proposed Action (as identified in Table ES-1). Supporting information for a "no effect" determination is provided below, and potential impacts on these species and Critical Habitats are not further assessed.

By examining species ranges, biology, and habitat around proposed tower sites, CBP determined that the Proposed Action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, five listed species: the northern aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis*) (NAF), piping plover, red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis albescens*), and jaguarundi (*Puma yagouaroundi*). The potential effects, rationale, and measures to avoid, minimize, and offset those impacts are discussed in this Biological Assessment.

Table ES-1. List of Federally Protected Species Potentially Affected by the RGV RVSS Project

Common/Scientific Name	Federal Status	County	Habitat	Potential to Occur at Site	Effect Determination
BIRDS					
Northern aplomado falcon *(Falco femoralis septentrionalis)*	E	H,C,K,B	Open country, especially savanna and open woodland, and sometimes in very barren areas; grassy plains and valleys with scattered mesquite, yucca, and cactus; nests in old stick nests of other bird species.	Yes, could use tower for perching and nesting if abandoned nests are present	May affect, not likely to adversely affect
Least tern (*Sterna antillarum*)	E	H,C,K,B	Nesting habitat of the least tern includes bare or sparsely vegetated sand, shell, and gravel beaches, sandbars, islands, and salt flats associated with rivers and reservoirs. Highly adapted to nesting in disturbed sites, terns may move colony sites annually, depending on landscape disturbance and vegetation growth at established colonies. For feeding, least terns need shallow water with an abundance of small fish. As natural nesting sites have become scarce, the birds have used sand and gravel pits, ash disposal areas of power plants, reservoir shorelines, and other man-made sites.	No	No effect
Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*)	T	C,K,B	Wintering migrant along the Texas Gulf Coast on beaches and bayside mud, or salt flats.	Yes	May affect, not likely to adversely affect
Whooping crane (*Grus americana*)	E	K	Potential migrant via plains throughout most of the Texas Gulf Coast.	No	No effect
Red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*)	T	K,C,B	Wintering migrant along the Texas Gulf Coast on beaches and bayside mud, or salt flats.	Yes	May affect, not likely to adversely affect
Red-crowned parrot (*Amazona viridigenalis*)	C	H,C	Arid lowlands and foothills, gallery forest, deciduous woodland, and open pine-oak woodland ridges. Small populations occur in agricultural landscapes with a few large trees.	No	No effect
MAMMALS					
Gulf Coast jaguarundi *(Puma yagouaroundi)*	E	H,C	Dense, thorny scrub, especially near water.	Yes	May affect, not likely to adversely affect

Table ES-1, continued

Common/Scientific Name	Federal Status	County	Habitat	Potential to Occur at Site	Effect Determination
Ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*)	E	H,C	Dense, thorny shrub lands of the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Rio Grande Plains. Deep, fertile clay or loamy soils are generally needed to produce suitable habitat.	Yes	May affect, not likely to adversely affect
West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus)*	E	C,K	Shallow, slow-moving waters of rivers, estuaries, saltwater bays, canals, and coastal areas.	No	No effect
PLANTS					
Star cactus (*Astrophytum asterias*)	E	H	Grows in gravelly clays or loam soil among sparse, low shrubs, grasses, and halophytic plants in upland sites.	No	No effect
South Texas ambrosia (*Ambrosia cheiranthifolia*)	E	C	Occurs in open grasslands or savannas on soils varying from clay loams to sandy loams.	No	No effect
Walker's manioc (*Manihot walkerae*)	E	H,C	Grows in sandy, calcareous soil among low shrubs and native grasses and herbaceous plants in either full sunlight or partial shade	No	No effect
Texas ayenia *(Ayenia limitaris)*	E	H,C	Subtropical thorn woodland or tall shrubland on loamy soils of the Rio Grande Delta; known site soils include well-drained, calcareous, sandy clay loam (Hidalgo Series) and neutral to moderately alkaline, fine sandy loam (Willacy Series); also under or among taller shrubs in thorn woodland/thorn shrubland.	No	No effect
REPTILES					
Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata)*	E	C,K	Rocky areas, coral reefs, shallow coastal areas, lagoons or oceanic islands, and narrow creeks and passes connected to the Gulf of Mexico.	No	No effect
Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii)*	E	C,K	Open ocean and Gulf of Mexico waters.	No	No effect
Leatherback sea turtle *(Dermochelys coriacea)*	E	C,K	Open ocean and Gulf of Mexico waters.	No	No effect
Loggerhead sea turtle *(Caretta caretta)*	E	C,K	Ranges between hundreds of miles seaward to inshore areas such as bays, lagoons, salt marshes, creeks, ship channels, and the mouths of large rivers.	No	No effect

E Endangered, T Threatened, C Candidate
K Kenedy County, H Hidalgo County, B Brooks County, C Cameron County

Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*)
The least tern is a smallish bird that hunts by hovering over and diving into water in pursuit of small fish. It breeds in isolated areas along the Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, Red, and Rio Grande river systems. Its winter range is unknown but probably includes coastal Central and South America. Dams, reservoirs, and other changes to North American rivers have eliminated much of the historic breeding habitat. No Critical Habitat has been designated (USFWS 1990a). No suitable habitat occurs near any of the project sites; therefore, CBP has determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on this species.

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana)*
The whooping crane is the tallest North American bird, standing 5 feet when erect. Three wild populations currently exist; however, only one of these populations, the Aransas-Wood Buffalo National Park (AWBP) population, is naturally occurring. It also is the only population that is considered self-sustaining. The other two populations are experimental and the result of captive breeding and introduction programs. Whooping cranes in Texas are part of the AWBP population (Canadian Wildlife Service [CWS] and USFWS 2007). Whooping cranes once had a winter range that stretched across various wetland areas from the Rio Grande delta across the Gulf Coast to Florida and north into Atlantic coastal states. Today, the one remaining wild, self-sustaining population breeds predominantly in Woods Buffalo National Park, Canada, and winters in the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Texas. Winter habitat in Texas is estauarine marsh, shallow bays, and tidal flats and extends 29 to 34 miles along the coast from San Jose Island and Lamar Peninsula on the south of Welder Point to Matagorda Island on the north (CWS and UFWS 2007). No suitable habitat exists near any of the project sites, the closest project site to San Jose Island is more than 60 miles southwest of the island, and none of the towers are within migration routes for the whooping crane. Therefore, CBP has determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on this species.

Red-Crowned Parrot (*Amazona viridigenalis*)
The red-crowned parrot was listed as a candidate species in 2011 by the USFWS. The parrot is a green parrot with a striking red forehead and has a blue postocular stripe that extends down both sides of its neck. The red-crowned parrot is fairly common to common in northeast Mexico, mostly in Tamaulipas and San Luis Potosi. It formerly occurred in Nuevo Leon, but there have been no observations of wild parrots since 1960. Red-crowned parrots have recently established populations in the RGV with feral or introduced populations being found in Florida and California as well. The red-crowned parrot generally nests in tree cavities, with breeding occurring from March to May. Its diet mainly consists of the fruits of dominant tree species. The primary threats to the red-crowned parrot are illegal trapping and exportation and habitat destruction, 80 percent of its native Tamaulipas lowlands have been cleared for agricultural purposes in Mexico (Bird Life International 2016). Native habitat for the parrot includes lush areas in arid lowlands and foothills, especially gallery forest, deciduous woodland, and dry, open pine-oak woodlands on ridges in the higher elevations. Smaller numbers have been observed in agricultural landscapes with a few scattered large trees. However, within RGV it was determined through various monitoring efforts conducted by the USFWS that the non-migratory red-crowned parrot occurred exclusively in urban habitats in the lower RGV. No red-crowned parrots were observed during biological surveys. Therefore, CBP has determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on this species.

Texas Ayenia (*Ayenia limitaris*)
Little is known about Texas ayenia, a small flowering plant in the family Malvaceae. In the U.S. it is known from a single locality in Hidalgo County, Texas, and it also occurs in Mexico. It grows on terraces and floodplains; flood control and habitat loss from conversion to agriculture are primary threats. It also faces competition from introduced species (USFWS 2010a). No Texas ayenia was observed at any of the tower sites or roadways and, thus, this species would not be directly impacted by tower construction. Therefore, CBP has determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on this species.

Star Cactus (*Astrophytum asterias*)
The star cactus is a small and spineless button cactus with yellow flowers. Little is known about its reproductive biology, but an insect pollinator is probably involved and observations suggest that nurse plants are required for establishment. It grows on gravelly, saline clay and loam soils in the Rio Grande Plains. It is documented from one population in Starr County, Texas, and several populations in Mexico. Other populations exist in the U.S. and Mexico but are undocumented due to the difficulty of gaining access to private lands (USFWS 2003). Collection by cactus enthusiasts is a major threat, and conversion of habitat to agriculture probably played a large role in declines in the U.S. No star cactus was observed at any of the tower sites or roadways and, thus, this species would not be directly impacted by tower construction. Therefore, CBP has determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on this species.

Walker's Manioc (*Manihot walkerae*)
Walker's manioc is a large herb, reaching 5 feet in height, and is a member of the spurge family (Euphorbiaceae). Most of the former habitat in the RGV has been converted to agriculture or urbanized, and recovery efforts include cultivation in botanical gardens and research labs (USFWS 1993). Historically, Walker's manioc grew within dense stands of native brush in Hidalgo and Starr counties, Texas, and Tamaulipas, Mexico, but today it is only known from one single individual on private property, as well as three small areas on the Lower Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS 2009). No Walker's manioc was observed at any of the tower sites or roadways and, thus, this species would not be directly impacted by tower construction. Therefore, CBP has determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on this species.

South Texas Ambrosia (*Ambrosia cheiranthifolia*)
South Texas ambrosia is a silvery to grayish-green herbaceous aster up to 12 inches in height. It spreads through rhizomes and occurs in closely spaced clusters, often in association with slender rush-pea, also a Federally listed endangered species. It grows in open grassland or savanna in soils ranging from clay loams to sandy loams. It was historically known to occur in four south Texas counties, as well as Mexico, but now occurs at six locations in Nueces and Kleberg counties, Texas. Its status in Mexico is unknown. South Texas ambrosia is threatened by habitat conversion to agriculture, overgrazing causing encroachment of woody vegetation, and from competition with exotic species (USFWS 2010b). No South Texas ambrosia was observed at any of the tower sites; thus, this species would not be directly impacted by tower construction. Therefore, CBP has determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on this species.

West Indian Manatee (*Trichecus manatus*)
Manatees are aquatic mammals that live in protected marine, brackish, and fresh waters, feeding primarily on vegetation. The Gulf Coast of Texas represents the far western limit of their range, where they are found during summer when water temperatures are warmer (USFWS 2001). They are threatened by boat strikes, uncertain minimum flows in warm-water refuges used as wintering habitat, and the declining integrity of aquatic ecosystems and habitats upon which they depend. No suitable habitat occurs near any of the project sites; therefore, CBP has determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on this species.

Hawksbill Sea Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*)
The hawksbill is a medium-sized sea turtle with a distinctive hawk-like beak. It is found in tropical and subtropical regions of the Gulf of Mexico, and Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans, especially in the Caribbean and Western Atlantic. It has suffered significant population declines and continues to be threatened by overharvest and destruction of beach nesting habitat (National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS] and USFWS 1993). No suitable habitat occurs near any of the project sites and lighting associated with the tower compounds would be minimal, shielded, and contained within the compound. Spotlights could be used; however, these lights would be used approximately twice per night, no more than five minutes per use, and would be located more than 2 miles from potential habitat that could be used by the hawksbill turtle; therefore, CBP has determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on this species.

Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
The Kemp's Ridley is the smallest sea turtle. They exhibit strongly synchronized nesting in which waves of turtles come ashore to lay eggs. Kemp's Ridley sea turtle occur throughout the Gulf of Mexico and U.S. Atlantic seaboard. Ninety-five percent of the population nests on beaches in Tamaulipas, Mexico, with very limited nesting documented in Texas, including at Padre Island National Seashore. Egg harvest was once a major threat, but since the implementation of legal protection this has been reduced. The Kemp's Ridley nesting population is exponentially increasing and the recovery team is "cautiously optimistic that the population is on its way to recovery" (NMFS and USFWS 2010). No suitable habitat occurs near any of the project sites and lighting associated with the tower compounds would be minimal, shielded, and contained within the compound. Spotlights could be used; however, these lights would be used approximately twice per night, no more than five minutes per use, and would be located more than 2 miles from potential habitat that could be used by the hawksbill turtle; therefore, CBP has determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on this species.

Leatherback Sea Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
The leatherback sea turtle is the largest living turtle and has a slightly flexible shell with a rubbery texture. They are highly migratory and can be found throughout temperate and tropical waters of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans. During some life stages they are believed to be largely pelagic and migrate great distances, but they return to sandy beaches to breed. The Pacific coast of Mexico once contained the largest nesting population but has experienced severe declines in nesting turtles over the past two decades. Declines appear to result from over-harvest of eggs and meat, as well as incidental catch through fishery operations. Degradation of beach nesting habitat, coastal development, and non-native predators also contribute to declines. The leatherback sea turtle is Federally listed as endangered, and Critical Habitat has been designated

(NMFS and USFWS 1992). No suitable habitat occurs near any of the project sites and lighting associated with the tower compounds would be minimal, shielded, and contained within the compound. Spotlights could be used; however, these lights would be used approximately twice per night, no more than five minutes per use, and would be located more than 2 miles from potential habitat that could be used by the hawksbill turtle; therefore, CBP has determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on this species.

Loggerhead Sea Turtle (C*aretta caretta*)

Loggerhead sea turtles occur throughout tropical and temperate oceans around the globe and are the most common sea turtle in U.S. coastal waters. Most nesting in the U.S. occurs in Florida with only minimal nesting on beaches in Texas. Populations have experienced significant declines, and the primary threat is inadvertent capture in fishing equipment. Direct harvest of these turtles occurs in some countries and is also a serious threat (NMFS and USFWS 2008). No suitable habitat occurs near any of the project sites and lighting associated with the tower compounds would be minimal, shielded, and contained within the compound. Spotlights could be used; however, these lights would be used approximately twice per night, no more than five minutes per use, and would be located more than 2 miles from potential habitat that could be used by the hawksbill turtle; therefore, CBP has determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on this species.

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 LOCATION

The proposed new Remote Video Surveillance System (RVSS) towers are located within Hidalgo, Cameron, Brooks, and Kenedy counties, Texas. The project would serve the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs) (Figure 1-1). There would be a total of 12 new RVSS towers and associated infrastructure in the HRL AOR, 5 new RVSS towers and associated infrastructure in the BRP AOR, 9 new RVSS towers and associated infrastructure in the FTB AOR, 2 new RVSS towers and associated infrastructure in the KIN AOR, and 4 new RVSS towers and associated infrastructure in the FLF AOR. These towers are located on Federal, private, and state lands.

1.2 DEFINITION OF ACTION AREA

The Action Area is the geographic area within the range of potential direct and indirect effects and will be evaluated in this Biological Assessment (BA). The direct effects of the RGV RVSS Upgrade Program will result from construction of RVSS towers and construction and maintenance of access drives and roads. There will be two phases that could potentially affect species, and their areas of effect differ. During the construction phase, heavy equipment will be used, and multiple personnel may be on-site. During the operations and maintenance phase, no heavy equipment will be necessary, and only one or two people will typically be on-site and only sporadically and for short periods. Noise created during construction may affect wildlife at distances up to 1,138 feet from the site, depending on the source (Table 1-1). The measured generator noise is 47 A-weighted decibels (dBA) at 50 feet from the source. Therefore, during the operation and maintenance phase noise may affect wildlife if wildlife is less than 50 feet from the source. The distance at which noise is attenuated to 57 dBA (i.e., criterion for National Monuments and Refuges) defines the limits of these effects. A generalized example of these two noise contours is depicted in Figure 1-2.

Table 1-1. A-Weighted (dBA) Sound Levels of Construction Equipment

Noise Source	50 feet	100 feet	200 feet	500 feet	1,000 feet
Bulldozer	82	76	70	62	56
Concrete mixer truck	85	79	73	65	59
Crane	81	75	69	61	55
Drill rig	85	79	73	65	59
Dump truck	84	78	72	64	58
Excavator	81	75	69	61	55
Front-end loader	79	73	67	59	53
Generator	47	41	35	26	20

Source: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) 2007.

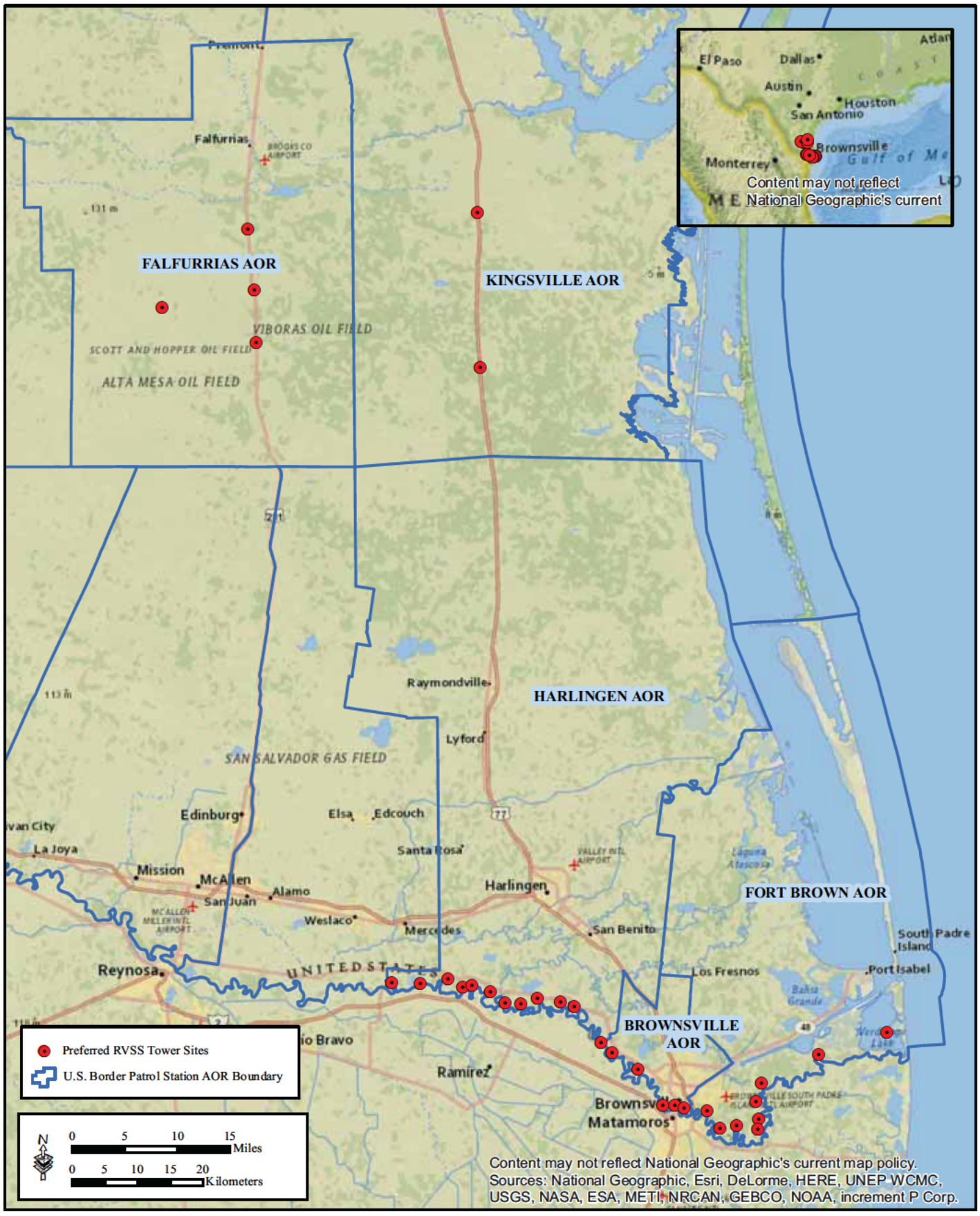


Figure 1-1. Project Vicinity Map

October 2016

Figure 1-2. Typical Noise Contours

1.3 PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action consists of the construction, operation, and maintenance of RVSS towers that provide sufficient coverage to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities within the RGV Sector's BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs (Figures 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, and 1-7). The RVSS tower site selection process began with the identification of proposed tower site locations based on an initial operational requirements and assessment of border patrol agents in the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. Operationally preferred site locations were selected based on knowledge of the terrain, environment, land ownership, and operational requirements. This review process resulted in multiple conceptual field laydowns. Mapping programs, modeling, and analysis processes were also utilized to develop a laydown that achieved both optimal surveillance and communications capabilities with the minimum number of tower sites.

Potential tower site locations were visited as part of the conceptual field laydown from June 2015 through July 2016. During the site visits, project team personnel, including CBP Office of Administration Facilities Management and Engineering and USBP personnel, evaluated each of the locations based on accessibility, constructability, operability, and environmental considerations. Evaluation considerations included, but were not limited to, the following:

- Proximity to existing roads and the potential need for new access roads or improvements to existing roads, as well as proximity to a power source
- Basic site conditions such as the terrain, soil type, drainage, available space, and slope of the site
- Tower viewsheds and line of sight available at varying tower heights
- Proximity to sensitive biological and cultural resources, waters of the U.S., floodplains, and wetlands
- Impacts on the surrounding viewshed or visual resources

Through the site selection process, CBP analyzed 59 new tower locations within the various AORs for use with the RVSS Upgrade Program. As a result of the site selection process, CBP down-selected 32 preferred RVSS tower locations (see Figures 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, and 1-7). These locations were not only based on the site selection process but also because of access, environmental sensitivity, constructability, cost of construction, and tactical efficiency.

The Proposed Action includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of 32 RVSS tower sites to provide long-term, permanent surveillance in the USBP's BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. The RVSS would communicate with the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' Command and Control facilities and would provide enhanced surveillance coverage within BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. Each RVSS tower would be equipped with a suite of sensors and/or communications equipment. The Proposed Action also includes the construction and maintenance of access drives, totaling approximately 850 feet, and the maintenance and repair of access roads, totaling 19 miles. Access road maintenance and repairs include reconstruction, widening, or straightening of the existing road, and installation of drainage structures, and would require a 30- or 60-foot-wide temporary construction disturbance area. The limits of the disturbance area are based on early

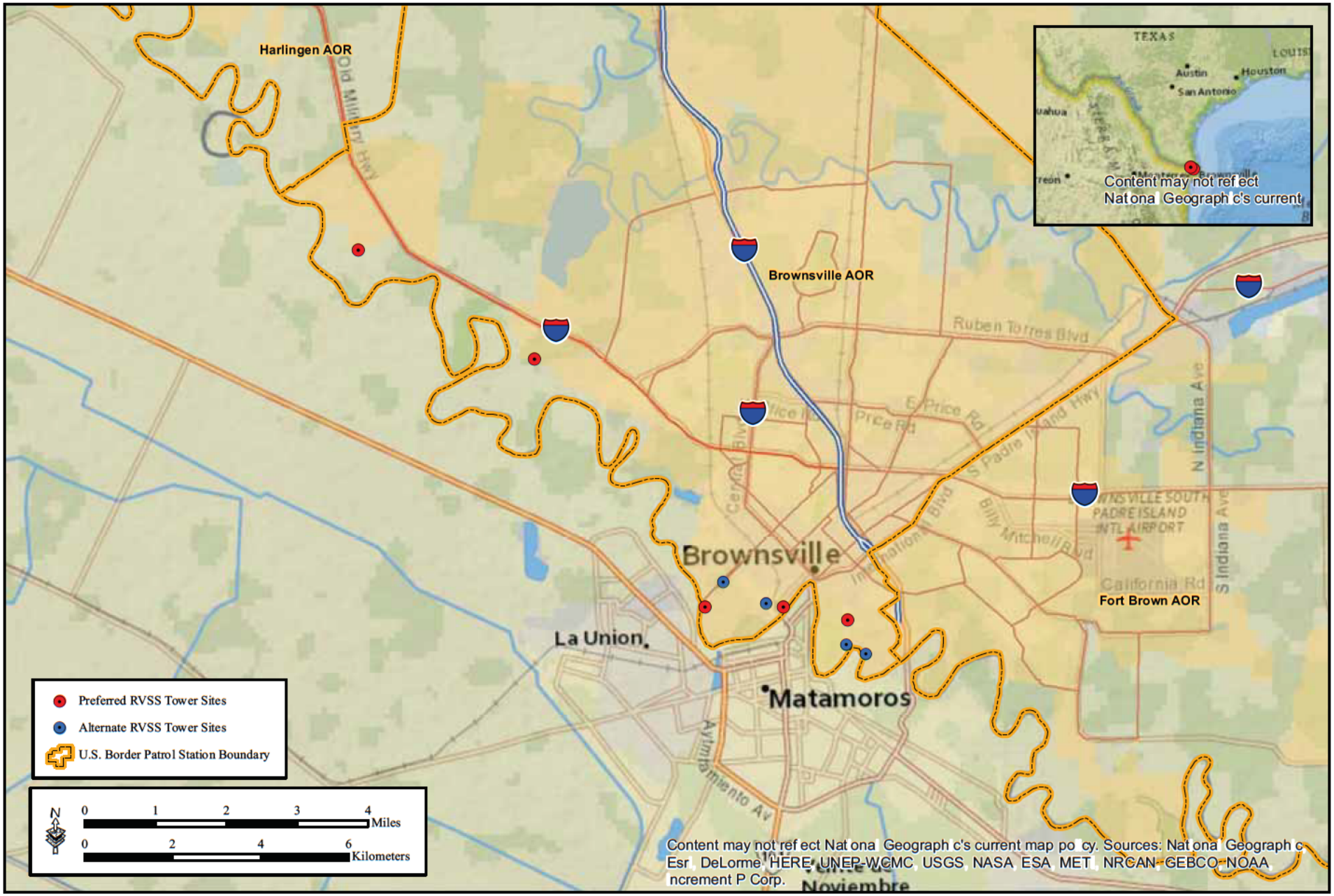


Figure 1-3. Proposed Action in Brownsville Station's AOR

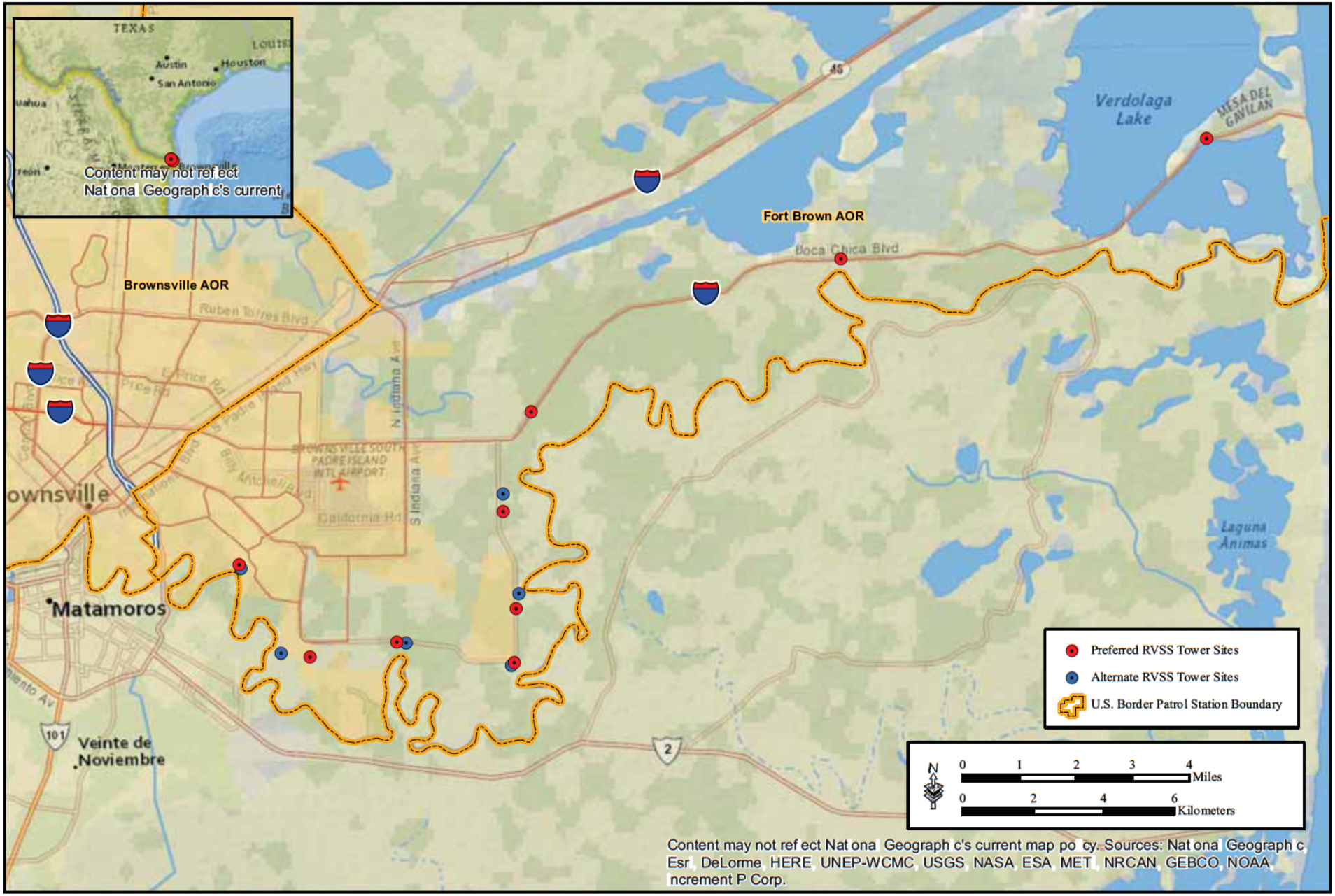


Figure 1-4. Proposed Action in Fort Brown Station's AOR

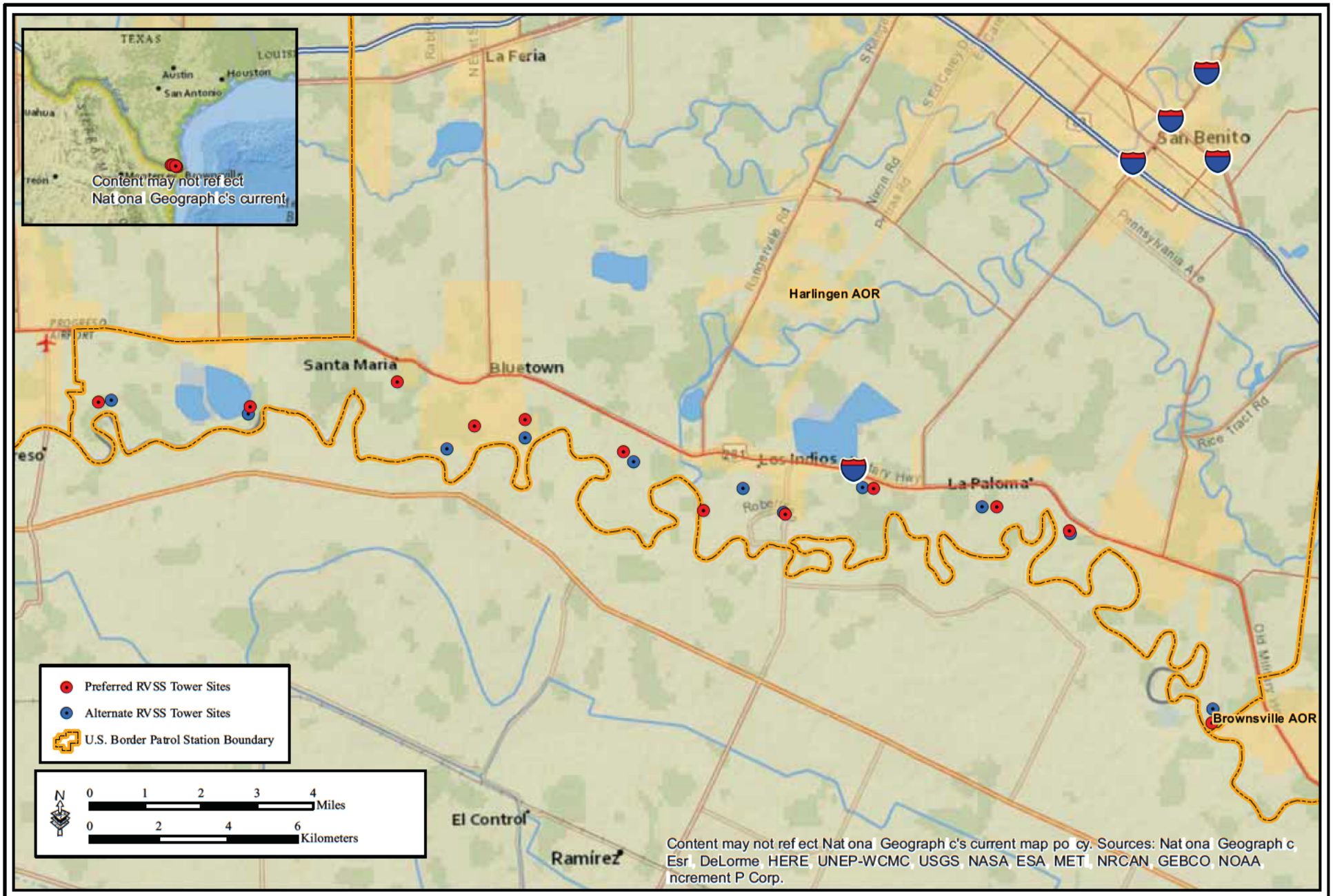


Figure 1-5. Proposed Action in Harlingen Station's AOR

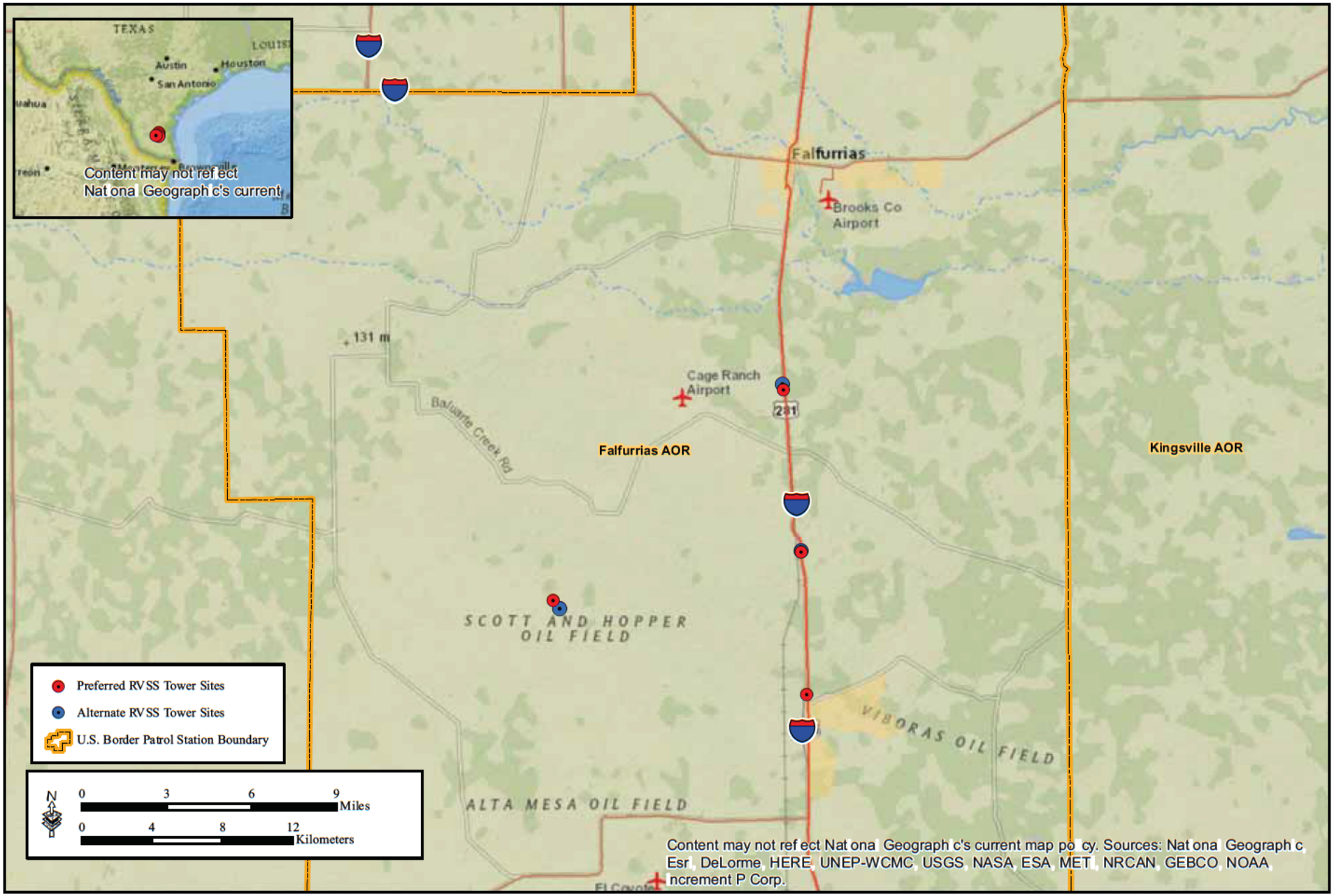


Figure 1-6. Proposed Action in Falfurrias Station's AOR

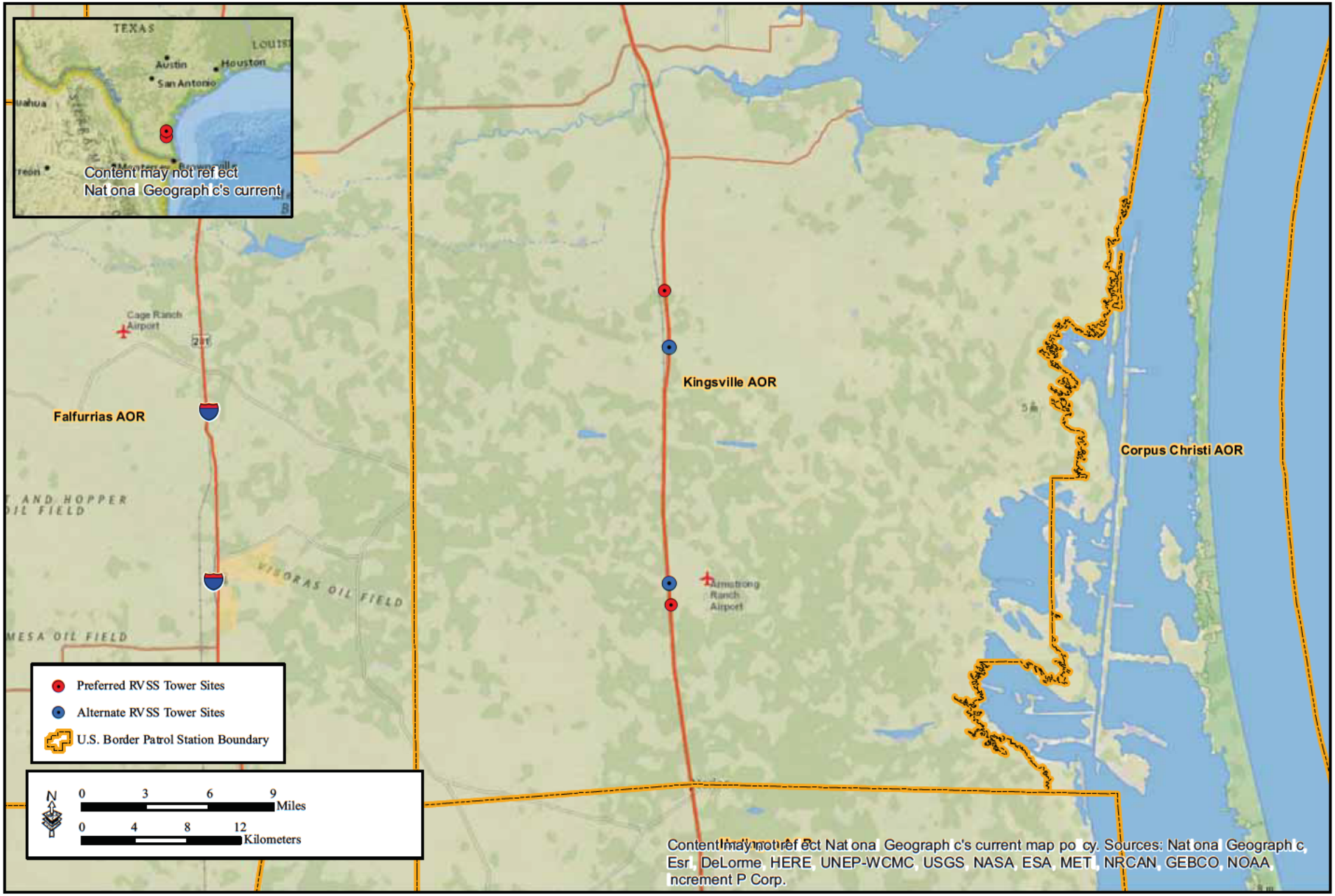


Figure 1-7. Proposed Action in Kingsville Station's AOR

engineering drawings. Drainage structures may include but are not limited to ditches, culverts, and low-water crossings.

1.3.1 Tower Characteristics

Three types of tower structures are included as part of the Proposed Action: self-standing towers (SSTs), monopole towers, and relocatable towers. Only the relocatable towers would require guy wires. SSTs are steel, lattice-style structures, with a base of three circular concrete piers, each approximately 4 to 6 feet in diameter (Figure 1-8). Other foundation types may be used depending on the site-specific geotechnical characteristics. Depth of the pilings is dependent on tower height and geotechnical characteristics at each tower site, but would be expected to be less than 60 feet below ground surface (bgs). SSTs could be up to 199 feet high including lightning protection.

Monopole towers are metal, single-pole towers with reinforced steel and concrete foundations (Figure 1-9). The depth of each tower foundation is dependent on tower height and geotechnical characteristics at each tower site but is expected to range from 10 to 60 feet bgs. Monopole towers generally range in height from 60 feet to 140 feet but could be up to 199 feet high.

Relocatable towers are towed in place on a trailer and placed on a level ground. The guy wires will attach to the relocatable tower trailer outrigger infrastructure to stabilize the tower when extended. If necessary, the guy wires can attach to concrete barriers or other anchors to increase the tower stability as required. When fully extended these towers can reach a height of up to 120 feet.

Each tower would have the design, power requirements, and site and fence enclosure footprint described below, unless otherwise noted in the detailed proposed tower site discussions. Figure 1-10 shows the typical elements and the usual layout of those elements associated with an RVSS tower, regardless of the type of tower.

Tower Footprint

Construction of SSTs or monopole tower sites results in ground disturbance confined to a 200-foot x 200-foot area (40,000 square feet). All staging of construction equipment and materials, as necessary, occurs within this footprint during construction. Each permanent tower site footprint is expected to be up to a 100-foot x 100-foot (10,000 square feet) square shape or non-square shape, depending on site-specific conditions for all tower types, and includes a permanent parking area for vehicles.

Each tower footprint is confined to the dimensions mentioned above. Regardless of each tower site's configuration, the total area of temporary construction disturbance for each site does not exceed 30,000 square feet, and the total area of permanent disturbance does not exceed 10,000 square feet.

Tower Perimeter Fence Enclosure

Each tower site meets the minimum security requirements for CBP tower sites including the installation of a perimeter fence. The perimeter fence footprint includes an area up to 10,000 square feet at each tower site, regardless of tower site configuration. At minimum, an 8-foot-

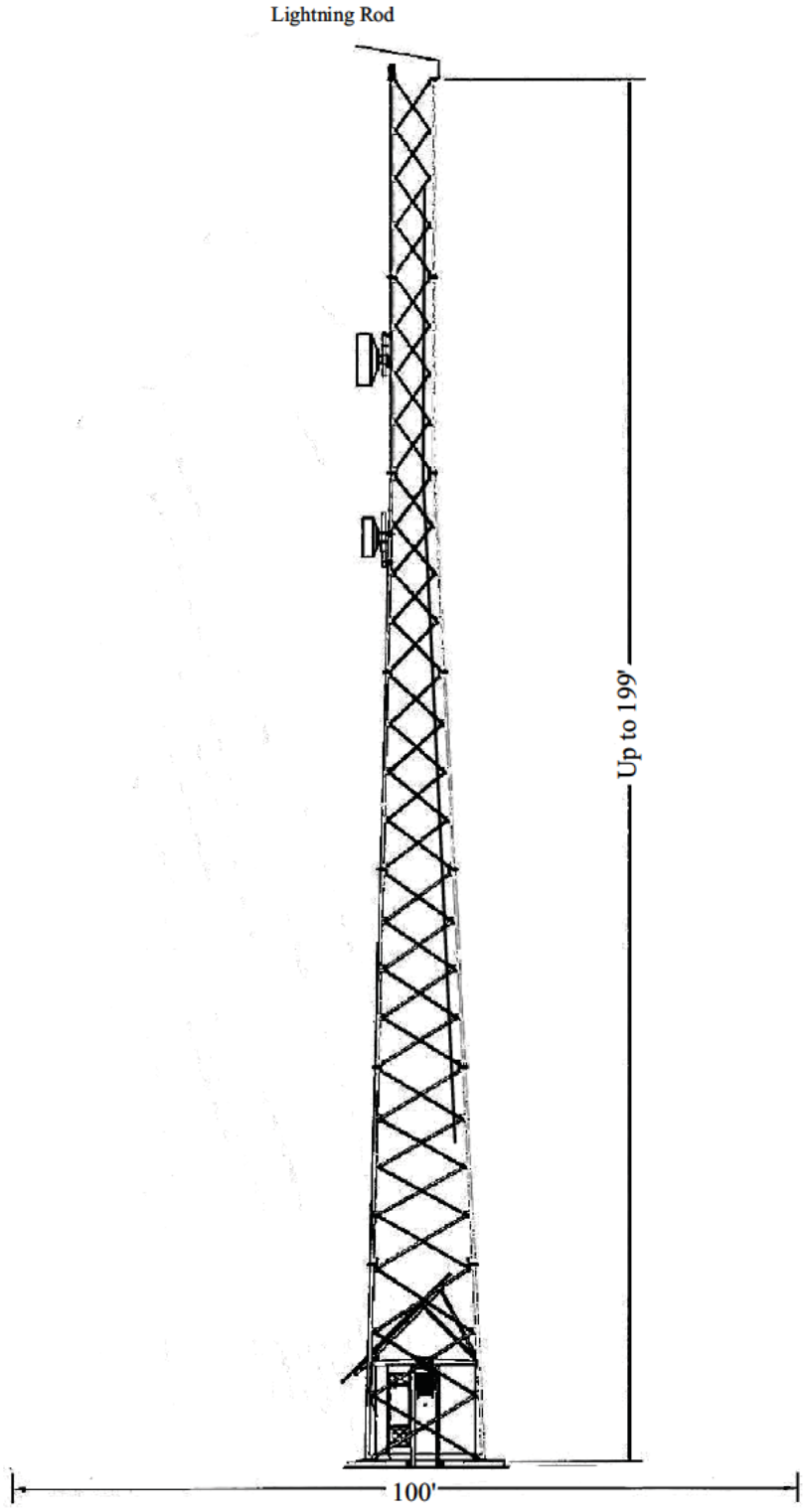
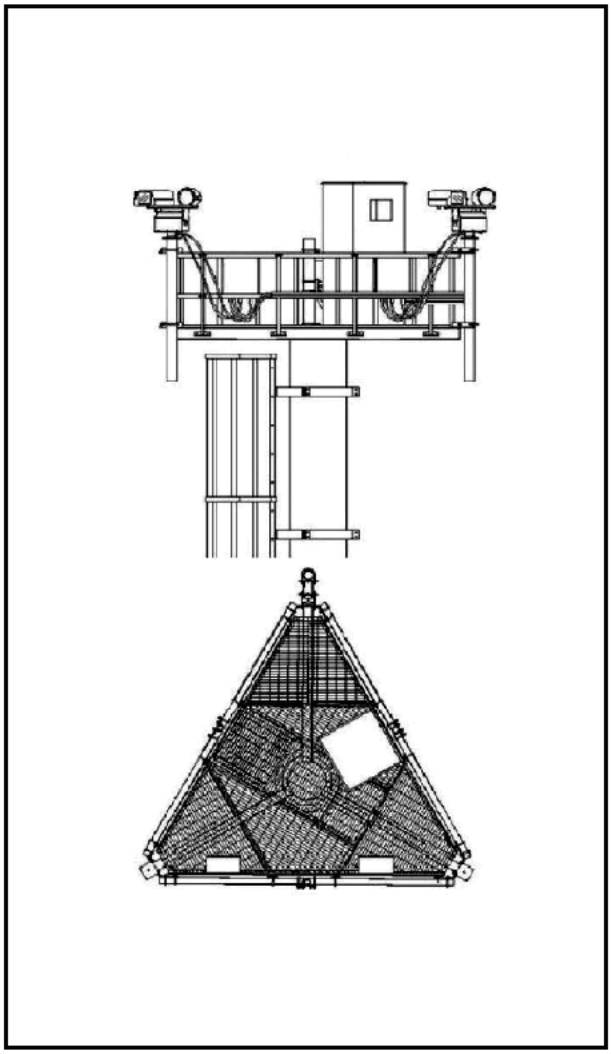


Figure 1-8. Typical Profile of SST Tower



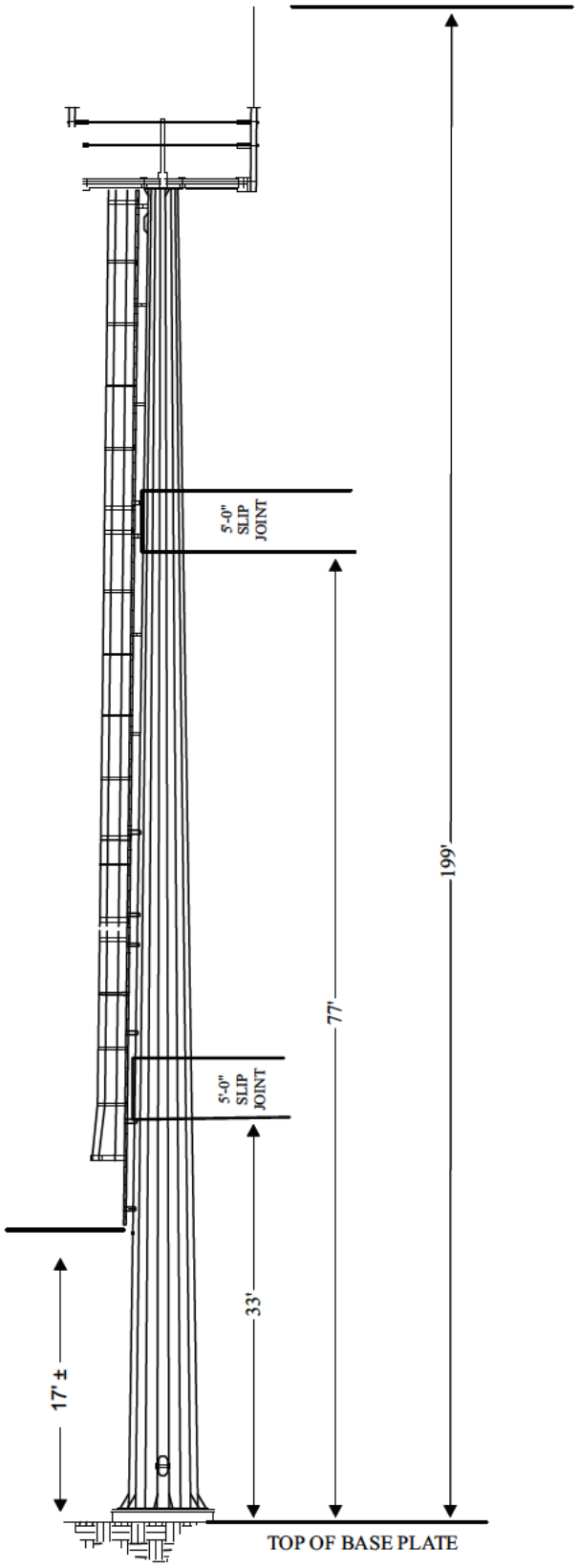


Figure 1-9. Typical Monopole Tower Profile

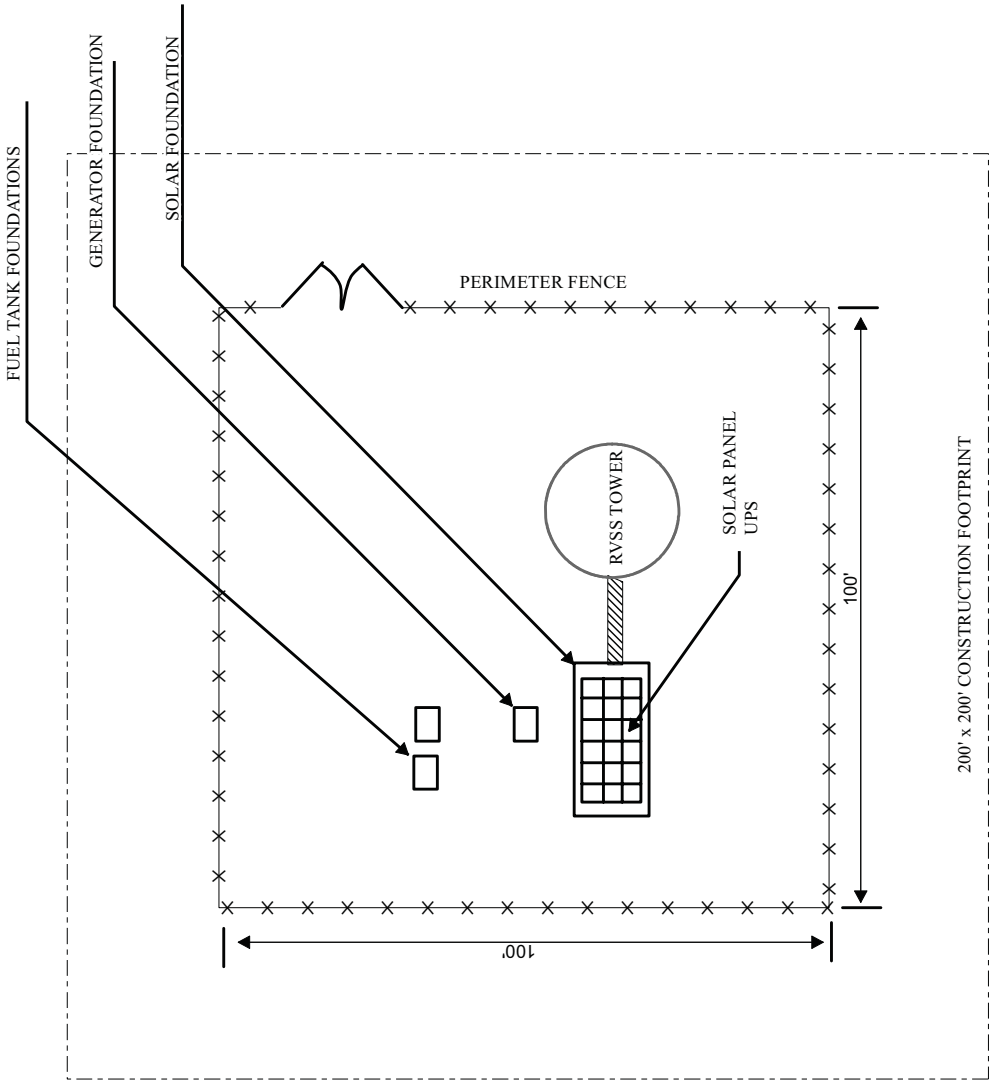


Figure 1-10. Proposed RVSS Elements

high perimeter fence, consisting of a 7-foot-high chain-link fence and a 1-foot barbed wire outrigger, will be erected around the site perimeter to prevent unauthorized access. Relocatable towers would also have the same perimeter fence enclosure.

Tower Power Sources

Each RVSS tower would be powered by commercial grid power or by solar power with grid or applicable redundant system for backup. The grid power design would be site-specific; however, commercial grid power would be overhead outside the permanent disturbed area and then underground where it enters the 100- x 100-foot fenced tower site. Overhead or buried lines outside the permanent disturbance area would be placed within access road construction buffer areas, to the extent possible, all of which would be verified to identify potential impacts on biological and cultural resources along access roads. Backup power sources may include solar panels, uninterrupted power supply (UPS) (batteries), hydrogen fuel cells, and/or a propane generator. A 1,000-gallon or smaller propane tank would be installed if a propane-fueled generator were used as a backup power source. Generators would be housed within an enclosure and would have a spill containment basin of sufficient size to contain the total volume of engine fluids. Backup power would be designed to provide a minimum 3-day supply of power in the event of primary power failure.

Sensor, Communication, and Optional Equipment

Typical designs for the RVSS towers would consist of sensor, communications, and optional equipment (e.g., spotlight). Suites of sensors would include multiple cameras (daylight, infrared [or both] and video cameras). The RVSS towers would be equipped with short-range high definition, short/medium-range, long-range, or wide-angle cameras, or a combination of each, depending on the geographical area. Communications equipment could consist of microwave antennas to transmit data to the C2 facility.

Combination sensor and communications towers include equipment associated with both sensor and communications towers. The exact number and type of equipment depend on the number and types of cameras used, the area to be monitored, and other design variables. Components would be mounted on each tower between 20 and 180 feet above ground level, depending on the local terrain. The overall tower height would not exceed 199 feet above ground, which includes all elements of the tower, including the lightning protection rod, which is the highest aspect of the tower. Cameras, antennas, and parabolic antennas would be installed at heights that will ensure satisfactory line of sight and provide clear pathways for transmission of information to communications towers and the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations. Towers generally require line-of-sight to ensure unobstructed microwave transmission signals from tower to tower. All transmit frequencies used as part of the Proposed Action will be coordinated with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). As part of the overall spectrum management process, the NTIA and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) have developed radio regulations to help ensure that the various radio services operate compatibly in the same environment without unacceptable levels of radio frequency interference and emissions. While the communications systems and the frequencies in which they are operated are considered law enforcement-sensitive and cannot be provided to the public, compliance with FCC and NTIA regulations is required and ensures that recognized safety guidelines are not exceeded.

Support equipment consists of illumination equipment (lasers and spotlights) and a loud hailer. Camera systems on the RVSS towers may incorporate an eye-safe laser illuminator. The eye-safe laser illuminator would be used to direct agents or officers in the field and in the air to items of interest (IoI) being viewed by the sensor operator. Agents or officers equipped with night vision goggles (NVG) are able to readily locate the beam and locate IoIs. The laser is eye-safe at any distance and is an agent and officer safety device that enhances visibility and the ability to locate IoIs at night. The proposed spotlight will be remotely controlled with a beam width ranging from 1 to 30 degrees and provide a minimum of 20 lux and a maximum of 53 lux on an IoI at 900 feet (300 yards). Currently, it is anticipated that the spotlights would be used twice a night for a period of approximately 5 minutes for each use. Loud hailers, which would serve as a deterrent, could be mounted to the towers. The loud hailers would be used to communicate with illegal cross-border violators, as necessary. The loud hailers would be able to broadcast both live and manually activated prerecorded voice messages to IoIs located within 900 feet (300 yards) of the device. The loud hailer would be a directional loadspeaker adjustable from 40 to 85 decibels (dB) at 300 feet (100 yards) from the device.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (2000) *Service Guidance on the Siting, Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of Communications Towers* and USFWS (2013a) *Revised Voluntary Guidelines for Communication Tower Design, Siting, Construction, Operation, Retrofitting, and Decommissioning* would be implemented to include actions to reduce nighttime atmospheric lighting and the potential adverse effects of nighttime lighting on migratory bird and nocturnal flying species. The proposed tower sites may be lit for security purposes. Security lighting may consist of a "porch light" on the tower shelter and would be controlled by a motion detector. When so equipped, the light would be shielded to avoid illumination outside the footprint of the tower site. The proposed RVSS tower may have infrared lighting installed for aviation safety and, if installed, any such lighting would be compatible with NVG usage. The heights of the towers will also be limited to no more than 199 feet above ground level as described in the USFWS guidance.

1.3.2 Construction of RVSS Towers

The permanent footprints of 10,000 square feet or less would be mechanically cleared of vegetation and graded for the construction of RVSS tower sites, regardless of tower type (Figure 1-11). Concrete pads would be installed as foundations for the equipment shelter, 1,000-gallon generator fuel tank and generator. A 40,000-square-foot temporary construction area around the permanent tower footprint (10,000 square feet) would be used to stage construction equipment and materials during construction activities (see Figure 1-11). The shape of the permanent tower footprint may vary depending on sensitive resources within the area, but the total area will not exceed 10,000 square feet. Parking for construction vehicles and equipment will be within the 30,000-square-foot temporary construction area during construction. The temporary construction area may be cleared but would not be graded. Following construction activities, any temporary impact areas will be revegetated with a mixture of nursery plantings or a mixture of native plant seeds (or both).

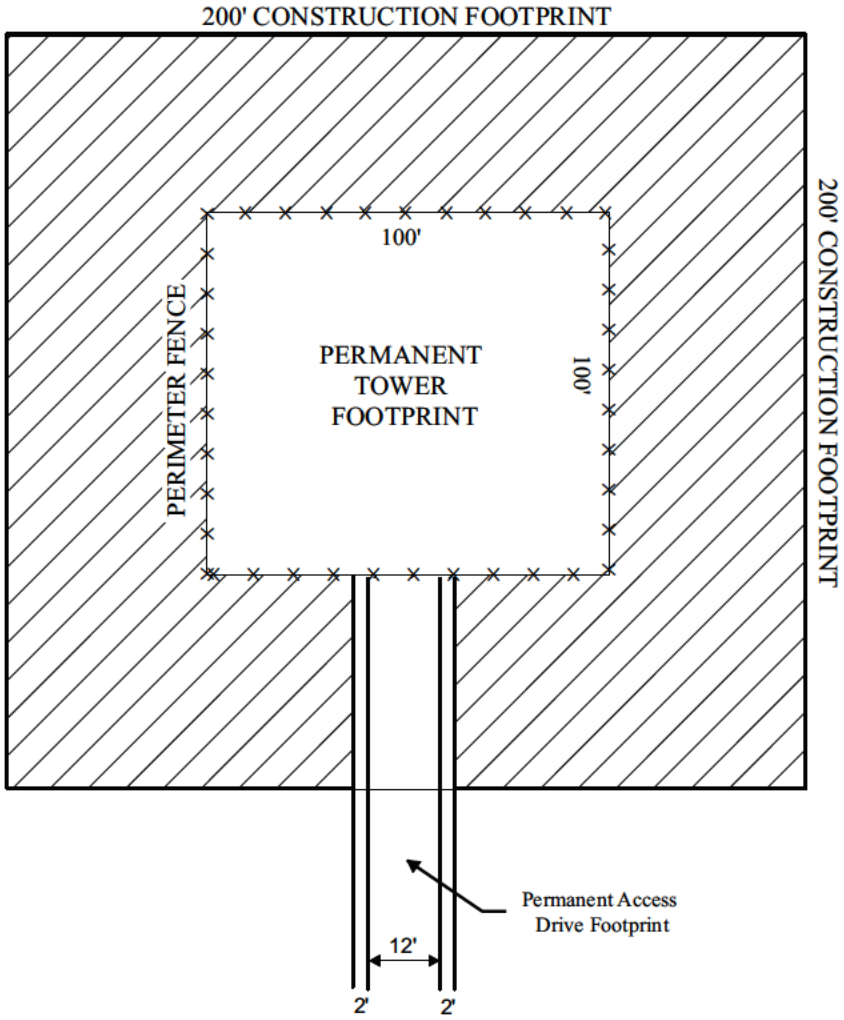


Figure 1-11. Tower Construction Footprint Schematic

The following is a list of heavy equipment and vehicles expected to be used during RVSS site construction:

- Front-end loader or equivalent
- Drill rig
- Excavator
- Post hole digger
- Water truck
- Crane
- Bulldozer
- Concrete trucks
- Dump trucks
- Flatbed delivery truck
- Crew trucks

The total time for all phases of construction, including inspection and operational testing of equipment, for each proposed RVSS tower site is expected to be approximately 30 to 60 days. The installation of the suite of sensors would require approximately 30 days per RVSS tower site. All construction would be restricted to daylight hours to the greatest extent practicable.

The installation of the sensor payload requires approximately 2 days per tower site and includes up to 12 people, including delivery trucks and personnel vehicles. Following the completion of the sensor payload installation, equipment testing and system acceptance testing would be conducted as part of construction activities to check the operability of the systems. The exact details of the system acceptance testing plan are not currently known. However, based on past equipment testing and acceptance testing experience, it is anticipated that system acceptance testing may require personnel walking multiple routes near different RVSS towers for 2- to 3-hour periods individually and as a group. System acceptance testing would occur during an approximately 28-day period for all sites. Testing personnel travel by vehicles on existing roads to the test walk routes identified by CBP.

1.3.3 Operation and Maintenance of RVSS Towers

Each RVSS tower's generator subset is expected to operate a total of 1 to 5 hours twice per month for maintenance purposes. System conditioning would occur during off-grid operational schedules or if grid power is interrupted, and the generator would be operated temporarily, as needed, until grid power is again available.

Tower site maintenance includes scheduled and unscheduled maintenance. Unscheduled maintenance includes removing and replacing failed tower sensor systems or shelter components, electrical failures, structural repairs, and damage caused by storms or vandalism. Scheduled maintenance includes any planned preventive maintenance, including refueling generator tanks (i.e., propane) and changing oil, other required lubricants, filters, and any shelf-life item of the system. Scheduled maintenance also includes rust removal remediation, vegetation control, and general upkeep of the permanent footprint. Both scheduled and unscheduled tower maintenance require maintenance vehicles to travel to and from the RVSS sites. Currently, it is estimated

that one maintenance trip per month would be required at each of the proposed RVSS towers. This trip would include maintenance and refueling efforts.

1.3.4 Access Drive and Access Road Construction, Maintenance, and Repair

Access drive construction and access road maintenance and repairs are required to move construction equipment, materials, and personnel to and from the proposed tower sites during construction. Access drive construction is required to provide access from established public or private access roads to the proposed tower sites. Maps depicting new access roads and road improvements at each proposed tower site are provided in Appendix B.

Access Drive Construction

Three access drives would be constructed to provide access to RVSS sites from established public or private roads. The access drives would be constructed to provide a 12-foot-wide driving surface with 2-foot shoulders on each side. The total width of new access drives would be 16 feet. Access drives would be constructed by mechanically removing vegetation and grading native soils. Following construction activities, any temporary impact areas would be revegetated with a mixture of nursery plantings or a mixture of native plant seeds (or both), as described previously.

Access Road Maintenance and Repair

Access roads to proposed RVSS sites would require approximately 25 miles of maintenance and repairs to existing roadways. Road maintenance and repairs include reconstruction, widening, or straightening of the existing road, as well as installation of drainage structures, and could require either a 30-foot-wide or a 60-foot-wide temporary construction disturbance area, which is dependent on whether or not a utility corridor is adjacent to the road. Drainage structures may include but are not limited to ditches, culverts, and low-water crossings.

The access roads would be maintained and repaired to the design standard for FC-3 Graded-Earth Road. All access roads would have a driving surface of 12 feet with a 2-foot shoulder on each side of the road (16 feet total), along with improvements such as ditches, low-water crossings, turnouts, and necessary erosion protection such as riprap and gabion headwalls.

Post-construction Road Maintenance and Repair

Access road and drive maintenance would be performed to ensure full-time access to the towers and other tactical infrastructure. It is anticipated that road maintenance may occur up to four times per year, as necessary.

For the purposes of this BA, CBP has addressed the potential impacts on protected species on the 32 preferred RVSS tower sites as identified in Table 1-2. Although 32 locations have been selected, only four sites have the potential to affect listed species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Table 1-2. RGV RVSS Upgrade Tower Locations

Tower ID	USBP Station AOR	Latitude/Longitude	County	Potentially Affected Species
Beckwith Rd and Levee	HRL	-97.93553/26.068294	Hidalgo	None
Rio Rico Rd and Pump Rd	HRL	-97.891917/26.066845	Hidalgo	None
McMannis Bend	HRL	-97.8496/26.0728	Cameron	None
Hacienda	HRL	-97.827375/26.061296	Cameron	None
Three House Rd Southeast	HRL	-97.812967/26.062825	Cameron	None
Galveston Bend	HRL	-97.78464/26.05411	Cameron	None
San Benito Pump	HRL	-97.761674/26.038612	Cameron	None
Moodyville Rd and Levee	HRL	-97.7383/26.0376	Cameron	None
Cantu Rd	HRL	-97.7129/26.044	Cameron	None
Wells Bros Canal	HRL	-97.677522/26.038859	Cameron	None
Green Barn Rd	HRL	-97.65656/26.03256	Cameron	None
Concrete Canal and Levee	HRL	-97.616234/25.982269	Cameron	None
Mulberry	BRP	-97.599658/25.96803	Cameron	None
Cindy Stone	BRP	-97.560081/25.945222	Cameron	None
Extension of Palm	BRP	-97.521912/25.894111	Cameron	None
Customs B&M	BRP	-97.50426/25.893965	Cameron	None
FTBGC	BRP	-97.489746/25.891054	Cameron	Northern aplamado falcon (NAF), ocelot, jaguarundi

Table 2-1, continued

Tower ID	USBP Station AOR	Latitude/Longitude	County	Potentially Affected Species
Zone 34	FTB	-97.454743/25.886096	Cameron	NAF, ocelot, jaguarundi
Pig Pens	FTB	-97.435097/25.862211	Cameron	None
East of Sable Palm Rd	FTB	-97.410567/25.865524	Cameron	None
Armstrong	FTB	-97.377383/25.860008	Cameron	None
Alaska Rd	FTB	-97.376473/25.873929	Cameron	None
Florida Rd	FTB	-97.379984/25.898654	Cameron	None
Hwy 4 Checkpoint	FTB	-97.371487/25.924096	Cameron	None
Gallinas Rd	FTB	-97.283307/25.96249	Cameron	None
End of Hwy 4	FTB	-97.179346/25.9919	Cameron	piping plover, red knot
Hwy 77 Armstrong	KIN	-97.79048/26.91661	Kenedy	None
Juanita Section of Kenedy Ranch	KIN	-97.792625/27.130854	Kenedy	None
King Ranch	FLF	-98.135673/26.953722	Brooks	None
Dos Haches Hopper Ranch	FLF	-98.2805/27.0024	Brooks	NAF, ocelot, jaguarundi
Checkpoint Tower	FLF	-98.138322/27.02634	Brooks	None
Adairs Ranch	FLF	-98.1478/27.1097	Brooks	None

1.3.5 Conservation Measures

The following conservation measures (CM) were compiled from the *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Interim Guidelines for Recommendations on Communications Tower Siting, Construction, Operation, and Decommissioning*, previous consultations with USFWS regarding the potentially affected species (USFWS 2000), the USFWS Information, Planning and Consultation System (https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/), and through consultation with the USFWS. The following conservation measures will be implemented at all proposed tower sites except where noted. Specific sites with the potential to affect listed species are shown previously in Table 1-2. Because not all conservation measures are applicable to all species, a description of potential effects and conservation measures for each potentially affected species is provided in Sections 3 and 4 of this BA.

1.3.5.1 CM1 - General Construction

Best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented as standard operating procedures during all construction activities within or near habitats occupied by, or potentially occupied by, listed species and will include the following:

- CM1a - proper handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous and regulated materials and other waste
- CM1b - minimizing ground disturbance
- CM1c - minimizing noise and light pollution
- CM1d - minimizing disturbance related to human presence

CM1a - proper handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous and regulated materials and other waste

1. All construction will follow Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Directive 025-01 for waste management.
2. Where appropriate, a CBP-approved spill protection plan will be developed and implemented at each site to ensure that any toxic substances are properly handled and that escape into the environment is prevented.
3. Where handling of hazardous and regulated materials does occur, all fuels, waste oils, and solvents will be collected and stored in clearly labeled tanks or drums within a secondary containment system that consists of an impervious floor and bermed sidewalls capable of containing the volume of the largest container stored therein.
4. The refueling of machinery will be completed following accepted industry guidelines, and all vehicles will have drip pans during storage to contain minor spills and drips.
5. Nonhazardous waste materials and other discarded materials, such as construction waste, will be contained until removed from the construction and maintenance sites.
6. All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps will be disposed in closed containers and removed daily from the project site.

Waste water will be stored in closed containers on-site until removed for disposal. Waste water is water used for project purposes that is contaminated with construction materials or from cleaning equipment and thus carries oils or other toxic materials or other contaminants as defined by state regulations. Concrete wash water will not be dumped on the ground, but is to be collected and moved off-site for disposal.

CM1b - minimizing ground disturbance

1. All areas where ground disturbance will occur will be demarcated using flagging or construction fencing, and all activities will remain within flagged boundaries.
2. Areas that will be disturbed later in the construction period will be used for staging, parking, and equipment storage.
3. The area of disturbance will be minimized by limiting deliveries of materials and equipment to only those needed for effective project implementation.
4. Within the designated disturbance area, grading or topsoil removal will be limited to areas where this activity is needed to provide the ground conditions necessary for construction or maintenance activities.
5. Erosion control measures and appropriate BMPs, as required and promulgated through a site-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), if needed, and engineering designs, will be implemented before, during, and after soil-disturbing activities.
6. Areas with highly erodible soils will be given special consideration when preparing the SWPPP to ensure incorporation of various erosion control techniques such as straw bales, silt fencing, aggregate materials, wetting compounds, and rehabilitation, where possible, to decrease erosion.
7. Materials such as straw bales used for on-site erosion control will be free of non-native plant seeds and other plant parts to limit potential for infestation.
8. Natural revegetation or the distribution of organic and geological materials (i.e., sticks and rocks) on temporarily disturbed areas is CBP's preferred method of rehabilitation. If manual revegetation efforts are warranted, native seeds or plants that are compatible with the enhancement of protected species will be used, as required under Section 7(a)(1) of the ESA, to revegetate temporarily disturbed areas.

CM1c - minimizing noise and light pollution

1. All generators will be in baffle boxes (i.e., a sound-resistant box that is placed over or around a generator), have an attached muffler, or use other noise-abatement methods in accordance with industry standards where required by USFWS.
2. Security lighting located on the equipment shed will use low-sodium bulbs, be motion-activated, and be shielded to avoid light trespass outside the tower site.

CM1d - minimizing disturbance related to human presence

1. The number of vehicles traveling to and from the tower sites and the number of trips per day will be minimized to reduce the likelihood of disturbing animals in the area.
2. Construction speed limits will not exceed 35 miles per hour (mph) on major unpaved roads (i.e., graded with ditches on both sides) and 25 mph on all other unpaved roads. Nighttime travel speeds will not exceed 25 mph and may be less based on visibility and other safety considerations.
3. Where access drives and roads may allow human access to habitats occupied or potentially occupied by Federally listed species gating, physical barriers, signs, or other means to restrict access would be implemented in coordination with landowners and management agencies.

1.3.5.2 CM2 - Preventing the Establishment and Expansion of Non-native, Invasive Plants

1. The removal of native vegetation and disturbance of soils will be minimized as described under CM1b.
2. Removal of non-native plants will be done in ways that eliminate the entire plant and remove all plant parts to a disposal area. Herbicides can be used according to label directions if they are not toxic to Federally listed species that may be in the area.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES AND HABITAT

2.1 CONSULTATION HISTORY

During the initial planning phase of the RGV RVSS Upgrade Program, coordination occurred between CBP and the USFWS, Corpus Christi Ecological Services Field Office. An early coordination letter dated 22 December 2014 was submitted to USFWS, and a response dated 13 February 2015 (Consultation No. 02ETCC00-2015-TA-0173) was received.

A total of 16 Federally listed species and one candidate species potentially occur within the Proposed Action's Action Area. No potential habitat occurs within or near the proposed tower sites for 11 of the Federally listed species and the single candidate species, so no potential for effects exists for these species. However, potential habitat for the NAF, ocelot, and jaguarundi occurs near three tower sites and one tower site has potential habitat for the piping plover and red knot; therefore, there is potential for effects on these species.

2.2 NORTHERN APLOMADO FALCON (*FALCO FEMORALIS SEPTENTRIONALIS*)

The NAF is a small, predatory bird. Its habitat consists of grasslands and open terrain in arid landscapes with scattered trees or shrubs. It currently ranges throughout most of South and Central America. In the U.S., NAF once occupied desert grasslands and coastal prairies in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The last naturally occurring pair of NAF to breed in the U.S. was recorded in New Mexico in 1952 (USFWS 1990b). Reintroduction of the species into the U.S. began in 1985 in Texas, predominantly on private lands through Safe Harbor Agreements. Later, reintroductions occurred in New Mexico and Arizona, predominantly onto public lands (USFWS 2006). NAF eat mostly birds and insects and often hunt in pairs. They do not build their own nests, but use stick nests previously constructed by other birds. Declines in the U.S. are attributed to a reduction in habitat from grazing-caused erosion and the encroachment of woody vegetation into formerly open areas. The pesticide dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) has also been implicated in declines.

2.3 OCELOT (*LEOPARDUS PARDALIS*)

The ocelot is a medium-sized spotted, nocturnal cat typically weighing 20 to 35 pounds (Davis 2000). Ocelots prey predominantly on rabbits, rodents, birds, and lizards and prefer dense vegetation with 95 percent shrub cover. According to USFWS (1990c), the ocelot is able to persist in partly cleared forests, second growth woodland, and abandoned cultivation that has gone back to brush. However, large open expanses without cover and roads become barriers to movement and threaten gene flow between populations. Ocelots historically ranged from Arizona and Texas south to northern Argentina. The Texas population formed a subspecies known as the Texas ocelot, (*Leopardus pardalis albescens)*. While it once ranged over the entire southern portion of Texas and was occasionally found in central and northern areas of the state, the ocelot in Texas is now likely restricted to two isolated patches in the Rio Grande plains (Davis 2000). According to the ocelot recovery plan (USFWS 2010c), ocelots in Texas inhabit

dense thornscrub on Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge with one other population on private lands. No Critical Habitat has been designated for the ocelot.

Habitat conversion and fragmentation threaten this species in Texas, where over 95 percent of the former thornscrub habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley has been converted to agriculture, range, or urban land uses (USFWS 2010c). Small populations in Texas and isolation from other populations in Mexico now threaten the ocelot in Texas with inbreeding. Gene flow between populations is confounded by a lack of migration corridors with sufficient cover, and road kill is a significant source of mortality.

2.4 GULF COAST JAGUARUNDI (*PUMA YAGOUAROUNDI*)

The jaguarundi is a long, slender cat often described as weasel-like in appearance. It is slightly larger than a house cat with a solid gray or reddish-brown coat. In the U.S. it occurs only in southern Texas. Like the ocelot, jaguarundis inhabit dense thickets and heavily vegetated areas in the RGV. In Texas, a road-killed specimen was recovered from Cameron County in 1986, and the next earliest confirmed specimen was documented in 1969. Numerous unconfirmed sightings have been reported since then, including some sightings with unidentifiable photographs, but no U.S. reports since April 1986 have been confirmed as jaguarundi. The closest known jaguarundis to the U.S. border are found approximately 95 miles southwest of Nuevo Leon, Mexico (USFWS 2013b). Like the ocelot, it is threatened primarily by habitat loss and fragmentation. The USFWS released the first revision to the Gulf Coast Jaguarundi Recovery Plan in December 2013 (USFWS 2013b). This new recovery plan only applies to the Gulf Coast subspecies of the jaguarundi.

2.5 PIPING PLOVER (*CHARADRIUS MELODUS*)

Populations of piping plover were listed as threatened or endangered by the USFWS in 1985 (50 Federal Register 50726-50734). The Great Lakes population of piping plover is Federally listed as endangered. The Northern Great Plains and Atlantic coast piping plover populations are Federally listed as threatened species. In the fall, all of these populations migrate south, and individuals may winter along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico or other southern locations. Individuals on the Texas coast are considered to be both Federally listed and state-listed threatened species. Piping plover overwinter in Texas from August to March (USFWS 2008a). Observations of piping plover indicate that they prefer wide, flat, and open sandy beaches, tidal flats, and lakeshores with sparse vegetation.

2.6 RED KNOT (*CALIDRIS CANUTUS RUFA*)

The red knot is a medium-sized shore bird that migrates from its Arctic breeding grounds to Tierra del Fuego in southern South America. Limited data are available on the red knot's rangewide population; however, it is believed that they primarily overwinter in southern South America. They have also been found along the northern Gulf Coast and in southeast U.S. Red knots inhabit coastal mudflats, tidal zones, and beaches. The primary diet of the red knot includes small mollusks, marine worms, and crustaceans (Audubon 2016). Red knots are a most prolific migrator and have been found to migrate over 9,000 miles from the breeding grounds to

the wintering grounds. They breed in the high Arctic and migrate to southern South America annually with stop overs along the Gulf Coast and Atlantic Coast. Red knots generally are observed along the Texas coast from August to March (Newstead et. al. 2013).

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

The environmental baseline includes past and present impacts of all Federal, state, or private actions in the Action Area, the anticipated impacts of all proposed Federal actions in the Action Area that have undergone formal or early Section 7 consultation, and the impact of state and private actions that are contemporaneous with the consultation process. Biological surveys within the construction footprint of the proposed tower sites and associated roads were conducted by biologists from Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC) from June 2015 through July 2016. The permanent tower footprints would be no larger than 0.25 acre, would be fenced, and would encompass the tower and associated equipment (generators, propane tanks). No species-specific survey protocols were used; therefore, CBP assumes presence where potentially suitable habitat was identified.

3.1 NORTHERN APLOMADO FALCON

Agricultural practices and overgrazing that encouraged brush encroachment destroyed much of the open grassland habitat in the U.S. that was once occupied by NAF. Channelization of desert streams destroyed wetland communities that may have been important sources of prey, and pesticide contamination also likely contributed to declines. The last known pair of naturally occurring NAF to breed in the U.S. was documented in 1952 (USFWS 1990b). In 2005, there were 46 pairs of NAF in captivity that produced more than 100 young per year. From captive populations, 1,142 birds have been released in Texas under Safe Harbor Agreement permits with an enrollment of more than 1.8 million acres. A total of 44 pairs have become established in south Texas and adjacent Tamaulipas, Mexico. Reintroduced NAF began breeding in 1995 and have fledged more than 244 young (USFWS 2006). In 2005, the USFWS announced plans to establish a breeding population in New Mexico and Arizona through the introduction of captive-bred falcons on private and public lands (USFWS 2006). A 5-year status review was initiated in 2010 (USFWS 2010c); no change in its status was recommended per the 5-year status review. No Critical Habitat for NAF has been declared.

The Action Areas for the proposed tower sites in Texas occur in a landscape that is predominantly private land and contains NAF foraging habitat. Biologists inspected each proposed tower site and did not detect any sign of occupation or use by NAF. One proposed tower sites has the potential to impact the reintroduced NAF (see Table 1-2). It is possible that NAF could strike, perch, or nest on towers; however, this would be unlikely with the implementation of recommended guidelines from USFWS (2000). The areas surrounding the towers are suitable foraging habitat for NAF. NAF use abandoned nests that were constructed by other birds and would potentially nest near tower sites, though the USFWS guidelines and breeding season surveys would help to ensure that NAF would not nest on towers.

3.2 OCELOT AND GULF COAST JAGUARUNDI

Ocelots and Gulf Coast jaguarundis occupy similar habitats in Southern Texas. They prefer dense, concealing vegetation for hunting and travel corridors between larger habitat areas. Clearing of land for agricultural practices and urbanization has destroyed over 95 percent of their historic habitat in south Texas (USFWS 2010d). Between 1980 and 2010 the ocelot was

documented by photographs or specimens in Cameron, Willacy, Kenedy, Hidalgo, and Jim Wells counties (USFWS 2010d). Currently, the Texas population of ocelots is believed to be fewer than 50 individuals, composing two separated populations in Southern Texas. The Laguna Atoscosa National Wildlife Refuge primarily supports one of these populations and the other occurs in Willacy and Kenedy counties on private ranches (USFWS 2010d). Individuals occurring in Texas outside these areas are occasionally observed but are likely wandering or released and not part of a breeding population. A third population of the Texas subspecies of ocelot occurs in Tamaulipas, Mexico, but is geographically isolated from ocelots in Texas. Genetic evidence shows little or no recent genetic exchange between these populations (USFWS 2010d). A separate subspecies of ocelot is occasionally found in southern Arizona but is disjunct from populations in Texas.

Little information is available on the population status of jaguarundi in Texas, and there are far fewer recent sightings of jaguarundi than ocelots. Both species face similar threats and occupy similar habitat types. The primary threat to these species is habitat destruction and fragmentation. Existing habitat patches are often isolated by roads or expanses of non-habitat that do not offer protective cover or concealment. There are multiple references of road kills of ocelot in the literature (USFWS 2010d). No Critical Habitat has been designated for either species.

3.3 PIPING PLOVER AND RED KNOT

Piping plover and red knot occupy similar habitats in south Texas. Both of the species use the Texas coast and estuaries for overwintering and migration stops. The greatest threat to the plover is the degradation, alteration, or loss of wide, flat sparsely vegetated barrier beaches, spits, bayside flats, and sandbars. Human population expansion and the development that is associated with it are major contributors to habitat loss or degradation. Such activities include beachfront development, inlet and shoreline stabilization, seawall installations, and beach maintenance/grooming (USFWS 2013). Another major contributing element of the red knot's decline is the commercial overharvesting of horseshoe crabs (*Limulus polyphemus*) (Newstead et. al. 2013). Critical Habitat has been listed for the piping plover in the immediate vicinity of one of the proposed RVSS towers.

4.0 EFFECTS OF ACTION

4.1 DIRECT EFFECTS

Direct effects include impacts that would potentially occur during or immediately following implementation of the Proposed Action. The range of direct effects includes the immediate area and the area over which potential effects can be reasonably certain to occur. Although numerous proposed tower sites occur within the potential distribution of one or more protected species, direct effects would be minimized by implementing BMPs, performing surveys for protected species and habitats, avoiding breeding NAF, utilizing existing towers and disturbed areas to the extent possible, and following USFWS guidance on the location, design, and operation of communications towers to reduce impacts (USFWS 2000).

Biologists visited each proposed tower site, noting all wildlife or presence of potential habitat for listed species. No species-specific survey protocols were used; therefore, CBP assumes presence where potentially suitable habitat was identified. Where a proposed tower site occurs in or adjacent to potential habitat for listed species, the action would potentially affect that species. Out of 32 proposed sites, three occur near or within habitat for listed species. All three sites (see Table 1-2) require clearing and grading of undisturbed areas. Additional temporary ground disturbance from staging equipment, constructing the towers, or installing shelters and fuel tanks would occur at all three sites. The effects from staging equipment and tower construction would be temporary. Upon completion of construction, all temporary disturbance areas would be revegetated with a mixture of native plant seeds or nursery plantings or allowed to revegetate naturally. BMPs to reduce impacts would be in place as well.

Potential hunting or travel habitat for ocelot and jaguarundi occurs at or near three of the proposed sites (see Table 1-2): BRP FTBGC, FTB Zone 34, and FLF Dos Haches Hopper Ranch. Clearing of potential habitat would occur at three of the sites, where approximately 0.75 acre (3 sites per 0.25 acre) of potential habitat would be permanently cleared at each site. Additionally, approximately 2.25 acres of potential habitat would be cleared temporarily. Habitat is regionally common and only small areas spread throughout a vast geographic area would be impacted; additionally, the project would decrease habitat trampling activity of illegal cross-border violators.

Known piping plover and red knot roosting and foraging habitat is located near one of the proposed RVSS tower sites, FTB End of Highway 4. The tower is located in a Texas Department of Transportation right-of-way adjacent to Highway 4, which does not contain the constituent elements for piping plovers or red knots; therefore, no impacts on potential habitat would occur. However, the area surrounding the proposed RVSS tower site is considered Critical Habitat for the piping plover. The location of the tower is not considered Critical Habitat because it does not have the critical elements needed for survival of the piping plover. Potential adverse effects could come from the noise generated during the construction of the RVSS tower.

Another negligible adverse effect across the entire Action Area would be the temporary increase in traffic and human disturbance from delivery and installation of equipment. A central staging

point for materials would be situated within an industrially developed area within the various AORs. From there, trucks and personnel would travel on highways and county and rural roads to reach the tower sites. Most of the sites are accessible by existing roads; three new access drives would be constructed. Tower construction and installation of equipment at new tower sites would take less than 60 days.

A beneficial direct effect of the Proposed Action is the application of USFWS (2000) recommended guidelines for reducing impacts on birds from RVSS towers. New towers would be designed in accordance with these guidelines to the greatest extent possible. SST or monopole tower designs would not require the use of guy wires; however, if relocatable towers are chosen, guy wires will have to be used in order to anchor and provide support for the tower. If relocatable towers are used, CBP would attach visual markers to guy wires. The visual markers greatly reduce the potential for bird strike.

Another negligible adverse effect of this action would be the temporary disruption caused by noise during construction and installation of equipment. Assuming a disturbance threshold of 57 dBA, negative effects from construction noise would reach a maximum of 1,138 feet from the tower compound. This distance varies depending on the equipment being used (see Table 1-1) and noise from most equipment would have a much smaller area of potential effect. Operation of construction equipment would occur only intermittently and be confined to the construction and installation phase, which would last less than 60 days per tower. These time frames, and the area of effect, represent potential maximums, and it is likely that installation time would be shorter and noise disturbance would affect a smaller area. Wildlife that is disturbed by this noise would likely relocate a short distance away. All of the potentially affected species are highly mobile, and the effects from noise disturbance are insignificant due to the short-term nature and limited area of potential effect. The effects of noise from future maintenance and operation of equipment are treated in Section 4.2 Indirect Effects.

4.1.1 Northern Aplomado Falcon

No adverse effects on NAF are anticipated, because no habitat for NAF would be destroyed, and measures to reduce potential impacts from tower operation would be implemented. Increased human activity and traffic associated with construction or operation of equipment would potentially disturb NAF, causing them to take flight and depart the immediate area. After construction and installation, monthly maintenance visits, propane deliveries, and the activity of generators would similarly disturb nearby NAF. These disturbances would be discountable because they would be short in duration and limited in their area of effect. NAF are a highly mobile species that would easily relocate a short distance from such disturbances. However, effects would be greater if an NAF nest were to occur in the immediate area. To minimize the likelihood of this possibility, biologists inspected each site for any sign of NAF or nests, and none were detected. Additionally, if construction occurs during the nesting season (March through June), a biologist would survey the tower site and adjacent area for signs of nesting NAF and any active NAF nest would be avoided.

NAF would potentially perch on towers, and the threat of striking the towers while flying exists. However, implementation of BMPs recommended by USFWS (2000) would greatly reduce the likelihood of such impacts. These recommendations include the collocation of equipment on existing sites to minimize disturbance and obstructions, adjustments to lighting to reduce the

likelihood of bird strike, anti-perching devices, and the avoidance of guy wires and visual markers, where required by USFWS. These measures would also minimize impacts on other bird species that are prey for NAF. NAF are visual predators, diurnally active, and agile in flight, so it is assumed they would be able to see and avoid towers that might be in their flight path. Therefore, the Proposed Action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, NAF.

4.1.2 Ocelot and Gulf Coast Jaguarundi

Potential hunting or travel habitat occurs at or near three of the proposed sites (see Table 1-2): BRP FTBGC, FTB Zone 34, and FLF Dos Haches Hopper Ranch. Clearing of potential habitat would occur at three of the sites, where approximately 0.75 acre (3 sites per 0.25 acre) of potential habitat would be permanently cleared at each site. Additionally, approximately 2.25 acres of potential habitat would be cleared temporarily.

In addition to clearing, the installation of equipment would create disturbances for a maximum of 60 days at each site during the construction period. Most of these disturbances would be limited to the area immediately around the tower. When heavy equipment is in use, noise would travel a maximum of 1,138 feet from the tower site before attenuating to a noise level of 57 dBA. Since the cats are highly mobile, nocturnal species, and wary of human disturbance, they would likely avoid the disturbed area without significant adverse effects on their health. Construction activities would be limited to daytime hours, thereby further reducing the likelihood of adversely impacting either species. Maintenance activities and noise from generators or other equipment would periodically cause disturbance in the area around the proposed tower locations; however, the noise emissions would also be very limited in duration (most likely 10 to 15 minutes per month for the operation of a generator) and the noise disturbance would be 47 dBA at 50 feet from the tower compound. Additionally, light pollution in the form of spotlights and noise disturbance in the form of loud hailers used during operational activities around and near tower sites after construction would create a periodic disturbance. However, spotlight and loud hailer use would be intermittent and of very limited duration and would likely only occur during detections of illegal cross-border violators. The presence of cross-border violators would create a greater disturbance than the loud hailers or spotlights. Only 0.75 acre of habitat would be permanently modified and disturbance would be limited in duration and spread out across the region. Therefore, CBP has determined that the Proposed Action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the ocelot and Gulf Coast jaguarundi.

4.1.3 Piping Plover and Red Knot

CBP would construct the RVSS tower (FTB End of Highway 4), to the extent practicable, outside of the red knot and piping plover wintering season in south Texas, which extends from August to March (USFWS 2008a). In the event that construction of this particular tower cannot be accomplished during this time frame, CBP is committed to having an on-site qualified biological monitor to halt construction in the event that a red knot or piping plover is spotted within the 1,138-foot noise contour as a result of heavy equipment operation needed to construct the tower.

The likelihood of a piping plover or red knot striking the tower post-construction is discountable as evidenced in a 2008 report by USFWS that stated “the Service finds the risk of collision with these stationary structures is highly unlikely and therefore discountable…We are not aware of

instances of piping plovers colliding with the many human-made structures on and immediately adjacent to nesting beaches" (USFWS 2008b). Further, USFWS guidelines for communication towers would be implemented to further limit the potential for impacts resulting from the constructed towers. Therefore, CBP has determined that the Proposed Action may affect but is not likely to adversely affect these species.

4.2 INDIRECT EFFECTS

Indirect effects are those effects that are caused by or that would result from the Proposed Action and that are later in time but still reasonably certain to occur. The noise from maintenance (e.g., refueling) and activity of generators would potentially cause indirect effects from disturbance at each site and are discussed relative to each affected listed species in Sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2. In general, maintenance and operation of the towers would involve regular visits by CBP employees or contactors traveling by car or small truck, checking equipment, and running the backup generator for 10 to 15 minutes each month. The noise from a generator would attenuate to 47 dBA within 50 feet of the generator. This intermittent and short-term disturbance would temporarily affect an area of 0.18 acre per site. Disturbance from maintenance and operation at the RVSS tower sites are insignificant because it occurs only once per month for 10 to 15 minutes, and noise disturbance would be localized to within 50 feet of the generator and during the day when the two cat species would not be active. Also, all potentially affected species are highly mobile and likely able to escape the disturbance without adverse effects on their health.

Other potential indirect effects include increased erosion and loss of vegetative cover from clearing and operation of machinery and vehicles. The potential for invasive or non-native species to colonize a site after disturbance is also an indirect effect. However, upon completion of construction, all temporary disturbance areas would be revegetated with a mixture of native plant seeds or nursery plantings or allowed to revegetate naturally. These BMPs, as well as measures protecting vegetation in general, would reduce potential impacts from non-native invasive species to a negligible amount.

4.3 INTERRELATED AND INTERDEPENDENT EFFECTS

Interrelated and interdependent effects are those effects resulting from actions that are not part of the proposed activity but that would not occur without the implementation of the Proposed Action. Before implementation of the Proposed Action, surveys and site visits for engineering and regulatory compliance cause some disturbance from travel to and from the sites, as well as survey and planning activities while on-site. These activities are relatively short in duration and limited in the disturbance they cause and would likely have discountable effects on listed species. The increased surveillance capabilities could allow for additional CBP patrol routes, encourage new road or infrastructure in areas benefitting from increased access to communication or security, or increase the number of incidents to which CBP responds. This would potentially affect the patterns and movement of illegal activity. The location and likelihood of these effects are difficult to predict and likely discountable in their effect on species recovery. Further, the increased detection and response capability could serve as a deterrent and potentially decreasing illegal activity and subsequent law enforcement actions.

4.4 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative effects include the effects of future state, local, or private actions that are reasonably certain to occur in the Action Area considered in this BA. Future Federal actions that are unrelated to the Proposed Action are not considered in this section because they require separate consultation under Section 7 of the ESA.

It is likely that south Texas would continue to experience illegal smuggling activities and CBP actions to combat them. Many areas of south Texas may continue to grow in population, especially around major cities, and urban areas could further intrude into rural and agricultural landscapes. In fact, along the Brownsville Shipping Channel several liquefied natural gas terminals, storage areas, and associated infrastructure are currently being planned, which could impact protected species by reducing available habitat. Other private companies are also planning to build a space exploration launch center at the end of Highway 4, which could create adverse effects unless properly mitigated. Also, habitats in the Action Area would likely become increasingly fragmented, except where conservation efforts to link populations of ocelots or other species encourage the revegetation and protection of travel corridors, such as the USFWS's Farmland Phase-out and Re-vegetation Program. Through this program the USFWS revegetates existing agricultural lands on the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge with native forest plant species and creates corridor between existing habitat for the ocelot and Gulf Coast jaguarundi. Approximately 300 to 500 acres are revegetated every year (Friends of the Wildlife Corridor 2016).

The transportation infrastructure throughout the Action Area includes major highways, minor roads, and unimproved rural roads. All of these would require periodic maintenance in the future. Improvements could increase traffic volumes or allowable speed limits which raise the risk of vehicle strikes to ocelots and jaguarundis. The vast majority of the Action Area is private land and without a Federal nexus, effects of private actions would likely be limited in spatial scale. The arid landscape of this region and limited nature of water supply make explosive growth in rural areas less likely.

While the presence of 32 new towers would potentially increase the likelihood of bird mortality due to strikes, this threat would be minimized and the overall effect of the Proposed Action would likely minimize the threat of bird strikes by applying USFWS-recommended BMPs to all 32 towers. These include anti-perching devices and visual deterrents on guy wires for only relocatable towers because SST and monopole tower designs do not require guy wires. NAF habitat is generally protected on private lands under Safe Harbor Agreements, so future destruction of areas critical for survival is unlikely. Critical Habitat for piping plover is in place; however, none of the proposed towers are located in Critical Habitat for any species. Therefore, no adverse modification to any Critical Habitat would occur as a result of the Proposed Action. Further, the increased surveillance and detection capabilities could have a positive impact on piping plover Critical Habitat by potentially decreasing illegal activities and subsequent law enforcement actions.

5.0 DETERMINATION OF EFFECT

Because no habitat or known populations occur at any sites and because construction activities would be conducted outside of times when a migratory species would be present, the Proposed Action would have no effect on the following species: least tern, whooping crane, red-crowned parrot, West Indian manatee, hawksbill sea turtle, Kemp's ridley sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle, loggerhead sea turtle, south Texas ambrosia, Texas ayenia, star cactus, and Walker's manioc.

There is a potential for NAF to collide with towers and to potentially be disturbed by installation and maintenance activities. By following USFWS guidelines for tower design to the greatest extent possible and avoiding nesting NAF, any potential impacts would be discountable such that the Proposed Action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, NAF.

Destruction of habitat would be avoided to the extent possible; however, up to 0.75 acres of habitat potentially suitable for ocelot and jaguarundi would be permanently destroyed due to construction activities at three sites. These cats would potentially be disturbed by construction and maintenance activities at an additional site, where potential habitat occurs adjacent to the tower site. Because these effects on habitat are so limited in area and regionally spaced apart, and because disturbance from noise would be brief and small in area and occur during the day, the Proposed Action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the ocelot or Gulf Coast jaguarundi.

Noise from the construction of FTB End of Highway 4 RVSS tower could potentially impact piping plovers and red knots if construction occurs during the overwintering season. However, CBP would construct this tower outside of the overwintering season to the extent practicable. In the event that the tower could not be constructed during this time frame, CBP is committed to providing on-site qualified biological monitor during construction. If a piping plover or red knot are observed within the 1,138-foot noise contour during construction activities, the monitor would halt construction activities until either of these species has moved outside of the potential impact noise contour. Post-construction noise impacts would be limited to within 50 feet of the backup generator and does not have the potential to impact either the piping plover or red knot. Therefore, CBP has determined that the construction and post-construction noise impacts associated with the FTB End of Highway 4 RVSS tower may affect but is not likely to adversely affect either the piping plover or red knot. Although Critical Habitat are located adjacent to the proposed tower site, no critical elements of the Critical Habitat is located within the temporary or permanent tower footprints. Through mitigation measures to be employed by CBP (constructing the tower outside of the overwintering season or providing a biological monitor) no adverse modification to Critical Habitat would occur as a result of the construction or operation of the RVSS tower.

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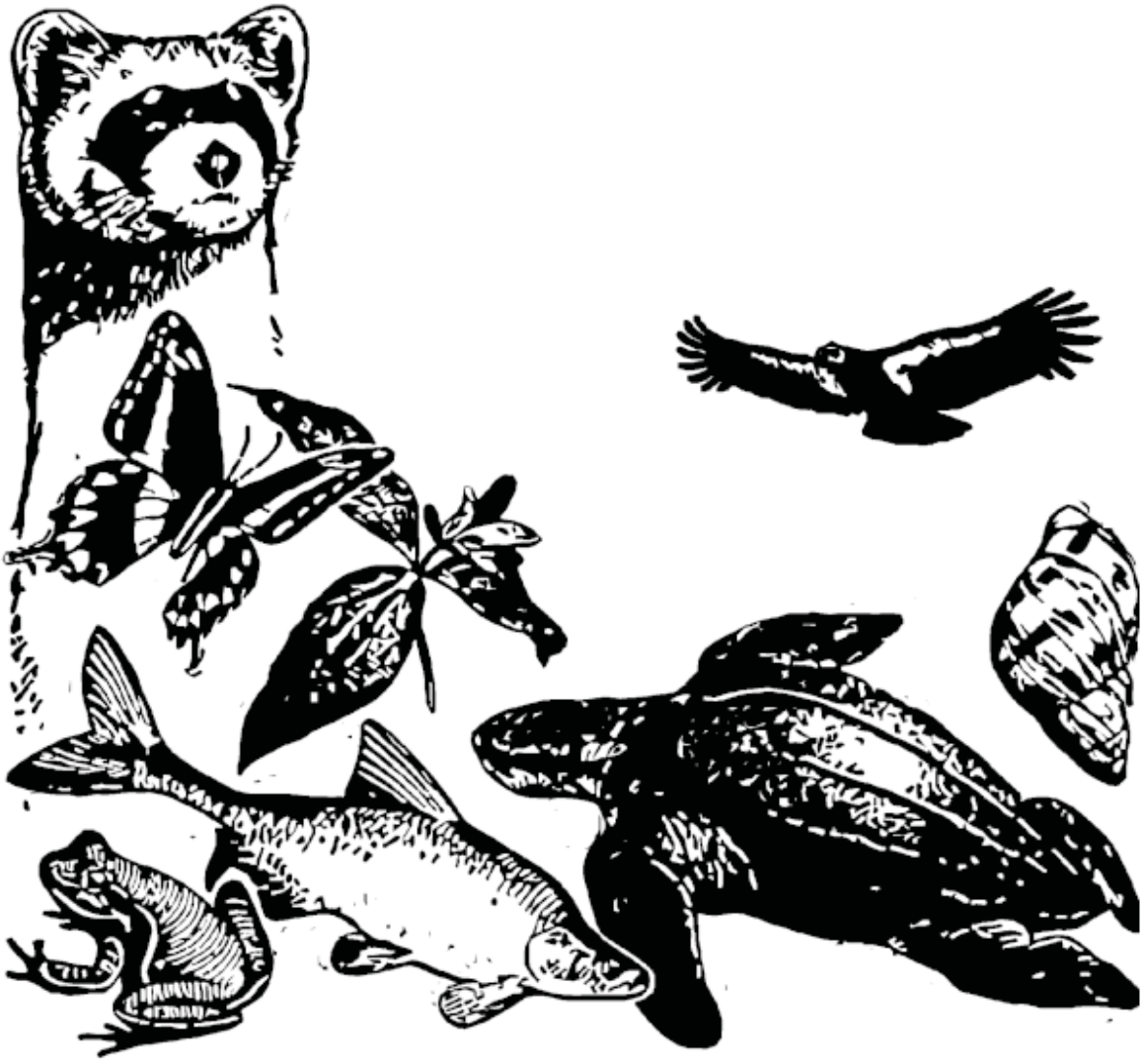
APPENDIX A
PROTECTED SPECIES LIST

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

IPaC Trust Resources Report

Generated October 04, 2016 01:29 PM MDT, IPaC v3.0.9

This report is for informational purposes only and should not be used for planning or analyzing project level impacts. For project reviews that require U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service review or concurrence, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list from the Regulatory Documents page.



IPaC - Information for Planning and Conservation (https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/): A project planning tool to help streamline the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service environmental review process.

Table of Contents

IPaC Trust Resources Report 1
Project Description 1
Endangered Species 2
Migratory Birds 6
Refuges & Hatcheries 11
Wetlands 12

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

IPaC Trust Resources Report

LOCATION

Texas

IPAC LINK

https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/project/ZQQRP-JXQM5-H5HL3-OXZXZ-ZFIE6A

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Contact Information

Trust resources in this location are managed by:

Texas Coastal Ecological Services Field Office
17629 El Camino Real, Suite 211
Houston, TX 77058-3051
(281) 286-8282

Endangered Species

Proposed, candidate, threatened, and endangered species are managed by the Endangered Species Program of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

This USFWS trust resource report is for informational purposes only and should not be used for planning or analyzing project level impacts.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list from the Regulatory Documents section.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency.

A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can only be obtained by requesting an official species list either from the Regulatory Documents section in IPaC or from the local field office directly.

The list of species below are those that may occur or could potentially be affected by activities in this location:

Birds

Least Tern *Sterna antillarum*

Endangered

THIS SPECIES ONLY NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED IF THE FOLLOWING CONDITION APPLIES

Wind Related Projects Within Migratory Route

CRITICAL HABITAT

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B07N

Northern Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis septentrionalis*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B06V

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*

Threatened

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is final critical habitat designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B079

Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa*

Threatened

CRITICAL HABITAT

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0DM

Red-crowned Parrot *Amazona viridigenalis*

Candidate

CRITICAL HABITAT

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0GO

Whooping Crane *Grus americana*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is final critical habitat designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B003

Flowering Plants

South Texas Ambrosia *Ambrosia cheiranthifolia*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=Q1SS

Star Cactus *Astrophytum asterias*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=Q07V

Texas Ayenia *Ayenia limitaris*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=Q2XW

Walker's Manioc *Manihot walkerae*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=Q1YS

Mammals

Gulf Coast Jaguarundi *Herpailurus (=Felis) yagouaroundi cacomitli*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=A05H

Ocelot *Leopardus (=Felis) pardalis*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=A084

West Indian Manatee *Trichechus manatus*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is final critical habitat designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=A007

Reptiles

Hawksbill Sea Turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is final critical habitat designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=C00E

Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle *Lepidochelys kempii*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=C00O

Leatherback Sea Turtle *Dermochelys coriacea*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is final critical habitat designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=C00F

Loggerhead Sea Turtle *Caretta caretta*

Threatened

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is final critical habitat designated for this species.

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=C00U

Critical Habitats

This location overlaps all or part of the critical habitat for the following species:

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*

Final designated critical habitat

http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B079#crithab

Migratory Birds

Birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Any activity that results in the take of migratory birds or eagles is prohibited unless authorized by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.[1] There are no provisions for allowing the take of migratory birds that are unintentionally killed or injured.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in the take of migratory birds is responsible for complying with the appropriate regulations and implementing appropriate conservation measures.

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1. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern
  http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php
- Conservation measures for birds
  http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php
- Year-round bird occurrence data
  http://www.birdscanada.org/birdmon/default/datasummaries.jsp

The following species of migratory birds could potentially be affected by activities in this location:

Altamira Oriole Icterus gularis — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round

American Oystercatcher Haematopus palliatus — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0G8

Audubon's Oriole Icterus graduacauda — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round

Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B008

Bell's Vireo Vireo bellii — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0JX

Black Skimmer Rynchops niger — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0EO

Botteri's Sparrow Aimophila botterii — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding

Buff-bellied Hummingbird Amazilia yucatanensis — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round

Burrowing Owl Athene cunicularia — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0NC

Cassin's Sparrow Aimophila cassinii — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0K2

Chestnut-collared Longspur Calcarius ornatus — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering

Curve-billed Thrasher Toxostoma curvirostre — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round

Dickcissel Spiza americana — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding

Elf Owl Micrathene whitneyi — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0GV

Green Parakeet Aratinga holochlora — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round

Gull-billed Tern Gelochelidon nilotica — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0JV

Harris's Hawk parabuteo unicinctus — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0ED

Harris's Sparrow Zonotrichia querula — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering

Hooded Oriole Icterus cucullatus — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding

Hudsonian Godwit Limosa haemastica — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Migrating

Lark Bunting Calamospiza melanocorys — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering

Le Conte's Sparrow Ammodramus leconteii — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering

Least Bittern Ixobrychus exilis
Season: Breeding
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B092

Least Tern Sterna antillarum — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding

Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0MD

Loggerhead Shrike Lanius ludovicianus — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round
http://ecos fws gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile action?spcode=B0FY

Long-billed Curlew Numenius americanus — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B06S

Magnificent Frigatebird Fregata magnificens — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering

Marbled Godwit Limosa fedoa — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0JL

Mountain Plover Charadrius montanus — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B078

Northern Beardless-tyrannulet Camptostoma imberbe — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round

Peregrine Falcon Falco peregrinus — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0FU

Red Knot Calidris canutus rufa — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0DM

Red-billed Pigeon Patagioenas flavirostris — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round

Red-crowned Parrot Amazona viridigenalis — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0GO

Red-headed Woodpecker Melanerpes erythrocephalus — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering

Reddish Egret Egretta rufescens — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B06U

Rose-throated Becard Pachyramphus aglaiae — Bird of conservation concern
Seasons: Breeding, Wintering

Sandwich Tern Thalasseus sandvicensis — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round

Seaside Sparrow Ammodramus maritimus — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round

Sedge Wren Cistothorus platensis — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering

Short-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus griseus — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0JK

Short-eared Owl Asio flammeus — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0HD

Snowy Plover Charadrius alexandrinus — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding

Solitary Sandpiper Tringa solitaria — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering

Sprague's Pipit Anthus spragueii — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0GD

Summer Tanager piranga rubra — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0E7

Swainson's Warbler Limnothlypis swainsonii — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Migrating

Swainson's Hawk Buteo swainsoni — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B070

Tropical Parula Parula pitiayumi — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding

Varied Bunting Passerina versicolor — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding

Verdin Auriparus flaviceps — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round

Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0JN

White-collared Seedeater Sporophila torqueola — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round

White-tailed Hawk Buteo albicaudatus — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Year-round

Wilson's Plover Charadrius wilsonia — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding

Worm Eating Warbler Helmitheros vermivorum — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Migrating

Yellow Rail Coturnicops noveboracensis — Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0JG

Wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries

Any activity proposed on National Wildlife Refuge lands must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

This location overlaps all or part of the following National Wildlife Refuges:

The area of this project is too large for IPaC to load all National Wildlife Refuges in the area. The list below may be incomplete, or the acreages reported may be inaccurate. Please contact the local U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service office or visit the NWR map for a full list.

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge — 90,731.81 acres

PHONE (956) 748-3607

ADDRESS
22817 Ocelot Road
Los Fresnos, TX 78566

http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=21553

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge — 79,459.6 acres

PHONE (956) 784-7500

ADDRESS
7 Miles South Of Alamo, Tx On Fm907 And 1/4 Mile East On Highway 281
Alamo, TX 78516

http://www fws gov/refuges/profiles/index cfm?id=21552

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

DATA LIMITATIONS

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

DATA EXCLUSIONS

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

DATA PRECAUTIONS

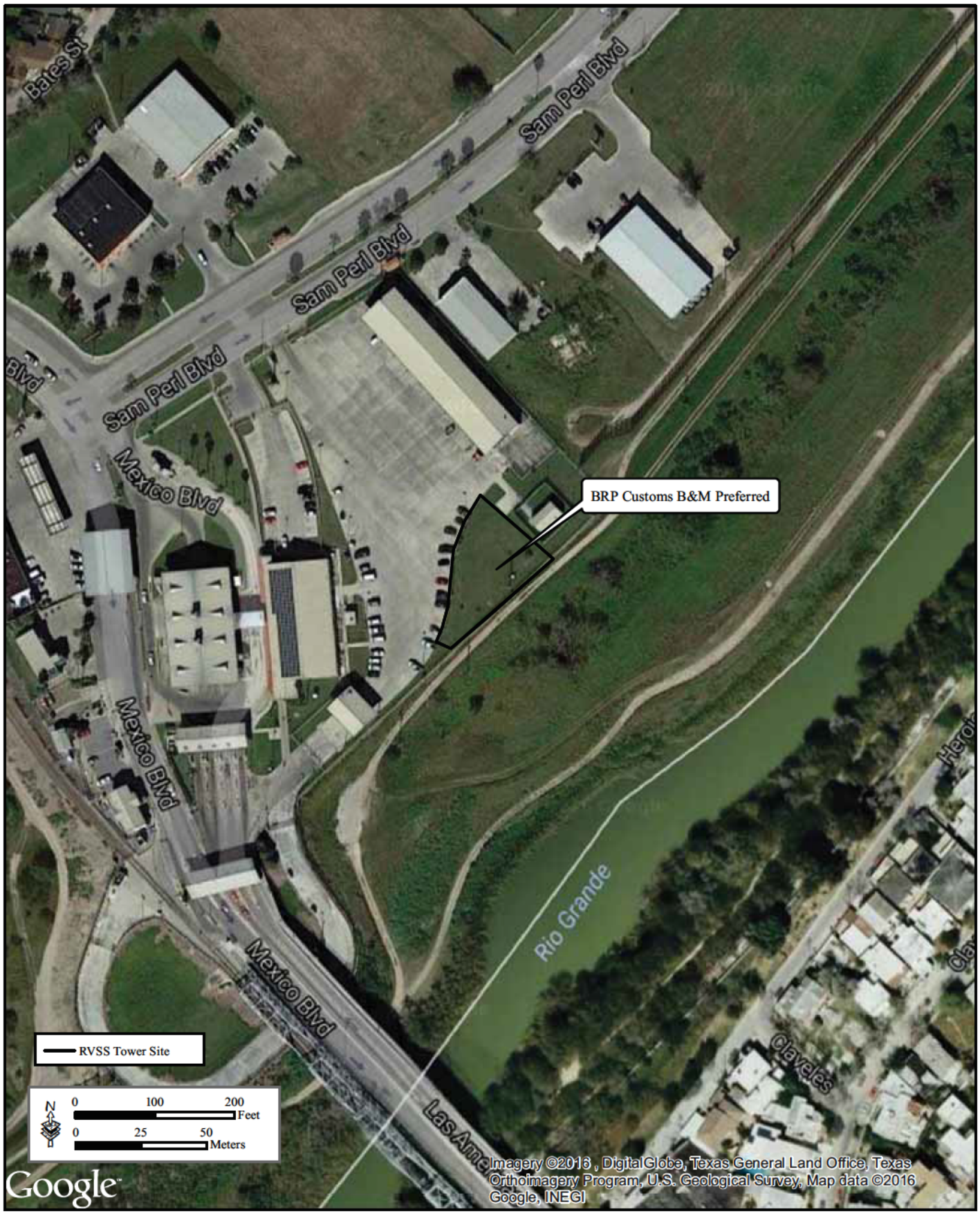
Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

Wetland data is unavailable at this time.

APPENDIX B
BROWNSVILLE, FORT BROWN, HARLINGEN, FALFURRIAS, AND KINGSVILLE STATIONS' AND ROAD MAPS

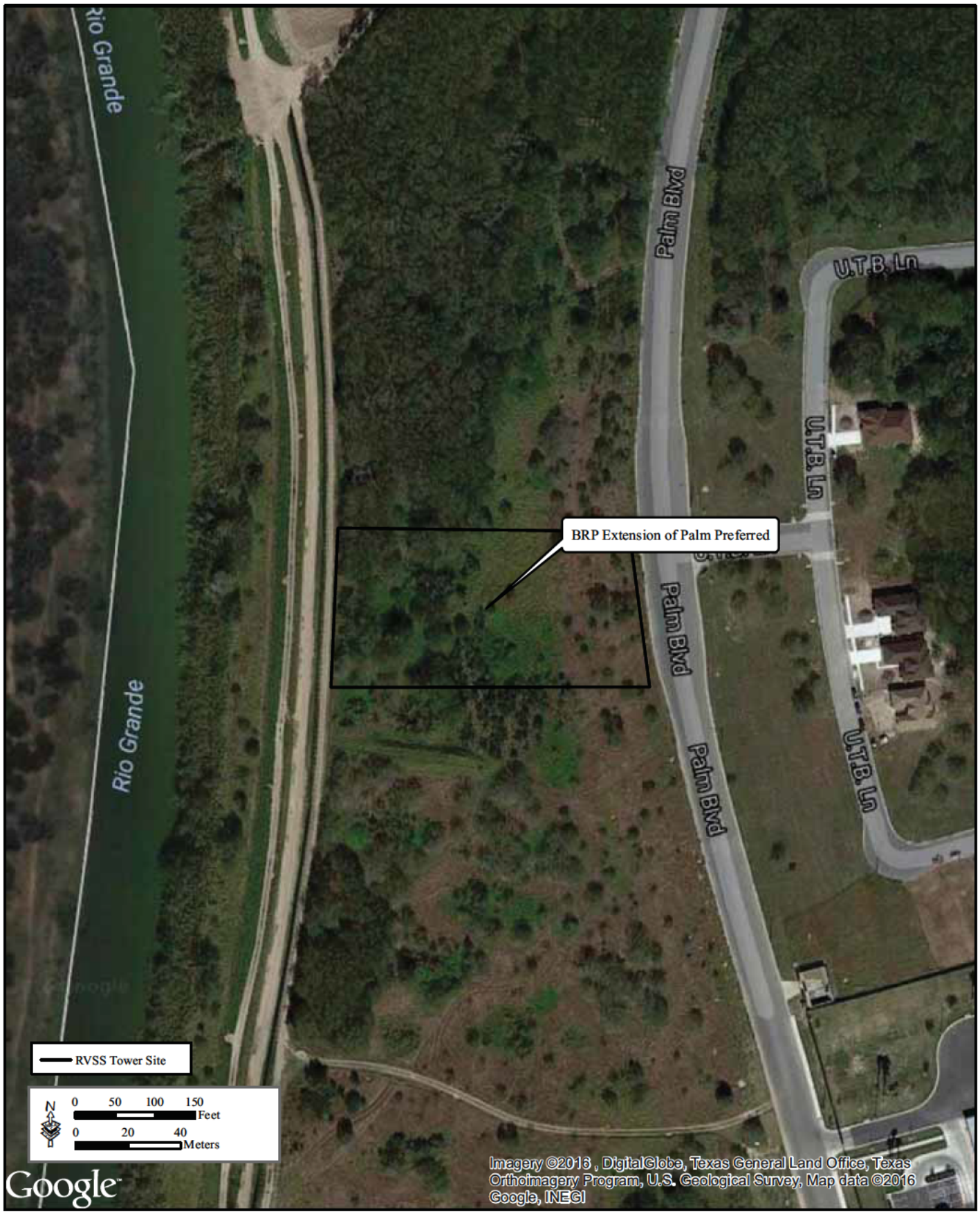
BRP Cindy Stone Preferred

September 2016



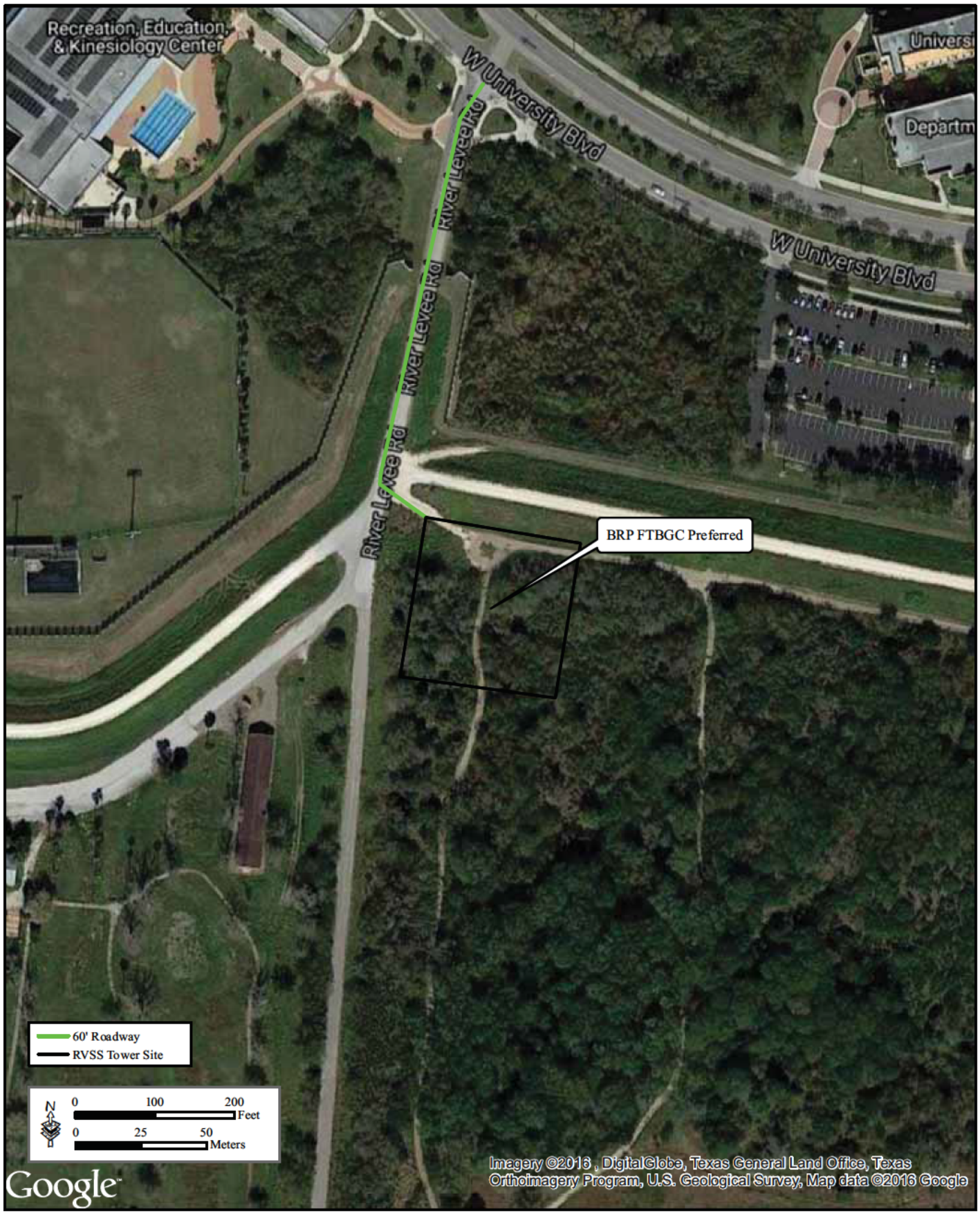
BRP Customs B&M Preferred

September 2016



BRP Extension of Palm Preferred

September 2016



BRP FTBGC Preferred

September 2016

BRP Mulberry Preferred

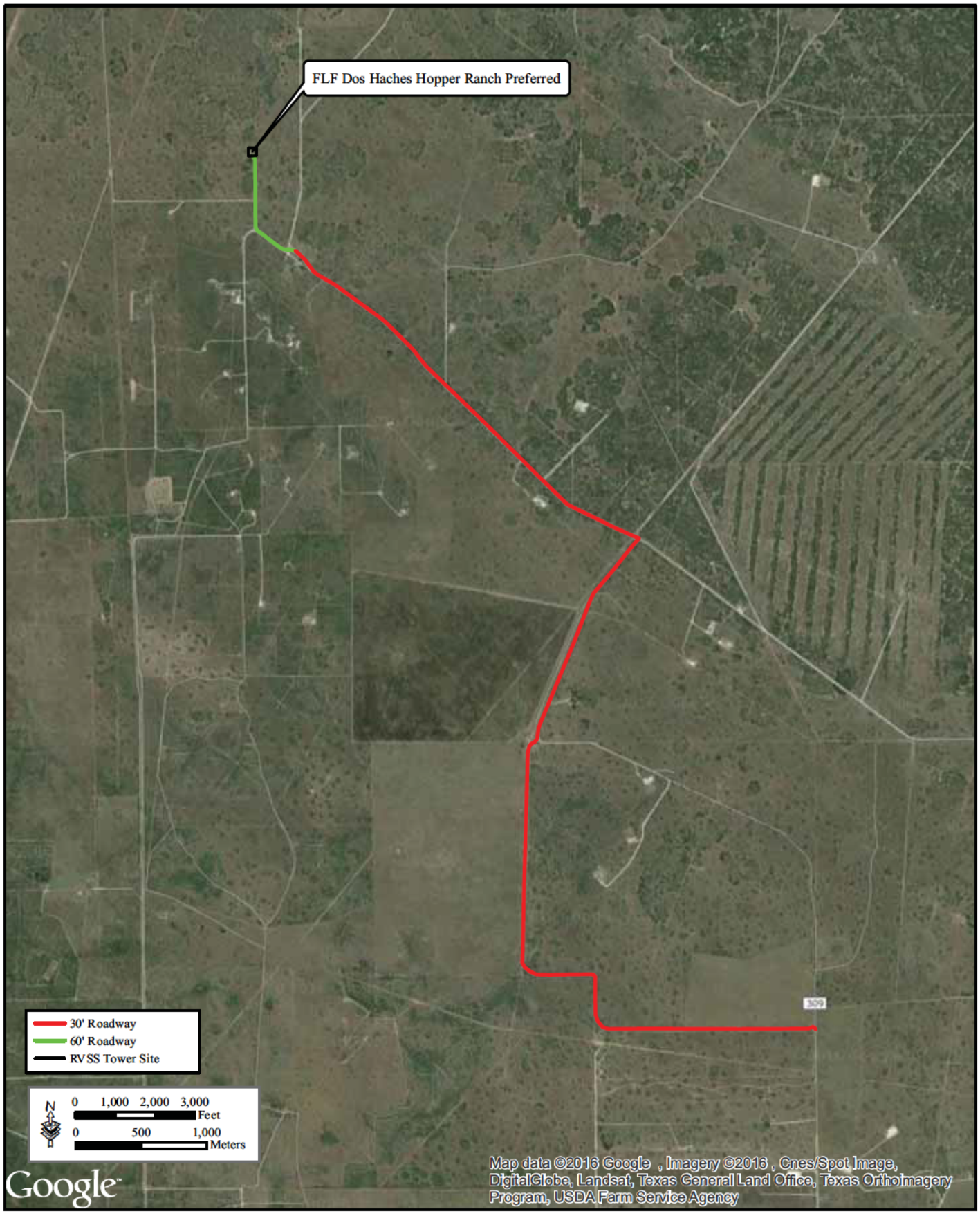
September 2016

FLF Adairs Ranch Preferred

September 2016

FLF Checkpoint Tower Preferred

September 2016

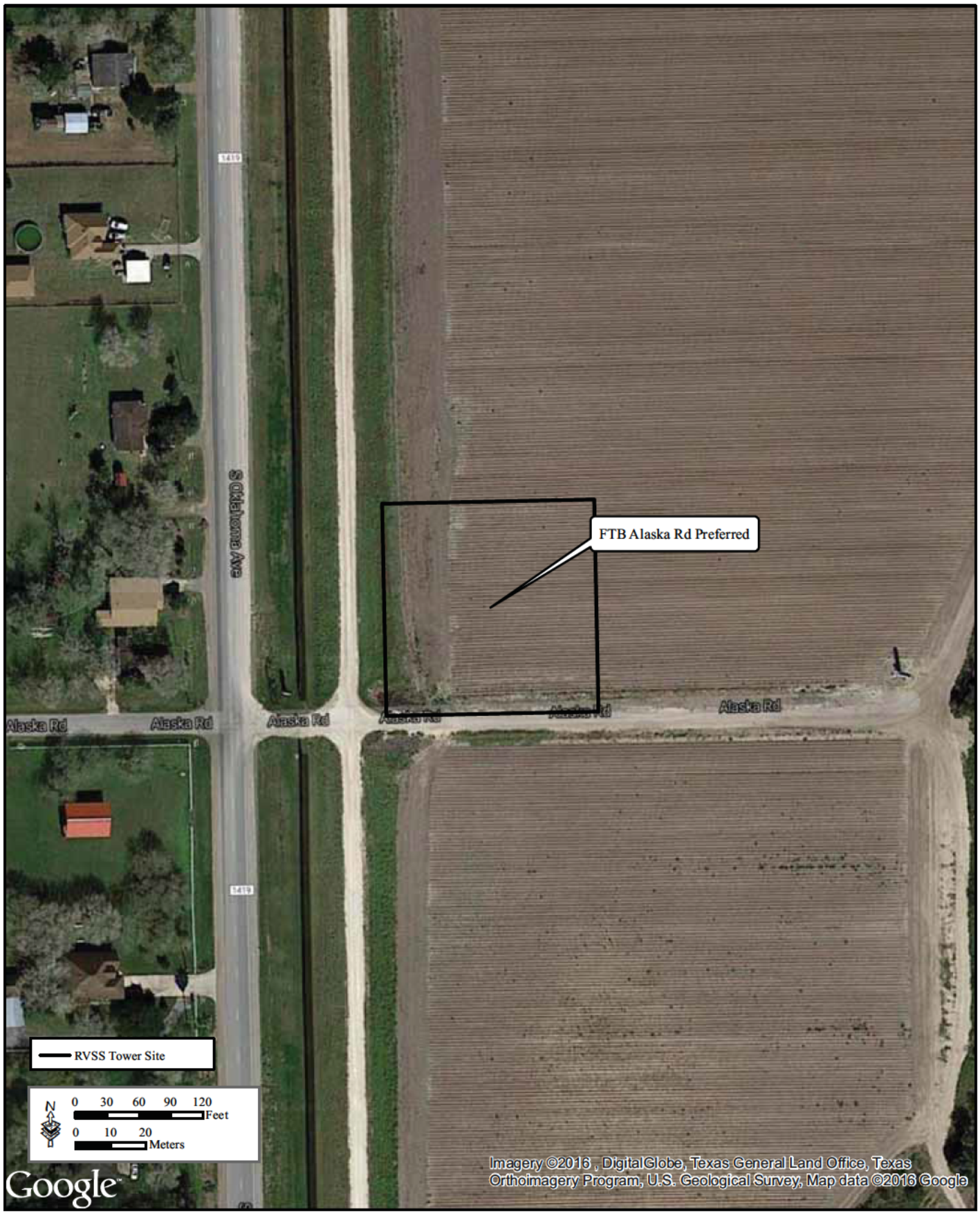


FLF Dos Haches Hopper Ranch Preferred

October 2016

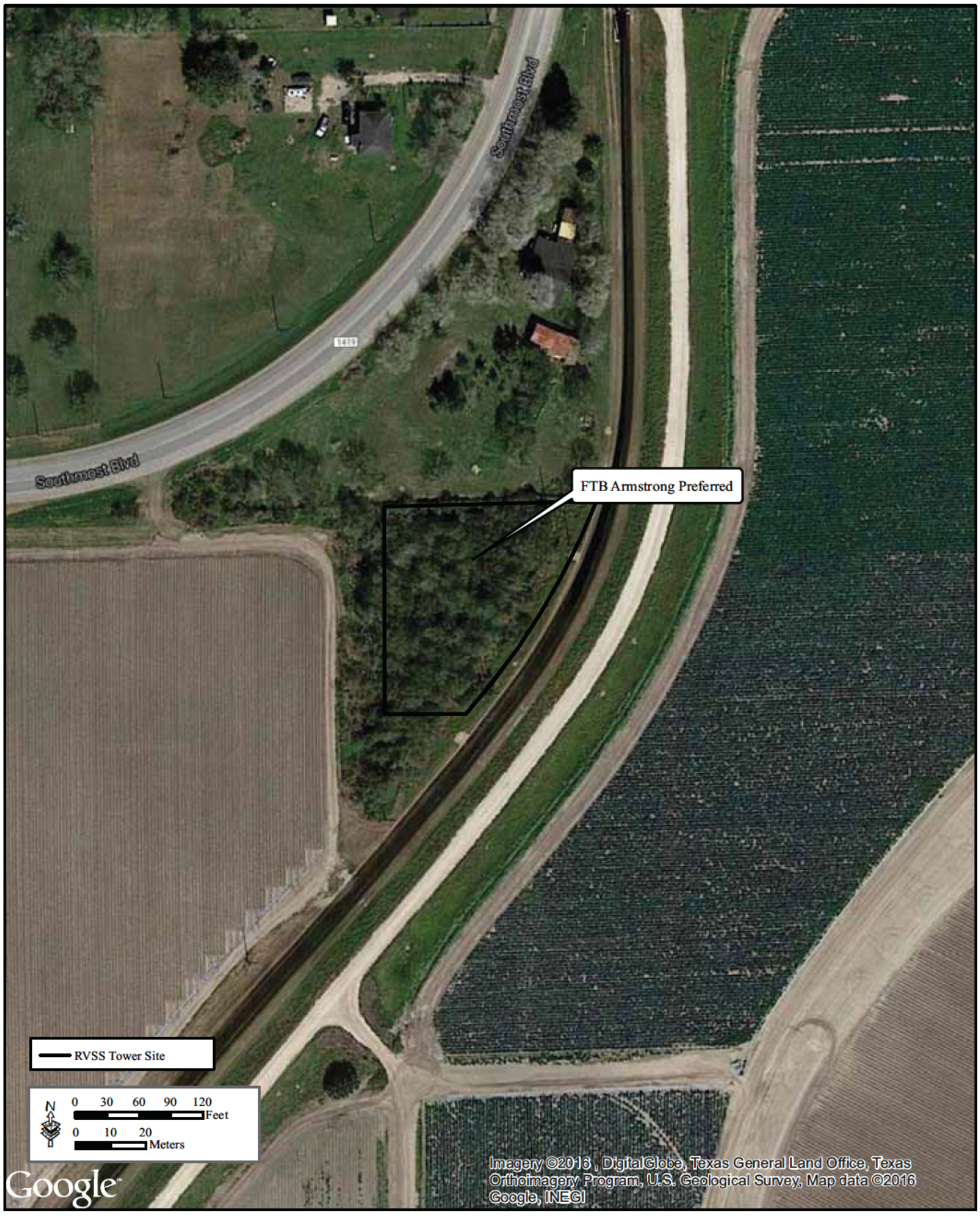
FLF King Ranch Preferred

September 2016



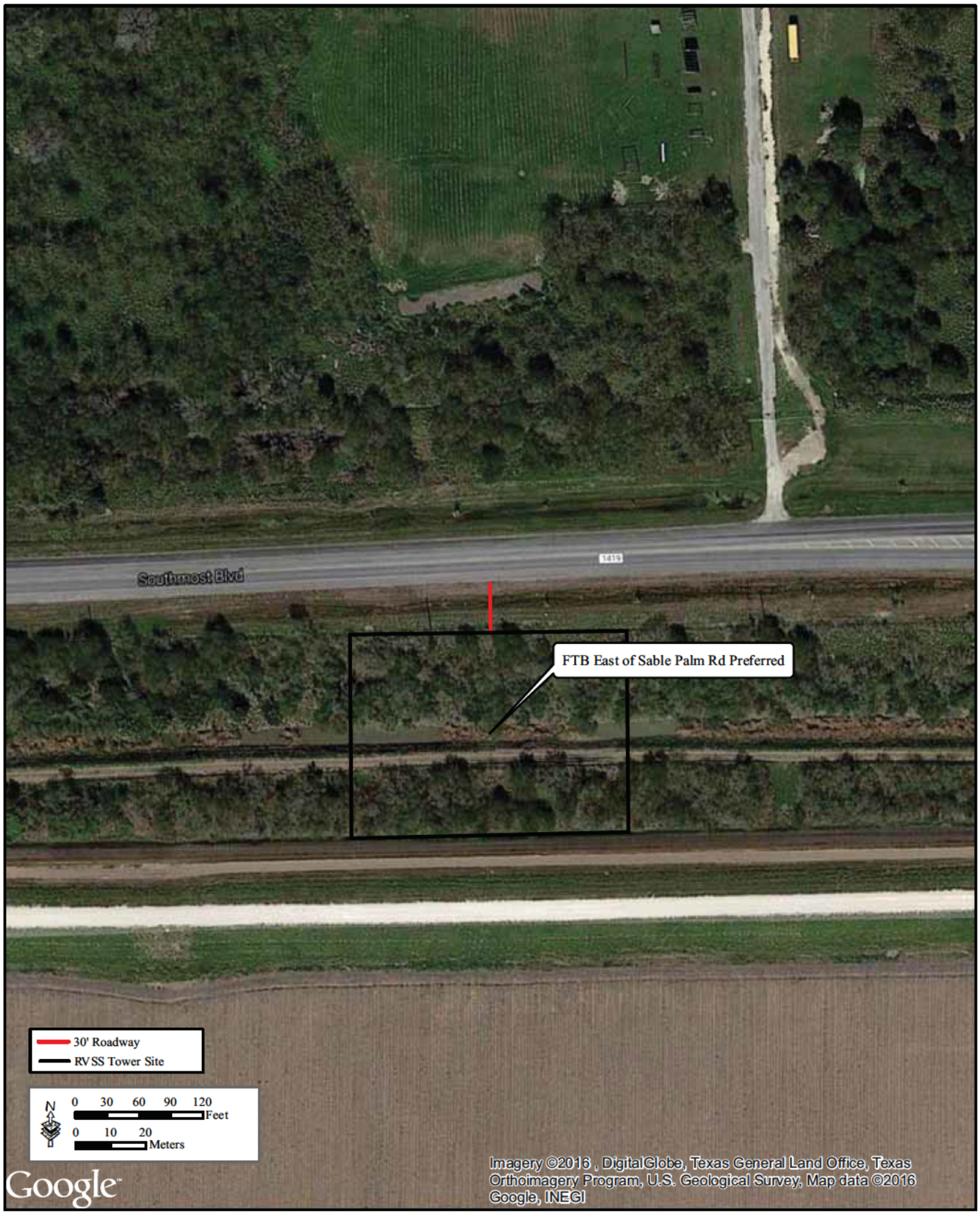
FTB Alaska Rd Preferred

September 2016



FTB Armstrong Preferred

September 2016

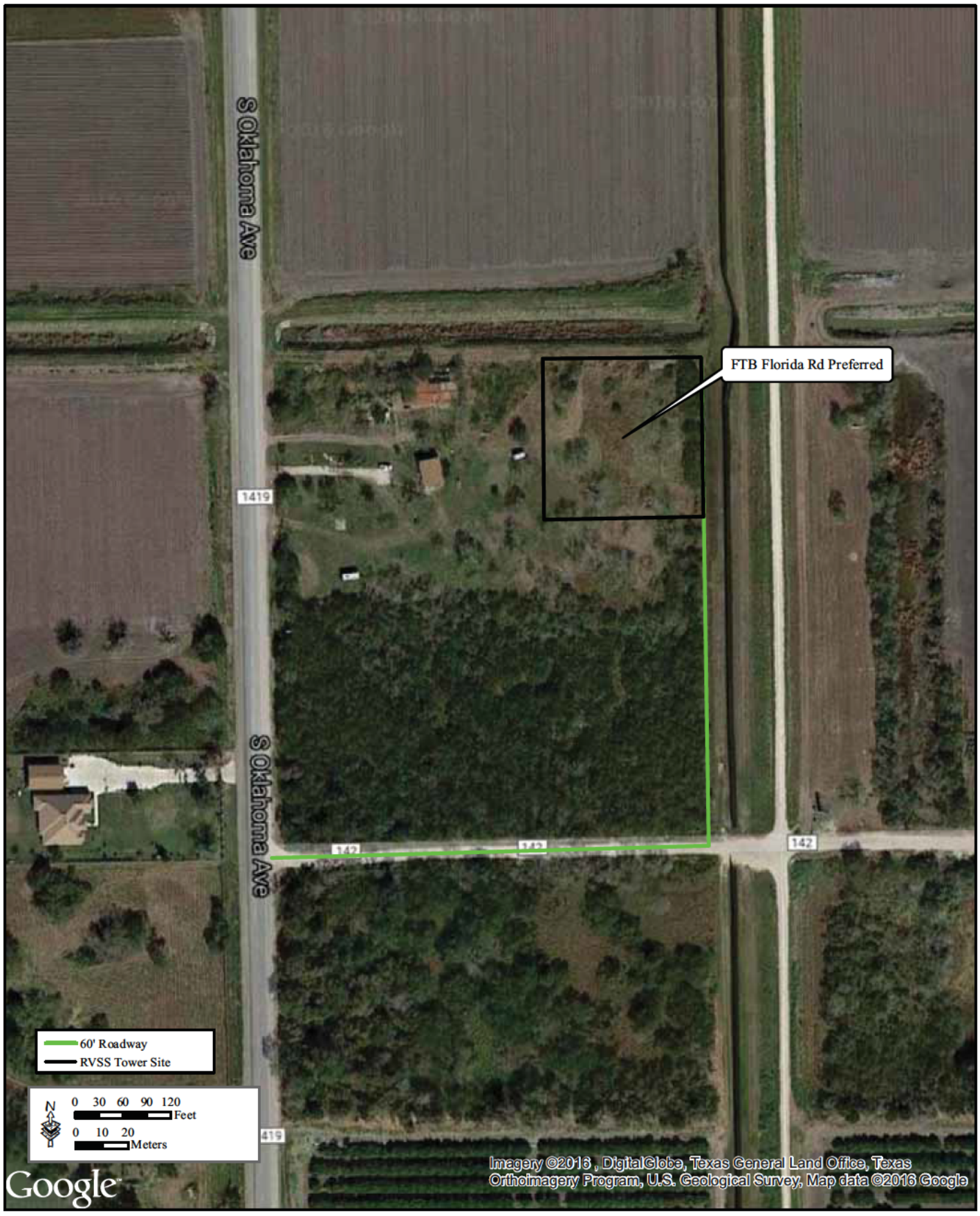


FTB East of Sable Palm Rd Preferred

September 2016

FTB End of Hwy 4 Preferred

September 2016



FTB Florida Rd Preferred

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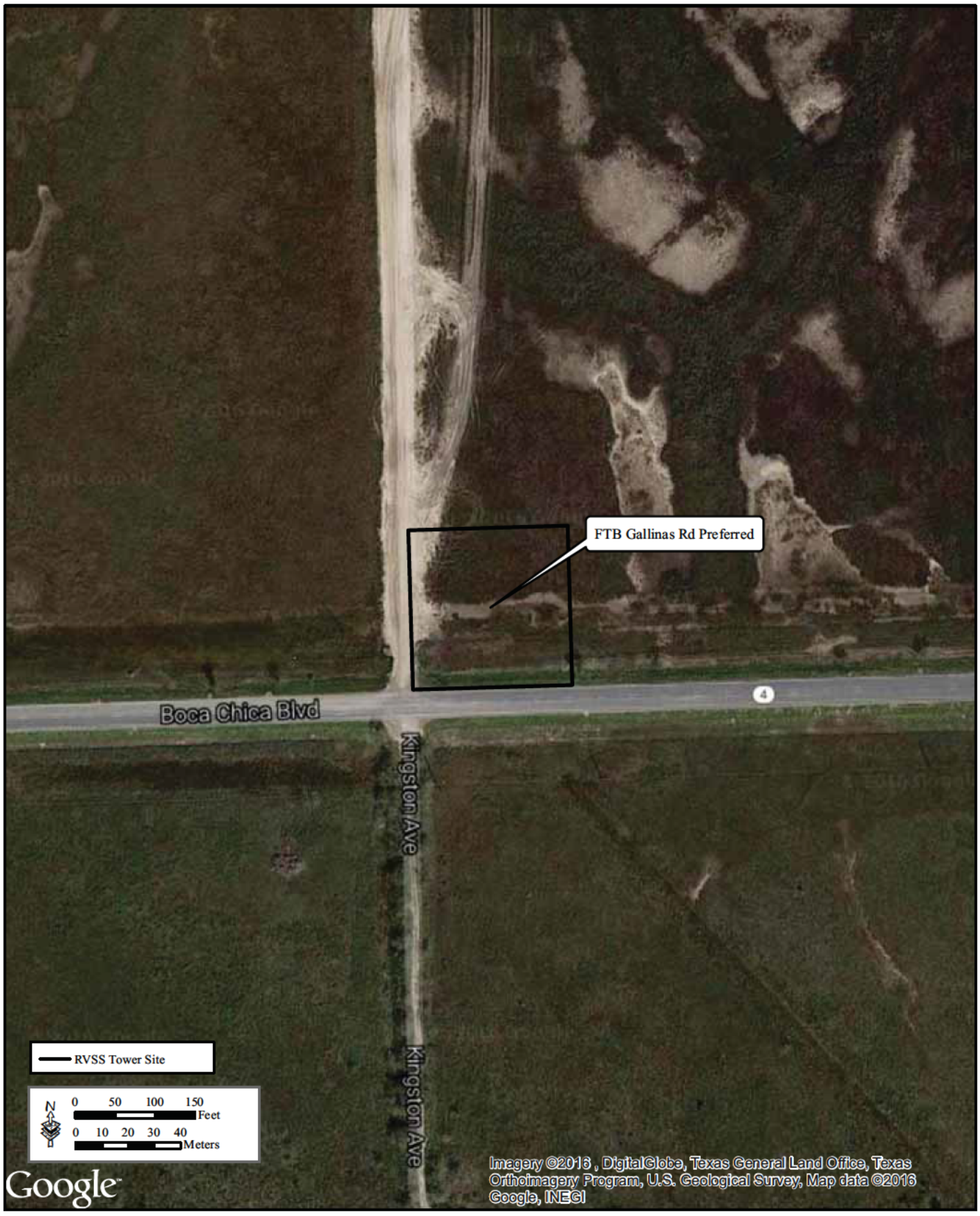
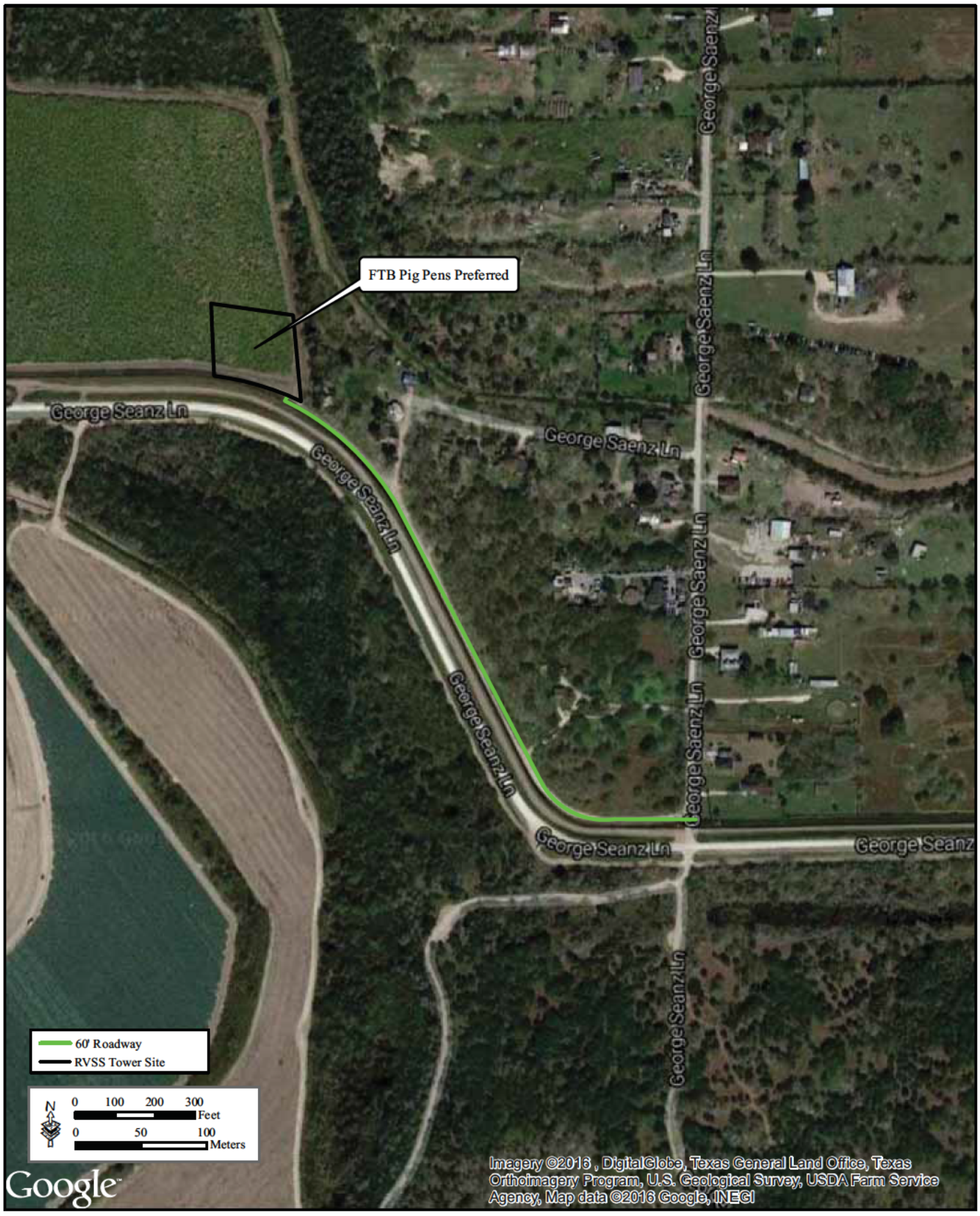


FTB Gallinas Rd Preferred

September 2016

FTB Hwy 4 Checkpoint Preferred

September 2016

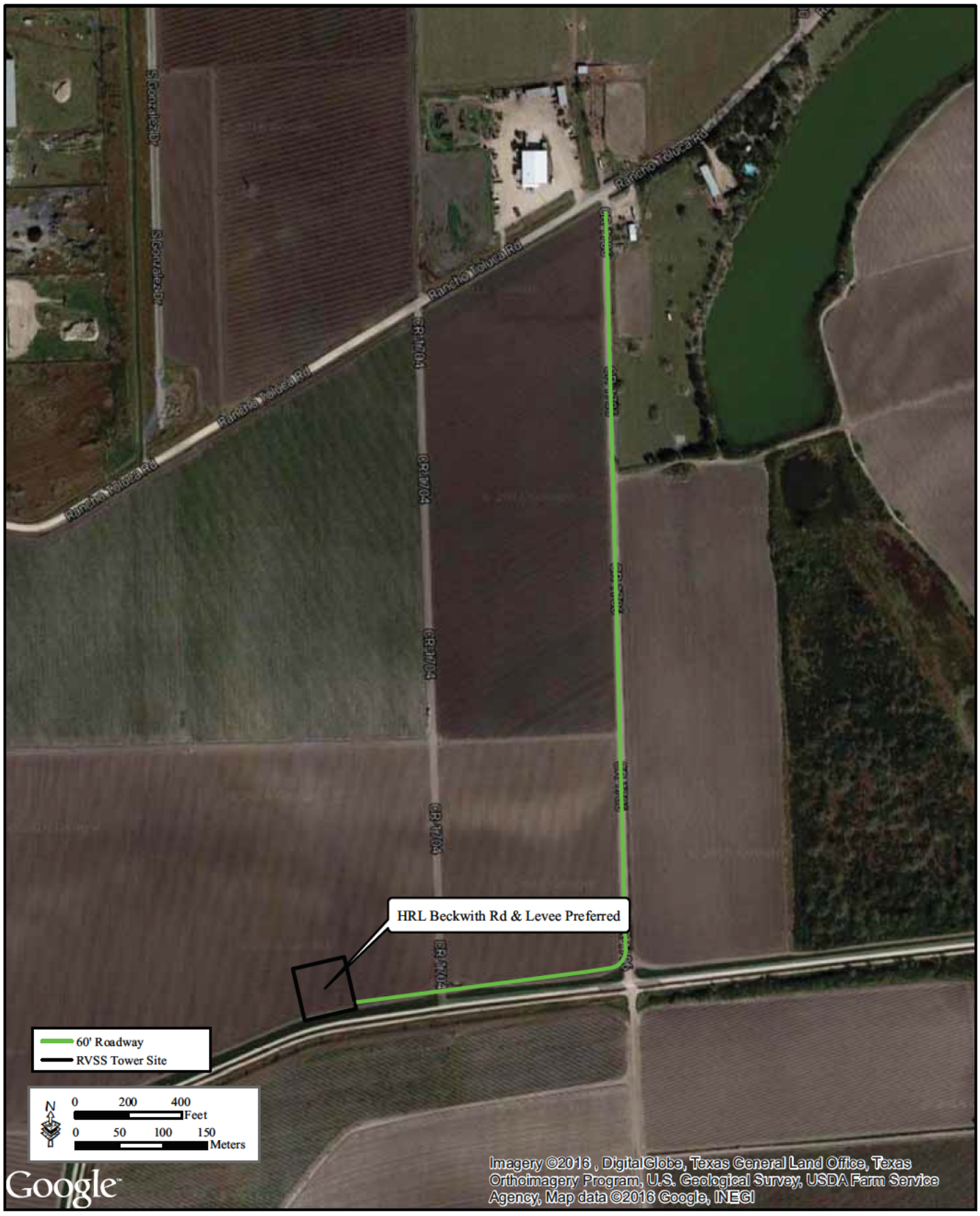


FTB Pig Pens Preferred

September 2016

FTB Zone 34 Preferred

September 2016



HRL Beckwith Rd & Levee Preferred

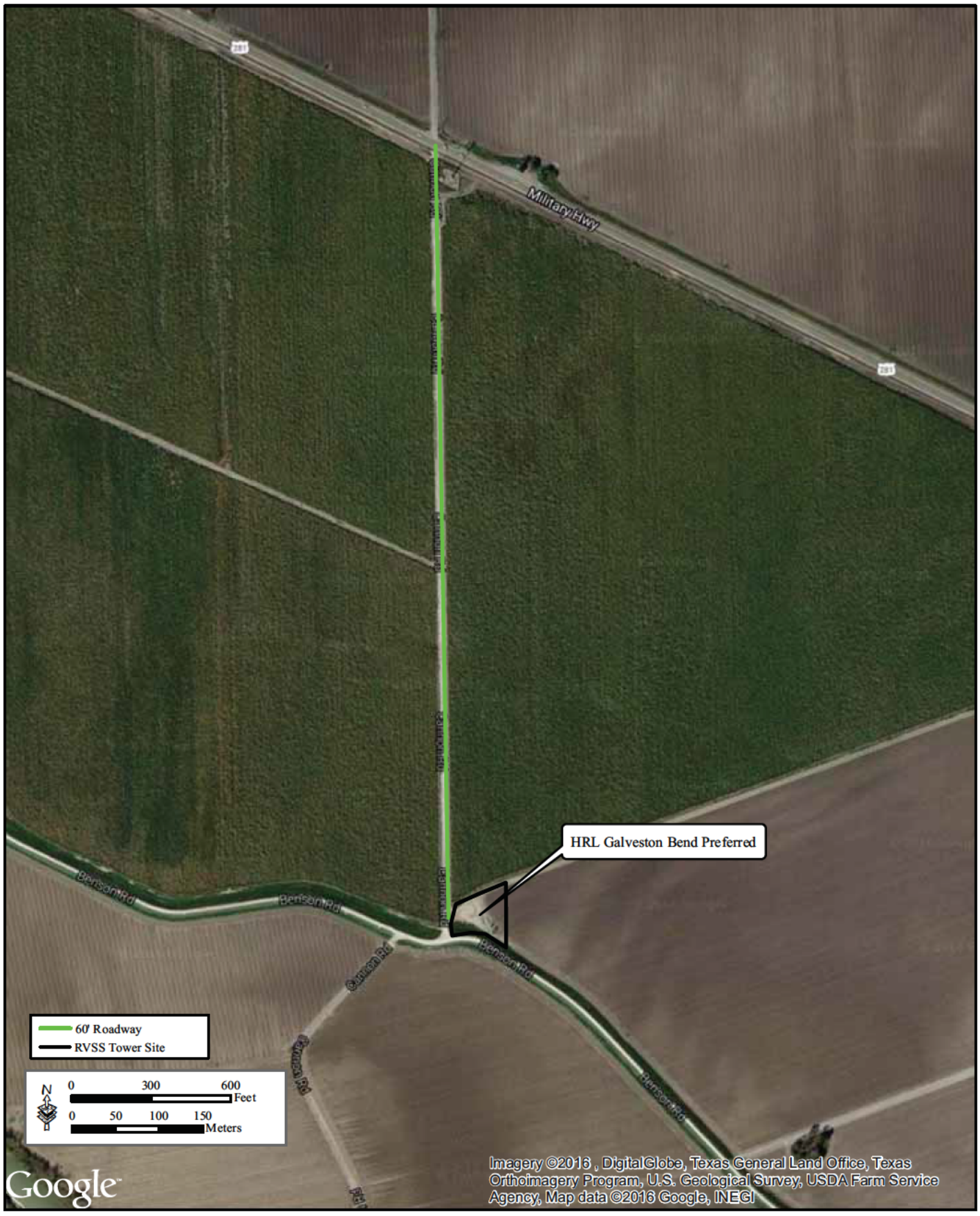
September 2016

HRL Cantu Rd Preferred

September 2016

HRL Concrete Canal & Levee Preferred

September 2016

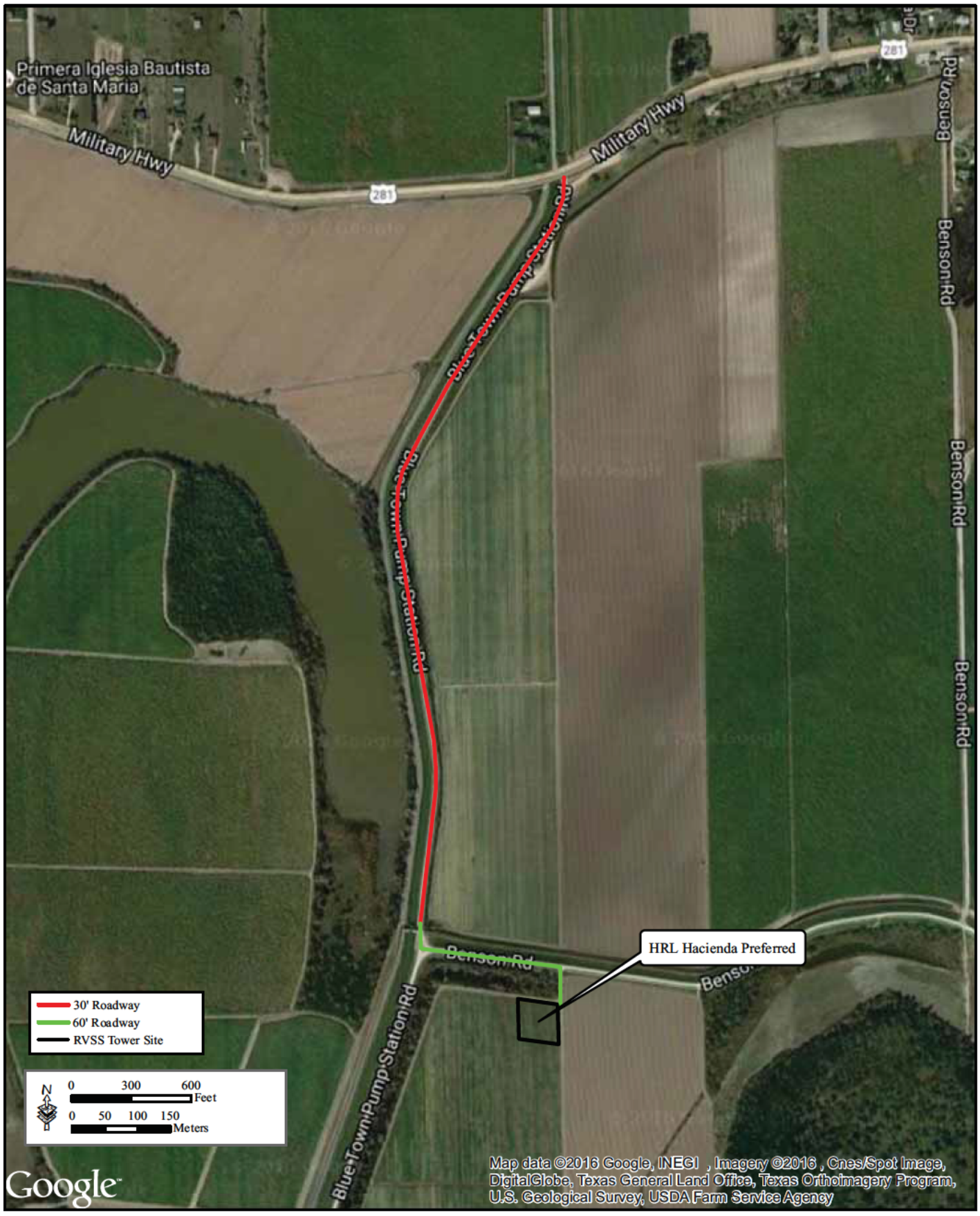


HRL Galveston Bend Preferred

September 2016

HRL Green Barn Rd Preferred

September 2016

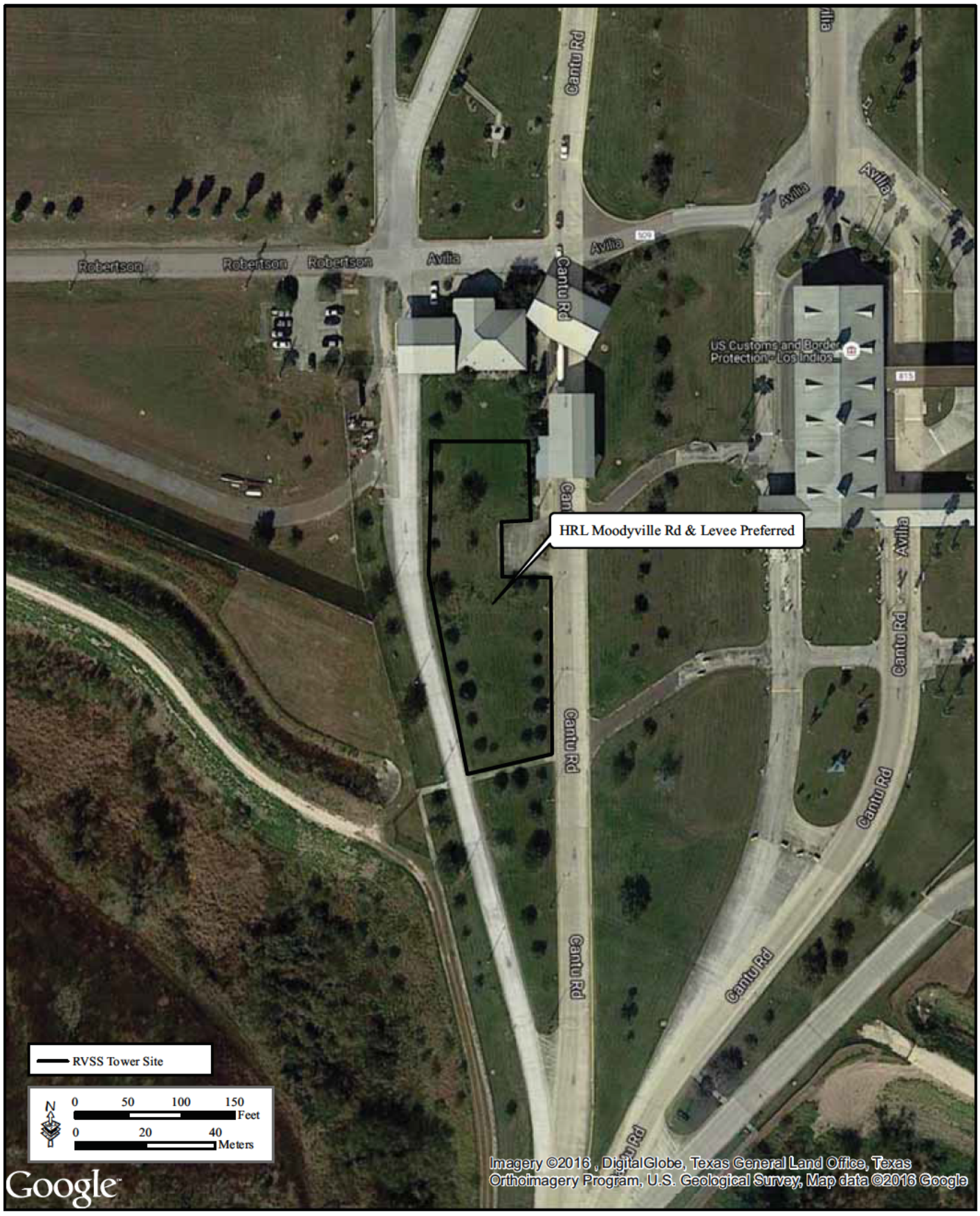


HRL Hacienda Preferred

September 2016

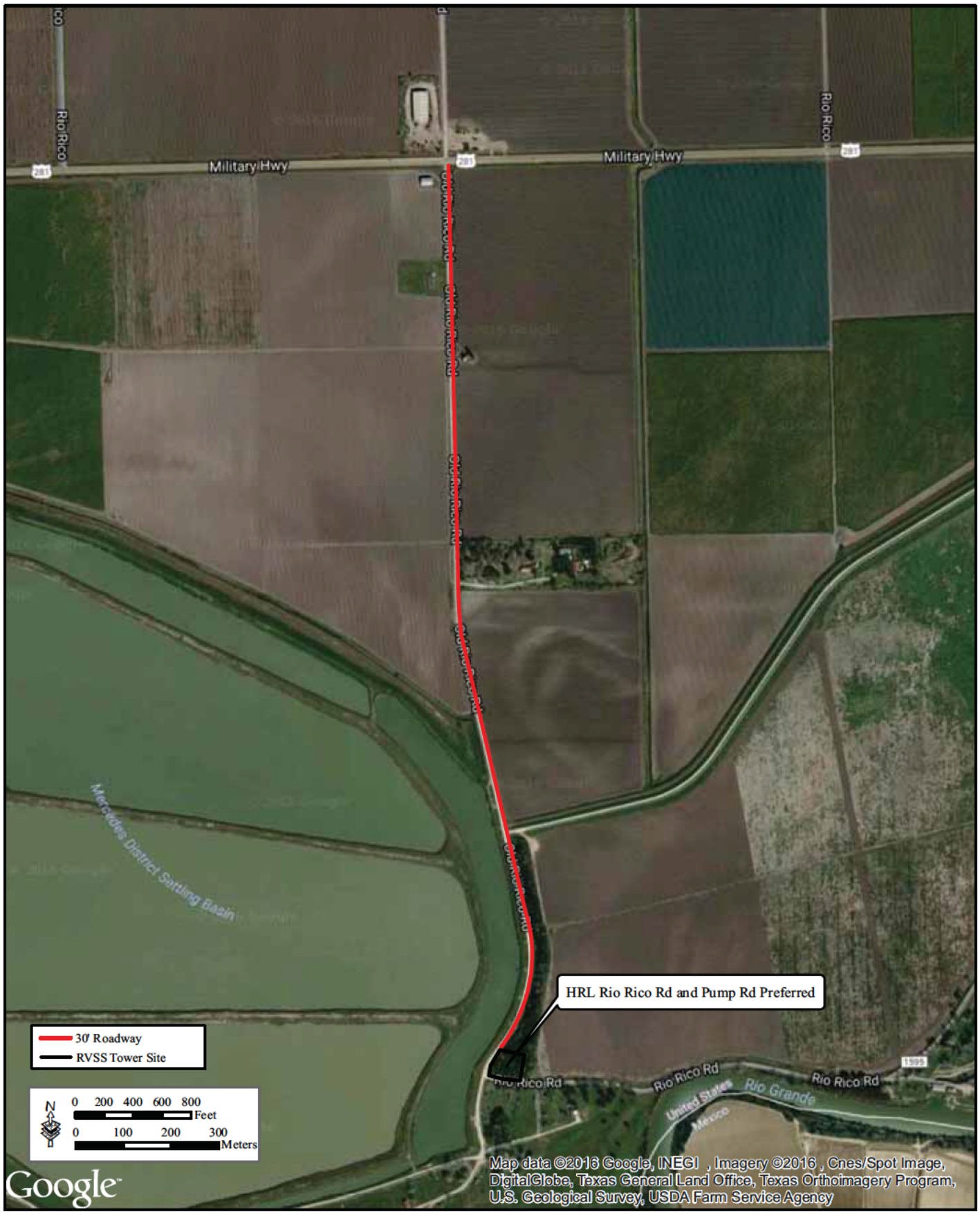
HRL McMannis Bend Preferred

September 2016



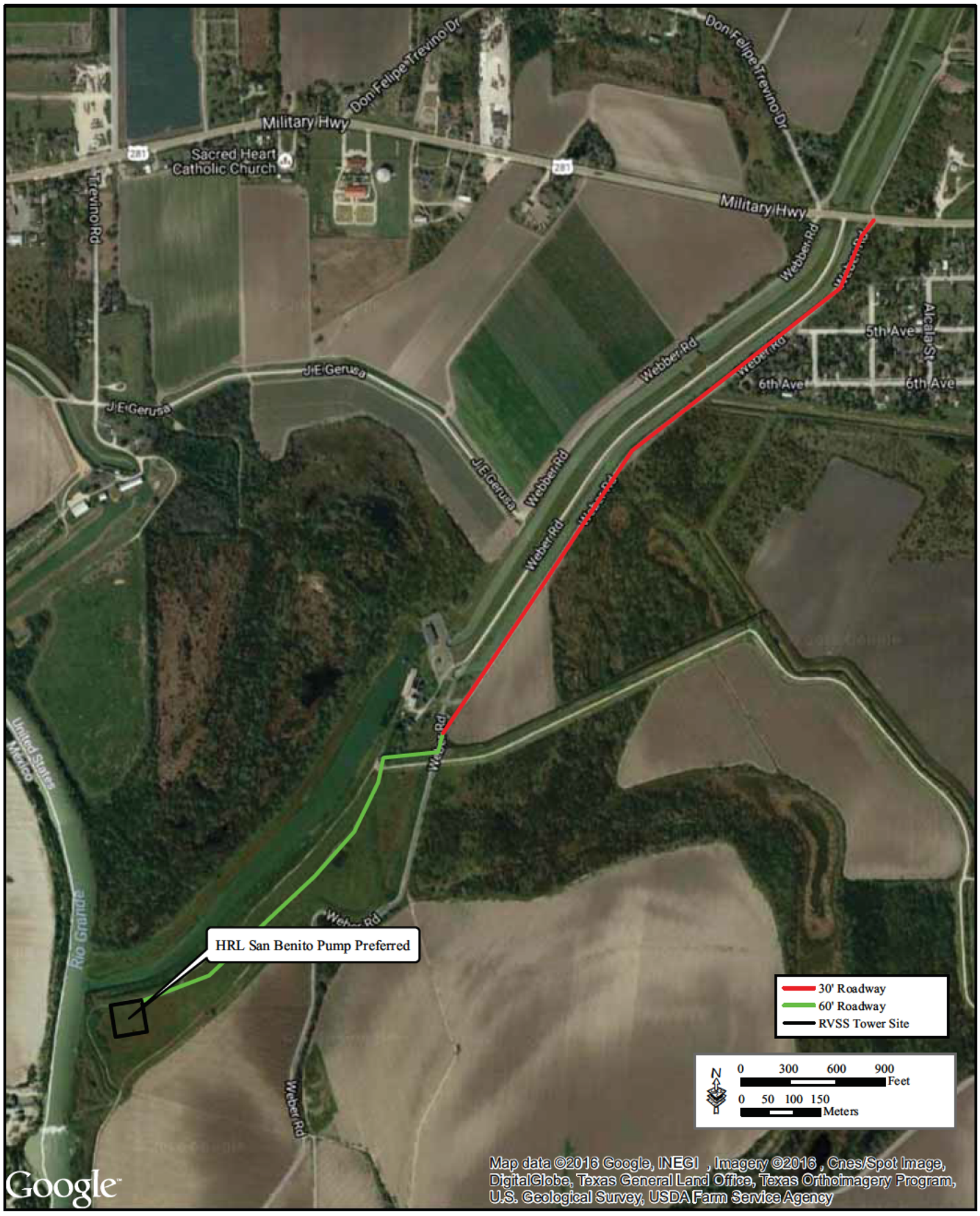
HRL Moodyville Rd & Levee Preferred

September 2016



HRL Rio Rico Rd and Pump Rd Preferred

September 2016



HRL San Benito Pump Preferred

September 2016

HRL Three House Rd Southeast Preferred

September 2016

HRL Wells Bros Canal Preferred

September 2016

KIN Hwy 77 Amstrong Preferred

September 2016

KIN Juanita Section of Kenedy Ranch Preferred

September 2016

Nov 07

DRAFT
COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

Use: engineering-environmental Management, Inc. (e^2M) proposes to conduct cultural resources surveys on fourteen (14) Refuge tracts within the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (LRGVNWR). These surveys are directly associated with determining the environmental impact(s) of the proposed Border Fence (PF-225) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas.

Refuge Name: Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Refuge tracts likely to be surveyed: Arroyo Ramirez, Los Negros Creek, Rio San Juan, Granjeno, Kiskadee, Penitas, Los Velas, Los Ebanos, Monterrey Banco, La Coma, Rosario Banco, Phillips Banco, Boscaje de La Palma, and Southmost.

Establishing and Acquisition Authorities:

- Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 [16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)], [16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(1)]
- An Act Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife, or other purposes [16 U.S.C. 667b]
- Refuge Recreation Act, as amended [16 U.S.C. 460k-1], [16 U.S.C. 460k-2]
- Migratory Bird Conservation Act [16 U.S.C. 715d]
- National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997

Refuge Purpose(s): As excerpted from the enabling legislation used to authorize the acquisition of the Refuge, the following are the Refuge purposes:

"... for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources ..." [16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)] "... for the benefit of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in performing its activities and services. Such acceptance may be subject to the terms of any restrictive or affirmative covenant, or condition of servitude ..." [16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(1)] (Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956)

"... particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program." [16 U.S.C. 667b] (An Act Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife, or other purposes)

"... suitable for: (1) incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of endangered species or threatened species ..." [16 U.S.C. 460k-1] "... the Secretary ... may accept and use ... real ... property. Such acceptance may be accomplished under the terms and conditions of restrictive covenants imposed by donors ..." [16 U.S.C. 460k-2] (Refuge Recreation Act [16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4], as amended)

"... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds." [16 U.S.C. 715d] (Migratory Bird Conservation Act)

The Lower Rio Grande Valley and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuges Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) of 1997 satisfies the CCP requirement of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 and identifies the following five goals of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge:

- To restore, enhance and protect biological diversity.
- To protect and obtain additional water rights, improve water management, and protect, restore and enhance wetlands.
- To improve water quality and reduce contaminant related fish and wildlife resource losses.
- To protect, maintain and plan for cultural resources.
- To offer compatible wildlife dependent public uses, recreational opportunities, and interpretation and education.

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission: "The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."

Description of Proposed Use:

Cultural Resources Surveys

e²M has been tasked by the Corps of Engineers – Fort Worth District, with conducting cultural resources surveys within the above listed Refuge tracts. The nature of the cultural resources survey would depend upon the potential of the specific portion of the alignment to contain cultural resources. The least invasive approach, which would be used for areas determined to have low potential for cultural resources, would be simple pedestrian surveys of all the identified alignments. There are no known cultural resource sites within the proposed corridors of the surveys. However, e²M has included in their request contingencies for areas that present a moderate or high potential for presence of cultural resources. In areas that present moderate potential, shovel testing would be employed. Shovel testing involves the careful excavation of areas up to 2 feet in diameter and 5 feet in depth. Depending upon the level of perceived potential in an area, shovel tests may be conducted at up to 16 points per mile. Finally, in areas that have a high probability to contain cultural resources and present deep alluvial sediments, backhoe trenching may be required. Ditches would be up to 33 feet deep, approximately 3.5 feet wide, and may extend for up to 60 feet in length. Backhoe trenching would be the last option utilized for documenting cultural resources. The cultural resources surveys are scheduled to commence as soon as possible (pending the issuance of a special use permit) and would be conducted over a 10-day period. Follow-up surveys to further investigate and/or archive sites potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places may be required. Any collections of cultural resources would require the issuance of a permit under the Archeological Resources Protection Act and the Antiquities Act. This permit is issued by the Regional Director.

Availability of Resources: No additional fiscal resources will be needed due to this use as long as surveys are carried out utilizing pedestrian surveys (only). If areas are identified during the surveys that indicate moderate or high potential cultural resources, additional fiscal and staff resources may be required. The LRGVNWR staff will provide oversight during all aspects of the investigation to ensure compatibility stipulations are met, and to insure permit compliance with on-refuge work. The effort required to issue and oversee the special use permit can be accomplished

with existing resources as long as pedestrian-only surveys are employed. More intensive surveys for moderate to high potential sites will require additional staff and fiscal resources as well as permits.

Anticipated Impacts of the Use: Cultural resource surveys conducted by e²M will be conducted on foot or using existing trails or roads within each of the listed Refuge tracts. Vehicles will be permitted only on existing roads and only hand-trimming of tree branches will be authorized. Cultural resource surveys will disturb and temporarily displace wildlife but this affect is expected to be temporal and insignificant. Surveys would occur during daylight hours only and would not affect nocturnal species. Due to the methods employed in areas of low potential for cultural resources, there should be little if any damage to wildlife or vegetation. This use is expected to have negligible impacts to Refuge resources. However, upon the identification of moderate to high potential sites by the contractor and proposals to utilize hand digging and/or heavy equipment, amended special use permits or archeological permits will be required. These amended permits or archeological permits may contain additional stipulations as necessary to protect wildlife and vegetation. It is also possible that activities prescribed for moderate or high potential sites would not be permitted. Depending on the proposed action, it may be necessary to reevaluate this Compatibility Determination. If a new Compatibility Determination is required, it would include additional public comment.

Public Review and Comment: Public notices of the Draft Compatibility Determination will be advertised in local newspapers (*The Valley Morning Star, Brownsville Herald, The Monitor, The Rio Grande Guardian Times).* Comments will be received from November 5 through November 19, 2007. All comments must be written and received via mail, email or delivered in person to the Santa Ana Refuge Headquarters.

Determination (check one below):

___ Use is Not Compatible

_X_ Use is Compatible with Following Stipulations

Stipulations Necessary to Ensure Compatibility:

Prior to the implementation of the project:

1. No work will begin without obtaining a Special Use Permit from the Refuge Manager. Daily work activities will be closely coordinated with the LRGVNWR Refuge Manager regarding particular sites/locations and access routes.
2. Vegetated areas will be surveyed on foot only.
3. Vegetation may be cut using hand tools only and only for the purpose of conducting the survey.
4. No digging with shovels or heavy equipment is permitted without prior consultation with the Refuge Manager.
5. All efforts will be made to recognize and avoid terrestrial wildlife to reduce the risk of unnecessary mortality.
6. While work is being conducted, vehicles and equipment must remain on designated Refuge roads. No off-road access is permitted. Vehicles will not be permitted on Refuge roads

during wet conditions.

7. All survey personnel will be accompanied by Refuge Law Enforcement Officers (as available) or Border Patrol Agents when present on Refuge lands.
8. All other stipulations and/or rules from *General Conditions and Operating Procedures While on the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge* will be strictly adhered to.

Justification: Though the overall objective of these surveys is to gather cultural resource information related to the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and identification of endangered and threatened species related to Section 7 (Endangered Species) Consultation for the future construction of the Border Fence, these surveys have the potential to provide much needed cultural resource information to the Refuge. Little information is currently available to the Refuge Staff regarding the presence or absence of cultural resources on these Refuge tracts. Gathering of cultural resource data on Refuge tracts is important, and can be useful baseline information for Refuge Managers and Biologists assigned to the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Service Policy related to cultural resources is established in Service Manual 614 FW 1-5. Under Section 1.2 Objectives, A. the objectives for managing cultural resources are to: "Protect, maintain, and plan for the use of Service managed cultural resources for the benefit of present and future generations." The Santa Ana/Lower Rio Grande Valley Comprehensive Conservation Plan goals and objectives include: 5.4 Cultural Resources. GOAL: "to protect, maintain, and plan for Service managed cultural resources on the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Santa Ana NWR for the benefit of present and future generations." Objectives: 1. "Coordinate with the SHPO to identify cultural resources on the refuge. Evaluate the status of new sites such as the Casa Yanqui ruins in the Starr County District and submit for additional protection (i.e., National Register) if necessary." These cultural resource surveys will not materially interfere with or detract from the purposes of the Refuge and have the potential to add to the Refuge's basic understanding and knowledge of the resources present on Refuge lands. Methods and procedures specified in the proposed use are not likely to significantly impact wildlife or wildlife habitat within the Refuge. The fact that these surveys are related to potential future construction of a Border Fence on Refuge lands is not considered a factor in determining whether the use is Compatible.

Signature: Project Leader___ _____
(Signature and Date)

Concurrence: Regional Chief _____
(Signature and Date)

Mandatory 10- or 15-year Re-Evaluation Date: __November 20, 2017__
Fish and Wildlife Service policy states that after November 17, 2002 no uses on a refuge will be permitted for a period longer than 10 years, unless the terms and conditions for such long-term permits (e.g., easements) specifically allows for the modification to the terms and conditions of the permit, if necessary, to ensure compatibility.

Signature: Project Leader Kenneth F. Merritt 11/28/07
(Signature and Date)

Concurrence: Regional Chief [signature] 11-30-07
(Signature and Date)

Mandatory 10- or 15-year Re-Evaluation Date: Not Applicable
Fish and Wildlife Service policy states that after November 17, 2002 no uses on a refuge will be permitted for a period longer than 10 years, unless the terms and conditions for such long-term permits (e.g., easements) specifically allows for the modification to the terms and conditions of the permit, if necessary, to ensure compatibility.

Nov 07

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COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

Use: engineering-environmental Management (e^2M) proposes to conduct natural resource surveys on fourteen (14) Refuge tracts within the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (LRGVNWR). These surveys are directly associated with determining the environmental impact(s) of the proposed Border Fence (PF-225) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas.

Refuge Name: Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Refuge tracts likely to be surveyed: Arroyo Ramirez, Los Negros Creek, Rio San Juan, Los Velas, Los Ebanos, Penitas, Granjeno, Monterrey Banco, La Coma, Rosario Banco, Kiskadee, Phillips Banco, Boscaje de La Palma, and Southmost.

Establishing and Acquisition Authorities:

- Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 [16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)], [16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(1)]
- An Act Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife, or other purposes [16 U.S.C. 667b]
- Refuge Recreation Act, as amended [16 U.S.C. 460k-1], [16 U.S.C. 460k-2]
- Migratory Bird Conservation Act [16 U.S.C. 715d]
- National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997

Refuge Purpose(s): As excerpted from the enabling legislation used to authorize the acquisition of the Refuge, the following are the Refuge purposes:

"... for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources ..." [16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)] "... for the benefit of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in performing its activities and services. Such acceptance may be subject to the terms of any restrictive or affirmative covenant, or condition of servitude ..." [16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(1)] (Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956)

"... particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program." [16 U.S.C. 667b] (An Act Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife, or other purposes)

"... suitable for: (1) incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of endangered species or threatened species ..." [16 U.S.C. 460k-1] "... the Secretary ... may accept and use ... real ... property. Such acceptance may be accomplished under the terms and conditions of restrictive covenants imposed by donors ..." [16 U.S.C. 460k-2] (Refuge Recreation Act [16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4], as amended)

"... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds." [16 U.S.C. 715d] (Migratory Bird Conservation Act)

The Lower Rio Grande Valley and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuges Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) of 1997 satisfies the CCP requirement of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 and identifies the following five goals of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge:

- To restore, enhance and protect biological diversity.
- To protect and obtain additional water rights, improve water management, and protect, restore and enhance wetlands.
- To improve water quality and reduce contaminant related fish and wildlife resource losses.
- To protect, maintain and plan for cultural resources.
- To offer compatible wildlife dependent public uses, recreational opportunities, and interpretation and education.

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission: "The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."

Description of Use: engineering-environmental Management, Inc. (e^2M) would conduct natural resource surveys within fourteen tracts (listed above) of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The surveys would begin upon the granting of a special use permit for this use by the Refuge. Surveyors would walk the entire accessible length of the proposed fence segment on each of the Refuge tracts, and examine in more detail areas containing unique species compositions or habitat that might be conducive to sensitive species. Plot data (GPS) coordinates, photographs, and plant community composition would be recorded at regular intervals along the proposed fence site and where plant communities present substantial shifts in species composition. These data would be used to generate vegetation classifications and maps to support delineation of habitat types, analysis of potential sensitive species occurrences, and analysis of potential project impacts to biological resources. These surveys would be observational only. Information would also be gathered related to wetland delineation. Minor digging may be required to determine the presence of hydric soils.

Availability of Resources: No additional fiscal resources will be needed due to this use. The proposed work will be completed by e^2M (contracted by the Corps of Engineers – Fort Worth District) and is expected to be completed within a 10-day period. LRGVNWR staff will provide oversight during all aspects of the activity to ensure special use permit requirements are carried out. The effort required to issue and oversee the Special Use Permit can be accomplished with existing resources.

Anticipated Impacts of the Use: Natural resource surveys conducted by e^2M will be conducted on foot or using existing roads within each of the Refuge tracts. Vehicles will be permitted only on existing roads and no clearing or cutting of vegetation will be needed. Natural resource surveys will disturb and temporarily displace wildlife but this affect is expected to be temporal and insignificant. Surveys would occur during daylight hours only and would not affect nocturnal species. Due to the methods employed, there should be little if any damage to wildlife or vegetation.

Public Review and Comment: Public notices of the availability of the Draft Compatibility Determination (for review) will be advertised in local newspapers (*The Valley Morning Star, Brownsville Herald, The Monitor, The Rio Grande Guardian Times*). Written comments will be received from November 5 through November 19, 2007. All comments must be received via mail, email or delivered in person to the Santa Ana Refuge Headquarters.

Determination (check one below):

___ Use is Not Compatible

_X_ Use is Compatible with Following Stipulations

Stipulations Necessary to Ensure Compatibility:

Prior to the implementation of the project:

1. No work will begin without obtaining a Special Use Permit from the Refuge Manager. Daily work activities will be closely coordinated with the LRGVNWR Refuge Manager regarding particular sites/locations and access routes.
2. Vegetated areas will be surveyed by foot only.
3. All efforts will be made to recognize and avoid terrestrial wildlife to reduce the risk of accidental mortality.
4. While work is being conducted, vehicles and equipment must remain on designated Refuge roads. No off-road vehicle access is permitted. Vehicles will not be permitted on Refuge roads during wet conditions.
5. Survey work is authorized during daylight hours only.
6. Cutting or clearing of Refuge vegetation is prohibited.
7. All survey personnel will be accompanied by Refuge Law Enforcement Officers (as available) or Border Patrol agents when present on Refuge lands.
8. All other stipulations and/or rules from *General Conditions and Operating Procedures While on the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge* will be strictly adhered to.

Justification: Though the overall objective of these surveys is to gather biological information related to the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and identification of endangered and threatened species related to Section 7 (Endangered Species) Consultation for the future construction of a border fence, these surveys have the potential to provide much needed biological information to the Refuge. Little information is currently available to the Refuge staff regarding the presence or absence of plant and animal species on these Refuge tracts. Gathering of biological resource data on Refuge tracts is important, and can be useful baseline information for Refuge Managers and Biologists assigned to the LRGVNWR. Conducting natural resource surveys on specific tracts of the LRGVNWR is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (est. 9/24/97). Under Section 5.1 B. Research Objectives (1.) states: "Conduct floral and faunal inventories throughout the area of ecological concern and develop monitoring strategies to detect significant population trends." Section 5.1 C. Endangered Species Objectives (1.) states "Monitor populations of threatened and endangered floral and faunal species on refuge tracts and throughout the area of ecological concern. Use GIS and Global Positioning Systems to document locations of populations of species of management concern." These natural resource surveys will not materially interfere with or detract from the purposes of the Refuge and have the potential to add to our basic understanding and knowledge of the resources present on Refuge lands. Methods and procedures specified in the proposed use are not likely to significantly impact wildlife or wildlife habitat within the Refuge. The fact that these surveys are related to potential future construction of a border fence on Refuge lands is not considered a factor in determining whether this use is Compatible.

Signature: Project Leader___ _____
(Signature and Date)

Concurrence: Regional Chief _____
(Signature and Date)

Mandatory 10- or 15-year Re-Evaluation Date: __November 20, 2017__
Fish and Wildlife Service policy states that after November 17, 2002 no uses on a refuge will be permitted for a period longer than 10 years, unless the terms and conditions for such long-term permits (e.g., easements) specifically allows for the modification to the terms and conditions of the permit, if necessary, to ensure compatibility.

Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (est. 9/24/97). Under Section 5.1 B. Research Objectives (1.) states: "Conduct floral and faunal inventories throughout the area of ecological concern and develop monitoring strategies to detect significant population trends." Section 5.1 C. Endangered Species Objectives (1.) states "Monitor populations of threatened and endangered floral and faunal species on refuge tracts and throughout the area of ecological concern. Use GIS and Global Positioning Systems to document locations of populations of species of management concern." These natural resource surveys will not materially interfere with or detract from the purposes of the Refuge and have the potential to add to our basic understanding and knowledge of the resources present on Refuge lands. Methods and procedures specified in the proposed use are not likely to significantly impact wildlife or wildlife habitat within the Refuge. The fact that these surveys are related to potential future construction of a border fence on Refuge lands is not considered a factor in determining whether this use is Compatible.

Signature: Project Leader Kenneth L. Merritt 11/28/07
(Signature and Date)

Concurrence: Regional Chief Chris Sp 11-30-07
(Signature and Date)

Mandatory 10- or 15-year Re-Evaluation Date: Not Applicable
Fish and Wildlife Service policy states that after November 17, 2002 no uses on a refuge will be permitted for a period longer than 10 years, unless the terms and conditions for such long-term permits (e.g., easements) specifically allows for the modification to the terms and conditions of the permit, if necessary, to ensure compatibility.

Nov 07

DRAFT
COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

Use: engineering-environmental Management, Inc. (e^2M) proposes to conduct cultural resources surveys on fourteen (14) Refuge tracts within the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (LRGVNWR). These surveys are directly associated with determining the environmental impact(s) of the proposed Border Fence (PF-225) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas.

Refuge Name: Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Refuge tracts likely to be surveyed: Arroyo Ramirez, Los Negros Creek, Rio San Juan, Granjeno, Kiskadee, Penitas, Los Velas, Los Ebanos, Monterrey Banco, La Coma, Rosario Banco, Phillips Banco, Boscaje de La Palma, and Southmost.

Establishing and Acquisition Authorities:

- Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 [16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)], [16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(1)]
- An Act Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife, or other purposes [16 U.S.C. 667b]
- Refuge Recreation Act, as amended [16 U.S.C. 460k-1], [16 U.S.C. 460k-2]
- Migratory Bird Conservation Act [16 U.S.C. 715d]
- National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997

Refuge Purpose(s): As excerpted from the enabling legislation used to authorize the acquisition of the Refuge, the following are the Refuge purposes:

"... for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources ..." [16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)] "... for the benefit of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in performing its activities and services. Such acceptance may be subject to the terms of any restrictive or affirmative covenant, or condition of servitude ..." [16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(1)] (Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956)

"... particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program." [16 U.S.C. 667b] (An Act Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife, or other purposes)

"... suitable for: (1) incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of endangered species or threatened species ..." [16 U.S.C. 460k-1] "... the Secretary ... may accept and use ... real ... property. Such acceptance may be accomplished under the terms and conditions of restrictive covenants imposed by donors ..." [16 U.S.C. 460k-2] (Refuge Recreation Act [16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4], as amended)

"... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds." [16 U.S.C. 715d] (Migratory Bird Conservation Act)

The Lower Rio Grande Valley and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuges Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) of 1997 satisfies the CCP requirement of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 and identifies the following five goals of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge:

- To restore, enhance and protect biological diversity.
- To protect and obtain additional water rights, improve water management, and protect, restore and enhance wetlands.
- To improve water quality and reduce contaminant related fish and wildlife resource losses.
- To protect, maintain and plan for cultural resources.
- To offer compatible wildlife dependent public uses, recreational opportunities, and interpretation and education.

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission: "The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."

Description of Proposed Use:

Cultural Resources Surveys

e²M has been tasked by the Corps of Engineers – Fort Worth District, with conducting cultural resources surveys within the above listed Refuge tracts. The nature of the cultural resources survey would depend upon the potential of the specific portion of the alignment to contain cultural resources. The least invasive approach, which would be used for areas determined to have low potential for cultural resources, would be simple pedestrian surveys of all the identified alignments. There are no known cultural resource sites within the proposed corridors of the surveys. However, e²M has included in their request contingencies for areas that present a moderate or high potential for presence of cultural resources. In areas that present moderate potential, shovel testing would be employed. Shovel testing involves the careful excavation of areas up to 2 feet in diameter and 5 feet in depth. Depending upon the level of perceived potential in an area, shovel tests may be conducted at up to 16 points per mile. Finally, in areas that have a high probability to contain cultural resources and present deep alluvial sediments, backhoe trenching may be required. Ditches would be up to 33 feet deep, approximately 3.5 feet wide, and may extend for up to 60 feet in length. Backhoe trenching would be the last option utilized for documenting cultural resources. The cultural resources surveys are scheduled to commence as soon as possible (pending the issuance of a special use permit) and would be conducted over a 10-day period. Follow-up surveys to further investigate and/or archive sites potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places may be required. Any collections of cultural resources would require the issuance of a permit under the Archeological Resources Protection Act and the Antiquities Act. This permit is issued by the Regional Director.

Availability of Resources: No additional fiscal resources will be needed due to this use as long as surveys are carried out utilizing pedestrian surveys (only). If areas are identified during the surveys that indicate moderate or high potential cultural resources, additional fiscal and staff resources may be required. The LRGVNWR staff will provide oversight during all aspects of the investigation to ensure compatibility stipulations are met, and to insure permit compliance with on-refuge work. The effort required to issue and oversee the special use permit can be accomplished

with existing resources as long as pedestrian-only surveys are employed. More intensive surveys for moderate to high potential sites will require additional staff and fiscal resources as well as permits.

Anticipated Impacts of the Use: Cultural resource surveys conducted by e²M will be conducted on foot or using existing trails or roads within each of the listed Refuge tracts. Vehicles will be permitted only on existing roads and only hand-trimming of tree branches will be authorized. Cultural resource surveys will disturb and temporarily displace wildlife but this affect is expected to be temporal and insignificant. Surveys would occur during daylight hours only and would not affect nocturnal species. Due to the methods employed in areas of low potential for cultural resources, there should be little if any damage to wildlife or vegetation. This use is expected to have negligible impacts to Refuge resources. However, upon the identification of moderate to high potential sites by the contractor and proposals to utilize hand digging and/or heavy equipment, amended special use permits or archeological permits will be required. These amended permits or archeological permits may contain additional stipulations as necessary to protect wildlife and vegetation. It is also possible that activities prescribed for moderate or high potential sites would not be permitted. Depending on the proposed action, it may be necessary to reevaluate this Compatibility Determination. If a new Compatibility Determination is required, it would include additional public comment.

Public Review and Comment: Public notices of the Draft Compatibility Determination will be advertised in local newspapers (*The Valley Morning Star, Brownsville Herald, The Monitor, The Rio Grande Guardian Times).* Comments will be received from November 5 through November 19, 2007. All comments must be written and received via mail, email or delivered in person to the Santa Ana Refuge Headquarters.

Determination (check one below):

___ Use is Not Compatible

_X_ Use is Compatible with Following Stipulations

Stipulations Necessary to Ensure Compatibility:

Prior to the implementation of the project:

1. No work will begin without obtaining a Special Use Permit from the Refuge Manager. Daily work activities will be closely coordinated with the LRGVNWR Refuge Manager regarding particular sites/locations and access routes.
2. Vegetated areas will be surveyed on foot only.
3. Vegetation may be cut using hand tools only and only for the purpose of conducting the survey.
4. No digging with shovels or heavy equipment is permitted without prior consultation with the Refuge Manager.
5. All efforts will be made to recognize and avoid terrestrial wildlife to reduce the risk of unnecessary mortality.
6. While work is being conducted, vehicles and equipment must remain on designated Refuge roads. No off-road access is permitted. Vehicles will not be permitted on Refuge roads

during wet conditions.

7. All survey personnel will be accompanied by Refuge Law Enforcement Officers (as available) or Border Patrol Agents when present on Refuge lands.
8. All other stipulations and/or rules from *General Conditions and Operating Procedures While on the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge* will be strictly adhered to.

Justification: Though the overall objective of these surveys is to gather cultural resource information related to the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and identification of endangered and threatened species related to Section 7 (Endangered Species) Consultation for the future construction of the Border Fence, these surveys have the potential to provide much needed cultural resource information to the Refuge. Little information is currently available to the Refuge Staff regarding the presence or absence of cultural resources on these Refuge tracts. Gathering of cultural resource data on Refuge tracts is important, and can be useful baseline information for Refuge Managers and Biologists assigned to the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Service Policy related to cultural resources is established in Service Manual 614 FW 1-5. Under Section 1.2 Objectives, A. the objectives for managing cultural resources are to: "Protect, maintain, and plan for the use of Service managed cultural resources for the benefit of present and future generations." The Santa Ana/Lower Rio Grande Valley Comprehensive Conservation Plan goals and objectives include: 5.4 Cultural Resources. GOAL: "to protect, maintain, and plan for Service managed cultural resources on the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Santa Ana NWR for the benefit of present and future generations." Objectives: 1. "Coordinate with the SHPO to identify cultural resources on the refuge. Evaluate the status of new sites such as the Casa Yanqui ruins in the Starr County District and submit for additional protection (i.e., National Register) if necessary." These cultural resource surveys will not materially interfere with or detract from the purposes of the Refuge and have the potential to add to the Refuge's basic understanding and knowledge of the resources present on Refuge lands. Methods and procedures specified in the proposed use are not likely to significantly impact wildlife or wildlife habitat within the Refuge. The fact that these surveys are related to potential future construction of a Border Fence on Refuge lands is not considered a factor in determining whether the use is Compatible.

Signature: Project Leader___ _____
(Signature and Date)

Concurrence: Regional Chief _____
(Signature and Date)

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Signature: Project Leader Kenneth F. Merritt 11/28/07
(Signature and Date)

Concurrence: Regional Chief [signature] 11-30-07
(Signature and Date)

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Availability of Resources: No additional fiscal resources will be needed due to this use. The proposed work will be completed by e^2M (contracted by the Corps of Engineers – Fort Worth District) and is expected to be completed within a 10-day period. LRGVNWR staff will provide oversight during all aspects of the activity to ensure special use permit requirements are carried out. The effort required to issue and oversee the Special Use Permit can be accomplished with existing resources.

Anticipated Impacts of the Use: Natural resource surveys conducted by e^2M will be conducted on foot or using existing roads within each of the Refuge tracts. Vehicles will be permitted only on existing roads and no clearing or cutting of vegetation will be needed. Natural resource surveys will disturb and temporarily displace wildlife but this affect is expected to be temporal and insignificant. Surveys would occur during daylight hours only and would not affect nocturnal species. Due to the methods employed, there should be little if any damage to wildlife or vegetation.

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Determination (check one below):

___ Use is Not Compatible

_X_ Use is Compatible with Following Stipulations

Stipulations Necessary to Ensure Compatibility:

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2. Vegetated areas will be surveyed by foot only.
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4. While work is being conducted, vehicles and equipment must remain on designated Refuge roads. No off-road vehicle access is permitted. Vehicles will not be permitted on Refuge roads during wet conditions.
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Justification: Though the overall objective of these surveys is to gather biological information related to the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and identification of endangered and threatened species related to Section 7 (Endangered Species) Consultation for the future construction of a border fence, these surveys have the potential to provide much needed biological information to the Refuge. Little information is currently available to the Refuge staff regarding the presence or absence of plant and animal species on these Refuge tracts. Gathering of biological resource data on Refuge tracts is important, and can be useful baseline information for Refuge Managers and Biologists assigned to the LRGVNWR. Conducting natural resource surveys on specific tracts of the LRGVNWR is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (est. 9/24/97). Under Section 5.1 B. Research Objectives (1.) states: "Conduct floral and faunal inventories throughout the area of ecological concern and develop monitoring strategies to detect significant population trends." Section 5.1 C. Endangered Species Objectives (1.) states "Monitor populations of threatened and endangered floral and faunal species on refuge tracts and throughout the area of ecological concern. Use GIS and Global Positioning Systems to document locations of populations of species of management concern." These natural resource surveys will not materially interfere with or detract from the purposes of the Refuge and have the potential to add to our basic understanding and knowledge of the resources present on Refuge lands. Methods and procedures specified in the proposed use are not likely to significantly impact wildlife or wildlife habitat within the Refuge. The fact that these surveys are related to potential future construction of a border fence on Refuge lands is not considered a factor in determining whether this use is Compatible.

Signature: Project Leader___ _____
(Signature and Date)

Concurrence: Regional Chief _____
(Signature and Date)

Mandatory 10- or 15-year Re-Evaluation Date: __November 20, 2017__
Fish and Wildlife Service policy states that after November 17, 2002 no uses on a refuge will be permitted for a period longer than 10 years, unless the terms and conditions for such long-term permits (e.g., easements) specifically allows for the modification to the terms and conditions of the permit, if necessary, to ensure compatibility.

Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (est. 9/24/97). Under Section 5.1 B. Research Objectives (1.) states: "Conduct floral and faunal inventories throughout the area of ecological concern and develop monitoring strategies to detect significant population trends." Section 5.1 C. Endangered Species Objectives (1.) states "Monitor populations of threatened and endangered floral and faunal species on refuge tracts and throughout the area of ecological concern. Use GIS and Global Positioning Systems to document locations of populations of species of management concern." These natural resource surveys will not materially interfere with or detract from the purposes of the Refuge and have the potential to add to our basic understanding and knowledge of the resources present on Refuge lands. Methods and procedures specified in the proposed use are not likely to significantly impact wildlife or wildlife habitat within the Refuge. The fact that these surveys are related to potential future construction of a border fence on Refuge lands is not considered a factor in determining whether this use is Compatible.

Signature: Project Leader Kenneth L. Merritt 11/28/07
(Signature and Date)

Concurrence: Regional Chief Chris Sp 11-30-07
(Signature and Date)

Mandatory 10- or 15-year Re-Evaluation Date: Not Applicable
Fish and Wildlife Service policy states that after November 17, 2002 no uses on a refuge will be permitted for a period longer than 10 years, unless the terms and conditions for such long-term permits (e.g., easements) specifically allows for the modification to the terms and conditions of the permit, if necessary, to ensure compatibility.

Background Information Regarding a Border Wall Along the Last 275 Miles of the Rio Grande

1. The proposed wall could include:

- 86 miles of physical barrier on National Wildlife Refuges, State Parks, many other refuges and parks owned by Audubon, Nature Conservancy and NABA, and private lands along the Rio Grande between Falcon Dam in Starr County and the Gulf of Mexico in Cameron County
- Clearing of brush along the river up to 150' in width where construction of the wall will take place
- A road suitable for driving up to 50 miles per hour along the wall

2. The proposed wall could affect:

- Establishment of eminent domain on private lands along the river for private landowners unwilling to sell
- Complete prevention of access to the river from the wall, meaning no access for farmers and ranchers whose livelihoods depend on the water rights they have purchased
- No access for wildlife enthusiasts interested in wildlife watching, canoeing, kayaking, and hiking along the river. Eco-tourism brings more than $125 million to the RGV annually from 200,000 eco-tourists, creating 2,500 jobs in the local economy
- Destroying a 25 year effort to restore the river wildlife corridor. Approximately $70 million has been spent on land acquisition and $20 million on re-forestation efforts. Thousands of school children and other volunteers have planted thousands of native plants and trees. Dozens of local, state and federal entities and organizations have partnered to create the Wildlife Corridor
- Very rare species of birds and other animals that are only found in the Rio Grande Valley in the U.S. which are species highly valued by eco-tourist. I.e.: Brown Jay, Muscovy Duck
- Both endangered and threatened species listed by the federal government and state uses the riparian habitat and would face possible extinction or extirpation. I.e.: Ocelot, Jaguarundi,
- No access to drinking water for wildlife unable to breach the wall
- No access to habitats across the river (and/or just across the wall) for wildlife, leaving them in isolated communities creating genetic gridlock and promoting extirpation and/or extinction
- Many historical and archeological sites with national and international significance

3. Border Fence Legislation facts:

- Section 102 of the 2005 REAL ID Act states: "…the Secretary of Homeland Security shall have the authority to waive, and shall waive, all laws such Secretary, in such Secretary sole's discretion, determines necessary to ensure expeditious construction of the barriers and roads under this section", which is to say that Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff has the power to wave any and all federal laws, including the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act and more in the name of homeland security
- The *Secure Fence Act of 2006* directs Department of Homeland Security to:
    - Take all actions necessary to achieve and maintain control over international borders within 18 months.
    - Construct at least two layers of reinforced fencing and additional physical barriers, roads, cameras, sensors and lighting on 700 linear miles along specific areas of the Mexican border.
    - Construct 370 miles of physical fence before the end of 2008, including 153 miles in Texas, 129 in Arizona, and 12 in New Mexico, while California gets 76

4. Talking Points for Texas Senators Hutchison and Cornyn:

- Thank you for your recent efforts to amend S. 1348, the immigration reform bill, to require the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to take into consideration the concerns

raised by states, local governments, and property owners in places where a wall would be constructed

- Requiring DHS to consult with state, local, and tribal officials, as well as land management agencies, before wall construction is an important component missing from the Secure Fence Act of 2006 and the Real ID Act
- I am still concerned because the amendment still requires the DHS to construct 700 miles of wall along the border.
- The new legislation needs to allow DHS to choose the type of barriers best used, which would allow for a smart fence. Current legislation only specifies and allows for a wall.
- In addition, per the REAL ID Act, DHS still has the authority to waive any and all regulations and laws

5. Talking Points for United States Congresspersons:

- Please support any legislation or amendments to any legislation that:
    - Requires DHS to consult with state, local, and tribal officials, as well as land management agencies, before wall construction. This is an important component missing from the Secure Fence Act of 2006 and the Real ID Act
    - Allows DHS to choose the type of barriers best used, which would allow for a smart fence. Current legislation only specifies and allows for a wall.
    - Would modify the Secure Fence Act of 2006 and allow DHS to replace the proposed wall with a smart fence
    - Repeals the REAL ID Act. DHS still has the authority to waive any and all regulations and laws which spells disaster for farmers, ranchers, nature tourists, recreational opportunities, wildlife and habitats

- With the use of advanced technology, a smart fence would:
    - Use the most recent technology that would help keep agents and those they apprehend safer by allowing them to detect undocumented migrants well in advance of any encounter
    - Eliminate concerns of livestock and wildlife having access to the river, thereby eliminating the legitimate concerns of cattle ranchers, farmers and conservationists
    - Allow for the continuation of the thriving nature tourism and hunting industry in the impoverished region of South Texas
    - Save tax-payer dollars since there would be no purchasing of property, clearing and/or maintaining dense brush, and construction and long-term maintenance of the fence

- While a smart fence is not without its problems, a wall is simply not effective in the effort to stop or even curb illegal immigration

- When writing use all the points listed in sections 1-3 as well

6. What You Can Do:

- Write, Fax, E-mail and Call all your U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives using the above info
- Write, Fax, E-mail and Call all your Texas State Senators and Representatives using the same info urging them to get involved
- Forward this to anyone with an interest in conservation, human rights and private property rights
- Forward this fact sheet to as many people you know nation wide and encourage them to get involved
- Keep the issue alive by forwarding articles and videos posted on the list serve to as many people you know nation wide
- Join the Yahoo's listserve -- NoBorderWall

- Take a stand! Keep informed; attend meetings; question your elected officials and let them know you do not support a wall; talk to your neighbors; participate in protests; and help spread the word!!!

7. Some of the Many Wildlife Refuges & Parks That Could Be Affected –

Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR: The LRGV NWR is a 90,000 acre refuge found on the most southern tip of Texas. This wildlife corridor refuge follows the Rio Grande along its last stretch and includes 70+ miles of river front. Taxpayers have spent $90M since 1979 in land acquisitions and restorations for what is considered one of the most biologically diverse areas in North America. The 11 distinct ecosystems found here are host or home to over 1,100 plant species and 700 vertebrates (of which 513 are birds) and 20 threatened and endangered species.

Santa Ana NWR: This 2,088 acre refuge is considered the 'jewel' of the Refuge System with a documented 407 species of birds. Bird watchers from all 50 states and 35 countries come here to see species found no where else in the United States, including the Green Jay, Chachalaca, Great Kiskadee, Altamira Oriole and more.

Sabal Palms Audubon Sanctuary:

NABA Butterfly Park:

Bentsen State Park & World Birding Center:

Roma World Birding Center:

TNC Chihuahuan Woods:

TNC Southmost Preserve:

8. Elected Officials

To find your federal elected officials: www.senate.gov and www.house.gov

To find your Texas State elected officials:
http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/citizenResources/ContactLeg.html

TEXAS RESIDENTS
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4304
Phone: 202-224-5922
Fax: 202-224-0776

The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Tel: 202-224-2934
Fax: 202-228-2856

SOUTH TEXAS RESIDENTS

The Honorable Solomon P. Ortiz
U.S. House of Representatives
2110 Rayburn HOB
Washington DC 20515
Phone: (202)225-7742
Fax: (202) 226-1134

The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2531
Fax: (202)225-5688

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
336 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
phone: 202-225-1640
fax: 202-225-1641

The Honorable Ciro D. Rodriguez
2458 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-4511

June 29, 2007

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge Lands Directly and Indirectly Affected by the Proposed Border Fence Plans

Bryan Winton, Refuge Manager

Current Refuge Acreage Total (not including lands managed by Laguna Atascosa NWR) = **83,193.9** acres

Refuge Lands to be Directly (Physically) Impacted by the Fence = **4,606.23** acres
5.5% of total refuge acreage)

Refuge Lands to be Directly and Indirectly Impacted by the Fence = **61,165.44** acres
73.5% of total refuge acreage)

Refuge Lands Arguably Not Affected by the Proposed Fence = **22,028.46** acres
Includes:

Los Olmos	*= 1,424.9 acres*
Monte Cristo	*= 2,701.62 acres*
Goodfields	*= 358.68 acres*
Tiocano Lake	*= 435.94 acres*
Thompson Road	*= 30.0 acres*
Willamar	*= 1,162.22 acres*
San Perlita	*= 272.42 acres*
El Jardin	*= 209.03 acres*
Lozano	*= 42.09 acres*
Las Yescas	*= 20.09 acres*
Lantana	*= 34.81 acres*
Mercedes	*= 37.36 acres*
Noreiga	*= 200.0 acres*
Fish Hatchery	*= 249.1 acres*

<u>Un-measurable Impacts Associated with the Proposed Border Fence</u>:

1. Impact to refuge lands located south of the fence but north of the river (no man's land)
2. Impact to refuge lands NOT fenced (future traffic may be directed/magnified there)
3. Impact to refuge resources caused by additional roads on lands with Fence (roadkill)
   - fence will hinder mammal movements; mammals will follow the fence seeking an opening making there proximity to the newly created roads next to the fence troublesomely close.
4. Impact to migratory birds due to "fence habitat" which will expand suitability to nest parasitizers
5. Impacts are contingent upon design of fence. Proper fence design that will allow small/med mammals to pass but impedes human traffic, could render the fence much less harmful.

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge Tracts directly affected by the Proposed Border Fence
June 30, 2007

Tract Name	*Miles of Fence*[1]	*acres*	*Where Located*	*Problems*
Monterrey Banco	0.075 miles	100.0	west boundary	Bisects property
	0.825 miles		north boundary	access/safety
	0.1875 miles		east boundary	access to water (canal)
La Coma	0.1875 miles	639.24	northern	Bisects property
Rosario Banco	0.4 miles	33.5	central	Bisects property
Culebron Banco	0.25 miles	37.8	east central	Bisects property (water)
Vaqueteria Banco	0.1875 miles	2.69	north boundary (2 tracts)	access/safety
Tahuachal Banco	0.25 miles	175.16	central	Bisects property (cat corridor
Palo Blanco	0.3125 miles	30.02	north boundary	access/safety
Phillips Banco	0.325 miles	336.15	western edge	Bisects property
	0.65 miles		southern boundary	access to water (river)
Jeronimo Banco	0.3 miles	288.04	eastern edge	access/safety
Boscaje de La Palma	0.3125 miles	365.0	north central	Bisects property
	0.3125 miles		north boundary	access/safety
Hidalgo Bend	1.5 miles	519.7	north boundary	access/safety
Pate Bend	1.575 miles	441.81	east boundary	access/safety
Granjeno	0.1 miles	2.62	southern boundary	access to water (river)
Kiskadee WMA	0.1 miles	10.15	central	Bisects property
Penitas	0.75 miles	14.3	north boundary	access/safety
Los Ebanos	0.6 miles	711.78	southern boundary	access to water (river)
	0.15 miles		northern boundary	access/safety
Rio San Juan	0.1 miles	118.39	central	Bisects property (partially)
Los Negros Creek	0.35 miles	111.51	south boundary	access to water (river)
Arroyo Ramirez	1.0 miles	668.37	south boundary	access to water (river)

Total Acreage	4,606.23
Total Miles of Fence	10.8 miles
Bisects Property	2.0 miles
Access/Safety	5.9125 miles
Access to Water by Wildlife	2.8875 miles

Miles of Fence[1-] Miles of Fence for each LRGV NWR Tract were determined by transcribing Round 1 Proposed Border Fence Alignments (provided by fax copies on small-scale topographical maps) onto Refuge GIS Tract Maps. Only those tracts to be directly affected by fence related infrastructure/disturbance are included.

October, 2 2007

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

FROM: Benjamin N. Tuggle, Regional Director, Southwest Region

TELEPHONE #: 505-248-6282

SUBJECT: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Plans for Border Fence in Texas Including Lands within the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

I. SUMMARY

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) met informally at Santa Ana NWR with South Texas Refuge Complex and Corpus Christi Ecological Services (ES) staff on May 4, 2007, and disclosed that 70 miles of border fence will be installed by December 31, 2008, along the southern three counties of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, primarily at international crossings and high traffic areas. A subset of the 70 miles of fenced areas would include lands within the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR.

The COE is performing real estate functions for DHS Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and is contacting private landowners and the Service to coordinate required land transactions. The COE realty staff informed Refuge Complex staff that lands within the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR would be the first to receive fencing because these lands are already federally owned.

On May 29, 2007, local CBP leadership formally met with Refuge Complex and ES to inform the Service of their tentative plans to construct fencing on Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR. Subsequently, local CBP leadership requested a meeting with the Refuge and ES to visit potential Refuge lands that would be affected by the fence. Tentative maps were provided that showed extensive areas along the river on private and Refuge lands that would be fenced. Field visits to western Refuge tracts revealed multiple issues with the construction of a border fence. Issues included barriers to wildlife migration; genetic isolation of wildlife populations, including endangered species; barriers to wildlife for obtaining water; engineering concerns with unstable soils and impeded storm water flows; brushland habitat loss; and staff and visitor security and safety concerns.

On August 31, 2007, Refuge and ES staff met with COE and Border Patrol Representatives to further discuss right-of-way (ROW) issues. COE and Border Patrol were informed of Service policy and procedures for obtaining ROWs as well as Appropriate Refuge Use and Compatibility Determination processes. Subsequently, field visits by DHS, COE, consultants, and Refuge and ES staff were conducted between September 10-13, 2007, to private and Refuge lands. On

September 14, 2007, a meeting was held at the Harlingen, Texas, Border Patrol Headquarters with consultants responsible for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Section 7 Consultation with ES. Engineering-Environmental Management, Inc., and Baker Corporation presented plans to develop the EIS and, in association, to conduct natural resources, cultural resources, and engineering surveys on private and Refuge lands. A full discussion of Appropriate Refuge Use and Compatibility policies and procedures occurred with the consultants and Border Patrol representatives related to access to the Refuge for survey purposes.

II. DISCUSSION

Refuge staff first became aware of a real intent on the part of DHS to construct border fences within the operational jurisdiction of the South Texas Refuge Complex and Corpus Christi ES Office with newspaper articles from Roma, Texas, during the week of April 23, 2007. These newspaper articles covered contacts made by CBP with private landowners in the Roma area. This intention was confirmed in a meeting on April 27, 2007, attended by Congressman Henry Cuellar, (D) Laredo, Texas; City of Roma officials; and Refuge Complex staff. Ecological Services and Refuge staff attended a meeting with COE realty staff on May 4, 2007, where discussions centered on Federal land permit issues related to the border fence.

Local CBP leadership carried out their self-imposed outreach requirements in a meeting with Refuge Complex and ES staff on May 29, 2007. Although CBP leadership confirmed that fencing is coming to the Refuge, no details were released. A subsequent meeting with local CBP leadership was held in the field on June 20, 2007. Maps detailing probable fence sites on the Refuge were presented to the Refuge and several Refuge tracts were visited on the west side. Significant wildlife, engineering, and safety issues were raised during this visit. On July 7, 2007, Congressman Price (D-NC), Congressman Culberson (R-TX), and Congressman Ortiz (D-TX), all members of the House Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee for Homeland Security visited the Refuge on a fact-finding tour.

Refuge Complex and ES concerns regarding border fencing continue to be conveyed to DHS both orally and in writing. Placement and design of the border fence remain unclear as the EIS is prepared, Section 7 Consultations take place, and Refuges and ES convey suggestions for lessening the impacts of the proposed fence on private and Refuge lands. Wetland and cultural resource issues are also unknown at this time but natural resource and cultural resource surveys have been requested by the contractors (subject to Appropriate Refuge Use and Compatibility Determinations on Refuge lands). ES staff continues to work with DHS and their contractors on additional private lands proposed in the State. Discussions during the May 4 meeting with COE indicated that DHS may use its

waiver authority granted under the Real ID Act of 2006 for existing regulations such as the ESA, NEPA, and Refuge Administration Act.

III. MESSAGES AND ANSWERS

Serious, and likely irreparable, wildlife and habitat loss and damage are likely to result from the placement of 70 miles of border fence along the lower Rio Grande River that will include impacts to lands held in trust by the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR. The total number of miles of fence that would be constructed on the Refuge is unclear at this time. Discussions continue with DHS regarding the placement of fences on Refuge lands and work is underway to verify Federal ownership where fencing is proposed on or next to Refuge boundaries. DHS currently estimates 2.5 miles of fence on Refuge lands; however, depending on the actual location and placement of fences, this length of fence on the Refuge may reach up to 10 miles.

Impacts are not limited to Refuge lands with actual fencing. It is very likely that numerous other Refuge tracts (non-fenced) on the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR will be seriously impacted by increased illegal traffic and Border Patrol activities. The overall impacts to the Refuge through direct and indirect effects may reach 60-70 percent of the Refuge. Santa Ana NWR, which is centrally located along the Rio Grande, may also experience similar indirect impacts. There is significant safety, security, and logistical issues for Refuge operations and maintenance included in the placement of a pedestrian-proof fence on Refuge lands.

Of immediate concern is the Appropriate Refuge Use and Compatibility Determination processes related to requests by the DHS contractors to conduct natural, cultural, and engineering surveys on the Refuge (related to the development of an EIS and Section 7 Consultation for the project). The timeframe needed to complete these processes does not allow DHS to fulfill their schedule requirements, and it is very likely that the engineering surveys will be found <u>not</u> an Appropriate Use of the Refuge. Though a significant issue, the impact of not being able to carry-out engineering surveys is small in comparison to the likelihood that the construction of a pedestrian proof fence on the Refuge will be found neither an Appropriate Refuge Use nor a Compatible Use.

PREPARED BY: Benjamin N. Tuggle **DATE:** 10/01/2007
Regional Director, Region 2

APPROVED BY: Benjamin N. Tuggle **DATE:** 10/01/2007
Regional Director, Region 2

Note to Reviewers

This briefing paper was requested by the WO for the Director's testifying before the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans next Tuesday. These will be used for preparation for the hearing.

Matt Huggler is the recipient of the BPs with a copy to ANRS.

For any additional information, please contact: Chris S. Pease
Regional Refuge Chief
505-248-7419

Comments from South Texas Refuge Complex as relates to the Border Fence EIS
11-28-2007

JUSTIFICATION FOR CONCERN:
The primary wildlife conservation strategy for the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (LRGV NWR) is the creation of a wildlife corridor that links numerous isolated habitat fragments. The Refuge currently manages 113 individual tracts totaling 88,044 acres and is authorized to purchase additional lands, up to 132,500 total acres in Cameron, Willacy, Hidalgo and Starr Counties of South Texas.

The protected lands of the Refuge are considered to be one of the most biodiverse in the continental United States. LRGV NWR manages habitats supporting 516 species of birds (more than half of the species sited in the United States and Canada), 300 species of butterflies, 115 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 83 species of mammals known to occur in the lower Rio Grande valley and adjacent Gulf of Mexico coastal waters. Presently, 776 plant species are documented on the LRGV NWR, but an estimate of the total number of plant species occurring in the Refuge's acquisition boundary is placed at 1,200 species. This tremendous biodiversity is in part the result of four converging climates (tropical, coastal, temperate and desert) and the funneling of two migratory flyways (the Central and the Mississippi).

When the project began in 1979, 95% of the lower Rio Grande valley's unique habitat had been eliminated, primarily for agriculture. Land acquisition for LRGV NWR began in 1980 and has included the purchase of existing habitat, as well as strategically located farmland. LRGV NWR prioritizes acquisition of lands along the Rio Grande extending 275 river miles from Falcon Dam to Boca Chica. When possible, parcels are secured that will serve as links connecting separate Refuge tracts (the analogy being that of a chain, with even a single link missing, does not function); inholdings are purchased when possible. Areas that have unique or notable resources, or on which endangered species are known to occur, receive priority for acquisition. LRGV NWR has developed an extensive cooperative farming and revegetation program that restores between 750 and 1,000 acres of farmland per year to native habitat, this in order to create additional wildlife habitat and alleviate habitat fragmentation.

This wildlife corridor Refuge includes the lower Rio Grande valley and adjacent upland regions. To the north lies the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge and the great Texas ranch country with large blocks of intact habitat. Directly to the south are ecologically valuable areas such as the Laguna Madre of Tamaulipas, and the Sierra de los Picachos (in Nuevo Leon), Mexico which are receiving focused conservation attention from the Mexican Government and a number of interested Mexican and U.S. organizations.

More than 25 years into the project, the Fish & Wildlife Service is now seeing great returns on its investment. The earliest restoration efforts have matured to produce habitats that are harboring species of plants and animals that can be seen nowhere else in the United States.

Biological Impacts of Concern:

- An impermeable fence (to illegal human traffic and wildlife) along the Texas border would have adverse effects to approximately 39 listed species and many other trust species (i.e., candidate species, migratory birds, etc.).

- **Potential direct effects** from placement of an impermeable fence along the border:
    - Cessation or restriction of movements within and among populations may isolate small populations or disrupt metapopulation dynamics. Restricting movement would be particularly detrimental for species that rely on connectivity with Mexico for their continued existence in such as the endangered ocelot and jaguarundi.
    - Cessation or reduction in gene flow among or within populations that may result in loss of genetic variability in populations and ultimately reduce the likelihood of species' long-term survival.
    - Habitat reduction, loss, fragmentation, degradation (footprint of fence and road; disruption of hydrological processes by fence and road placement; increased erosion and diminished water quality in riparian and aquatic zones if these areas are not avoided, etc.).
    - Impingement of animals depending on type of fence material.
    - Temporary disturbance to species during construction; ongoing disturbance for maintenance and operations.
    - Potential risks of increased vehicle strikes for ocelots, jaguarundi, birds and bats.
    - International bridges already act as east-west barriers along with highways with median jersey walls and no wildlife crossings in the Rio Grande Valley. The border fence will act as a north-south barrier causing even more species' isolation and fragmentation.
    - Increased lighting at night along the fence will have negative impacts on animals such rodents, frogs, ocelots, and jaguarundi by making them more susceptible to predation. These areas will also be avoided by other species such as neotropical birds searching for nesting sites.
    - In the arid Tamaulipan thornscrub of Starr County and semi-arid areas along the Texas border, the only surface water animals have is the Rio Grande. A border wall would prevent animals from accessing their only water source.
    - Invasive, non-native grasses, which threaten reforestation efforts through competition and volatility, are likely to be exacerbated by the clearing of brush and the establishment of a fence/road corridor.
    - The safety and security of refuge staff conducting refuge operations and management activities south of a Border Fence is a great concern.
    - Long-time security for natural resources south of a Border Fence, which may or may not be safely managed and monitored, is a significant concern.
    - The Refuge experiences a peak of 300 wildfires per year, on average. Fighting wildfire is extremely dangerous, particularly if escape routes are limited due to a Border Fence. Natural Resource protection may be jeopardized due to public safety, or lack thereof, due to the challenges (safety) of fighting wildfires south of a Border Fence.

- The Lower Rio Grande Valley is comprised of over 125 separate and distinct tracts of land that represent what is left of the 5% of remaining Tamaulipan Thornscrub habitat—all that is left in South Texas. Further fragmentation of those "fragments" by a Border Fence greatly jeopardizes this Agency's ability to protect highly sensitive, secretive, and endangered species, like migratory birds, ocelot and jaguarundi.

- **Potential indirect effects** from placement of an impermeable fence along the border:
  - Agreements or Memorandum of Understandings between the Service and various other federal and state agencies in Texas and Mexico have been established after many years of negotiations to establish international wildlife corridors on both sides of the border. Sister parks will be impacted by the border fence and potentially reduce survival rates of the ocelot and jaguarundi in Texas.
  - Biological opinions issued for projects in the Valley that put in place acquisition and management of wildlife corridors and other measures could be fragmented and nullified by a fence.
  - Corridors established by the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge and native habitat restoration activities could be lost or destroyed depending on the placement of the fence.
  - Redirection of illegal traffic to unsecured areas of the border may impact wildlife habitat that is now less disturbed and will definitely affect both Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge and Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Rural fence segments currently proposed to curtail high traffic will only shift problems (immigration, trafficking, smuggling, drugs, etc.) to new areas, presumably to new vegetated areas where cover and concealment is present (most likely on adjacent refuge tracts).
  - Management of areas located behind the fence will hinder responses for fire, wetland management and invasive grass and brush control along the fence and border patrol roads, resulting in a loss of habitat for listed species and prevention of brush restoration.

Alternatives to a Permanent Fence we Recommend for Consideration:

- Alternative technological solutions, such as ground based radar, have been successful in aiding and deterring smuggling activities with minimal impacts to sensitive wildlife populations.
- Construction of permanent vehicle barriers designed to allow for the passage of animals, generally have much fewer impacts on species than pedestrian barriers. Though they still result in certain impacts to species, they do not prevent movement of species and sever connectivity.
- Pedestrian barriers will likely have much fewer impacts on species if they are solely constructed within highly urbanized areas, where fewer trust resources occur. If pedestrian fences are constructed in areas other than highly urbanized areas, fence design should be modified to at a minimum allow for the passage of some species and in a manner that would reduce the likelihood of cat, bird, and bat entrapment or strikes.

DISCUSSION:
The Service has worked for more than 25 years (at an estimated cost of $80 million) along the border to maintain and manage the refuge complex and build additional endangered cat/wildlife corridors through consultation with the International Boundary and Water Commission and partnership with private landowners. A fence could significantly lessen the success of these efforts.

The Lower Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Binational Ecosystem Group has been working with our Mexico counterparts to establish international wildlife corridors between Falcon Dam to Laguna Madre and north and south of the border to connect wildlife corridor linkages to the South Texas Refuge Complex and natural protected areas in Mexico. An MOU with these agencies in the State of Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon, Mexico along with TPWD, TNC, South Texas Refuge Complex, and ES is being reviewed at the RO for signature. It has taken six years to establish this relationship through the Ecosystem Group to get to this agreement. The Laguna Madre Natural Protected Area in Tamaulipas, Mexico wants to enter into an MOU with Laguna Atascosa NWR to establish a sister park and work towards establishing an international wildlife corridor for the endangered ocelot. This corridor will be significantly impacted by the Border Fence.

MAIN DECISION OR MESSAGE:

Serious, and likely irreparable, wildlife and habitat loss and damage, such as severing genetic exchange and blocking access to water, is likely to result from the placement of 70+ miles of border fence along the lower Rio Grande River that includes refuge lands. There are also serious safety and logistical issues for refuge operations and maintenance included in the placement of fence on Refuge lands. Safety for refuge staff, fire fighters, and natural resources south of any future border fence is currently in question, given the limited access points proposed.

Immediate and comprehensive discussions need to take place between DHS, Ecological Services and the Refuges to minimize and mitigate effects of the construction and operation of a border fence along the lower Rio Grande River in Texas.

If it is determined that a fence will be constructed through the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, we recommend that the Border Patrol establish an environmental contact person who represents all 5 Border Patrol Sectors that occur within the Refuge boundary. Currently, the Sectors deal individually and inconsistently with the Service (Refuge). One Border Patrol Environmental voice would eliminate a considerable burden the Service currently faces when dealing with refuge concerns and would be a one-stop shopping approach to addressing other environmental concerns whether they occurred on/off refuge lands.

In addition, over the years, Refuge has witnessed, since its' establishment, the inability of the Border Patrol to conduct repairs to roads and trim encroaching brush, (particularly refuge roads) and B.P. traffic continually ruts up and damages refuge roads. A Border

Fence should not be constructed unless B.P. first establishes a permanent, capable maintenance program to conduct/perform maintenance to new infrastructure and associated access roads on the Refuge. Otherwise, refuge roads and wildlife habitat will undergo serious degradation and both agencies' operational effectiveness will be affected.

BUREAU PERSPECTIVE:
Service leadership should advocate continued involvement by Refuges and Ecological Service in the planning and implementation of a border fence. Point of Contact for South Texas Refuge Complex is Project Leader Ken Merritt (956) 784-7500.

Department of Homeland Security
Excerpts of Talking Points
December 7, 2007

- Secretary Chertoff has committed that DHS will build a total of 370 miles of pedestrian fence along the southwest border by the end of CY 2008.

- By the end of FY 2007, CBP had more than 145 miles of pedestrian fencing completed along the southwest border. By the end of CY 2008, an additional 225 miles will be built, for a total of 370 miles.

- Since May 2007, DHS has engaged in extensive discussions about the placement of the remaining 225 miles of fencing with state and local stakeholders, including landowners, to ensure that our investments effectively balance border security with the diverse needs of those that live in border communities. As part of these outreach efforts, DHS has contacted almost 600 different landowners and held 18 town hall meetings.

- As a result of these outreach efforts, there are many instances where we were able to make modifications to our original plans to accommodate landowner/community concerns/requirements while still meeting our operational needs. Some examples include:

  1. We made numerous alignment changes to the Rio Grande Valley segments to limit impacts to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) National Wildlife Refuge areas, a bird watching observation facility in the City of Roma, and negate the need to relocate approximately 30 residences.

     - The fence alignment at the Roma Port of Entry (POE) was initially proposed to be on top of a 30-foot bluff because we were not sure if it could be built below, due to flood plain issues. During our site visit in September, it was determined that placing the fence at the top of the bluff would impact historical buildings and brought about constructability issues. Building the fence on the bottom of the bluff would also make better operational sense. Based on these findings, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and USFWS agreed that the fence would be placed at the bottom of the bluff.

       U.S. Fish and Wildlife doesn't have any property around the Roma POE but supports the placing of the fence at the base of the bluff with the condition that brush removal will be minimal on both sides of the fence.

       Schematics of this approach will be submitted to International Boundary and Water Commission for approval.

  2. In Del Rio, Texas, we relocated an approximately 2.3 mile segment to negate the need to relocate approximately 10-12 residences.

3. In San Diego, California, we changed the alignment of a segment to significantly reduce the impacts to the Otay Mountain Wilderness area.

Background Information Regarding a Border Wall Along the Last 275 Miles of the Rio Grande

1. The proposed wall could include:

- 86 miles of physical barrier on National Wildlife Refuges, State Parks, many other refuges and parks owned by Audubon, Nature Conservancy and NABA, and private lands along the Rio Grande between Falcon Dam in Starr County and the Gulf of Mexico in Cameron County
- Clearing of brush along the river up to 150' in width where construction of the wall will take place
- A road suitable for driving up to 50 miles per hour along the wall

2. The proposed wall could affect:

- Establishment of eminent domain on private lands along the river for private landowners unwilling to sell
- Complete prevention of access to the river from the wall, meaning no access for farmers and ranchers whose livelihoods depend on the water rights they have purchased
- No access for wildlife enthusiasts interested in wildlife watching, canoeing, kayaking, and hiking along the river. Eco-tourism brings more than $125 million to the RGV annually from 200,000 eco-tourists, creating 2,500 jobs in the local economy
- Destroying a 25 year effort to restore the river wildlife corridor. Approximately $70 million has been spent on land acquisition and $20 million on re-forestation efforts. Thousands of school children and other volunteers have planted thousands of native plants and trees. Dozens of local, state and federal entities and organizations have partnered to create the Wildlife Corridor
- Very rare species of birds and other animals that are only found in the Rio Grande Valley in the U.S. which are species highly valued by eco-tourist. I.e.: Brown Jay, Muscovy Duck
- Both endangered and threatened species listed by the federal government and state uses the riparian habitat and would face possible extinction or extirpation. I.e.: Ocelot, Jaguarundi,
- No access to drinking water for wildlife unable to breach the wall
- No access to habitats across the river (and/or just across the wall) for wildlife, leaving them in isolated communities creating genetic gridlock and promoting extirpation and/or extinction
- Many historical and archeological sites with national and international significance

3. Border Fence Legislation facts:

- Section 102 of the 2005 REAL ID Act states: "…the Secretary of Homeland Security shall have the authority to waive, and shall waive, all laws such Secretary, in such Secretary sole's discretion, determines necessary to ensure expeditious construction of the barriers and roads under this section", which is to say that Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff has the power to wave any and all federal laws, including the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act and more in the name of homeland security
- The *Secure Fence Act of 2006* directs Department of Homeland Security to:
    - Take all actions necessary to achieve and maintain control over international borders within 18 months.
    - Construct at least two layers of reinforced fencing and additional physical barriers, roads, cameras, sensors and lighting on 700 linear miles along specific areas of the Mexican border.
    - Construct 370 miles of physical fence before the end of 2008, including 153 miles in Texas, 129 in Arizona, and 12 in New Mexico, while California gets 76

4. Talking Points for Texas Senators Hutchison and Cornyn:

- Thank you for your recent efforts to amend S. 1348, the immigration reform bill, to require the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to take into consideration the concerns

raised by states, local governments, and property owners in places where a wall would be constructed

- Requiring DHS to consult with state, local, and tribal officials, as well as land management agencies, before wall construction is an important component missing from the Secure Fence Act of 2006 and the Real ID Act
- I am still concerned because the amendment still requires the DHS to construct 700 miles of wall along the border.
- The new legislation needs to allow DHS to choose the type of barriers best used, which would allow for a smart fence. Current legislation only specifies and allows for a wall.
- In addition, per the REAL ID Act, DHS still has the authority to waive any and all regulations and laws

5. Talking Points for United States Congresspersons:

- Please support any legislation or amendments to any legislation that:
    - Requires DHS to consult with state, local, and tribal officials, as well as land management agencies, before wall construction. This is an important component missing from the Secure Fence Act of 2006 and the Real ID Act
    - Allows DHS to choose the type of barriers best used, which would allow for a smart fence. Current legislation only specifies and allows for a wall.
    - Would modify the Secure Fence Act of 2006 and allow DHS to replace the proposed wall with a smart fence
    - Repeals the REAL ID Act. DHS still has the authority to waive any and all regulations and laws which spells disaster for farmers, ranchers, nature tourists, recreational opportunities, wildlife and habitats

- With the use of advanced technology, a smart fence would:
    - Use the most recent technology that would help keep agents and those they apprehend safer by allowing them to detect undocumented migrants well in advance of any encounter
    - Eliminate concerns of livestock and wildlife having access to the river, thereby eliminating the legitimate concerns of cattle ranchers, farmers and conservationists
    - Allow for the continuation of the thriving nature tourism and hunting industry in the impoverished region of South Texas
    - Save tax-payer dollars since there would be no purchasing of property, clearing and/or maintaining dense brush, and construction and long-term maintenance of the fence

- While a smart fence is not without its problems, a wall is simply not effective in the effort to stop or even curb illegal immigration

- When writing use all the points listed in sections 1-3 as well

6. What You Can Do:

- Write, Fax, E-mail and Call all your U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives using the above info
- Write, Fax, E-mail and Call all your Texas State Senators and Representatives using the same info urging them to get involved
- Forward this to anyone with an interest in conservation, human rights and private property rights
- Forward this fact sheet to as many people you know nation wide and encourage them to get involved
- Keep the issue alive by forwarding articles and videos posted on the list serve to as many people you know nation wide
- Join the Yahoo's listserve -- NoBorderWall

- Take a stand! Keep informed; attend meetings; question your elected officials and let them know you do not support a wall; talk to your neighbors; participate in protests; and help spread the word!!!

7. Some of the Many Wildlife Refuges & Parks That Could Be Affected –

Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR: The LRGV NWR is a 90,000 acre refuge found on the most southern tip of Texas. This wildlife corridor refuge follows the Rio Grande along its last stretch and includes 70+ miles of river front. Taxpayers have spent $90M since 1979 in land acquisitions and restorations for what is considered one of the most biologically diverse areas in North America. The 11 distinct ecosystems found here are host or home to over 1,100 plant species and 700 vertebrates (of which 513 are birds) and 20 threatened and endangered species.

Santa Ana NWR: This 2,088 acre refuge is considered the 'jewel' of the Refuge System with a documented 407 species of birds. Bird watchers from all 50 states and 35 countries come here to see species found no where else in the United States, including the Green Jay, Chachalaca, Great Kiskadee, Altamira Oriole and more.

Sabal Palms Audubon Sanctuary:

NABA Butterfly Park:

Bentsen State Park & World Birding Center:

Roma World Birding Center:

TNC Chihuahuan Woods:

TNC Southmost Preserve:

8. Elected Officials

To find your federal elected officials: www.senate.gov and www.house.gov

To find your Texas State elected officials:
http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/citizenResources/ContactLeg.html

TEXAS RESIDENTS
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4304
Phone: 202-224-5922
Fax: 202-224-0776

The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Tel: 202-224-2934
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SOUTH TEXAS RESIDENTS

The Honorable Solomon P. Ortiz
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U.S. House of Representatives
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Phone: (202) 225-2531
Fax: (202)225-5688

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
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Washington, DC 20515
phone: 202-225-1640
fax: 202-225-1641

The Honorable Ciro D. Rodriguez
2458 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-4511

June 29, 2007

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge Lands Directly and Indirectly Affected by the Proposed Border Fence Plans

Bryan Winton, Refuge Manager

Current Refuge Acreage Total (not including lands managed by Laguna Atascosa NWR) = **83,193.9** acres

Refuge Lands to be Directly (Physically) Impacted by the Fence = **4,606.23** acres
5.5% of total refuge acreage)

Refuge Lands to be Directly and Indirectly Impacted by the Fence = **61,165.44** acres
73.5% of total refuge acreage)

Refuge Lands Arguably Not Affected by the Proposed Fence = **22,028.46** acres
Includes:

Los Olmos	*= 1,424.9 acres*
Monte Cristo	*= 2,701.62 acres*
Goodfields	*= 358.68 acres*
Tiocano Lake	*= 435.94 acres*
Thompson Road	*= 30.0 acres*
Willamar	*= 1,162.22 acres*
San Perlita	*= 272.42 acres*
El Jardin	*= 209.03 acres*
Lozano	*= 42.09 acres*
Las Yescas	*= 20.09 acres*
Lantana	*= 34.81 acres*
Mercedes	*= 37.36 acres*
Noreiga	*= 200.0 acres*
Fish Hatchery	*= 249.1 acres*

<u>Un-measurable Impacts Associated with the Proposed Border Fence</u>:

1. Impact to refuge lands located south of the fence but north of the river (no man's land)
2. Impact to refuge lands NOT fenced (future traffic may be directed/magnified there)
3. Impact to refuge resources caused by additional roads on lands with Fence (roadkill)
   - fence will hinder mammal movements; mammals will follow the fence seeking an opening making there proximity to the newly created roads next to the fence troublesomely close.
4. Impact to migratory birds due to "fence habitat" which will expand suitability to nest parasitizers
5. Impacts are contingent upon design of fence. Proper fence design that will allow small/med mammals to pass but impedes human traffic, could render the fence much less harmful.

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge Tracts directly affected by the Proposed Border Fence
June 30, 2007

Tract Name	*Miles of Fence*[1]	*acres*	*Where Located*	*Problems*
Monterrey Banco	0.075 miles	100.0	west boundary	Bisects property
	0.825 miles		north boundary	access/safety
	0.1875 miles		east boundary	access to water (canal)
La Coma	0.1875 miles	639.24	northern	Bisects property
Rosario Banco	0.4 miles	33.5	central	Bisects property
Culebron Banco	0.25 miles	37.8	east central	Bisects property (water)
Vaqueteria Banco	0.1875 miles	2.69	north boundary (2 tracts)	access/safety
Tahuachal Banco	0.25 miles	175.16	central	Bisects property (cat corridor
Palo Blanco	0.3125 miles	30.02	north boundary	access/safety
Phillips Banco	0.325 miles	336.15	western edge	Bisects property
	0.65 miles		southern boundary	access to water (river)
Jeronimo Banco	0.3 miles	288.04	eastern edge	access/safety
Boscaje de La Palma	0.3125 miles	365.0	north central	Bisects property
	0.3125 miles		north boundary	access/safety
Hidalgo Bend	1.5 miles	519.7	north boundary	access/safety
Pate Bend	1.575 miles	441.81	east boundary	access/safety
Granjeno	0.1 miles	2.62	southern boundary	access to water (river)
Kiskadee WMA	0.1 miles	10.15	central	Bisects property
Penitas	0.75 miles	14.3	north boundary	access/safety
Los Ebanos	0.6 miles	711.78	southern boundary	access to water (river)
	0.15 miles		northern boundary	access/safety
Rio San Juan	0.1 miles	118.39	central	Bisects property (partially)
Los Negros Creek	0.35 miles	111.51	south boundary	access to water (river)
Arroyo Ramirez	1.0 miles	668.37	south boundary	access to water (river)

Total Acreage	4,606.23
Total Miles of Fence	10.8 miles
Bisects Property	2.0 miles
Access/Safety	5.9125 miles
Access to Water by Wildlife	2.8875 miles

Miles of Fence[1-] Miles of Fence for each LRGV NWR Tract were determined by transcribing Round 1 Proposed Border Fence Alignments (provided by fax copies on small-scale topographical maps) onto Refuge GIS Tract Maps. Only those tracts to be directly affected by fence related infrastructure/disturbance are included.

October, 2 2007

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

FROM: Benjamin N. Tuggle, Regional Director, Southwest Region

TELEPHONE #: 505-248-6282

SUBJECT: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Plans for Border Fence in Texas Including Lands within the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

I. SUMMARY

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) met informally at Santa Ana NWR with South Texas Refuge Complex and Corpus Christi Ecological Services (ES) staff on May 4, 2007, and disclosed that 70 miles of border fence will be installed by December 31, 2008, along the southern three counties of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, primarily at international crossings and high traffic areas. A subset of the 70 miles of fenced areas would include lands within the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR.

The COE is performing real estate functions for DHS Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and is contacting private landowners and the Service to coordinate required land transactions. The COE realty staff informed Refuge Complex staff that lands within the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR would be the first to receive fencing because these lands are already federally owned.

On May 29, 2007, local CBP leadership formally met with Refuge Complex and ES to inform the Service of their tentative plans to construct fencing on Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR. Subsequently, local CBP leadership requested a meeting with the Refuge and ES to visit potential Refuge lands that would be affected by the fence. Tentative maps were provided that showed extensive areas along the river on private and Refuge lands that would be fenced. Field visits to western Refuge tracts revealed multiple issues with the construction of a border fence. Issues included barriers to wildlife migration; genetic isolation of wildlife populations, including endangered species; barriers to wildlife for obtaining water; engineering concerns with unstable soils and impeded storm water flows; brushland habitat loss; and staff and visitor security and safety concerns.

On August 31, 2007, Refuge and ES staff met with COE and Border Patrol Representatives to further discuss right-of-way (ROW) issues. COE and Border Patrol were informed of Service policy and procedures for obtaining ROWs as well as Appropriate Refuge Use and Compatibility Determination processes. Subsequently, field visits by DHS, COE, consultants, and Refuge and ES staff were conducted between September 10-13, 2007, to private and Refuge lands. On

September 14, 2007, a meeting was held at the Harlingen, Texas, Border Patrol Headquarters with consultants responsible for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Section 7 Consultation with ES. Engineering-Environmental Management, Inc., and Baker Corporation presented plans to develop the EIS and, in association, to conduct natural resources, cultural resources, and engineering surveys on private and Refuge lands. A full discussion of Appropriate Refuge Use and Compatibility policies and procedures occurred with the consultants and Border Patrol representatives related to access to the Refuge for survey purposes.

II. DISCUSSION

Refuge staff first became aware of a real intent on the part of DHS to construct border fences within the operational jurisdiction of the South Texas Refuge Complex and Corpus Christi ES Office with newspaper articles from Roma, Texas, during the week of April 23, 2007. These newspaper articles covered contacts made by CBP with private landowners in the Roma area. This intention was confirmed in a meeting on April 27, 2007, attended by Congressman Henry Cuellar, (D) Laredo, Texas; City of Roma officials; and Refuge Complex staff. Ecological Services and Refuge staff attended a meeting with COE realty staff on May 4, 2007, where discussions centered on Federal land permit issues related to the border fence.

Local CBP leadership carried out their self-imposed outreach requirements in a meeting with Refuge Complex and ES staff on May 29, 2007. Although CBP leadership confirmed that fencing is coming to the Refuge, no details were released. A subsequent meeting with local CBP leadership was held in the field on June 20, 2007. Maps detailing probable fence sites on the Refuge were presented to the Refuge and several Refuge tracts were visited on the west side. Significant wildlife, engineering, and safety issues were raised during this visit. On July 7, 2007, Congressman Price (D-NC), Congressman Culberson (R-TX), and Congressman Ortiz (D-TX), all members of the House Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee for Homeland Security visited the Refuge on a fact-finding tour.

Refuge Complex and ES concerns regarding border fencing continue to be conveyed to DHS both orally and in writing. Placement and design of the border fence remain unclear as the EIS is prepared, Section 7 Consultations take place, and Refuges and ES convey suggestions for lessening the impacts of the proposed fence on private and Refuge lands. Wetland and cultural resource issues are also unknown at this time but natural resource and cultural resource surveys have been requested by the contractors (subject to Appropriate Refuge Use and Compatibility Determinations on Refuge lands). ES staff continues to work with DHS and their contractors on additional private lands proposed in the State. Discussions during the May 4 meeting with COE indicated that DHS may use its

waiver authority granted under the Real ID Act of 2006 for existing regulations such as the ESA, NEPA, and Refuge Administration Act.

III. MESSAGES AND ANSWERS

Serious, and likely irreparable, wildlife and habitat loss and damage are likely to result from the placement of 70 miles of border fence along the lower Rio Grande River that will include impacts to lands held in trust by the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR. The total number of miles of fence that would be constructed on the Refuge is unclear at this time. Discussions continue with DHS regarding the placement of fences on Refuge lands and work is underway to verify Federal ownership where fencing is proposed on or next to Refuge boundaries. DHS currently estimates 2.5 miles of fence on Refuge lands; however, depending on the actual location and placement of fences, this length of fence on the Refuge may reach up to 10 miles.

Impacts are not limited to Refuge lands with actual fencing. It is very likely that numerous other Refuge tracts (non-fenced) on the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR will be seriously impacted by increased illegal traffic and Border Patrol activities. The overall impacts to the Refuge through direct and indirect effects may reach 60-70 percent of the Refuge. Santa Ana NWR, which is centrally located along the Rio Grande, may also experience similar indirect impacts. There is significant safety, security, and logistical issues for Refuge operations and maintenance included in the placement of a pedestrian-proof fence on Refuge lands.

Of immediate concern is the Appropriate Refuge Use and Compatibility Determination processes related to requests by the DHS contractors to conduct natural, cultural, and engineering surveys on the Refuge (related to the development of an EIS and Section 7 Consultation for the project). The timeframe needed to complete these processes does not allow DHS to fulfill their schedule requirements, and it is very likely that the engineering surveys will be found <u>not</u> an Appropriate Use of the Refuge. Though a significant issue, the impact of not being able to carry-out engineering surveys is small in comparison to the likelihood that the construction of a pedestrian proof fence on the Refuge will be found neither an Appropriate Refuge Use nor a Compatible Use.

PREPARED BY: Benjamin N. Tuggle **DATE:** 10/01/2007
Regional Director, Region 2

APPROVED BY: Benjamin N. Tuggle **DATE:** 10/01/2007
Regional Director, Region 2

Note to Reviewers

This briefing paper was requested by the WO for the Director's testifying before the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans next Tuesday. These will be used for preparation for the hearing.

Matt Huggler is the recipient of the BPs with a copy to ANRS.

For any additional information, please contact: Chris S. Pease
Regional Refuge Chief
505-248-7419

Comments from South Texas Refuge Complex as relates to the Border Fence EIS
11-28-2007

JUSTIFICATION FOR CONCERN:
The primary wildlife conservation strategy for the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (LRGV NWR) is the creation of a wildlife corridor that links numerous isolated habitat fragments. The Refuge currently manages 113 individual tracts totaling 88,044 acres and is authorized to purchase additional lands, up to 132,500 total acres in Cameron, Willacy, Hidalgo and Starr Counties of South Texas.

The protected lands of the Refuge are considered to be one of the most biodiverse in the continental United States. LRGV NWR manages habitats supporting 516 species of birds (more than half of the species sited in the United States and Canada), 300 species of butterflies, 115 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 83 species of mammals known to occur in the lower Rio Grande valley and adjacent Gulf of Mexico coastal waters. Presently, 776 plant species are documented on the LRGV NWR, but an estimate of the total number of plant species occurring in the Refuge's acquisition boundary is placed at 1,200 species. This tremendous biodiversity is in part the result of four converging climates (tropical, coastal, temperate and desert) and the funneling of two migratory flyways (the Central and the Mississippi).

When the project began in 1979, 95% of the lower Rio Grande valley's unique habitat had been eliminated, primarily for agriculture. Land acquisition for LRGV NWR began in 1980 and has included the purchase of existing habitat, as well as strategically located farmland. LRGV NWR prioritizes acquisition of lands along the Rio Grande extending 275 river miles from Falcon Dam to Boca Chica. When possible, parcels are secured that will serve as links connecting separate Refuge tracts (the analogy being that of a chain, with even a single link missing, does not function); inholdings are purchased when possible. Areas that have unique or notable resources, or on which endangered species are known to occur, receive priority for acquisition. LRGV NWR has developed an extensive cooperative farming and revegetation program that restores between 750 and 1,000 acres of farmland per year to native habitat, this in order to create additional wildlife habitat and alleviate habitat fragmentation.

This wildlife corridor Refuge includes the lower Rio Grande valley and adjacent upland regions. To the north lies the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge and the great Texas ranch country with large blocks of intact habitat. Directly to the south are ecologically valuable areas such as the Laguna Madre of Tamaulipas, and the Sierra de los Picachos (in Nuevo Leon), Mexico which are receiving focused conservation attention from the Mexican Government and a number of interested Mexican and U.S. organizations.

More than 25 years into the project, the Fish & Wildlife Service is now seeing great returns on its investment. The earliest restoration efforts have matured to produce habitats that are harboring species of plants and animals that can be seen nowhere else in the United States.

Biological Impacts of Concern:

- An impermeable fence (to illegal human traffic and wildlife) along the Texas border would have adverse effects to approximately 39 listed species and many other trust species (i.e., candidate species, migratory birds, etc.).

- **Potential direct effects** from placement of an impermeable fence along the border:
    - Cessation or restriction of movements within and among populations may isolate small populations or disrupt metapopulation dynamics. Restricting movement would be particularly detrimental for species that rely on connectivity with Mexico for their continued existence in such as the endangered ocelot and jaguarundi.
    - Cessation or reduction in gene flow among or within populations that may result in loss of genetic variability in populations and ultimately reduce the likelihood of species' long-term survival.
    - Habitat reduction, loss, fragmentation, degradation (footprint of fence and road; disruption of hydrological processes by fence and road placement; increased erosion and diminished water quality in riparian and aquatic zones if these areas are not avoided, etc.).
    - Impingement of animals depending on type of fence material.
    - Temporary disturbance to species during construction; ongoing disturbance for maintenance and operations.
    - Potential risks of increased vehicle strikes for ocelots, jaguarundi, birds and bats.
    - International bridges already act as east-west barriers along with highways with median jersey walls and no wildlife crossings in the Rio Grande Valley. The border fence will act as a north-south barrier causing even more species' isolation and fragmentation.
    - Increased lighting at night along the fence will have negative impacts on animals such rodents, frogs, ocelots, and jaguarundi by making them more susceptible to predation. These areas will also be avoided by other species such as neotropical birds searching for nesting sites.
    - In the arid Tamaulipan thornscrub of Starr County and semi-arid areas along the Texas border, the only surface water animals have is the Rio Grande. A border wall would prevent animals from accessing their only water source.
    - Invasive, non-native grasses, which threaten reforestation efforts through competition and volatility, are likely to be exacerbated by the clearing of brush and the establishment of a fence/road corridor.
    - The safety and security of refuge staff conducting refuge operations and management activities south of a Border Fence is a great concern.
    - Long-time security for natural resources south of a Border Fence, which may or may not be safely managed and monitored, is a significant concern.
    - The Refuge experiences a peak of 300 wildfires per year, on average. Fighting wildfire is extremely dangerous, particularly if escape routes are limited due to a Border Fence. Natural Resource protection may be jeopardized due to public safety, or lack thereof, due to the challenges (safety) of fighting wildfires south of a Border Fence.

- The Lower Rio Grande Valley is comprised of over 125 separate and distinct tracts of land that represent what is left of the 5% of remaining Tamaulipan Thornscrub habitat—all that is left in South Texas. Further fragmentation of those "fragments" by a Border Fence greatly jeopardizes this Agency's ability to protect highly sensitive, secretive, and endangered species, like migratory birds, ocelot and jaguarundi.

- **Potential indirect effects** from placement of an impermeable fence along the border:
  - Agreements or Memorandum of Understandings between the Service and various other federal and state agencies in Texas and Mexico have been established after many years of negotiations to establish international wildlife corridors on both sides of the border. Sister parks will be impacted by the border fence and potentially reduce survival rates of the ocelot and jaguarundi in Texas.
  - Biological opinions issued for projects in the Valley that put in place acquisition and management of wildlife corridors and other measures could be fragmented and nullified by a fence.
  - Corridors established by the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge and native habitat restoration activities could be lost or destroyed depending on the placement of the fence.
  - Redirection of illegal traffic to unsecured areas of the border may impact wildlife habitat that is now less disturbed and will definitely affect both Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge and Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Rural fence segments currently proposed to curtail high traffic will only shift problems (immigration, trafficking, smuggling, drugs, etc.) to new areas, presumably to new vegetated areas where cover and concealment is present (most likely on adjacent refuge tracts).
  - Management of areas located behind the fence will hinder responses for fire, wetland management and invasive grass and brush control along the fence and border patrol roads, resulting in a loss of habitat for listed species and prevention of brush restoration.

Alternatives to a Permanent Fence we Recommend for Consideration:

- Alternative technological solutions, such as ground based radar, have been successful in aiding and deterring smuggling activities with minimal impacts to sensitive wildlife populations.
- Construction of permanent vehicle barriers designed to allow for the passage of animals, generally have much fewer impacts on species than pedestrian barriers. Though they still result in certain impacts to species, they do not prevent movement of species and sever connectivity.
- Pedestrian barriers will likely have much fewer impacts on species if they are solely constructed within highly urbanized areas, where fewer trust resources occur. If pedestrian fences are constructed in areas other than highly urbanized areas, fence design should be modified to at a minimum allow for the passage of some species and in a manner that would reduce the likelihood of cat, bird, and bat entrapment or strikes.

DISCUSSION:
The Service has worked for more than 25 years (at an estimated cost of $80 million) along the border to maintain and manage the refuge complex and build additional endangered cat/wildlife corridors through consultation with the International Boundary and Water Commission and partnership with private landowners. A fence could significantly lessen the success of these efforts.

The Lower Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Binational Ecosystem Group has been working with our Mexico counterparts to establish international wildlife corridors between Falcon Dam to Laguna Madre and north and south of the border to connect wildlife corridor linkages to the South Texas Refuge Complex and natural protected areas in Mexico. An MOU with these agencies in the State of Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon, Mexico along with TPWD, TNC, South Texas Refuge Complex, and ES is being reviewed at the RO for signature. It has taken six years to establish this relationship through the Ecosystem Group to get to this agreement. The Laguna Madre Natural Protected Area in Tamaulipas, Mexico wants to enter into an MOU with Laguna Atascosa NWR to establish a sister park and work towards establishing an international wildlife corridor for the endangered ocelot. This corridor will be significantly impacted by the Border Fence.

MAIN DECISION OR MESSAGE:

Serious, and likely irreparable, wildlife and habitat loss and damage, such as severing genetic exchange and blocking access to water, is likely to result from the placement of 70+ miles of border fence along the lower Rio Grande River that includes refuge lands. There are also serious safety and logistical issues for refuge operations and maintenance included in the placement of fence on Refuge lands. Safety for refuge staff, fire fighters, and natural resources south of any future border fence is currently in question, given the limited access points proposed.

Immediate and comprehensive discussions need to take place between DHS, Ecological Services and the Refuges to minimize and mitigate effects of the construction and operation of a border fence along the lower Rio Grande River in Texas.

If it is determined that a fence will be constructed through the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, we recommend that the Border Patrol establish an environmental contact person who represents all 5 Border Patrol Sectors that occur within the Refuge boundary. Currently, the Sectors deal individually and inconsistently with the Service (Refuge). One Border Patrol Environmental voice would eliminate a considerable burden the Service currently faces when dealing with refuge concerns and would be a one-stop shopping approach to addressing other environmental concerns whether they occurred on/off refuge lands.

In addition, over the years, Refuge has witnessed, since its' establishment, the inability of the Border Patrol to conduct repairs to roads and trim encroaching brush, (particularly refuge roads) and B.P. traffic continually ruts up and damages refuge roads. A Border

Fence should not be constructed unless B.P. first establishes a permanent, capable maintenance program to conduct/perform maintenance to new infrastructure and associated access roads on the Refuge. Otherwise, refuge roads and wildlife habitat will undergo serious degradation and both agencies' operational effectiveness will be affected.

BUREAU PERSPECTIVE:
Service leadership should advocate continued involvement by Refuges and Ecological Service in the planning and implementation of a border fence. Point of Contact for South Texas Refuge Complex is Project Leader Ken Merritt (956) 784-7500.

Department of Homeland Security
Excerpts of Talking Points
December 7, 2007

- Secretary Chertoff has committed that DHS will build a total of 370 miles of pedestrian fence along the southwest border by the end of CY 2008.

- By the end of FY 2007, CBP had more than 145 miles of pedestrian fencing completed along the southwest border. By the end of CY 2008, an additional 225 miles will be built, for a total of 370 miles.

- Since May 2007, DHS has engaged in extensive discussions about the placement of the remaining 225 miles of fencing with state and local stakeholders, including landowners, to ensure that our investments effectively balance border security with the diverse needs of those that live in border communities. As part of these outreach efforts, DHS has contacted almost 600 different landowners and held 18 town hall meetings.

- As a result of these outreach efforts, there are many instances where we were able to make modifications to our original plans to accommodate landowner/community concerns/requirements while still meeting our operational needs. Some examples include:

  1. We made numerous alignment changes to the Rio Grande Valley segments to limit impacts to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) National Wildlife Refuge areas, a bird watching observation facility in the City of Roma, and negate the need to relocate approximately 30 residences.

     - The fence alignment at the Roma Port of Entry (POE) was initially proposed to be on top of a 30-foot bluff because we were not sure if it could be built below, due to flood plain issues. During our site visit in September, it was determined that placing the fence at the top of the bluff would impact historical buildings and brought about constructability issues. Building the fence on the bottom of the bluff would also make better operational sense. Based on these findings, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and USFWS agreed that the fence would be placed at the bottom of the bluff.

       U.S. Fish and Wildlife doesn't have any property around the Roma POE but supports the placing of the fence at the base of the bluff with the condition that brush removal will be minimal on both sides of the fence.

       Schematics of this approach will be submitted to International Boundary and Water Commission for approval.

  2. In Del Rio, Texas, we relocated an approximately 2.3 mile segment to negate the need to relocate approximately 10-12 residences.

3. In San Diego, California, we changed the alignment of a segment to significantly reduce the impacts to the Otay Mountain Wilderness area.

Background Information Regarding a Border Wall Along the Last 275 Miles of the Rio Grande

1. The proposed wall could include:

- 86 miles of physical barrier on National Wildlife Refuges, State Parks, many other refuges and parks owned by Audubon, Nature Conservancy and NABA, and private lands along the Rio Grande between Falcon Dam in Starr County and the Gulf of Mexico in Cameron County
- Clearing of brush along the river up to 150' in width where construction of the wall will take place
- A road suitable for driving up to 50 miles per hour along the wall

2. The proposed wall could affect:

- Establishment of eminent domain on private lands along the river for private landowners unwilling to sell
- Complete prevention of access to the river from the wall, meaning no access for farmers and ranchers whose livelihoods depend on the water rights they have purchased
- No access for wildlife enthusiasts interested in wildlife watching, canoeing, kayaking, and hiking along the river. Eco-tourism brings more than $125 million to the RGV annually from 200,000 eco-tourists, creating 2,500 jobs in the local economy
- Destroying a 25 year effort to restore the river wildlife corridor. Approximately $70 million has been spent on land acquisition and $20 million on re-forestation efforts. Thousands of school children and other volunteers have planted thousands of native plants and trees. Dozens of local, state and federal entities and organizations have partnered to create the Wildlife Corridor
- Very rare species of birds and other animals that are only found in the Rio Grande Valley in the U.S. which are species highly valued by eco-tourist. I.e.: Brown Jay, Muscovy Duck
- Both endangered and threatened species listed by the federal government and state uses the riparian habitat and would face possible extinction or extirpation. I.e.: Ocelot, Jaguarundi,
- No access to drinking water for wildlife unable to breach the wall
- No access to habitats across the river (and/or just across the wall) for wildlife, leaving them in isolated communities creating genetic gridlock and promoting extirpation and/or extinction
- Many historical and archeological sites with national and international significance

3. Border Fence Legislation facts:

- Section 102 of the 2005 REAL ID Act states: "…the Secretary of Homeland Security shall have the authority to waive, and shall waive, all laws such Secretary, in such Secretary sole's discretion, determines necessary to ensure expeditious construction of the barriers and roads under this section", which is to say that Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff has the power to wave any and all federal laws, including the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act and more in the name of homeland security
- The *Secure Fence Act of 2006* directs Department of Homeland Security to:
    - Take all actions necessary to achieve and maintain control over international borders within 18 months.
    - Construct at least two layers of reinforced fencing and additional physical barriers, roads, cameras, sensors and lighting on 700 linear miles along specific areas of the Mexican border.
    - Construct 370 miles of physical fence before the end of 2008, including 153 miles in Texas, 129 in Arizona, and 12 in New Mexico, while California gets 76

4. Talking Points for Texas Senators Hutchison and Cornyn:

- Thank you for your recent efforts to amend S. 1348, the immigration reform bill, to require the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to take into consideration the concerns

raised by states, local governments, and property owners in places where a wall would be constructed

- Requiring DHS to consult with state, local, and tribal officials, as well as land management agencies, before wall construction is an important component missing from the Secure Fence Act of 2006 and the Real ID Act
- I am still concerned because the amendment still requires the DHS to construct 700 miles of wall along the border.
- The new legislation needs to allow DHS to choose the type of barriers best used, which would allow for a smart fence. Current legislation only specifies and allows for a wall.
- In addition, per the REAL ID Act, DHS still has the authority to waive any and all regulations and laws

5. Talking Points for United States Congresspersons:

- Please support any legislation or amendments to any legislation that:
    - Requires DHS to consult with state, local, and tribal officials, as well as land management agencies, before wall construction. This is an important component missing from the Secure Fence Act of 2006 and the Real ID Act
    - Allows DHS to choose the type of barriers best used, which would allow for a smart fence. Current legislation only specifies and allows for a wall.
    - Would modify the Secure Fence Act of 2006 and allow DHS to replace the proposed wall with a smart fence
    - Repeals the REAL ID Act. DHS still has the authority to waive any and all regulations and laws which spells disaster for farmers, ranchers, nature tourists, recreational opportunities, wildlife and habitats

- With the use of advanced technology, a smart fence would:
    - Use the most recent technology that would help keep agents and those they apprehend safer by allowing them to detect undocumented migrants well in advance of any encounter
    - Eliminate concerns of livestock and wildlife having access to the river, thereby eliminating the legitimate concerns of cattle ranchers, farmers and conservationists
    - Allow for the continuation of the thriving nature tourism and hunting industry in the impoverished region of South Texas
    - Save tax-payer dollars since there would be no purchasing of property, clearing and/or maintaining dense brush, and construction and long-term maintenance of the fence

- While a smart fence is not without its problems, a wall is simply not effective in the effort to stop or even curb illegal immigration

- When writing use all the points listed in sections 1-3 as well

6. What You Can Do:

- Write, Fax, E-mail and Call all your U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives using the above info
- Write, Fax, E-mail and Call all your Texas State Senators and Representatives using the same info urging them to get involved
- Forward this to anyone with an interest in conservation, human rights and private property rights
- Forward this fact sheet to as many people you know nation wide and encourage them to get involved
- Keep the issue alive by forwarding articles and videos posted on the list serve to as many people you know nation wide
- Join the Yahoo's listserve -- NoBorderWall

- Take a stand! Keep informed; attend meetings; question your elected officials and let them know you do not support a wall; talk to your neighbors; participate in protests; and help spread the word!!!

7. Some of the Many Wildlife Refuges & Parks That Could Be Affected –

Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR: The LRGV NWR is a 90,000 acre refuge found on the most southern tip of Texas. This wildlife corridor refuge follows the Rio Grande along its last stretch and includes 70+ miles of river front. Taxpayers have spent $90M since 1979 in land acquisitions and restorations for what is considered one of the most biologically diverse areas in North America. The 11 distinct ecosystems found here are host or home to over 1,100 plant species and 700 vertebrates (of which 513 are birds) and 20 threatened and endangered species.

Santa Ana NWR: This 2,088 acre refuge is considered the 'jewel' of the Refuge System with a documented 407 species of birds. Bird watchers from all 50 states and 35 countries come here to see species found no where else in the United States, including the Green Jay, Chachalaca, Great Kiskadee, Altamira Oriole and more.

Sabal Palms Audubon Sanctuary:

NABA Butterfly Park:

Bentsen State Park & World Birding Center:

Roma World Birding Center:

TNC Chihuahuan Woods:

TNC Southmost Preserve:

8. Elected Officials

To find your federal elected officials: www.senate.gov and www.house.gov

To find your Texas State elected officials:
http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/citizenResources/ContactLeg.html

TEXAS RESIDENTS
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4304
Phone: 202-224-5922
Fax: 202-224-0776

The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Tel: 202-224-2934
Fax: 202-228-2856

SOUTH TEXAS RESIDENTS

The Honorable Solomon P. Ortiz
U.S. House of Representatives
2110 Rayburn HOB
Washington DC 20515
Phone: (202)225-7742
Fax: (202) 226-1134

The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2531
Fax: (202)225-5688

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
336 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
phone: 202-225-1640
fax: 202-225-1641

The Honorable Ciro D. Rodriguez
2458 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-4511

June 29, 2007

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge Lands Directly and Indirectly Affected by the Proposed Border Fence Plans

Bryan Winton, Refuge Manager

Current Refuge Acreage Total (not including lands managed by Laguna Atascosa NWR) = **83,193.9** acres

Refuge Lands to be Directly (Physically) Impacted by the Fence = **4,606.23** acres
5.5% of total refuge acreage)

Refuge Lands to be Directly and Indirectly Impacted by the Fence = **61,165.44** acres
73.5% of total refuge acreage)

Refuge Lands Arguably Not Affected by the Proposed Fence = **22,028.46** acres
Includes:

Los Olmos	*= 1,424.9 acres*
Monte Cristo	*= 2,701.62 acres*
Goodfields	*= 358.68 acres*
Tiocano Lake	*= 435.94 acres*
Thompson Road	*= 30.0 acres*
Willamar	*= 1,162.22 acres*
San Perlita	*= 272.42 acres*
El Jardin	*= 209.03 acres*
Lozano	*= 42.09 acres*
Las Yescas	*= 20.09 acres*
Lantana	*= 34.81 acres*
Mercedes	*= 37.36 acres*
Noreiga	*= 200.0 acres*
Fish Hatchery	*= 249.1 acres*

<u>Un-measurable Impacts Associated with the Proposed Border Fence</u>:

1. Impact to refuge lands located south of the fence but north of the river (no man's land)
2. Impact to refuge lands NOT fenced (future traffic may be directed/magnified there)
3. Impact to refuge resources caused by additional roads on lands with Fence (roadkill)
   - fence will hinder mammal movements; mammals will follow the fence seeking an opening making there proximity to the newly created roads next to the fence troublesomely close.
4. Impact to migratory birds due to "fence habitat" which will expand suitability to nest parasitizers
5. Impacts are contingent upon design of fence. Proper fence design that will allow small/med mammals to pass but impedes human traffic, could render the fence much less harmful.

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge Tracts directly affected by the Proposed Border Fence
June 30, 2007

Tract Name	*Miles of Fence*[1]	*acres*	*Where Located*	*Problems*
Monterrey Banco	0.075 miles	100.0	west boundary	Bisects property
	0.825 miles		north boundary	access/safety
	0.1875 miles		east boundary	access to water (canal)
La Coma	0.1875 miles	639.24	northern	Bisects property
Rosario Banco	0.4 miles	33.5	central	Bisects property
Culebron Banco	0.25 miles	37.8	east central	Bisects property (water)
Vaqueteria Banco	0.1875 miles	2.69	north boundary (2 tracts)	access/safety
Tahuachal Banco	0.25 miles	175.16	central	Bisects property (cat corridor
Palo Blanco	0.3125 miles	30.02	north boundary	access/safety
Phillips Banco	0.325 miles	336.15	western edge	Bisects property
	0.65 miles		southern boundary	access to water (river)
Jeronimo Banco	0.3 miles	288.04	eastern edge	access/safety
Boscaje de La Palma	0.3125 miles	365.0	north central	Bisects property
	0.3125 miles		north boundary	access/safety
Hidalgo Bend	1.5 miles	519.7	north boundary	access/safety
Pate Bend	1.575 miles	441.81	east boundary	access/safety
Granjeno	0.1 miles	2.62	southern boundary	access to water (river)
Kiskadee WMA	0.1 miles	10.15	central	Bisects property
Penitas	0.75 miles	14.3	north boundary	access/safety
Los Ebanos	0.6 miles	711.78	southern boundary	access to water (river)
	0.15 miles		northern boundary	access/safety
Rio San Juan	0.1 miles	118.39	central	Bisects property (partially)
Los Negros Creek	0.35 miles	111.51	south boundary	access to water (river)
Arroyo Ramirez	1.0 miles	668.37	south boundary	access to water (river)

Total Acreage	4,606.23
Total Miles of Fence	10.8 miles
Bisects Property	2.0 miles
Access/Safety	5.9125 miles
Access to Water by Wildlife	2.8875 miles

Miles of Fence[1-] Miles of Fence for each LRGV NWR Tract were determined by transcribing Round 1 Proposed Border Fence Alignments (provided by fax copies on small-scale topographical maps) onto Refuge GIS Tract Maps. Only those tracts to be directly affected by fence related infrastructure/disturbance are included.

October, 2 2007

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

FROM: Benjamin N. Tuggle, Regional Director, Southwest Region

TELEPHONE #: 505-248-6282

SUBJECT: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Plans for Border Fence in Texas Including Lands within the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

I. SUMMARY

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) met informally at Santa Ana NWR with South Texas Refuge Complex and Corpus Christi Ecological Services (ES) staff on May 4, 2007, and disclosed that 70 miles of border fence will be installed by December 31, 2008, along the southern three counties of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, primarily at international crossings and high traffic areas. A subset of the 70 miles of fenced areas would include lands within the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR.

The COE is performing real estate functions for DHS Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and is contacting private landowners and the Service to coordinate required land transactions. The COE realty staff informed Refuge Complex staff that lands within the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR would be the first to receive fencing because these lands are already federally owned.

On May 29, 2007, local CBP leadership formally met with Refuge Complex and ES to inform the Service of their tentative plans to construct fencing on Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR. Subsequently, local CBP leadership requested a meeting with the Refuge and ES to visit potential Refuge lands that would be affected by the fence. Tentative maps were provided that showed extensive areas along the river on private and Refuge lands that would be fenced. Field visits to western Refuge tracts revealed multiple issues with the construction of a border fence. Issues included barriers to wildlife migration; genetic isolation of wildlife populations, including endangered species; barriers to wildlife for obtaining water; engineering concerns with unstable soils and impeded storm water flows; brushland habitat loss; and staff and visitor security and safety concerns.

On August 31, 2007, Refuge and ES staff met with COE and Border Patrol Representatives to further discuss right-of-way (ROW) issues. COE and Border Patrol were informed of Service policy and procedures for obtaining ROWs as well as Appropriate Refuge Use and Compatibility Determination processes. Subsequently, field visits by DHS, COE, consultants, and Refuge and ES staff were conducted between September 10-13, 2007, to private and Refuge lands. On

September 14, 2007, a meeting was held at the Harlingen, Texas, Border Patrol Headquarters with consultants responsible for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Section 7 Consultation with ES. Engineering-Environmental Management, Inc., and Baker Corporation presented plans to develop the EIS and, in association, to conduct natural resources, cultural resources, and engineering surveys on private and Refuge lands. A full discussion of Appropriate Refuge Use and Compatibility policies and procedures occurred with the consultants and Border Patrol representatives related to access to the Refuge for survey purposes.

II. DISCUSSION

Refuge staff first became aware of a real intent on the part of DHS to construct border fences within the operational jurisdiction of the South Texas Refuge Complex and Corpus Christi ES Office with newspaper articles from Roma, Texas, during the week of April 23, 2007. These newspaper articles covered contacts made by CBP with private landowners in the Roma area. This intention was confirmed in a meeting on April 27, 2007, attended by Congressman Henry Cuellar, (D) Laredo, Texas; City of Roma officials; and Refuge Complex staff. Ecological Services and Refuge staff attended a meeting with COE realty staff on May 4, 2007, where discussions centered on Federal land permit issues related to the border fence.

Local CBP leadership carried out their self-imposed outreach requirements in a meeting with Refuge Complex and ES staff on May 29, 2007. Although CBP leadership confirmed that fencing is coming to the Refuge, no details were released. A subsequent meeting with local CBP leadership was held in the field on June 20, 2007. Maps detailing probable fence sites on the Refuge were presented to the Refuge and several Refuge tracts were visited on the west side. Significant wildlife, engineering, and safety issues were raised during this visit. On July 7, 2007, Congressman Price (D-NC), Congressman Culberson (R-TX), and Congressman Ortiz (D-TX), all members of the House Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee for Homeland Security visited the Refuge on a fact-finding tour.

Refuge Complex and ES concerns regarding border fencing continue to be conveyed to DHS both orally and in writing. Placement and design of the border fence remain unclear as the EIS is prepared, Section 7 Consultations take place, and Refuges and ES convey suggestions for lessening the impacts of the proposed fence on private and Refuge lands. Wetland and cultural resource issues are also unknown at this time but natural resource and cultural resource surveys have been requested by the contractors (subject to Appropriate Refuge Use and Compatibility Determinations on Refuge lands). ES staff continues to work with DHS and their contractors on additional private lands proposed in the State. Discussions during the May 4 meeting with COE indicated that DHS may use its

waiver authority granted under the Real ID Act of 2006 for existing regulations such as the ESA, NEPA, and Refuge Administration Act.

III. MESSAGES AND ANSWERS

Serious, and likely irreparable, wildlife and habitat loss and damage are likely to result from the placement of 70 miles of border fence along the lower Rio Grande River that will include impacts to lands held in trust by the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR. The total number of miles of fence that would be constructed on the Refuge is unclear at this time. Discussions continue with DHS regarding the placement of fences on Refuge lands and work is underway to verify Federal ownership where fencing is proposed on or next to Refuge boundaries. DHS currently estimates 2.5 miles of fence on Refuge lands; however, depending on the actual location and placement of fences, this length of fence on the Refuge may reach up to 10 miles.

Impacts are not limited to Refuge lands with actual fencing. It is very likely that numerous other Refuge tracts (non-fenced) on the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR will be seriously impacted by increased illegal traffic and Border Patrol activities. The overall impacts to the Refuge through direct and indirect effects may reach 60-70 percent of the Refuge. Santa Ana NWR, which is centrally located along the Rio Grande, may also experience similar indirect impacts. There is significant safety, security, and logistical issues for Refuge operations and maintenance included in the placement of a pedestrian-proof fence on Refuge lands.

Of immediate concern is the Appropriate Refuge Use and Compatibility Determination processes related to requests by the DHS contractors to conduct natural, cultural, and engineering surveys on the Refuge (related to the development of an EIS and Section 7 Consultation for the project). The timeframe needed to complete these processes does not allow DHS to fulfill their schedule requirements, and it is very likely that the engineering surveys will be found <u>not</u> an Appropriate Use of the Refuge. Though a significant issue, the impact of not being able to carry-out engineering surveys is small in comparison to the likelihood that the construction of a pedestrian proof fence on the Refuge will be found neither an Appropriate Refuge Use nor a Compatible Use.

PREPARED BY: Benjamin N. Tuggle **DATE:** 10/01/2007
Regional Director, Region 2

APPROVED BY: Benjamin N. Tuggle **DATE:** 10/01/2007
Regional Director, Region 2

Note to Reviewers

This briefing paper was requested by the WO for the Director's testifying before the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans next Tuesday. These will be used for preparation for the hearing.

Matt Huggler is the recipient of the BPs with a copy to ANRS.

For any additional information, please contact: Chris S. Pease
Regional Refuge Chief
505-248-7419

Comments from South Texas Refuge Complex as relates to the Border Fence EIS
11-28-2007

JUSTIFICATION FOR CONCERN:
The primary wildlife conservation strategy for the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (LRGV NWR) is the creation of a wildlife corridor that links numerous isolated habitat fragments. The Refuge currently manages 113 individual tracts totaling 88,044 acres and is authorized to purchase additional lands, up to 132,500 total acres in Cameron, Willacy, Hidalgo and Starr Counties of South Texas.

The protected lands of the Refuge are considered to be one of the most biodiverse in the continental United States. LRGV NWR manages habitats supporting 516 species of birds (more than half of the species sited in the United States and Canada), 300 species of butterflies, 115 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 83 species of mammals known to occur in the lower Rio Grande valley and adjacent Gulf of Mexico coastal waters. Presently, 776 plant species are documented on the LRGV NWR, but an estimate of the total number of plant species occurring in the Refuge's acquisition boundary is placed at 1,200 species. This tremendous biodiversity is in part the result of four converging climates (tropical, coastal, temperate and desert) and the funneling of two migratory flyways (the Central and the Mississippi).

When the project began in 1979, 95% of the lower Rio Grande valley's unique habitat had been eliminated, primarily for agriculture. Land acquisition for LRGV NWR began in 1980 and has included the purchase of existing habitat, as well as strategically located farmland. LRGV NWR prioritizes acquisition of lands along the Rio Grande extending 275 river miles from Falcon Dam to Boca Chica. When possible, parcels are secured that will serve as links connecting separate Refuge tracts (the analogy being that of a chain, with even a single link missing, does not function); inholdings are purchased when possible. Areas that have unique or notable resources, or on which endangered species are known to occur, receive priority for acquisition. LRGV NWR has developed an extensive cooperative farming and revegetation program that restores between 750 and 1,000 acres of farmland per year to native habitat, this in order to create additional wildlife habitat and alleviate habitat fragmentation.

This wildlife corridor Refuge includes the lower Rio Grande valley and adjacent upland regions. To the north lies the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge and the great Texas ranch country with large blocks of intact habitat. Directly to the south are ecologically valuable areas such as the Laguna Madre of Tamaulipas, and the Sierra de los Picachos (in Nuevo Leon), Mexico which are receiving focused conservation attention from the Mexican Government and a number of interested Mexican and U.S. organizations.

More than 25 years into the project, the Fish & Wildlife Service is now seeing great returns on its investment. The earliest restoration efforts have matured to produce habitats that are harboring species of plants and animals that can be seen nowhere else in the United States.

Biological Impacts of Concern:

- An impermeable fence (to illegal human traffic and wildlife) along the Texas border would have adverse effects to approximately 39 listed species and many other trust species (i.e., candidate species, migratory birds, etc.).

- **Potential direct effects** from placement of an impermeable fence along the border:
    - Cessation or restriction of movements within and among populations may isolate small populations or disrupt metapopulation dynamics. Restricting movement would be particularly detrimental for species that rely on connectivity with Mexico for their continued existence in such as the endangered ocelot and jaguarundi.
    - Cessation or reduction in gene flow among or within populations that may result in loss of genetic variability in populations and ultimately reduce the likelihood of species' long-term survival.
    - Habitat reduction, loss, fragmentation, degradation (footprint of fence and road; disruption of hydrological processes by fence and road placement; increased erosion and diminished water quality in riparian and aquatic zones if these areas are not avoided, etc.).
    - Impingement of animals depending on type of fence material.
    - Temporary disturbance to species during construction; ongoing disturbance for maintenance and operations.
    - Potential risks of increased vehicle strikes for ocelots, jaguarundi, birds and bats.
    - International bridges already act as east-west barriers along with highways with median jersey walls and no wildlife crossings in the Rio Grande Valley. The border fence will act as a north-south barrier causing even more species' isolation and fragmentation.
    - Increased lighting at night along the fence will have negative impacts on animals such rodents, frogs, ocelots, and jaguarundi by making them more susceptible to predation. These areas will also be avoided by other species such as neotropical birds searching for nesting sites.
    - In the arid Tamaulipan thornscrub of Starr County and semi-arid areas along the Texas border, the only surface water animals have is the Rio Grande. A border wall would prevent animals from accessing their only water source.
    - Invasive, non-native grasses, which threaten reforestation efforts through competition and volatility, are likely to be exacerbated by the clearing of brush and the establishment of a fence/road corridor.
    - The safety and security of refuge staff conducting refuge operations and management activities south of a Border Fence is a great concern.
    - Long-time security for natural resources south of a Border Fence, which may or may not be safely managed and monitored, is a significant concern.
    - The Refuge experiences a peak of 300 wildfires per year, on average. Fighting wildfire is extremely dangerous, particularly if escape routes are limited due to a Border Fence. Natural Resource protection may be jeopardized due to public safety, or lack thereof, due to the challenges (safety) of fighting wildfires south of a Border Fence.

- The Lower Rio Grande Valley is comprised of over 125 separate and distinct tracts of land that represent what is left of the 5% of remaining Tamaulipan Thornscrub habitat—all that is left in South Texas. Further fragmentation of those "fragments" by a Border Fence greatly jeopardizes this Agency's ability to protect highly sensitive, secretive, and endangered species, like migratory birds, ocelot and jaguarundi.

- **Potential indirect effects** from placement of an impermeable fence along the border:
  - Agreements or Memorandum of Understandings between the Service and various other federal and state agencies in Texas and Mexico have been established after many years of negotiations to establish international wildlife corridors on both sides of the border. Sister parks will be impacted by the border fence and potentially reduce survival rates of the ocelot and jaguarundi in Texas.
  - Biological opinions issued for projects in the Valley that put in place acquisition and management of wildlife corridors and other measures could be fragmented and nullified by a fence.
  - Corridors established by the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge and native habitat restoration activities could be lost or destroyed depending on the placement of the fence.
  - Redirection of illegal traffic to unsecured areas of the border may impact wildlife habitat that is now less disturbed and will definitely affect both Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge and Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Rural fence segments currently proposed to curtail high traffic will only shift problems (immigration, trafficking, smuggling, drugs, etc.) to new areas, presumably to new vegetated areas where cover and concealment is present (most likely on adjacent refuge tracts).
  - Management of areas located behind the fence will hinder responses for fire, wetland management and invasive grass and brush control along the fence and border patrol roads, resulting in a loss of habitat for listed species and prevention of brush restoration.

Alternatives to a Permanent Fence we Recommend for Consideration:

- Alternative technological solutions, such as ground based radar, have been successful in aiding and deterring smuggling activities with minimal impacts to sensitive wildlife populations.
- Construction of permanent vehicle barriers designed to allow for the passage of animals, generally have much fewer impacts on species than pedestrian barriers. Though they still result in certain impacts to species, they do not prevent movement of species and sever connectivity.
- Pedestrian barriers will likely have much fewer impacts on species if they are solely constructed within highly urbanized areas, where fewer trust resources occur. If pedestrian fences are constructed in areas other than highly urbanized areas, fence design should be modified to at a minimum allow for the passage of some species and in a manner that would reduce the likelihood of cat, bird, and bat entrapment or strikes.

DISCUSSION:
The Service has worked for more than 25 years (at an estimated cost of $80 million) along the border to maintain and manage the refuge complex and build additional endangered cat/wildlife corridors through consultation with the International Boundary and Water Commission and partnership with private landowners. A fence could significantly lessen the success of these efforts.

The Lower Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Binational Ecosystem Group has been working with our Mexico counterparts to establish international wildlife corridors between Falcon Dam to Laguna Madre and north and south of the border to connect wildlife corridor linkages to the South Texas Refuge Complex and natural protected areas in Mexico. An MOU with these agencies in the State of Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon, Mexico along with TPWD, TNC, South Texas Refuge Complex, and ES is being reviewed at the RO for signature. It has taken six years to establish this relationship through the Ecosystem Group to get to this agreement. The Laguna Madre Natural Protected Area in Tamaulipas, Mexico wants to enter into an MOU with Laguna Atascosa NWR to establish a sister park and work towards establishing an international wildlife corridor for the endangered ocelot. This corridor will be significantly impacted by the Border Fence.

MAIN DECISION OR MESSAGE:

Serious, and likely irreparable, wildlife and habitat loss and damage, such as severing genetic exchange and blocking access to water, is likely to result from the placement of 70+ miles of border fence along the lower Rio Grande River that includes refuge lands. There are also serious safety and logistical issues for refuge operations and maintenance included in the placement of fence on Refuge lands. Safety for refuge staff, fire fighters, and natural resources south of any future border fence is currently in question, given the limited access points proposed.

Immediate and comprehensive discussions need to take place between DHS, Ecological Services and the Refuges to minimize and mitigate effects of the construction and operation of a border fence along the lower Rio Grande River in Texas.

If it is determined that a fence will be constructed through the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, we recommend that the Border Patrol establish an environmental contact person who represents all 5 Border Patrol Sectors that occur within the Refuge boundary. Currently, the Sectors deal individually and inconsistently with the Service (Refuge). One Border Patrol Environmental voice would eliminate a considerable burden the Service currently faces when dealing with refuge concerns and would be a one-stop shopping approach to addressing other environmental concerns whether they occurred on/off refuge lands.

In addition, over the years, Refuge has witnessed, since its' establishment, the inability of the Border Patrol to conduct repairs to roads and trim encroaching brush, (particularly refuge roads) and B.P. traffic continually ruts up and damages refuge roads. A Border

Fence should not be constructed unless B.P. first establishes a permanent, capable maintenance program to conduct/perform maintenance to new infrastructure and associated access roads on the Refuge. Otherwise, refuge roads and wildlife habitat will undergo serious degradation and both agencies' operational effectiveness will be affected.

BUREAU PERSPECTIVE:
Service leadership should advocate continued involvement by Refuges and Ecological Service in the planning and implementation of a border fence. Point of Contact for South Texas Refuge Complex is Project Leader Ken Merritt (956) 784-7500.

Department of Homeland Security
Excerpts of Talking Points
December 7, 2007

- Secretary Chertoff has committed that DHS will build a total of 370 miles of pedestrian fence along the southwest border by the end of CY 2008.

- By the end of FY 2007, CBP had more than 145 miles of pedestrian fencing completed along the southwest border. By the end of CY 2008, an additional 225 miles will be built, for a total of 370 miles.

- Since May 2007, DHS has engaged in extensive discussions about the placement of the remaining 225 miles of fencing with state and local stakeholders, including landowners, to ensure that our investments effectively balance border security with the diverse needs of those that live in border communities. As part of these outreach efforts, DHS has contacted almost 600 different landowners and held 18 town hall meetings.

- As a result of these outreach efforts, there are many instances where we were able to make modifications to our original plans to accommodate landowner/community concerns/requirements while still meeting our operational needs. Some examples include:

  1. We made numerous alignment changes to the Rio Grande Valley segments to limit impacts to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) National Wildlife Refuge areas, a bird watching observation facility in the City of Roma, and negate the need to relocate approximately 30 residences.

     - The fence alignment at the Roma Port of Entry (POE) was initially proposed to be on top of a 30-foot bluff because we were not sure if it could be built below, due to flood plain issues. During our site visit in September, it was determined that placing the fence at the top of the bluff would impact historical buildings and brought about constructability issues. Building the fence on the bottom of the bluff would also make better operational sense. Based on these findings, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and USFWS agreed that the fence would be placed at the bottom of the bluff.

       U.S. Fish and Wildlife doesn't have any property around the Roma POE but supports the placing of the fence at the base of the bluff with the condition that brush removal will be minimal on both sides of the fence.

       Schematics of this approach will be submitted to International Boundary and Water Commission for approval.

  2. In Del Rio, Texas, we relocated an approximately 2.3 mile segment to negate the need to relocate approximately 10-12 residences.

3. In San Diego, California, we changed the alignment of a segment to significantly reduce the impacts to the Otay Mountain Wilderness area.

DRAFT
COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

Use: engineering-environmental Management, Inc. (e^2M) proposes to conduct cultural resources surveys on fourteen (14) Refuge tracts within the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (LRGVNWR). These surveys are directly associated with determining the environmental impact(s) of the proposed Border Fence (PF-225) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas.

Refuge Name: Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Refuge tracts likely to be surveyed: Arroyo Ramirez, Los Negros Creek, Rio San Juan, Granjeno, Kiskadee, Penitas, Los Velas, Los Ebanos, Monterrey Banco, La Coma, Rosario Banco, Phillips Banco, Boscaje de La Palma, and Southmost.

Establishing and Acquisition Authorities:

- Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 [16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)], [16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(1)]
- An Act Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife, or other purposes [16 U.S.C. 667b]
- Refuge Recreation Act, as amended [16 U.S.C. 460k-1], [16 U.S.C. 460k-2]
- Migratory Bird Conservation Act [16 U.S.C. 715d]
- National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997

Refuge Purpose(s): As excerpted from the enabling legislation used to authorize the acquisition of the Refuge, the following are the Refuge purposes:

"... for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources ..." [16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)] "... for the benefit of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in performing its activities and services. Such acceptance may be subject to the terms of any restrictive or affirmative covenant, or condition of servitude ..." [16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(1)] (Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956)

"... particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program." [16 U.S.C. 667b] (An Act Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife, or other purposes)

"... suitable for: (1) incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of endangered species or threatened species ..." [16 U.S.C. 460k-1] "... the Secretary ... may accept and use ... real ... property. Such acceptance may be accomplished under the terms and conditions of restrictive covenants imposed by donors ..." [16 U.S.C. 460k-2] (Refuge Recreation Act [16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4], as amended)

"... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds." [16 U.S.C. 715d] (Migratory Bird Conservation Act)
The Lower Rio Grande Valley and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuges Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) of 1997 satisfies the CCP requirement of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 and identifies the following five goals of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge:

- To restore, enhance and protect biological diversity.
- To protect and obtain additional water rights, improve water management, and protect, restore and enhance wetlands.
- To improve water quality and reduce contaminant related fish and wildlife resource losses.
- To protect, maintain and plan for cultural resources.
- To offer compatible wildlife dependent public uses, recreational opportunities, and interpretation and education.

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission: "The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."

Description of Proposed Use:

Cultural Resources Surveys

e^2M has been tasked by the Corps of Engineers – Fort Worth District, with conducting cultural resources surveys within the above listed Refuge tracts. The nature of the cultural resources survey would depend upon the potential of the specific portion of the alignment to contain cultural resources. The least invasive approach, which would be used for areas determined to have low potential for cultural resources, would be simple pedestrian surveys of all the identified alignments. There are no known cultural resource sites within the proposed corridors of the surveys. However, e^2M has included in their request, contingencies for areas that present a moderate or high potential for presence of cultural resources. In areas that present moderate potential, shovel testing would be employed. Shovel testing involves the careful excavation of areas up to 2 feet in diameter and 5 feet in depth. Depending upon the level of perceived potential in an area, shovel tests may be conducted at up to 16 points per mile. Finally, in areas that have a high probability to contain cultural resources and present deep alluvial sediments, backhoe trenching may be required. Ditches would be up to 33 feet deep, approximately 3.5 feet wide, and may extend for up to 60 feet in length. Backhoe trenching would be the last option utilized for documenting cultural resources. The cultural resources surveys are scheduled to commence as soon as possible (pending the issuance of a special use permit) and would be conducted over a 10-day period. Follow-on surveys to further investigate and/or archive sites potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places may be required. Any collections of cultural resources would require the issuance of a permit under the Archeological Resources Protection Act and the Antiquities Act. This permit is issued by the Regional Director.

Availability of Resources: No additional fiscal resources will be needed due to this use as long as surveys are carried out utilizing pedestrian surveys (only). If areas are identified during the surveys that indicate moderate or high potential cultural resources, additional fiscal and staff resources may be required. The LRGVNWR staff will provide oversight during all aspects of the investigation, to ensure compatibility stipulations are met, and to insure permit compliance with on-refuge work. Effort required to issue and oversee the special use permit can be accomplished with existing resources as long as pedestrian only surveys are employed. More intensive surveys for moderate to high potential sites will require additional staff and fiscal resources as well as permits.

Anticipated Impacts of the Use: Cultural resource surveys conducted by e^2M will be conducted on foot or using existing trails or roads within each of the listed Refuge tracts. Vehicles will be permitted only on existing roads and only hand-trimming of tree branches will be authorized. Cultural resource surveys will disturb and temporarily displace wildlife but this affect is expected to be temporal and insignificant. Surveys would occur during daylight hours only and would not affect nocturnal species. Due to the methods employed in areas of low potential for cultural resources, there should be little if any damage to wildlife or vegetation. This use is expected to have negligible impacts to Refuge resources. However, upon the identification of moderate to high potential sites by the contractor and proposals to utilize hand digging and/or heavy equipment, amended special use permits or archeological permits will be required. These amended permits or archeological permits may contain additional stipulations as necessary to protect wildlife and vegetation. It is also possible that activities prescribed for moderate or high potential sites would not be permitted. Depending on the proposed action, it may be necessary to reevaluate this Compatibility Determination. If a new Compatibility Determination is required, it would include additional public comment.

Public Review and Comment: Public notices of the Draft Compatibility Determination will be advertised in local newspapers (*The Valley Morning Star, Brownsville Herald, The Monitor*). Comments will be received from October 7 through October 21, 2007. All comments must be written and received via mail, email or delivered in person to the Santa Ana Refuge Headquarters.

Determination (check one below):

___ Use is Not Compatible

_X_ Use is Compatible with Following Stipulations

Stipulations Necessary to Ensure Compatibility:

Prior to the implementation of the project:

1. No work will begin without obtaining a Special Use Permit from the Refuge Manager. Daily work activities will be closely coordinated with the LRGVNWR Refuge Manager regarding particular sites/locations and access routes.
2. Vegetated areas will be surveyed on foot only.
3. Vegetation may be cut using hand tools only and only for the purpose of conducting the survey.
4. No digging with shovels or heavy equipment is permitted without prior consultation with the Refuge Manager.
5. All efforts will be made to recognize and avoid terrestrial wildlife to reduce the risk of unnecessary mortality.
6. While work is being conducted, vehicles and equipment must remain on designated Refuge roads. No off-road access is permitted. Vehicles will not be permitted on Refuge roads during wet conditions.
7. All survey personnel will be accompanied by Refuge Law Enforcement Officers (as available) or Border Patrol Agents when present on Refuge lands.
8. All other stipulations and/or rules from *General Conditions and Operating Procedures While on the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge* will be strictly adhered to.

Justification: Though the overall objective of these surveys is to gather cultural resource information related to the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and identification of endangered and threatened species related to Section 7 (Endangered Species) Consultation for the future construction of the Border Fence, these surveys have the potential to provide much needed cultural resource information to the Refuge. Little information is currently available to the Refuge Staff regarding the presence or absence of cultural resources on these Refuge tracts. Gathering of cultural resource data on Refuge tracts is important, and can be useful baseline information for Refuge Managers and Biologists assigned to the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Service Policy related to cultural resources is established in Service Manual 614 FW 1-5. Under Section 1.2 Objectives, A. the objectives for managing cultural resources are to: "Protect, maintain, and plan for the use of Service managed cultural resources for the benefit of present and future generations." The Santa Ana/Lower Rio Grande Valley Comprehensive Conservation Plan goals and objectives include: 5.4 Cultural Resources. GOAL: "to protect, maintain, and plan for Service managed cultural resources on the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Santa Ana NWR for the benefit of present and future generations." Objectives: 1. "Coordinate with the SHPO to identify cultural resources on the refuge. Evaluate the status of new sites such as the Casa Yanqui ruins in the Starr County District and submit for additional protection (i.e., National Register) if necessary." These cultural resource surveys will not materially interfere with or detract from the purposes of the Refuge and have the potential to add to the Refuge's basic understanding and knowledge of the resources present on Refuge lands. Methods and procedures specified in the proposed use are not likely to significantly impact wildlife or wildlife habitat within the Refuge. The fact that these surveys are related to potential future construction of a Border Fence on Refuge lands is not considered a factor in determining whether the use is Compatible.

Signature: Project Leader___ _____
(Signature and Date)

Concurrence: Regional Chief _____
(Signature and Date)

Mandatory 10- or 15-year Re-Evaluation Date: __October 21, 2017__
Fish and Wildlife Service policy states that after November 17, 2002 no uses on a refuge will be permitted for a period longer than 10 years, unless the terms and conditions for such long-term permits (e.g., easements) specifically allows for the modification to the terms and conditions of the permit, if necessary, to ensure compatibility.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Station No. to be credited:	Permit Number:
21552	**21552-08-03-AGC**

Date: **March 27, 2008**

Period of Use (Inclusive):

From: **April 6, 2008**

To: **April 16, 2008**

Permittee Name: **engineering-environmental Management (e^2M)**
J. David Kilby, M.A., R.P.A.
Archaeology Project Manager
jkilby@e2m.net

Permittee Address: **3500 Comanche Road NE**
Albuquerque, NM 87107
(505) 345-6595; (505) 715-2111 cell
www.e2m-inc.com

Purpose (specify in detail privilege requested, or units of products involved):
Conduct Cultural Resource Surveys on the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge along potential border fence alignments. Surveys will be primarily observational and consist of foot-accessible ocular surveys and shovel testing only. Excavation in addition to shovel-testing will be permitted on a site-specific basis only (case by case basis).

Description (specify unit numbers; metes and bounds, or other recognizable designations):
Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge Tracts included in the Survey (east to west):
Tracts of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge included in the Survey (east to west):

Rosario Banco, Llano Grande Banco, La Coma, Monterrey Banco, Hidalgo Bend, Pate Bend, Kiskadee WMA, Granjeno, Penitas, Penitas WMA, (Hidalgo County);

Amount of Administrative Fee $ ____N/A_____ If not a fixed payment, specify rate and unit of charge: _____

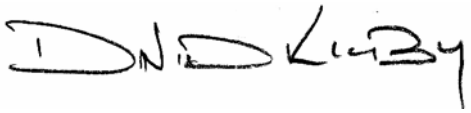
- ■ Payment Exempt
- ☐ Full Payment
- ☐ Partial Payment - Balance of payments to be made as follows:

Record of Payments:

Special Conditions:
Permittee must contact Wildlife Refuge Specialist, Gisela Chapa (956) 784-7540 by 10a.m. weekdays when on Refuge Property.
Permittee must conduct surveys during daylight hours only; on weekends contact Officer Iriz Elizondo (956) 522-7090 by 10am.
Permittee is not authorized to excavate using heavy equipment (backhoe) without Refuge consent. Backhoe excavation will only be authorized on a site-specific case by case basis with Refuge concurrence.
Permittee must remove any stakes, flagging, or markers from refuge property immediately following the survey.
Permittee will not use motorized vehicles/equipment off established refuge roads. Avoid all refuge roads during wet conditions.
Permittee will provide the Refuge with all raw data, a Summary of Findings, and a copy of the final vegetation classification maps, preferably in GIS format; and copies of any disseminated information, including any reports sent to Ecological Services, FWS.
Permittee must provide the Refuge a comprehensive list of personnel authorized on Refuge lands before Special Use Permit issuance.
Permittee will insure all lead investigators (all teams) possess a photocopy of the Special Use Permit when on Refuge lands.
Permittee will adhere the the Standard Operations Procedures (SOP) Attached to this Special Use Permit.

This permit is issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and accepted by the undersigned, subjected to the terms, covenants, obligations, and reservations, expressed or implied herein, and to the conditions and requirements appearing above and attached.

Permittee Signature:



J. David Kilby

Issuing Officer Signature and Title:

Gisela Chapa, Wildlife Refuge Specialist

Form 3-1383 (Rev. 5/97)

DRAFT
COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

Use: engineering-environmental Management (e^2M) proposes to conduct natural resource surveys on fourteen (14) Refuge tracts within the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (LRGVNWR). These surveys are directly associated with determining the environmental impact(s) of the proposed Border Fence (PF-225) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas.

Refuge Name: Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Refuge tracts likely to be surveyed: Arroyo Ramirez, Los Negros Creek, Rio San Juan, Los Velas, Los Ebanos, Penitas, Granjeno, Monterrey Banco, La Coma, Rosario Banco, Kiskadee, Phillips Banco, Boscaje de La Palma, and Southmost.

Establishing and Acquisition Authorities:

- Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 [16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)], [16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(1)]
- An Act Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife, or other purposes [16 U.S.C. 667b]
- Refuge Recreation Act, as amended [16 U.S.C. 460k-1], [16 U.S.C. 460k-2]
- Migratory Bird Conservation Act [16 U.S.C. 715d]
- National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997

Refuge Purpose(s): As excerpted from the enabling legislation used to authorize the acquisition of the Refuge, the following are the Refuge purposes:

"... for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources ..." [16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)] "... for the benefit of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in performing its activities and services. Such acceptance may be subject to the terms of any restrictive or affirmative covenant, or condition of servitude ..." [16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(1)] (Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956)

"... particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program." [16 U.S.C. 667b] (An Act Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife, or other purposes)

"... suitable for: (1) incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of endangered species or threatened species ..." [16 U.S.C. 460k-1] "... the Secretary ... may accept and use ... real ... property. Such acceptance may be accomplished under the terms and conditions of restrictive covenants imposed by donors ..." [16 U.S.C. 460k-2] (Refuge Recreation Act [16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4], as amended)

"... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds." [16 U.S.C. 715d] (Migratory Bird Conservation Act)

The Lower Rio Grande Valley and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuges Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) of 1997 satisfies the CCP requirement of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 and identifies the following five goals of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge:

- To restore, enhance and protect biological diversity.
- To protect and obtain additional water rights, improve water management, and protect, restore and enhance wetlands.
- To improve water quality and reduce contaminant related fish and wildlife resource losses.
- To protect, maintain and plan for cultural resources.
- To offer compatible wildlife dependent public uses, recreational opportunities, and interpretation and education.

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission: "The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."

Description of Use: engineering-environmental Management, Inc. (e^2M) would conduct natural resource surveys within thirteen tracts (listed above) of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The surveys would begin upon the granting of a special use permit for this use by the Refuge. Surveyors would walk the entire accessible length of the proposed fence segment on each of the Refuge tracts, and examine in more detail areas containing unique species compositions or habitat that might be conducive to sensitive species. Plot data (GPS) coordinates, photographs, and plant community composition) would be recorded at regular intervals along the proposed fence site and where plant communities present substantial shifts in species composition. These data would be used to generate vegetation classifications and maps to support delineation of habitat types, analysis of potential sensitive species occurrences, and analysis of potential project impacts to biological resources. These surveys would be observational only. Information would also be gathered related to wetland delineation. Minor digging may be required determine the presence of hydric soils.

Availability of Resources: No additional fiscal resources will be needed due to this use. The proposed work will be completed by e^2M (contracted by the Corps of Engineers – Fort Worth District) and is expected to be completed within a 10-day period. LRGVNWR staff will provide oversight during all aspects of the activity, to ensure special use permit requirements are carried out. Effort required to issue and oversee the Special Use Permit can be accomplished with existing resources.

Anticipated Impacts of the Use: Natural resource surveys conducted by e^2M will be conducted on foot or using existing roads within each of the Refuge tracts. Vehicles will be permitted only on existing roads and no clearing or cutting of vegetation will be needed. Natural resource surveys will disturb and temporarily displace wildlife but this affect is expected to temporal and insignificant. Surveys would occur during daylight hours only and would not affect nocturnal species. Due to the methods employed, there should be little if any damage to wildlife or vegetation.

Public Review and Comment: Public notices of the availability of the Draft Compatibility Determination (for review) will be advertised in local newspapers (*The Valley Morning Star, Brownsville Herald, The Monitor*). Written comments will be received from October 7th through October 21, 2007. All comments must be received via mail, email or delivered in person to the Santa Ana Refuge Headquarters.

Determination (check one below):

___ Use is Not Compatible _X_ Use is Compatible with Following Stipulations

Stipulations Necessary to Ensure Compatibility:

Prior to the implementation of the project:

1. No work will begin without obtaining a Special Use Permit from the Refuge Manager. Daily work activities will be closely coordinated with the LRGVNWR the Refuge Manager regarding particular sites/locations and access routes.
2. Vegetated areas will be surveyed by foot only.
3. All efforts will be made to recognize and avoid terrestrial wildlife to reduce the risk of accidental mortality.
4. While work is being conducted, vehicles and equipment must remain on designated Refuge roads. No off-road vehicle access is permitted. Vehicles will not be permitted on Refuge roads during wet conditions.
5. Survey work is authorized during daylight hours only.
6. Cutting or clearing of Refuge vegetation is prohibited.
7. All survey personnel will be accompanied by Refuge Law Enforcement Officers (as available) or Border Patrol agents when present on Refuge lands.
8. All other stipulations and/or rules from *General Conditions and Operating Procedures While on the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge* will be strictly adhered to.

Justification: Though the overall objective of these surveys is to gather biological information related to the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and identification of endangered and threatened species related to Section 7 (Endangered Species) Consultation for the future construction of a border fence, these surveys have the potential to provide much needed biological information to the Refuge. Little information is currently available to the Refuge staff regarding the presence or absence of plant and animal species on these Refuge tracts. Gathering of biological resource data on Refuge tracts is important, and can be useful baseline information for Refuge Managers and Biologists assigned to the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Conducting natural resource surveys on specific tracts of the LRGVNWR is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (est. 9/24/97). Under Section 5.1 B. Research Objectives (1.) states: "Conduct floral and faunal inventories throughout the area of ecological concern and develop monitoring strategies to detect significant population trends." Section 5.1 C. Endangered Species Objectives (1.) states "Monitor populations of threatened and endangered floral and faunal species on refuge tracts and throughout the area of ecological concern. Use GIS and Global Positioning Systems to document locations of populations of species of management concern." These natural resource surveys will not materially interfere with or detract from the purposes of the Refuge and have the potential to add to our basic understanding and knowledge of the resources present on Refuge lands. Methods and procedures specified in the proposed use are not likely significantly impact wildlife or wildlife habitat within the Refuge. The fact that these surveys are related to potential future construction of a border fence on Refuge lands is not considered a factor in determining whether this use is Compatible.

Signature: Project Leader___ _____
(Signature and Date)

Concurrence: Regional Chief _____
(Signature and Date)

Mandatory 10- or 15-year Re-Evaluation Date: __October 21, 2017__
Fish and Wildlife Service policy states that after November 17, 2002 no uses on a refuge will be permitted for a period longer than 10 years, unless the terms and conditions for such long-term permits (e.g., easements) specifically allows for the modification to the terms and conditions of the permit, if necessary, to ensure compatibility.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Station No. to be credited:	Permit Number:
21552	**21552-08-02-BRW**

Date: **November 30, 2007**

Period of Use (Inclusive):

From: **December 10, 2007**

To: **December 28, 2007**

Permittee Name:	Permittee Address:
engineering-environmental Management (e^2M) **J. David Kilby, M.A., R.P.A.** **Archaeology Project Manager** **jkilby@e2m.net**	**3500 Comanche Road NE** **Albuquerque, NM 87107** **(505) 345-6595; (505) 715-2111 cell** **www.e2m-inc.com**

Purpose (specify in detail privilege requested, or units of products involved):
Conduct Cultural Resource Surveys on the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge along potential border fence alignments. Surveys will be primarily observational and consist of foot-accessible ocular surveys and shovel testing only. Excavation in addition to shovel-testing will be permitted on a site-specific basis only (case by case basis).

Description (specify unit numbers; metes and bounds, or other recognizable designations):
Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge Tracts included in the Survey (east to west):
Tracts of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge included in the Survey (east to west):

Boscaje de La Palma, Jeronimo Banco, Phillips Banco, Palo Blanco, Tahuachal Banco, Vaqueteria Banco, Culebron Banco, (Cameron County);

Rosario Banco, La Coma, Monterrey Banco, Hidalgo Bend, Pate Bend, Granjeno, Kiskadee WMA, Penitas, Penitas WMA, Los Ebanos (Hidalgo County);

Rio San Juan, Los Velas, Los Velas West, Los Negros Creek (Starr County)

Amount of Administrative Fee $ ____N/A_____ If not a fixed payment, specify rate and unit of charge: _____

- [x] Payment Exempt
- [ ] Full Payment
- [ ] Partial Payment - Balance of payments to be made as follows:

Record of Payments:

Special Conditions:
Permittee must contact Wildlife Refuge Specialist, Gisela Chapa (956) 784-7540 by 10a.m. weekdays when on Refuge Property.
Permittee must conduct surveys during daylight hours only; on weekends contact Officer Iriz Elizondo (956) 522-7090 by 10am.
Permittee is not authorized to excavate using heavy equipment (backhoe) without Refuge consent. Backhoe excavation will only be authorized on a site-specific case by case basis with Refuge concurrence.
Permittee must remove any stakes, flagging, or markers from refuge property immediately following the survey.
Permittee will not use motorized vehicles/equipment off established refuge roads. Avoid all refuge roads during wet conditions.
Permittee will provide the Refuge with all raw data, a Summary of Findings, and a copy of the final vegetation classification maps, preferably in GIS format; and copies of any disseminated information, including any reports sent to Ecological Services, FWS.
Permittee must provide the Refuge a comprehensive list of personnel authorized on Refuge lands before Special Use Permit issuance.
Permittee will insure all lead investigators (all teams) possess a photocopy of the Special Use Permit when on Refuge lands.
Permittee will adhere the the Standard Operations Procedures (SOP) Attached to this Special Use Permit.

This permit is issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and accepted by the undersigned, subjected to the terms, covenants, obligations, and reservations, expressed or implied herein, and to the conditions and requirements appearing above and attached.

Permittee Signature:	Issuing Officer Signature and Title:
J. David Kilby	**Gisela Chapa, Wildlife Refuge Specialist**

Form 3-1383 (Rev. 5/97)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Station No. to be credited:	Permit Number:
21552	**21552-08-03-AGC**

Date: **March 27, 2008**

Period of Use (Inclusive):

From: **April 6, 2008**

To: **April 16, 2008**

Permittee Name: **engineering-environmental Management (e^2M)**
J. David Kilby, M.A., R.P.A.
Archaeology Project Manager
jkilby@e2m.net

Permittee Address: **3500 Comanche Road NE**
Albuquerque, NM 87107
(505) 345-6595; (505) 715-2111 cell
www.e2m-inc.com

Purpose (specify in detail privilege requested, or units of products involved):
Conduct Cultural Resource Surveys on the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge along potential border fence alignments. Surveys will be primarily observational and consist of foot-accessible ocular surveys and shovel testing only. Excavation in addition to shovel-testing will be permitted on a site-specific basis only (case by case basis).

Description (specify unit numbers; metes and bounds, or other recognizable designations):
Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge Tracts included in the Survey (east to west):
Tracts of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge included in the Survey (east to west):

Rosario Banco, Llano Grande Banco, La Coma, Monterrey Banco, Hidalgo Bend, Pate Bend, Kiskadee WMA, Granjeno, Penitas, Penitas WMA, (Hidalgo County);

Amount of Administrative Fee $ ____N/A_____ If not a fixed payment, specify rate and unit of charge: _____

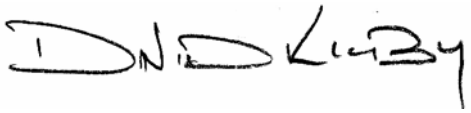
- ■ Payment Exempt
- ☐ Full Payment
- ☐ Partial Payment - Balance of payments to be made as follows:

Record of Payments:

Special Conditions:
Permittee must contact Wildlife Refuge Specialist, Gisela Chapa (956) 784-7540 by 10a.m. weekdays when on Refuge Property.
Permittee must conduct surveys during daylight hours only; on weekends contact Officer Iriz Elizondo (956) 522-7090 by 10am.
Permittee is not authorized to excavate using heavy equipment (backhoe) without Refuge consent. Backhoe excavation will only be authorized on a site-specific case by case basis with Refuge concurrence.
Permittee must remove any stakes, flagging, or markers from refuge property immediately following the survey.
Permittee will not use motorized vehicles/equipment off established refuge roads. Avoid all refuge roads during wet conditions.
Permittee will provide the Refuge with all raw data, a Summary of Findings, and a copy of the final vegetation classification maps, preferably in GIS format; and copies of any disseminated information, including any reports sent to Ecological Services, FWS.
Permittee must provide the Refuge a comprehensive list of personnel authorized on Refuge lands before Special Use Permit issuance.
Permittee will insure all lead investigators (all teams) possess a photocopy of the Special Use Permit when on Refuge lands.
Permittee will adhere the the Standard Operations Procedures (SOP) Attached to this Special Use Permit.

This permit is issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and accepted by the undersigned, subjected to the terms, covenants, obligations, and reservations, expressed or implied herein, and to the conditions and requirements appearing above and attached.

Permittee Signature:



J. David Kilby

Issuing Officer Signature and Title:

Gisela Chapa, Wildlife Refuge Specialist

Form 3-1383 (Rev. 5/97)

DRAFT
COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

Use: engineering-environmental Management (e^2M) proposes to conduct natural resource surveys on fourteen (14) Refuge tracts within the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (LRGVNWR). These surveys are directly associated with determining the environmental impact(s) of the proposed Border Fence (PF-225) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas.

Refuge Name: Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Refuge tracts likely to be surveyed: Arroyo Ramirez, Los Negros Creek, Rio San Juan, Los Velas, Los Ebanos, Penitas, Granjeno, Monterrey Banco, La Coma, Rosario Banco, Kiskadee, Phillips Banco, Boscaje de La Palma, and Southmost.

Establishing and Acquisition Authorities:

- Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 [16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)], [16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(1)]
- An Act Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife, or other purposes [16 U.S.C. 667b]
- Refuge Recreation Act, as amended [16 U.S.C. 460k-1], [16 U.S.C. 460k-2]
- Migratory Bird Conservation Act [16 U.S.C. 715d]
- National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997

Refuge Purpose(s): As excerpted from the enabling legislation used to authorize the acquisition of the Refuge, the following are the Refuge purposes:

"... for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources ..." [16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)] "... for the benefit of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in performing its activities and services. Such acceptance may be subject to the terms of any restrictive or affirmative covenant, or condition of servitude ..." [16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(1)] (Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956)

"... particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program." [16 U.S.C. 667b] (An Act Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife, or other purposes)

"... suitable for: (1) incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of endangered species or threatened species ..." [16 U.S.C. 460k-1] "... the Secretary ... may accept and use ... real ... property. Such acceptance may be accomplished under the terms and conditions of restrictive covenants imposed by donors ..." [16 U.S.C. 460k-2] (Refuge Recreation Act [16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4], as amended)

"... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds." [16 U.S.C. 715d] (Migratory Bird Conservation Act)

The Lower Rio Grande Valley and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuges Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) of 1997 satisfies the CCP requirement of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 and identifies the following five goals of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge:

- To restore, enhance and protect biological diversity.
- To protect and obtain additional water rights, improve water management, and protect, restore and enhance wetlands.
- To improve water quality and reduce contaminant related fish and wildlife resource losses.
- To protect, maintain and plan for cultural resources.
- To offer compatible wildlife dependent public uses, recreational opportunities, and interpretation and education.

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission: "The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."

Description of Use: engineering-environmental Management, Inc. (e^2M) would conduct natural resource surveys within thirteen tracts (listed above) of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The surveys would begin upon the granting of a special use permit for this use by the Refuge. Surveyors would walk the entire accessible length of the proposed fence segment on each of the Refuge tracts, and examine in more detail areas containing unique species compositions or habitat that might be conducive to sensitive species. Plot data (GPS) coordinates, photographs, and plant community composition) would be recorded at regular intervals along the proposed fence site and where plant communities present substantial shifts in species composition. These data would be used to generate vegetation classifications and maps to support delineation of habitat types, analysis of potential sensitive species occurrences, and analysis of potential project impacts to biological resources. These surveys would be observational only. Information would also be gathered related to wetland delineation. Minor digging may be required determine the presence of hydric soils.

Availability of Resources: No additional fiscal resources will be needed due to this use. The proposed work will be completed by e^2M (contracted by the Corps of Engineers – Fort Worth District) and is expected to be completed within a 10-day period. LRGVNWR staff will provide oversight during all aspects of the activity, to ensure special use permit requirements are carried out. Effort required to issue and oversee the Special Use Permit can be accomplished with existing resources.

Anticipated Impacts of the Use: Natural resource surveys conducted by e^2M will be conducted on foot or using existing roads within each of the Refuge tracts. Vehicles will be permitted only on existing roads and no clearing or cutting of vegetation will be needed. Natural resource surveys will disturb and temporarily displace wildlife but this affect is expected to temporal and insignificant. Surveys would occur during daylight hours only and would not affect nocturnal species. Due to the methods employed, there should be little if any damage to wildlife or vegetation.

Public Review and Comment: Public notices of the availability of the Draft Compatibility Determination (for review) will be advertised in local newspapers (*The Valley Morning Star, Brownsville Herald, The Monitor*). Written comments will be received from October 7th through October 21, 2007. All comments must be received via mail, email or delivered in person to the Santa Ana Refuge Headquarters.

Determination (check one below):

___ Use is Not Compatible _X_ Use is Compatible with Following Stipulations

Stipulations Necessary to Ensure Compatibility:

Prior to the implementation of the project:

1. No work will begin without obtaining a Special Use Permit from the Refuge Manager. Daily work activities will be closely coordinated with the LRGVNWR the Refuge Manager regarding particular sites/locations and access routes.
2. Vegetated areas will be surveyed by foot only.
3. All efforts will be made to recognize and avoid terrestrial wildlife to reduce the risk of accidental mortality.
4. While work is being conducted, vehicles and equipment must remain on designated Refuge roads. No off-road vehicle access is permitted. Vehicles will not be permitted on Refuge roads during wet conditions.
5. Survey work is authorized during daylight hours only.
6. Cutting or clearing of Refuge vegetation is prohibited.
7. All survey personnel will be accompanied by Refuge Law Enforcement Officers (as available) or Border Patrol agents when present on Refuge lands.
8. All other stipulations and/or rules from *General Conditions and Operating Procedures While on the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge* will be strictly adhered to.

Justification: Though the overall objective of these surveys is to gather biological information related to the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and identification of endangered and threatened species related to Section 7 (Endangered Species) Consultation for the future construction of a border fence, these surveys have the potential to provide much needed biological information to the Refuge. Little information is currently available to the Refuge staff regarding the presence or absence of plant and animal species on these Refuge tracts. Gathering of biological resource data on Refuge tracts is important, and can be useful baseline information for Refuge Managers and Biologists assigned to the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Conducting natural resource surveys on specific tracts of the LRGVNWR is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (est. 9/24/97). Under Section 5.1 B. Research Objectives (1.) states: "Conduct floral and faunal inventories throughout the area of ecological concern and develop monitoring strategies to detect significant population trends." Section 5.1 C. Endangered Species Objectives (1.) states "Monitor populations of threatened and endangered floral and faunal species on refuge tracts and throughout the area of ecological concern. Use GIS and Global Positioning Systems to document locations of populations of species of management concern." These natural resource surveys will not materially interfere with or detract from the purposes of the Refuge and have the potential to add to our basic understanding and knowledge of the resources present on Refuge lands. Methods and procedures specified in the proposed use are not likely significantly impact wildlife or wildlife habitat within the Refuge. The fact that these surveys are related to potential future construction of a border fence on Refuge lands is not considered a factor in determining whether this use is Compatible.

Signature: Project Leader___ _____
(Signature and Date)

Concurrence: Regional Chief _____
(Signature and Date)

Mandatory 10- or 15-year Re-Evaluation Date: __October 21, 2017__
Fish and Wildlife Service policy states that after November 17, 2002 no uses on a refuge will be permitted for a period longer than 10 years, unless the terms and conditions for such long-term permits (e.g., easements) specifically allows for the modification to the terms and conditions of the permit, if necessary, to ensure compatibility.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Station No. to be credited:	Permit Number:
21552	**21552-08-02-BRW**

Date: **November 30, 2007**

Period of Use (Inclusive):

From: **December 10, 2007**

To: **December 28, 2007**

Permittee Name:	Permittee Address:
engineering-environmental Management (e^2M) **J. David Kilby, M.A., R.P.A.** **Archaeology Project Manager** **jkilby@e2m.net**	**3500 Comanche Road NE** **Albuquerque, NM 87107** **(505) 345-6595; (505) 715-2111 cell** **www.e2m-inc.com**

Purpose (specify in detail privilege requested, or units of products involved):
Conduct Cultural Resource Surveys on the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge along potential border fence alignments. Surveys will be primarily observational and consist of foot-accessible ocular surveys and shovel testing only. Excavation in addition to shovel-testing will be permitted on a site-specific basis only (case by case basis).

Description (specify unit numbers; metes and bounds, or other recognizable designations):
Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge Tracts included in the Survey (east to west):
Tracts of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge included in the Survey (east to west):

Boscaje de La Palma, Jeronimo Banco, Phillips Banco, Palo Blanco, Tahuachal Banco, Vaqueteria Banco, Culebron Banco, (Cameron County);

Rosario Banco, La Coma, Monterrey Banco, Hidalgo Bend, Pate Bend, Granjeno, Kiskadee WMA, Penitas, Penitas WMA, Los Ebanos (Hidalgo County);

Rio San Juan, Los Velas, Los Velas West, Los Negros Creek (Starr County)

Amount of Administrative Fee $ ____N/A_____ If not a fixed payment, specify rate and unit of charge: _____

- [x] Payment Exempt
- [ ] Full Payment
- [ ] Partial Payment - Balance of payments to be made as follows:

Record of Payments:

Special Conditions:
Permittee must contact Wildlife Refuge Specialist, Gisela Chapa (956) 784-7540 by 10a.m. weekdays when on Refuge Property.
Permittee must conduct surveys during daylight hours only; on weekends contact Officer Iriz Elizondo (956) 522-7090 by 10am.
Permittee is not authorized to excavate using heavy equipment (backhoe) without Refuge consent. Backhoe excavation will only be authorized on a site-specific case by case basis with Refuge concurrence.
Permittee must remove any stakes, flagging, or markers from refuge property immediately following the survey.
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This permit is issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and accepted by the undersigned, subjected to the terms, covenants, obligations, and reservations, expressed or implied herein, and to the conditions and requirements appearing above and attached.

Permittee Signature:	Issuing Officer Signature and Title:
J. David Kilby	**Gisela Chapa, Wildlife Refuge Specialist**

Form 3-1383 (Rev. 5/97)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Station No. to be credited:	Permit Number:
21552	**21552-08-03-AGC**

Date: **March 27, 2008**

Period of Use (Inclusive):

From: **April 6, 2008**

To: **April 16, 2008**

Permittee Name: **engineering-environmental Management (e^2M)**
J. David Kilby, M.A., R.P.A.
Archaeology Project Manager
jkilby@e2m.net

Permittee Address: **3500 Comanche Road NE**
Albuquerque, NM 87107
(505) 345-6595; (505) 715-2111 cell
www.e2m-inc.com

Purpose (specify in detail privilege requested, or units of products involved):
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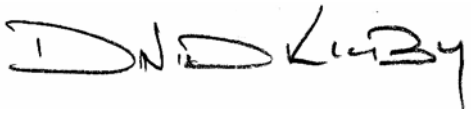

J. David Kilby

Issuing Officer Signature and Title:

Gisela Chapa, Wildlife Refuge Specialist

Form 3-1383 (Rev. 5/97)

BMTF Meeting
Where: McAllen Border Patrol Station
When: Wednesday March 15th 2017
Time: 10:00 am–12:00 pm
Your are invited to the BMTF meeting to be held March 15th at the McAllen border Patrol Station. Please join us and make the meeting what it was intended. A time to facilitate an intergovernmental forum for cooperative problem-solving of common international border issues. The BMTF addresses border security, human safety, and natural and cultural resource protection through shared information and cooperation.

BUREAU: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

ISSUE: FWS and Customs and Border Protection Cooperation: Southern Border Challenges and Successes

SUMMARY: Over the past several years there has been a substantial increase in coordination between the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) along our Nation's southern border. While FWS is working toward a successful balance of meeting individual agency missions, opportunities for improvement exist.

DISCUSSION:

Successes

FWS staff routinely work with CBP to coordinate infrastructure projects, law enforcement operations, training and other project planning. In addition, FWS staff engages with CBP at the national, sector, and station level to implement border protection projects. From an infrastructure standpoint, this has included providing access to lands managed by the FWS for construction of vehicle and pedestrian barriers, as well as for communications towers associated with the Secure Fence Act of 2006 and the SBInet. Additionally, CBP stages *Camp Grip*, a forward operating base that supports tactical border enforcement operations on Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and a helipad on Buenos Aires NWR.

In the arena of operations, coordination with CBP has been largely successful. CBP agents are routinely granted access to NWR lands for patrol activities. Additionally, FWS staff have identified Best Management Practices for CBP operations, and have conducted environmental awareness training for CBP agents. Moreover, NWR Law Enforcement Officers often work in tandem with CBP agents during apprehension of illegal immigrants, at times apprehending and detaining illegal immigrants until CBP agents arrive.

While cooperation has improved, challenges remain. Following is a synopsis of those challenges.

Operational Challenges

Communications – There is inconsistent communications from DHS on status of projects, decisions, etc. FWS field staff attempt to actively communicate and coordinate with DHS. Unfortunately DHS has not consistently informed the FWS of new and ongoing projects, nor provided consistent and timely decision-making.

Section 7 Consultation – Some DHS operations conflict with endangered species recovery, are not covered by the Real ID Act waiver, and are generally not addressed by finalized ESA section 7 consultations. To date DHS has not initiated such consultation.

Implications of Roosevelt Reservation for National Wildlife Refuges – As a result of CBP opening of the Roosevelt Reservation for border barrier construction, maintenance and operations we have noted increased illegal activities, and access has had negative impacts to federal lands. Clarifying authorities for management and operations within the Roosevelt Reservation will help minimize adverse environmental effects and facilitate the DHS mission.

Infrastructure Challenges

Barriers to Wildlife Movement and Management - Installation and operation of border infrastructure has significantly impacted the ability of FWS to protect and conserve trust resources. Formal coordination with DHS on border project design, installation, and operation, including cumulative infrastructure and operational impacts, would reduce impacts to fish and wildlife and advance both FWS and DHS missions. However, a process to facilitate this coordination has yet to be identified. CBP has indicated they would consider retrofitting portions of barriers with wildlife openings if FWS identifies locations and number of openings. However, in Arizona CBP has resisted including openings large enough to accommodate listed species (e.g., jaguars). Funding for retrofitting has yet to be identified.

The Real ID Act waiver also exempted border fence maintenance. Ensuring CBP and their contractors use appropriate methods to avoid and minimize additional impacts to listed species, their habitats, and NWR lands is challenging. FWS supports development of SBInet and once it is functional, sensor technology should allow for proactive CBP enforcement and may reduce off-road impacts occurring on NWRs and to listed species.

Mitigation Challenges

Status of Environmental Compliance Commitments - DHS and CBP have yet to implement many border conservation measures for new projects and maintenance activities to which they have committed and are legally obligated. FWS has formally notified CBP that they are required to consult under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act on their operational activities but CBP has not yet initiated consultation. Numerous violations of previously identified Best Management Practices have been documented and FWS and CBP have identified additional uncorrected construction deficiencies. Fence design and placement have caused erosion border-wide; and roadside/staging and re-vegetation have not been conducted properly, enabling establishment of non-native invasives. FWS is cooperating with CBP to identify these issues but funding to rectify most deficiencies has yet to be identified.

Status of DHS $50 Million Mitigation Fund - FWS and DHS are pursuing completion of mitigation measures for border barrier projects waived under the Real ID Act. The mitigation projects were submitted by FWS in priority order for DHS approval; the estimated cost of projects submitted to date is $52,474,593. An interagency agreement will soon be finalized transferring funding for 13 non-land acquisition projects totaling $6.8 million. DOI is prepared to facilitate transfer of funding via an amended interagency agreement for acquisition of lands that will protect wildlife corridors, have willing sellers, and are unlikely to conflict with CBP operations. The CBP General Counsel has stated that a third party could be used by CBP or FWS to purchase and manage lands to meet mitigation goals. FWS is advocating that land acquisitions ranked for first year funding proceed immediately and that use of the third party approach be considered. FWS continues to supports legislation that would substantiate that DHS has authority to fund land acquisition but requests that the third party approach also be used.

Contact: Benjamin N. Tuggle, Regional Director, Southwest Region, 505-248-6282

DATE: September 26,2008 **STATE:** Texas

BRIEFING FOR THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

PREPARED BY: Allan Strand, Field Supervisor, Corpus Christi Ecological Services Field Office (CCESFO)

SUBJECT: U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) committment to relocate sabal palms impacted by the construction of the Border Fence in Cameron County, Texas

PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT: To provide background information concerning the CCESFO's and South Texas Refuge Complex's (STRC) understanding that CBP planned to provide for the relocation of sabal palms located in the alignment of the Border Fence project in Cameron County, Texas.

ISSUES: Sabal palms (*Sabal mexicana*) are growing on National Wildlife Refuge property and private lands in the proposed alignment of Department of Homeland Security, CBP's border fence in the vicinity of Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has indicated that provisions to transplant these palms will not be included in the contract for fence construction. Although the exact number is not know, approximately 501 sabal palms have been counted in the proposed alignment of segment O-21 and associated proposed project work area, near Brownsville. Some of the sabal palms are located on Refuge properties and some on private lands.

The CCESFO and South Texas Refuge Complex understood from site visit conversations and recommendations, as well as, language included in both the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Stewardship Plan for the Rio Grande Valley Sector PF225 project, that provisions to transplant the sabal palms would be made by CBP. The first Service recommendation was made in September 2007 for CBP to provide for transplantation of the palms. Although not protected under the Endangered Species Act, the distribution of these palms has been greatly reduced and fragmented, and the population in Cameron County represents most of the remaining population in the U.S. A significant conservation value of the sabal palm is that it is a keystone species, that is, a single species upon which many others would not function without its presence. Although the Refuge includes some sabal palm habitat, additional efforts to preserve the remaining sabal palm forest in Texas is provided primarily by the Audubon Society's Sabal Palm Sanctuary in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

CCESFO and STRC staff have been coordinating their comments concerning this issue since the initial site visit and continue to recommend that the sabal palms impacted by the fence construction be transplanted. It is not known when construction of segment O-21 will begin. We believe that bids for the contract have been received but that a contract has not been awarded yet.

MAIN DECISION OR MESSAGE: The Service with the assistance of Rick Schultz (Department of Interior National Borderland Coordinator) should pursue further discussions with CBP and their contractors concerning CBP's willingness to provide for the transplantation of these sabal palms.

DRAFT

BUREAU PERSPECTIVE: An area on Refuge property can be available for the transplantation effort; therefore, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service continues to recommend that (1) provisions to transplant the sabal palms be made by CBP, and (2) that the transplantation effort be coordinated with the Service and others entities as appropriate.

CONTACT: Allan Strand, Field Supervisor, Corpus Christi Ecological Service Field Office, 361-994-9005

APPROVED BY: _____ **DATE:** _____
Assistant Regional Director

DRAFT

GENERAL INFORMATION

Conservation Action Title: Texas Land Acquisition

Bureau: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Project Manager(s): Dr. Larisa Ford/Ernesto Reyes

Project Location: Approximately 6 miles north of the intersection of State Highway 186 and County Road 10 or approximately at Latitude 26º 35′ 7.30" North and Longitude 97º 58′ 26.22" West, in northeastern Hidalgo County, Texas.

Initial Budget: $3,000,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (from Project Description Worksheet)

DESCRIPTION / DISCUSSION OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS / IMPLEMENTATIONS
Describe how you accomplished the tasks (IAW the project description worksheets); correlate what was done with these funds and how those actions match the PDW

1. List the tasks accomplished,
2. Describe for each task:
    a. What was done and How it was accomplished
    b. What worked
    c. What did not (i.e. lessons learned)
    d. Include photos, maps, etc (only those not included in contractor deliverables)

200K-Texas Land Acquisition*:* Under amendment four of the IAA, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) provided $3 million dollars to acquire at least 500 acres of land for jaguarundi and ocelot habitat as part of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex (LRGVNWR). When the Tactical Infrastructure (TI) was built in South Texas, the movement corridors for the jaguarundi and ocelot, protected species, were affected and, in some areas, completely severed. This conservation action is to purchase at least 500 acres for future habitat away from the TI to increase the range of these two felids. The property selected has the potential for future high quality habitat and to increase the connectivity with other habitat nearby. It is located adjacent to the LRGVNWR Complex so future land management can be geared towards enhancing and protecting this habitat.

In April 2014, a 1,119-acre tract located in Hidalgo and Willacy counties, Texas, was purchased utilizing DHS funds per the IAA. The 1119-acre tract, which is a portion of El Tecolote Ranch, was simultaneously purchased by The Nature Conservancy from Four Owls Family Partners, Ltd., and then donated to the United States to be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The acquisition of this tract meets the overall strategy for the recovery of the endangered ocelot and jaguarundi. The property was chosen due to its location within wildlife travel corridors and its proximity to other properties consisting of dense brush habitat, which is favored by both cat species.

The property is generally level to undulating with scattered low areas, some of which hold water from rainfall or delivered via pipeline from the privately-owned northern portion of El Tecolote Ranch. No structures are present. Vegetative cover is native brush with mesquite consistently found across the property. There are 11 ephemeral wetlands (playas), some modified for livestock watering, ranging in size from 1.4 acres to 0.2 acres with a total of 10.2 wetland acres. The nearest refuge tract is the Teniente Tract, approximately 2.4 miles south.

The mesquite-dominated rangeland has a mix of open prairie over fine sandy soils (Nueces Fine Sand). Brush or mature stands of mesquite are mixed with brasil, ebony, and native shrubs such as granjeno, and huisache in the depressional areas. Open areas contain thick blue carpets of sand phacelia, an annual wildflower. The light to moderate density of brush on the tract suggests modification of the climax vegetation community through years of continuous livestock grazing.

Wildlife noted during the survey included cardinals, vultures, caracaras, vermillion flycatchers, great horned owl, and kiskadee flycatchers. There were raccoon tracks, coyote, and exotic nilgai. The sandy tract had numerous Texas pocket gopher mounds. The property is unique in that it contains 12 study sites and nest boxes for the rare ferruginous pygmy owl.

Label: "Sierra Club FOIA - CBP"

Created by:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov

Total Messages in label:254 (67 conversations)

Created: 06-01-2017 at 14:22 PM

Conversation Contents

Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Attachments:

/14. Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB/1.1 BMTF MAR'17.pdf
/14. Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB/2.1 BP forOMB.CBPandFWSCoordination6.9.10.docx
/14. Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB/2.2 Draft Sabal Palm Briefing for RD.doc
/14. Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB/2.3 Border Fence Mitigation Conservation Action Reports 2015 (1).docx
/14. Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB/5.1 BP forOMB.CBPandFWSCoordination6.9.10.docx
/14. Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB/6.1 BP forOMB.CBPandFWSCoordination6.9.10.docx

"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>

From:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Sent:	Fri Mar 10 2017 10:36:32 GMT-0700 (MST)
To:	"Willey, Seth" <seth_willey@fws.gov>
CC:	Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, Sherry Barrett <sherry_barrett@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>, Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>, Dawn Gardiner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
Attachments:	BMTF MAR'17.pdf

FYI.

This has made the rounds at least once, but sharing again.

The next Border Management Task Force Meeting will be on March 15, 2017 in McAllen. Ernesto will be in attendance. Ernesto worked closely with the task force the last time portions of the wall were installed to address issues in Texas.

Chuck Ardizzone
Project Leader
Texas Coastal Ecological Services
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
Houston, TX 77058
W: (281) 286-8282 Ext 228
C: (713) 882-1912
F: (281) 488-5882

"Leaders must learn to discipline their disappointments. It's not what happens to us, it is what we choose to do about what happens that makes the difference in how our lives turn out."

Jim Rohn

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader"

John Quincy Adams

On Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 11:16 AM, Willey, Seth <seth_willey@fws.gov> wrote:

> Adding Sherry. In particular, Cynthia's folks notes that "if we have significant resource concerns we should have them identified now." For example, gene flow / connectivity. DHS has a March 25th date for a fence or wall plan.
>
> Seth
>
> **********
> Seth L. Willey
> Deputy ARD for Ecological Services
> Southwest Region, USFWS
> Seth_Willey@fws.gov
> Work: 505-248-6492
> Cell: 505-697-7600
> **********
>
> On Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 9:56 AM, Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov> wrote:
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> > Fyi.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
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> > Begin forwarded message:
> >
> > **From:** Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>
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> > **To:** Joy Nicholopoulos <Joy_Nicholopoulos@fws.gov>, Ted_Koch@fws.gov, Kelly McDowell <Kelly_McDowell@fws.gov>, Juliette Gutierrez <juliette_gutierrez@fws.gov>
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> >
> > **From:** Charles Blair <charles_blair@fws.gov>
> > **Date:** March 10, 2017 at 6:37:52 AM MST
> > **To:** cynthia_martinez@fws.gov

Cc: brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, Aaron_Archibeque@fws.gov
Subject: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Cynthia

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John believes we will have an opportunity for consultation once the waivers are issued but does not know how the process will work. We need to have our people ready to work with the operational folks.

DHS has a March 25 date for a fence or wall plan

Mitigation funding is still a question but no one is optimistic

Sent from my iPad

"Gardiner, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>

From:	"Gardiner, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Sent:	Fri Mar 10 2017 14:22:35 GMT-0700 (MST)
To:	Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
Attachments:	BP forOMB.CBPandFWSCoordination6.9.10.docx Draft Sabal Palm Briefing for RD.doc Border Fence Mitigation Conservation Action Reports 2015 (1).docx

We still have Larisa's folder on the share drive that is loaded with border info. Can you see our Share Drive?

Below are 3 documents with some good old stuff we should update....

She also had an excellent powerpoint overview of the border issues.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Gardiner, Dawn** <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 3:18 PM
Subject: Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
To: Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>

O.K. Here is the border briefing from 2010 that Benjamin gave to OMB. Would be good to update and add any strategic changes you and Steve want.

On Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 2:55 PM, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov> wrote:

> No I didn't talk to him about it, but can.
>
> Sent from my IPhone
>
> Chuck Ardizzone
> Project Leader
> Texas Coastal ESFO
> US Fish and Wildlife Service
> 17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
> Houston, TX 77508
> C: 713-882-1912
>
> On Mar 10, 2017, at 2:54 PM, Gardiner, Dawn <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov> wrote:
>
> > Did you and Steve talk about a unified border message?
> >
> > On Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 2:50 PM, Ardizzone, Chuck <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov> wrote:
> >
> > > Dawn and Ernesto,
> > >
> > > I would think that there should be something from the last go around for Texas on concerns about the wall. See Seth's email below (highlighted in yellow) and please be prepared to pull something together once they figure out a format.
> > >
> > > **Chuck Ardizzone**
> > > Project Leader
> > > Texas Coastal Ecological Services
> > > U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
> > > 17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
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John Quincy Adams

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Willey, Seth** <seth_willey@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 2:47 PM
Subject: Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
To: "Barrett, Sherry" <sherry_barrett@fws.gov>
Cc: Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>, Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>, Maggie Dwire <maggie_dwire@fws.gov>

I have a call (and email) into Chuck Blair to try to figure that out. No response yet.

Seth

****
Seth L. Willey
Deputy ARD for Ecological Services
Southwest Region, USFWS
Seth_Willey@fws.gov
Work: 505-248-6492
Cell: 505-697-7600
****

On Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 10:24 AM, Barrett, Sherry <sherry_barrett@fws.gov> wrote:

> In what format do you want us to provide our concerns?
>
> On Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 10:16 AM, Willey, Seth <seth_willey@fws.gov> wrote:
>
> > Adding Sherry. In particular, Cynthia's folks notes that "if we have significant resource concerns we should have them identified now." For example, gene flow / connectivity. DHS has a March 25th date for a fence or wall plan.
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> > Seth
> >
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> > Seth L. Willey
> > Deputy ARD for Ecological Services
> > Southwest Region, USFWS
> > Seth_Willey@fws.gov
> > Work: 505-248-6492

Cell: 505-697-7600
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On Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 9:56 AM, Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov> wrote:

> Fyi.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
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> Begin forwarded message:
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> **From:** Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>
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> **To:** Joy Nicholopoulos <Joy_Nicholopoulos@fws.gov>, Ted_Koch@fws.gov, Kelly McDowell <Kelly_McDowell@fws.gov>, Juliette Gutierrez <juliette_gutierrez@fws.gov>
> **Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB**
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> **From:** Charles Blair <charles_blair@fws.gov>
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DHS has a March 25 date for a fence or wall plan

Mitigation funding is still a question but no one is optimistic

Sent from my iPad

--
Sherry Barrett
Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator
US Fish and Wildlife Service
2105 Osuna Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113
Office: (505) 761-4748
Cell: (505) 363-2797

--

E. Dawn Gardiner
Assistant Field Supervisor
Texas Coastal Ecological Services Field Office
P.O. Box 81468
Corpus Christi, TX 78468-1468

(361) 994-9005 x 259
(361) 533-6765 work cell

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"Willey, Seth" <seth_willey@fws.gov>

From:	"Willey, Seth" <seth_willey@fws.gov>
Sent:	Fri Mar 10 2017 15:40:33 GMT-0700 (MST)
To:	Sherry Barrett <sherry_barrett@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>, Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
CC:	Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, Charles Blair <charles_blair@fws.gov>, Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Hey Everyone,

A little more info here. As noted in earlier emails, HQ (through refuges) indicated that "if we have significant resource concerns we should have them identified now." Time appears very short as DHS is on the fast track for releasing their plan. Thinking we want to be proactive on this one, and get started on something quickly.

Chuck Blair (on detail to HQ) suggested we put together a table of stuff that meets the above standard. Not thinking this should be everything possibly impacted, but instead just a high level overview of significant concerns. Something useful in a briefing. That said, others have worked on this longer than I have. Despite some uncertainty in what is the best approach, I took a stab at starting something simple.

Chuck, do you think we are right track. Others, feel free to alter as you think appropriate. Anyone with this link can edit. Or if there is some other pre-existing document we could share, that might be fine (let us know).

Can folks take the ball and run with it? Thoughts?

Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns

Thanks,
Seth

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Seth L. Willey
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Seth_Willey@fws.gov
Work: 505-248-6492
Cell: 505-697-7600
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---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Charles Blair** <charles_blair@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 3:11 PM
Subject: Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
To: "Willey, Seth" <seth_willey@fws.gov>
Cc: Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>, Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, cynthia_martinez@fws.gov, brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, charisa_morris@fws.gov

Seth

There has been no discussion of format for the information. I suggest you compile in a spreadsheet and we will get you some additional guidance early next week.

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 10, 2017, at 12:09 PM, Willey, Seth <seth_willey@fws.gov> wrote:

> Hey Charles,
>
> Hope this finds you well, and that your detail is going well. Your email was shared with us via Aaron. Your email asks us to note soon if we have significant resource concerns related to the border fence. Wondering what format you would like to see? A bunch of BPs? a spreadsheet? something else? I'm thinking ES would like to contribute to a unified R2 response, if you think that would be helpful.
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From: **Ted Koch** <ted_koch@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 9:56 AM
Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
To: Seth Willey <seth_willey@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>, Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>

Fyi.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>
> **Date:** March 10, 2017 at 8:21:24 AM MST
> **To:** Joy Nicholopoulos <Joy_Nicholopoulos@fws.gov>, Ted_Koch@fws.gov, Kelly McDowell <Kelly_McDowell@fws.gov>, Juliette Gutierrez <juliette_gutierrez@fws.gov>
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> > **To:** cynthia_martinez@fws.gov
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Sent from my iPad

Charles Blair <charles_blair@fws.gov>

From:	Charles Blair <charles_blair@fws.gov>
Sent:	Sat Mar 11 2017 05:08:58 GMT-0700 (MST)
To:	"Willey, Seth" <seth_willey@fws.gov>
CC:	Sherry Barrett <sherry_barrett@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>, Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Seth

I think this is the best approach until we receive additional information. I would include a contact for each resource concern. This should be the expert or most knowledge person that we can refer to DHS for consultation.

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 10, 2017, at 4:40 PM, Willey, Seth <seth_willey@fws.gov> wrote:

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> Seth_Willey@fws.gov
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From:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Sent:	Mon Mar 13 2017 05:14:14 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Willey, Seth" <seth_willey@fws.gov>
CC:	Sherry Barrett <sherry_barrett@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>, Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, Charles Blair <charles_blair@fws.gov>, Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
Attachments:	BP forOMB.CBPandFWSCoordination6.9.10.docx

Seth,

here is a document that Dawn shared from the last go round with this issue. I think a lot if not all of the issues would still apply.

Chuck Ardizzone
Project Leader
Texas Coastal Ecological Services
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> Hope this finds you well, and that your detail is going well. Your email was shared with us via Aaron. Your email asks us to note soon if we have significant resource concerns related to the border fence. Wondering what format you would like to see? A bunch of BPs? a spreadsheet? something else? I'm thinking ES would like to contribute to a unified R2 response, if you think that would be helpful.
>
> Thank,
> Seth

****
Seth L. Willey
Deputy ARD for Ecological Services
Southwest Region, USFWS
Seth_Willey@fws.gov
Work: 505-248-6492
Cell: 505-697-7600
****

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Ted Koch** <ted_koch@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 9:56 AM
Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
To: Seth Willey <seth_willey@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>, Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>

Fyi.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>
> **Date:** March 10, 2017 at 8:21:24 AM MST
> **To:** Joy Nicholopoulos <Joy_Nicholopoulos@fws.gov>, Ted_Koch@fws.gov, Kelly McDowell <Kelly_McDowell@fws.gov>, Juliette Gutierrez <juliette_gutierrez@fws.gov>
> **Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** Charles Blair <charles_blair@fws.gov>
> > **Date:** March 10, 2017 at 6:37:52 AM MST
> > **To:** cynthia_martinez@fws.gov
> > **Cc:** brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, Aaron_Archibeque@fws.gov
> > **Subject: Border Fence Meeting in MIB**
> >
> > Cynthia
> >
> > Here are the highlights of the meeting yesterday at MIB.
> > John Andrews
> > organized the meeting with the intent of providing the latest info on
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Request for fence or wall design are now out in the private sector for
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John believes we will have an opportunity for consultation once the
waivers are issued but does not know how the process will work. We
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DHS has a March 25 date for a fence or wall plan

Mitigation funding is still a question but no one is optimistic

Sent from my iPad

"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>

From:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Sent:	Mon Mar 13 2017 05:20:51 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Dawn Gardiner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
CC:	Seth Willey <seth_willey@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
Attachments:	BP forOMB.CBPandFWSCoordination6.9.10.docx

Dawn and Ernesto,

Can you please work on propagating the table that is linked in Seth's email below ASAP. I forwarded the Briefing Paper that Dawn provided from 2010, and I think many if not all of those issues in the BP would still apply.

Chuck Ardizzone
Project Leader
Texas Coastal Ecological Services
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
Houston, TX 77058
W: (281) 286-8282 Ext 228
C: (713) 882-1912
F: (281) 488-5882

"Leaders must learn to discipline their disappointments. It's not what happens to us, it is what we choose to do about what happens that makes the difference in how our lives turn out."

Jim Rohn

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader"

John Quincy Adams

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Willey, Seth** <seth_willey@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 4:40 PM
Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
To: Sherry Barrett <sherry_barrett@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>, Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Cc: Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, Charles Blair <charles_blair@fws.gov>, Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>

Hey Everyone,

A little more info here. As noted in earlier emails, HQ (through refuges) indicated that "if we have significant resource concerns we should have them identified now." Time appears very short as DHS is on the fast track for releasing their plan. Thinking we want to be proactive on this one, and get started on something quickly.

Chuck Blair (on detail to HQ) suggested we put together a table of stuff that meets the above standard. Not thinking this should be everything possibly impacted, but instead just a high level overview of significant concerns. Something useful in a briefing. That said, others have worked on this longer than I have. Despite some uncertainty in what is the best approach, I took a stab at starting something simple.

Chuck, do you think we are right track. Others, feel free to alter as you think appropriate. Anyone with this link can edit. Or if there is some other pre-existing document we could share, that might be fine (let us know).

Can folks take the ball and run with it? Thoughts?

Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns

Thanks,
Seth

****
Seth L. Willey
Deputy ARD for Ecological Services
Southwest Region, USFWS
Seth_Willey@fws.gov
Work: 505-248-6492
Cell: 505-697-7600
****

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Charles Blair** <charles_blair@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 3:11 PM
Subject: Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
To: "Willey, Seth" <seth_willey@fws.gov>
Cc: Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>, Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, cynthia_martinez@fws.gov, brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, charisa_morris@fws.gov

Seth

There has been no discussion of format for the information. I suggest you compile in a spreadsheet and we will get you some additional guidance early next week.

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 10, 2017, at 12:09 PM, Willey, Seth <seth_willey@fws.gov> wrote:

> Hey Charles,
>
> Hope this finds you well, and that your detail is going well. Your email was shared with us via Aaron. Your email asks us to note soon if we have significant resource concerns related to the border fence. Wondering what format you would like to see? A bunch of BPs? a spreadsheet? something else? I'm thinking ES would like to contribute to a unified R2 response, if you think that would be helpful.
>
> Thank,
> Seth
>
> **********
> Seth L. Willey
> Deputy ARD for Ecological Services
> Southwest Region, USFWS
> Seth_Willey@fws.gov
> Work: 505-248-6492
> Cell: 505-697-7600
> **********
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Ted Koch** <ted_koch@fws.gov>
> Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 9:56 AM
> Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
> To: Seth Willey <seth_willey@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>,

Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>

Fyi.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>
> **Date:** March 10, 2017 at 8:21:24 AM MST
> **To:** Joy Nicholopoulos <Joy_Nicholopoulos@fws.gov>, Ted_Koch@fws.gov, Kelly McDowell <Kelly_McDowell@fws.gov>, Juliette Gutierrez <juliette_gutierrez@fws.gov>
> **Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB**
>
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> > **From:** Charles Blair <charles_blair@fws.gov>
> > **Date:** March 10, 2017 at 6:37:52 AM MST
> > **To:** cynthia_martinez@fws.gov
> > **Cc:** brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, Aaron_Archibeque@fws.gov
> > **Subject: Border Fence Meeting in MIB**
> >
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> >
> > The first waivers will probably be for public lands to ensure a quick
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> > Expect a significant increase in surveillance operations as well as
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> >
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John believes we will have an opportunity for consultation once the
waivers are issued but does not know how the process will work. We
need to have our people ready to work with the operational folks.

DHS has a March 25 date for a fence or wall plan

Mitigation funding is still a question but no one is optimistic

Sent from my iPad

"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>

From:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Sent:	Mon Mar 13 2017 05:30:30 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Dawn Gardiner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

I put the documents you sent on the shared drive under boarder wall information. I would be great if you can dig up the powerpoint you are talking about and put in on the shared drive.

Chuck Ardizzone
Project Leader
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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Jim Rohn

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader"

John Quincy Adams

On Sat, Mar 11, 2017 at 7:09 PM, Dawn Gardiner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov> wrote:

> We have old briefing papers and PowerPoint presentations for Border.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> **From:** "Gardiner, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
> **To:** Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
> **Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB**
>
> We still have Larisa's folder on the share drive that is loaded with border info. Can you see our Share Drive?
>
> Below are 3 documents with some good old stuff we should update....
>
> She also had an excellent powerpoint overview of the border issues.
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Gardiner, Dawn** <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
> Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 3:18 PM
> Subject: Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
> To: Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
>
> O.K. Here is the border briefing from 2010 that Benjamin gave to OMB. Would be good to update and add any strategic changes you and Steve want.
>
> On Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 2:55 PM, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov> wrote:
>
> > No I didn't talk to him about it, but can.
> >
> > Sent from my IPhone
> >
> > Chuck Ardizzone
> > Project Leader
> > Texas Coastal ESFO
> > US Fish and Wildlife Service
> > 17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
> > Houston, TX 77508
> > C: 713-882-1912
> >
> > On Mar 10, 2017, at 2:54 PM, Gardiner, Dawn <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov> wrote:
> >
> > Did you and Steve talk about a unified border message?

On Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 2:50 PM, Ardizzone, Chuck <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov> wrote:

> Dawn and Ernesto,
>
> I would think that there should be something from the last go around for Texas on concerns about the wall. See Seth's email below (highlighted in yellow) and please be prepared to pull something together once they figure out a format.
>
> **Chuck Ardizzone**
> Project Leader
> Texas Coastal Ecological Services
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>
> ***John Quincy Adams***
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Willey, Seth** <seth_willey@fws.gov>
> Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 2:47 PM
> Subject: Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
> To: "Barrett, Sherry" <sherry_barrett@fws.gov>
> Cc: Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>, Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>, Maggie Dwire <maggie_dwire@fws.gov>
>
> I have a call (and email) into Chuck Blair to try to figure that out. No response yet.
>
> Seth
>
> **********
> Seth L. Willey
> Deputy ARD for Ecological Services

Southwest Region, USFWS
Seth_Willey@fws.gov
Work: 505-248-6492
Cell: 505-697-7600
****

On Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 10:24 AM, Barrett, Sherry <sherry_barrett@fws.gov> wrote:

> In what format do you want us to provide our concerns?
>
> On Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 10:16 AM, Willey, Seth <seth_willey@fws.gov> wrote:
>
> > Adding Sherry. In particular, Cynthia's folks notes that "if we have significant resource concerns we should have them identified now." For example, gene flow / connectivity. DHS has a March 25th date for a fence or wall plan.
> >
> > Seth
> >
> > **********
> > Seth L. Willey
> > Deputy ARD for Ecological Services
> > Southwest Region, USFWS
> > Seth_Willey@fws.gov
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> > Cell: 505-697-7600
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> >
> > On Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 9:56 AM, Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov> wrote:
> >
> > > Fyi.
> > >
> > > Sent from my iPhone
> > >
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<charles_blair@fws.gov>
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To: cynthia_martinez@fws.gov
Cc: brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, Aaron_Archibeque@fws.gov
Subject: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Cynthia

Here are the highlights of the meeting yesterday at MIB. John Andrews
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Mitigation funding is still a question but no one is optimistic

Sent from my iPad

--
Sherry Barrett
Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator
US Fish and Wildlife Service
2105 Osuna Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113
Office: (505) 761-4748
Cell: (505) 363-2797

--

E. Dawn Gardiner
Assistant Field Supervisor
Texas Coastal Ecological Services Field Office
P.O. Box 81468
Corpus Christi, TX 78468-1468

(361) 994-9005 x 259
(361) 533-6765 work cell

--

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Monday, April 17, 2017

Previous Week's Activities/Accomplishments:
Aplomado Falcon – Ecological Services Co-Lead, Chris Perez – meeting w/Tim Anderson – April 3
Volunteers, Kurt & Virginia Neville, LRGV – depart
CBP Bicycle Training – held at Santa Ana week of April 3-6, 2017 (picnic area, maintenance area, etc.)
Monthly Project Leader Conference Call with SW Region (2) Leadership – April 3
Rob Jess/BW – tour/site visit to Boca Chica, Bahia Grande (trial run for RESTORE Council tour)
Request by Refuge Supervisor McDowell – Oil & Gas Related Endangered Species impacts (Schalaben)
Scot Edler – Tahuachal Banco – materials delivery to Ranchito – contract to Regional Office
Cleaning Contract @ Santa Ana NWR – BW/Dina – meet with Contractor – April 4
RESTORE Council Tour – Boca Chica, mouth of Rio Grande, Border Fence, Bahia Grande – April 5
Ernesto/Scot Edler – tour with Jon Andrew, DOI – Starr County tracts
BMTF Agenda – prepared/routed by BW
Chicharro Banco Tract, LRGV – Contract details compiled and routed by Scot Edler to RO
Santa Ana – PSJA Bench Project – Trey Petty and Imer Dela Garza (and Maintenance staff)
Mid-Year EPAP evaluations – Scot Edler, Chris Perez
Border Management Task Force (BMTF) – Weslaco Station; Jon Andrew, Kelly McDowell present
Spectra Energy Valley Crossing Project – Conference Call 1-2:30pm – April 7
- Biological Monitor recommendation/request – JD Cortez (info provided)
Media Contact – Elizabeth Miller, Backpacker Magazine – request for details on opportunities on LRGV NWR

Things to Do or Due this Week (week of April 10-13):
EPAP Mid-year's accomplished
Mary Trinidad, UTRGV – 7am Tour @ Santa Ana NWR – April 11
CBP Harlingen Station – Tikigaq (Contractor) – Environmental Training – Scot Edler/Trey Petty III
Richard Moore and Sharon Slagle – meeting to discuss La Sal del Rey contract video ($15K)
La Sal del Rey – solar system installed on water well (Imer/Zeno)
Staff & Safety Meeting (LRGV) – Safety Topic (Tires)
Budget Meeting – status of STRC funds; DM funds; etc.
Volunteer Program After-Action Review (w/o Gisela Chapa) – Decisions re: trailerpads from 22 to 14 in FY18
Hog Trapping – trapper selection criteria (Draft)
Brownsville Pocket Park – COB and Gisela tour LRGV NWR tracts to identify sites and discuss activities
Arroyo Ramirez Tract – road construction (repairs) needed again – CBP Contractor – Tikigaq – Scot/Trey
Tahuachal Banco Tract – site visit for DM MAT team (Caliche stockpile project) – BW/Joe
Yturria Brush Tract – illegal brush clearing done by a fibre-optic line/telephone line contractor (NEED LE)

Backburner "To Do's"
Revise Yturria Easement Management Plan – incorporate Frank Yturria's comments/re-route
Meet with all Cooperative Farmers to sign onto FY17 Agreements; insure FY17 rent payments are made
Revise/Draft CD's for Santa Ana and LRGV NWR's
LRGV Tract Map Book – revision/reprint (no books left now for quite a while)
Tortuga Banco – EcoTourism Site planning w/NABA, TPWD, City of Mission
Geocaching CD – Review examples of where it is authorized elsewhere

Monday, April 24, 2017

Previous Week's Activities/Accomplishments:
EPAP Mid-year's accomplished
Mary Trinidad, UTRGV – 7am Tour @ Santa Ana NWR – April 11
CBP Harlingen Station – Tikigaq (Contractor) – Environmental Training – Scot Edler/Trey Petty III
Richard Moore and Sharon Slagle – meeting to discuss La Sal del Rey contract video ($15K)
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Yturria Brush Tract – illegal brush clearing done by a fibre-optic line/telephone line contractor (NEED LE)

Things to Do or Due this Week (week of April 17-21):
Coordinated with Robert Baca, Engineering – re: Chicharra Banco Road DM "Contract" – agreement
Santa Ana RPI – needs annual accountability verified (weapons, computers, vehicles, equipment, etc)
CD Revisions – Chris Perez making significant progress
Level 1 Survey (redone) for Zarate Thomas 1,800-acre Tract (Laguna Atascosa)
Arroyo Ramirez Tract – CBP contractor to begin road repairs at Arroyo Ramirez
Office cleaning/reorganization
April 18-20 – NEPA Training: Rob, Gisela, BW, Trey Petty III, Scot Edler
BW – EPAP Mid-Year completed by Rob Jess, PL (Supervisor)
Taylor Boat Ramp (Los Ebanos Tract, LRGV NWR) – request by CBP to excavate material/stockpile dirt
- email from Scot/Bryan providing for clarification
Meeting with PL Rob Jess – ES/Refuges to "stand down" on sensitive topics: Border fence, LNG, oil and gas
MPO Brownsville – BW notified MPO Director to alert Gisela Chapa, Urban Refuge POC – for future mtgs.
Jeronimo Banco – Quarantine Release documentation – signed/returned by BW
DM Road – Pate Bend – Joe/Scot Edler – site visit to determine additional road work needed
GIS Shapefiles – to Power Engineers (consulting) regarding transmission line
Hog Trapper Screening Criteria ; Public Notice (Draft) – Imer Dela Garza
Notified VLF Director Debra Lee Rodriquez – Power Engineers project on VLF Easement (north of Santa Ana)
Phillips Banco Tract – meeting with City of Brownsville (BW) – Stormwater canal maintenance needed
La Gloria Tract – adjacent Tower company – surveying access into refuge (Trey Petty investigated)

Backburner "To Do's"
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Meet with all Cooperative Farmers to sign onto FY17 Agreements; insure FY17 rent payments are made
Revise/Draft CD's for Santa Ana and LRGV NWR's
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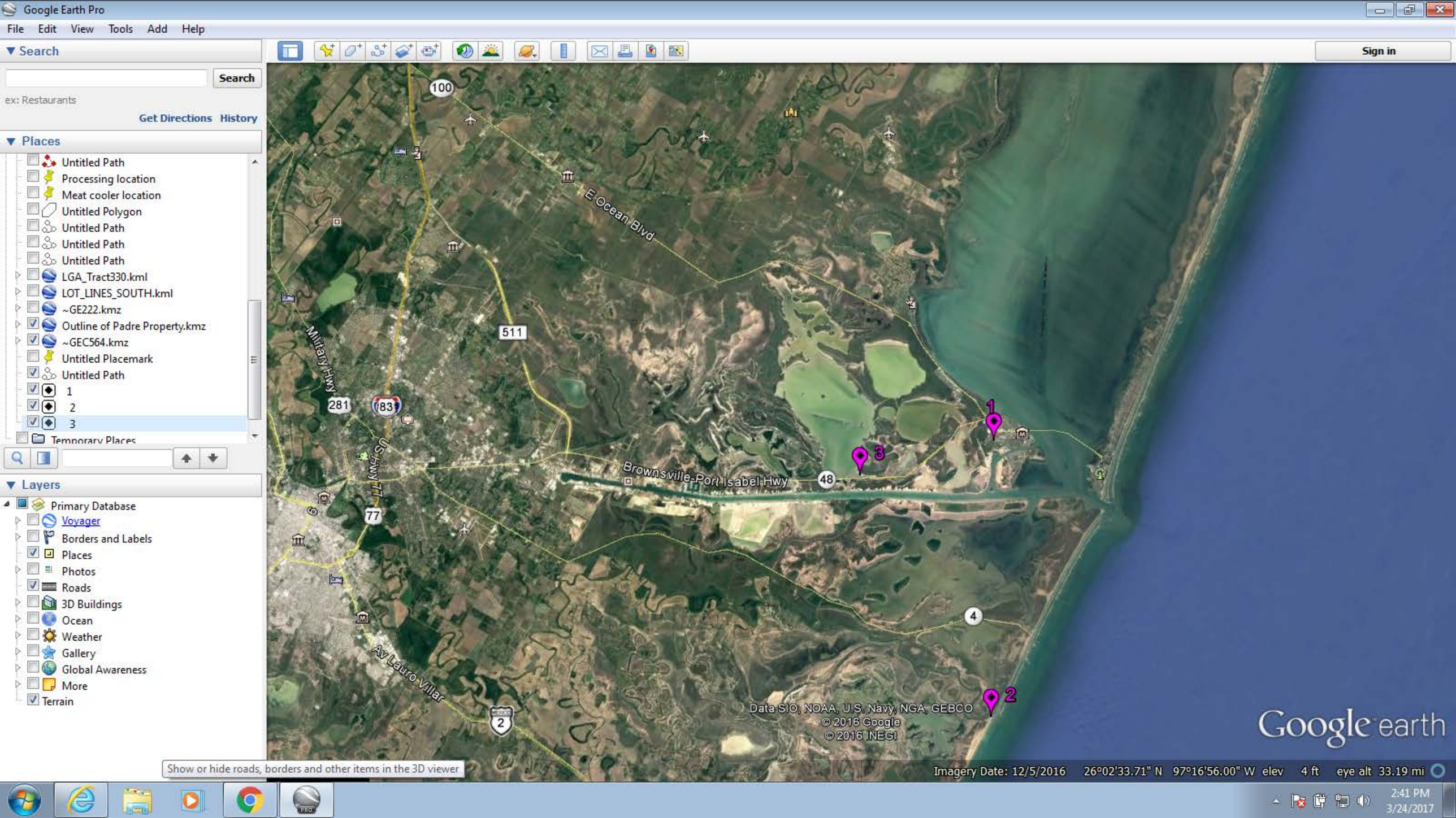
Geocaching CD – Review examples of where it is authorized elsewhere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Outline of Padre Property.kmz
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Temporary Places
Layers
Primary Database
Voyager
Borders and Labels
Places
Photos
Roads
3D Buildings
Ocean
Weather
Gallery
Global Awareness
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Terrain
Show or hide roads, borders and other items in the 3D viewer
Sign in
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Military Hwy
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US Hwy 77
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Brownsville-Port Isabel Hwy
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Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
© 2016 Google
© 2016 INEGI
Google earth
Imagery Date: 12/5/2016 26°02'33.71" N 97°16'56.00" W elev 4 ft eye alt 33.19 mi
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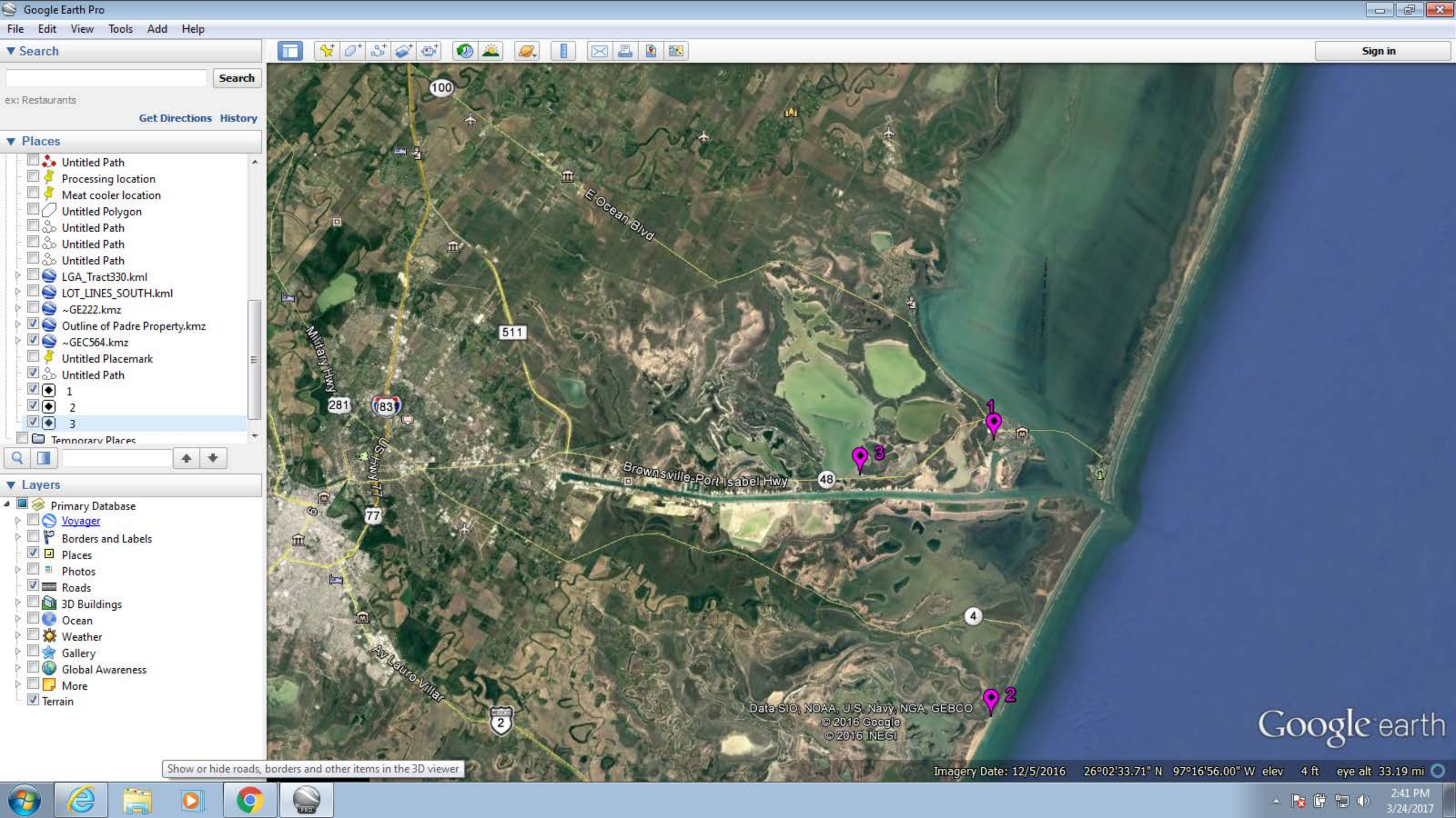
3/24/2017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Untitled Placemark
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3
Temporary Places
Layers
Primary Database
Voyager
Borders and Labels
Places
Photos
Roads
3D Buildings
Ocean
Weather
Gallery
Global Awareness
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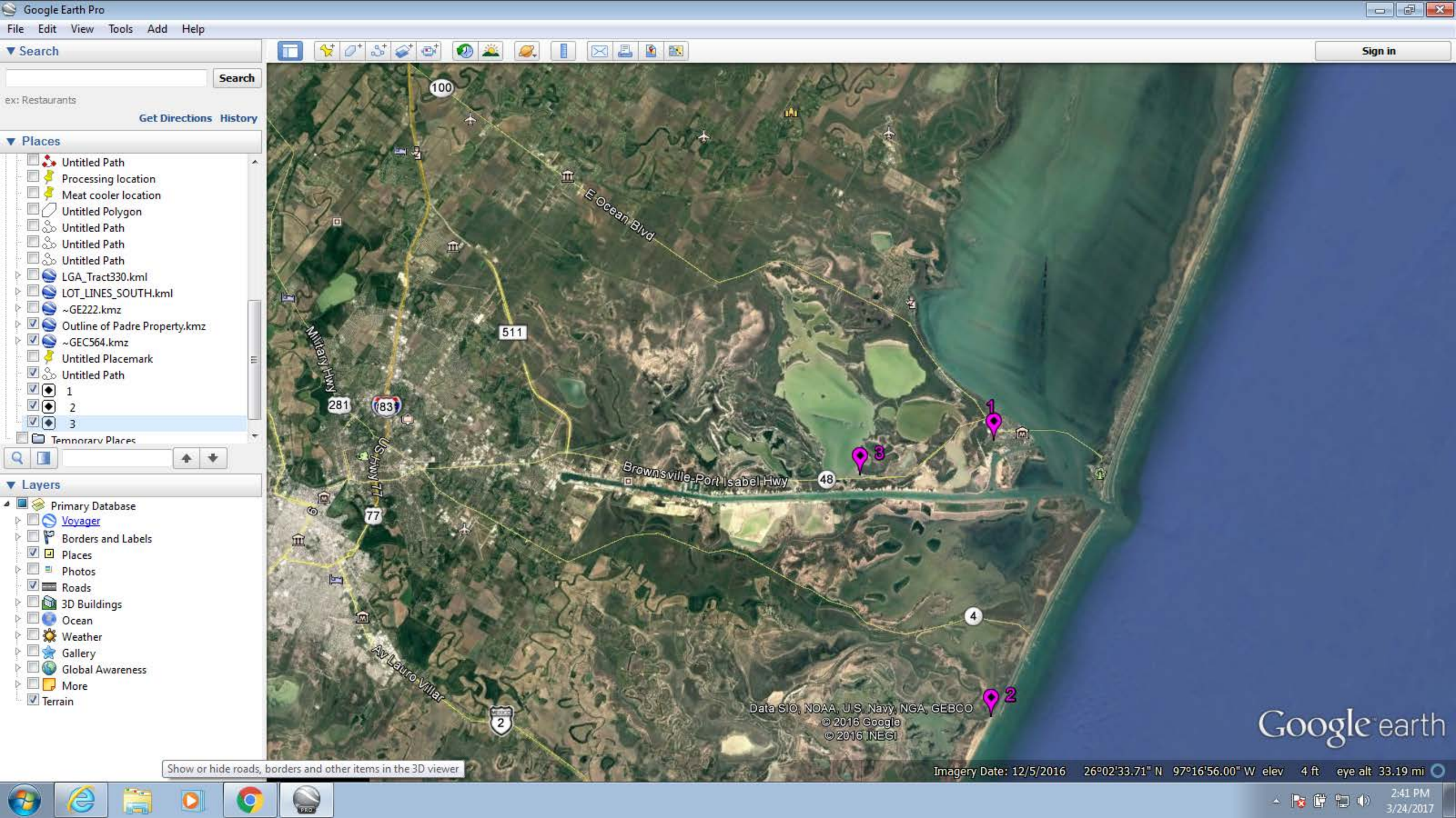
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3D Buildings
Ocean
Weather
Gallery
Global Awareness
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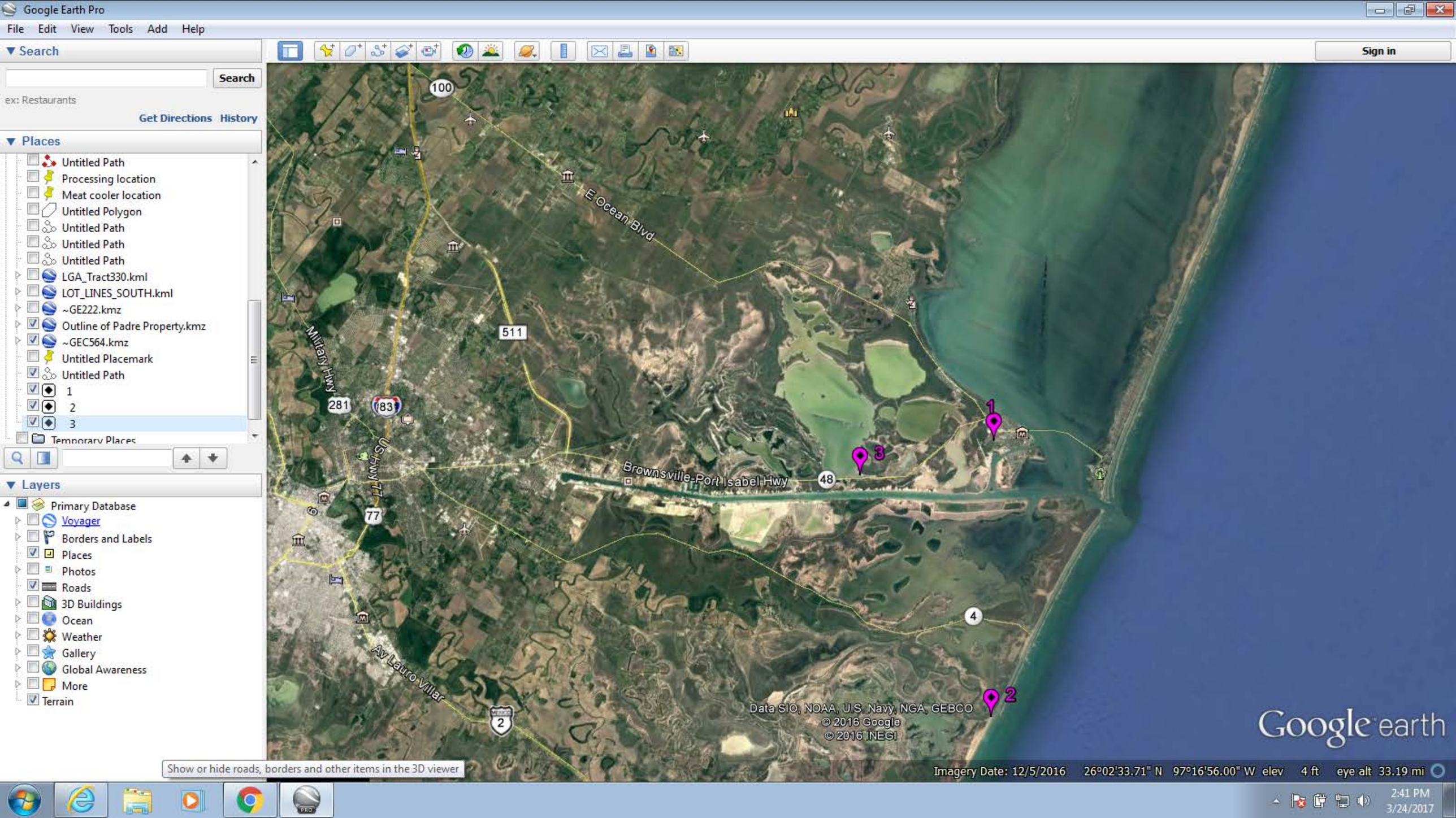
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THE TEXAS TRIBUNE AND THE MEADOWS CENTER FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Scientists say Trump's border wall would devastate wildlife habitat

> At the U.S.-Mexico border, scientists say existing fencing is hurting endangered wildlife and warn that a continuous wall could devastate many species.

BY **KIAH COLLIER** AND **NEENA SATIJA** MARCH 3, 2017 12:01 AM

Scott Nicol, co-chair of the Sierra Club's Borderlands Campaign, stands in front of the border fence in Hidalgo in far South Texas. This section, which sits atop a levee, runs between a national wildlife refuge and a local nature center. Callie Richmond for The Texas Tribune

HIDALGO, Texas — Muddy handprints cover the rusty, iron posts on this section of border fence in far South Texas. The 18-foot-tall barrier, which runs between a national wildlife refuge and a local nature center, ends abruptly less than a mile down the road.
Still, somebody clearly thought it was best to cross here.

"This is probably one of the most visible places they could have climbed," Scott Nicol, co-chair of the Sierra Club's Borderlands Campaign, said before snapping photos of the handprints. "I don't know if they got caught or not, but they made it up and over for sure."

There's been a lot of debate about how effective the Bush-era barrier has been at keeping out illegal crossers and drug smugglers. Some data indicates the barriers have encouraged people to cross in places where there isn't one. But the handprints show that a determined person can still easily scale it.

Reveal
The wall's toll on wildlife and human beings
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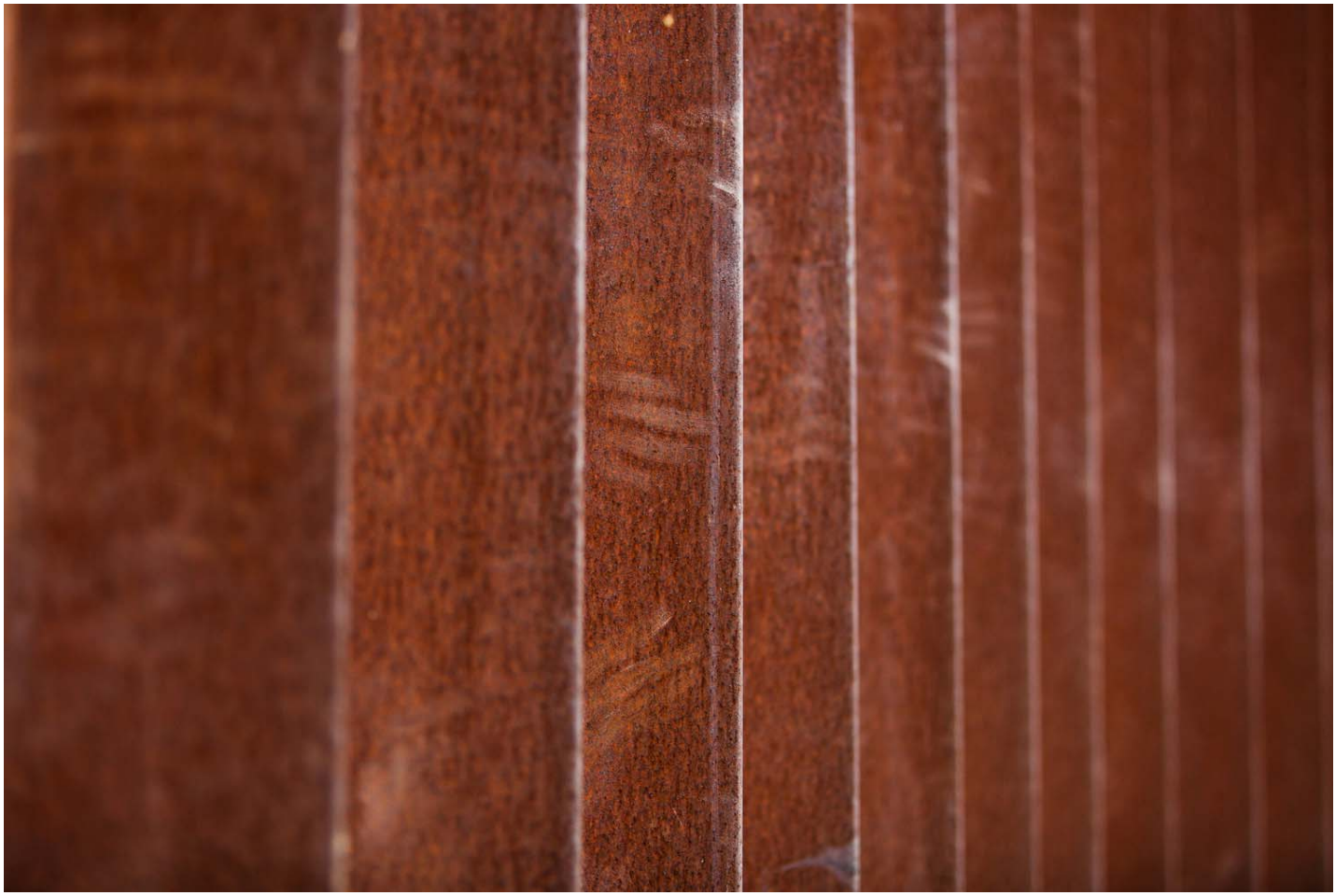
What the border fence has kept out instead, according to environmentalists, scientists and local officials, is wildlife. And the people who have spent decades acquiring and restoring border habitat say that if President Donald Trump makes good on his promise to turn the border fence into a continuous, 40-foot concrete wall, the situation for wildlife along the border — one of the most biodiverse areas in North America — will only get worse.



Muddy handprints cover a section of border fence in far South Texas. Callie Richmond for The Texas Tribune

Right now, a mix of vehicle barriers and pedestrian fencing covers only about one-third of the nearly 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border. Even with all those gaps, experts say the barriers have made it harder for animals to find food, water and mates. Many of them, like jaguars, gray wolves and ocelots, are already endangered.

Aaron Flesch, a biologist at the University of Arizona, said most border animals are already squeezed into small, fragmented patches of habitat.

“If you just go and you cut movements off,” he said, “you can potentially destabilize these entire networks of population.”

Still, the impacts of the border fence on wildlife aren’t totally understood. That’s in large part because Congress let the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ignore all the environmental laws that would’ve required the agency to fully study how the barrier would affect wildlife.

Flesch and other scientists say the federal government also has made almost no research money available to support independent studies. Most of the studies that have been done

are limited in scope, but their findings are pretty clear: Impeding animal movements puts them on a faster path to extinction.

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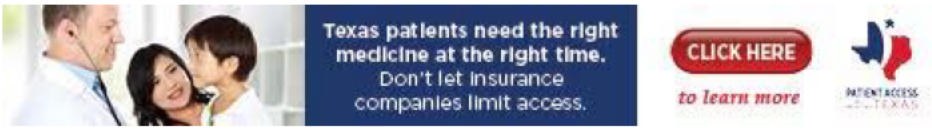

Environmentalists and conservation groups say the border fence also has compromised the federal government's own efforts to protect those vulnerable species, pitting the U.S. Department of Homeland Security against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The latter agency bought large tracts of land along the border decades ago and turned them into national wildlife refuges.

A spokeswoman for the Fish and Wildlife Service said the agency is not studying the environmental impacts of the proposed border wall and referred the Tribune to Customs and Border Patrol. That agency told the Tribune that "at this point we don't have anything to share."

A fast-tracked fence

When you envision the U.S.-Mexico border, you might think of a barren, dusty desert. But it actually ranks among the most biodiverse places in North America — particularly the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas. The Valley is home to some of the last remaining tracts of sabal palm forest in the country — a lush, subtropical ecosystem that is prime habitat for an endangered wild cat called the ocelot.

Two major migratory bird paths also converge in the region, and several tropical bird species there can't be found anywhere else in the United States. More than 100 other endangered species may be impacted by construction of a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, according to an analysis of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data.

During his first presidential run, Obama vowed to review Bush's directive to build the fence — which was still under construction when he took office — in part due to potential environmental impacts. That never happened, even after a presidential advisory committee urged him to study the issue before Homeland Security installed any more barrier segments.

Decades-old laws like the Endangered Species Act often tie up major federal projects for decades or thwart them altogether, but a 2005 security and immigration law that Congress passed gave Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff the power to waive all those regulations — which he did in 2008.

The existing border fence went up in just a few years. That left scientists scrambling to measure the impacts themselves — racing to try to measure animal movements before the fence was installed so they could compare them to what happened afterward.

A group of Wisconsinites on the lookout for birds and other wildlife at Resaca de la Palma State Park and World Birding Center in the Rio Grande Valley. The region is one of the preeminent birding locales in the Unites States. Callie Richmond for The Texas Tribune

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Because the wall went up so quickly, “We didn’t have any good environmental studies of this area to establish a baseline,” said Laura Huffman, director of the Nature Conservancy’s Texas office. As a result, “it’s hard to comment on where we are today. And there was a lot of concern about that.”

The studies

At the 18-foot pedestrian fence in Hidalgo, the posts are positioned less than 2 inches apart — far too narrow for even small critters to squeeze through. Flesch’s research found that the fence also blocks the threatened pygmy owl, which can only fly a few feet above the ground.

The Nature Conservancy's Southmost Preserve in far South Texas is home to some of the last remaining stands of sabal palm forest in the country. The lush, subtropical ecosystem — prime habitat for endangered wild cats like the ocelot and jaguarundi — once flourished in the region but has been almost totally cleared for agriculture or urban development. 📷 Callie Richmond for The Texas Tribune

Jesse Lasky, a biologist at Penn State University who studied the impacts of the fence on mammals, reptiles and amphibians, found that the U.S.-Mexico barrier reduced the range for some species by as much as 75 percent. Impacts were particularly acute on smaller populations of wildlife that occur in more specialized habitats like the endangered jaguarundi — another small wild cat.

"Mountain lions, jaguars, bobcats, javelinas, big horned sheep, deer, black bears — those animals often move far to find what they need," he said, adding that a hardened border wall like the one Trump is proposing would be "substantially more threatening."

Another study conducted in Arizona, published in 2014, used motion-sensitive cameras to monitor animal — and human — movement along the border. The researchers found that pumas and hog-nosed coons, or "coati," were more likely to appear in places without a barrier. But human crossers appeared in equal numbers whether there was a barrier or not.

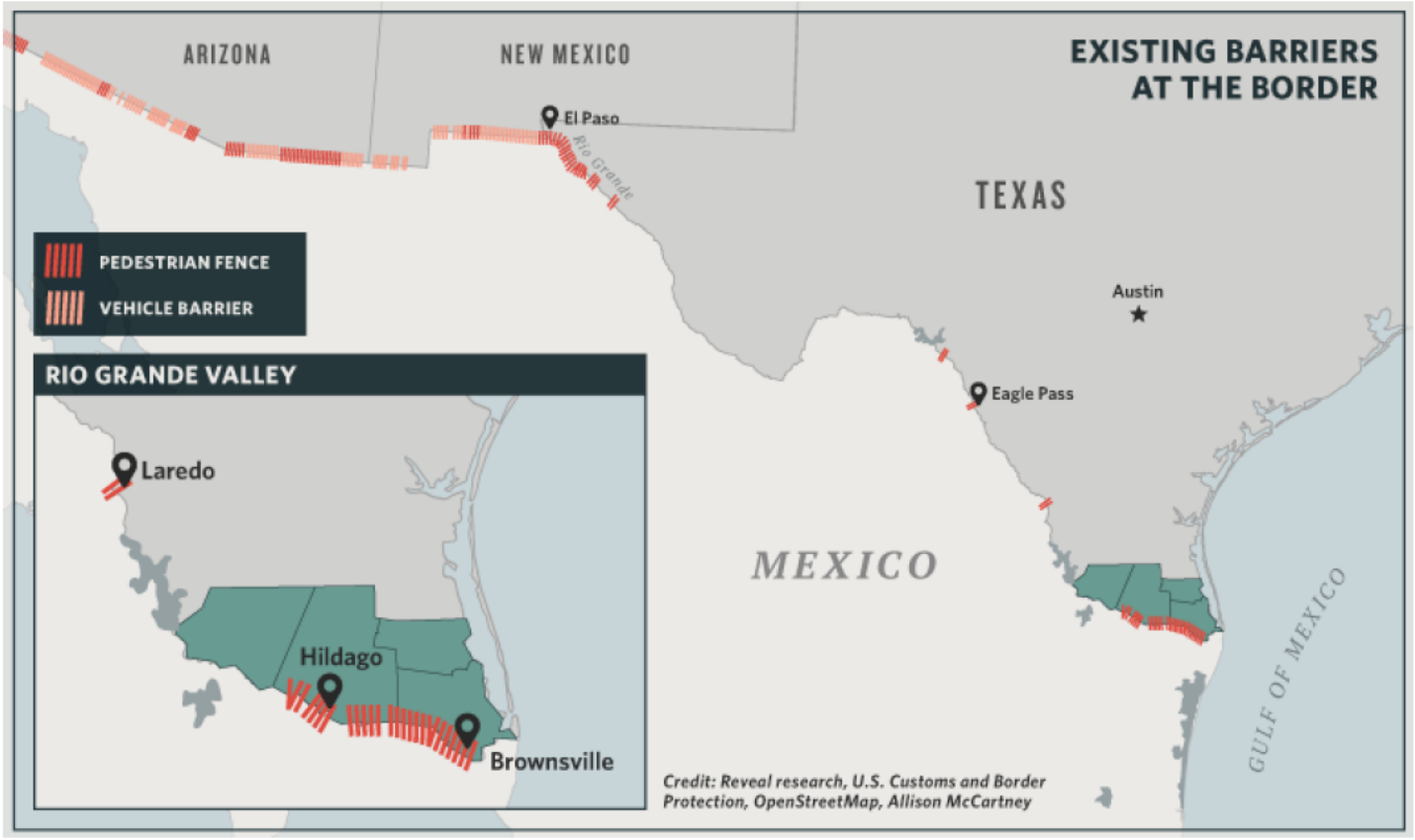
At sunset, a Customs and Border Patrol agent places noisy, generator-powered floodlights along a levee that ties into a segment of border fence in Hidalgo, Texas. Callie Richmond for The Texas Tribune

Constant noise and traffic from Border Patrol and other law enforcement activity is another threat to border wildlife, studies found. Even in areas where gaps in the fence could allow animals to get through, there are wide-open gravel roads constantly patrolled by border agents. At dusk, agents often set up mobile, generator-powered floodlights. That activity has steadily increased as border enforcement budgets have soared.

Flesch, the Arizona biologist, says all the gaps in the fence have definitely lessened environmental impacts; that's especially true in Texas, where there is only 110 miles of it. Black bears, for example, have been able to continue their recent comeback in the Lone Star State after being hunted to near extinction, and even a few jaguars — more prevalent in Mexico — have been spotted in the United States in recent years.

Free movement of wildlife is especially important after droughts or natural disasters that can wipe out subpopulations, Flesch said.

"The only species we know that's going to make it through the wall are people," he added.



Emily Albracht

Competing agendas

For more than 70 years, state and federal government and conservation groups have been buying up land along the border to preserve habitat for endangered animals. Now, much of that same land is bisected by the border fence.

The section of the fence in Hidalgo is one of the clearest indications of those competing agendas. It sits on the edge of the Lower Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge, located on land that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bought some 40 years ago. That means it's federal property — so it became an easy target decades later when the Department of Homeland Security was looking for land to build the border fence.

A section of border fence in Hidalgo, which runs between a national wildlife refuge and a local nature center, ends abruptly when federal land stops. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife started buying land along the U.S.-Mexico border more than 70 years ago to preserve habitat for threatened species. Now, much of that same land is bisected by the border fence. 📷 Callie Richmond for The Texas Tribune

In testimony to Congress in 2008, the former manager of that wildlife refuge, Ken Merritt, said the land "was thought of somewhat like low-hanging fruit." That phrase had appeared in a Homeland Security PowerPoint presentation the previous year, referring to land the federal government already owned and therefore wouldn't have to condemn to build the fence. (Merritt, who worked at the agency for 31 years, was forced into early retirement after refusing to sign off on the border fence plan.)

Ygnacio Garza, a former Brownsville mayor and chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, summed it up this way: "You've spent money to build this environmental corridor, and now you're gonna go right through the middle of it and put up a wall."

The parks and wildlife commission, which also has spent decades acquiring land along the border to protect habitat, rebelled against the Bush administration's border fence plan, too. According to a 2008 report in the Austin American-Statesman, park commissioners voted to reject an offer from the federal government to donate $105,000 to a nonprofit land

trust in exchange for more than 2 acres of a state-owned wildlife management area where it wanted to build part of the fence.

"Construction of a border fence has impacts to fish and wildlife resources that could not adequately be compensated for by the offer of compensation," a department staffer said at the time.

But the state ultimately lost that battle. The federal government condemned the property, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department spokesman said.

Ygnacio Garza, a former Brownsville mayor and chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, at his office in Brownsville, Texas. "You've spent money to build this environmental corridor, and now you're gonna go right through the middle of it and put up a wall," he says. Callie Richmond for The Texas Tribune

The federal government did do some things to try to help endangered species when it built the border fence, including rerouting some sections. At a segment near Brownsville that runs through a private nature preserve, there are small openings at the base of the fence every 500 feet or so meant to let small wild cats through — particularly the ocelot, whose numbers have dwindled to fewer than 100 in the United States.

Sonia Najera, grasslands manager for the Nature Conservancy, calls the openings "cat holes." They're the size of a piece of printer paper. She's never seen an animal actually use one.

How are cats, or any other animals, supposed to find them?

"That's a good question," Najera said.

A small opening at the base of the border fence in Brownsville is meant to let small, endangered wild cats like the ocelot through. The "cat holes," which are the size of a piece of printer paper, appear every 500 feet or so. 📷 Callie Richmond for The Texas Tribune

This story is a collaboration between The Texas Tribune and Reveal, a public radio show and podcast from The Center for Investigative Reporting and PRX.

Disclosure: The Nature Conservancy and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have been financial supporters of The Texas Tribune. A complete list of Tribune donors and sponsors is available here.

IN THIS ISSUE

Years after well explosion, Texas family still waiting for answers from agency

Scientists say Trump's border wall would devastate wildlife habitat

Trump water directive cheered by ranchers, blasted by environmentalists

The Q&A: Meghan Hope

The Bookshelf: March 8, 2017

The Bookshelf: March 3, 2017

The Water Calendar

Meadows Center to relaunch wetlands guided tour

Texas State team to help with endangered lizard study

Panel discusses protecting watersheds at local level

Trump administration moves to limit Clean Water Act

California aquifers draining land's water storage capacity

Water utilities look to "big data" to stretch resources

Data App: Track Texas Reservoir Levels

BACK TO TOP

Label: "Sierra Club FOIA - CBP"

Created by:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov

Total Messages in label:254 (67 conversations)

Created: 06-01-2017 at 14:21 PM

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Attachments:

/9. Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB/3.1 Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns.xlsx

"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>

From:	"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Sent:	Mon Mar 13 2017 05:56:09 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Boyd Blihovde <boyd_blihovde@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Please keep this quiet until we know more... I plan to again meet with BP reps to discuss what they're looking at to insure its what we can live with...
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **McDowell, Kelly** <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 9:28 AM
Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
To: Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>

FYI

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Aaron Archibeque** <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 9:21 AM
Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
To: Joy Nicholopoulos <Joy_Nicholopoulos@fws.gov>, Ted_Koch@fws.gov, Kelly McDowell <Kelly_McDowell@fws.gov>, Juliette Gutierrez <juliette_gutierrez@fws.gov>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Charles Blair <charles_blair@fws.gov>
> **Date:** March 10, 2017 at 6:37:52 AM MST
> **To:** cynthia_martinez@fws.gov
> **Cc:** brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, Aaron_Archibeque@fws.gov

Subject: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Cynthia

Here are the highlights of the meeting yesterday at MIB. John Andrews organized the meeting with the intent of providing the latest info on the fence.

The first waivers will probably be for public lands to ensure a quick start. Folks are expecting a number of waivers to cover critical or vulnerable sections of the border.

Expect a significant increase in surveillance operations as well as activities related to construction.

Request for fence or wall design are now out in the private sector for consideration

If we have significant resource concerns we should have them identified now

John believes we will have an opportunity for consultation once the waivers are issued but does not know how the process will work. We need to have our people ready to work with the operational folks.

DHS has a March 25 date for a fence or wall plan

Mitigation funding is still a question but no one is optimistic

Sent from my iPad

--
Kelly McDowell
Refuge Supervisor Texas Gulf Coast
956-566-3664

--
robert jess
project leader
south texas refuge complex
alamo, texas

"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Mon Mar 13 2017 06:00:40 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

FYI
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jess, Robert** <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Mar 13, 2017 at 6:56 AM
Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
To: Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Boyd Blihovde <boyd_blihovde@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

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Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
To: Joy Nicholopoulos <Joy_Nicholopoulos@fws.gov>, Ted_Koch@fws.gov, Kelly McDowell <Kelly_McDowell@fws.gov>, Juliette Gutierrez <juliette_gutierrez@fws.gov>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Charles Blair <charles_blair@fws.gov>
> **Date:** March 10, 2017 at 6:37:52 AM MST
> **To:** cynthia_martinez@fws.gov
> **Cc:** brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, Aaron_Archibeque@fws.gov
> **Subject: Border Fence Meeting in MIB**
>
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robert jess
project leader
south texas refuge complex
alamo, texas

--
Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>

From:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Sent:	Mon Mar 13 2017 07:06:51 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Dawn Gardiner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
Attachments:	Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns.xlsx

Ernesto,

I converted the google drive spreadsheet to Excel, since you could not see it. If you can fill in the information Dawn can probably cut and paste it into the google drive spread sheet.

Based on our call, I think I will miss the meeting this week and try and get down next week if John visits, as long as it isn't on the 22nd.

Chuck Ardizzone
Project Leader
Texas Coastal Ecological Services
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
Houston, TX 77058
W: (281) 286-8282 Ext 228
C: (713) 882-1912
F: (281) 488-5882

"Leaders must learn to discipline their disappointments. It's not what happens to us, it is what we choose to do about what happens that makes the difference in how our lives turn out."

Jim Rohn

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader"

John Quincy Adams

On Mon, Mar 13, 2017 at 6:20 AM, Ardizzone, Chuck <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov> wrote:

> Dawn and Ernesto,
>
> Can you please work on propagating the table that is linked in Seth's email below ASAP. I forwarded the Briefing Paper that Dawn provided from 2010, and I think many if not all of those issues in the BP would still apply.
>
> **Chuck Ardizzone**
> Project Leader
> Texas Coastal Ecological Services
> U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
> 17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
> Houston, TX 77058
> W: (281) 286-8282 Ext 228
> C: (713) 882-1912
> F: (281) 488-5882
>
> ***"Leaders must learn to discipline their disappointments. It's not what happens to us, it is what we choose to do about what happens that makes the difference in how our lives turn out."***

Jim Rohn

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader"

John Quincy Adams

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Willey, Seth** <seth_willey@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 4:40 PM
Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
To: Sherry Barrett <sherry_barrett@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>, Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Cc: Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, Charles Blair <charles_blair@fws.gov>, Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>

Hey Everyone,

A little more info here. As noted in earlier emails, HQ (through refuges) indicated that "if we have significant resource concerns we should have them identified now." Time appears very short as DHS is on the fast track for releasing their plan. Thinking we want to be proactive on this one, and get started on something quickly.

Chuck Blair (on detail to HQ) suggested we put together a table of stuff that meets the above standard. Not thinking this should be everything possibly impacted, but instead just a high level overview of significant concerns. Something useful in a briefing. That said, others have worked on this longer than I have. Despite some uncertainty in what is the best approach, I took a stab at starting something simple.

Chuck, do you think we are right track. Others, feel free to alter as you think appropriate. Anyone with this link can edit. Or if there is some other pre-existing document we could share, that might be fine (let us know).

Can folks take the ball and run with it? Thoughts?

Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns

Thanks,
Seth

****
Seth L. Willey
Deputy ARD for Ecological Services
Southwest Region, USFWS
Seth_Willey@fws.gov
Work: 505-248-6492
Cell: 505-697-7600
****

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Charles Blair** <charles_blair@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 3:11 PM
Subject: Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
To: "Willey, Seth" <seth_willey@fws.gov>
Cc: Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>, Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, cynthia_martinez@fws.gov,

brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, charisa_morris@fws.gov

Seth

There has been no discussion of format for the information. I suggest you compile in a spreadsheet and we will get you some additional guidance early next week.

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 10, 2017, at 12:09 PM, Willey, Seth <seth_willey@fws.gov> wrote:

> Hey Charles,
>
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> **********
> Seth L. Willey
> Deputy ARD for Ecological Services
> Southwest Region, USFWS
> Seth_Willey@fws.gov
> Work: 505-248-6492
> Cell: 505-697-7600
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> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Ted Koch** <ted_koch@fws.gov>
> Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 9:56 AM
> Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
> To: Seth Willey <seth_willey@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>, Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>
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Date: March 10, 2017 at 6:37:52 AM MST
To: cynthia_martinez@fws.gov
Cc: brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, Aaron_Archibeque@fws.gov
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Mitigation funding is still a question but no one is optimistic

Sent from my iPad

"McDowell, Kelly" <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>

From:	"McDowell, Kelly" <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
Sent:	Mon Mar 13 2017 07:37:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
CC:	Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

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Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns

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Sent from my iPad

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Refuge Supervisor Texas Gulf Coast
956-566-3664

"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From: "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

Sent:	Mon Mar 13 2017 08:03:05 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
CC:	Dawn Gardiner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Got it!

Thanks

On Mon, Mar 13, 2017 at 8:06 AM, Ardizzone, Chuck <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov> wrote:

> Ernesto,
>
> I converted the google drive spreadsheet to Excel, since you could not see it. If you can fill in the information Dawn can probably cut and paste it into the google drive spread sheet.
>
> Based on our call, I think I will miss the meeting this week and try and get down next week if John visits, as long as it isn't on the 22nd.

Chuck Ardizzone
Project Leader
Texas Coastal Ecological Services
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
Houston, TX 77058
W: (281) 286-8282 Ext 228
C: (713) 882-1912
F: (281) 488-5882

"Leaders must learn to discipline their disappointments. It's not what happens to us, it is what we choose to do about what happens that makes the difference in how our lives turn out."

Jim Rohn

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader"

John Quincy Adams

On Mon, Mar 13, 2017 at 6:20 AM, Ardizzone, Chuck <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov> wrote:

> Dawn and Ernesto,
>
> Can you please work on propagating the table that is linked in Seth's email below ASAP. I forwarded the Briefing Paper that Dawn provided from 2010, and I think many if not all of those issues in the BP would still apply.

Chuck Ardizzone

Project Leader
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Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 4:40 PM
Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
To: Sherry Barrett <sherry_barrett@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>, Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
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Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns

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Cc: Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>, Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, cynthia_martinez@fws.gov, brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, charisa_morris@fws.gov

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Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Mar 14 2017 08:59:03 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"McDowell, Kelly" <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
CC:	Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

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3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

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From: "McDowell, Kelly" <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>

Sent:	Tue Mar 14 2017 09:04:57 GMT-0600 (MDT)
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CC:	Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Ernesto,

Thanks for finding this. I knew we had done something very similar. I think we (refuges) should expand to include impacts to Santa Ana and concerns around Boca Chica Area. There are probably others?

Thanks again!

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> > To: Kelly McDowell <Kelly_McDowell@fws.gov>, Juliette Gutierrez <juliette_gutierrez@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <Thomas_Harvey@fws.gov>
> >
> >
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > Begin forwarded message:
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> > **From:** "Willey, Seth" <seth_willey@fws.gov>

Date: March 10, 2017 at 3:40:33 PM MST
To: Sherry Barrett <sherry_barrett@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>, Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
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Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns

Thanks,
Seth

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Deputy ARD for Ecological Services
Southwest Region, USFWS
Seth_Willey@fws.gov
Work: 505-248-6492
Cell: 505-697-7600
****

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Cc: Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>, Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, cynthia_martinez@fws.gov, brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, charisa_morris@fws.gov

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> **Cc:** brett_hunter@fws.gov,
> shannon_smith@fws.gov,
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> > Sent from my iPad
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> > --
> > Kelly McDowell
> > Refuge Supervisor Texas Gulf Coast
> > 956-566-3664

--
Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

--
Kelly McDowell
Refuge Supervisor Texas Gulf Coast
956-566-3664

"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Mar 14 2017 09:26:38 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"McDowell, Kelly" <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
CC:	Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, "Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
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Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns

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"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>

From:	"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Mar 14 2017 11:49:52 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
CC:	"McDowell, Kelly" <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, "Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

we have a lot of work to complete before this is finalized so please restrict its use until we update... Ernesto, Bryan and I met this morning to discuss the next steps. Bryan and I then followed up with additional meetings with BP before lunch and now have more information to go off of...
we will try to get a better draft together by the end of the week

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--
robert jess
project leader
south texas refuge complex
alamo, texas

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Subject:	Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Seth,

just wanted to give you a heads up. Staff have been coordinating the boarder fence resource issues with Refuges so we will have a consistent message and there will be some changes to what I submitted for Texas. I have shared the link so staff can edit what I placed in the google spreadsheet already, it will probably take a few days for everything to be updated. I would consider what I entered into the table as a preliminary information for your eyes only at the moment. Let me know if you have any questions.

Chuck Ardizzone
Project Leader
Texas Coastal Ecological Services
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
Houston, TX 77058
W: (281) 286-8282 Ext 228
C: (713) 882-1912
F: (281) 488-5882

"Leaders must learn to discipline their disappointments. It's not what happens to us, it is what we choose to do about what happens that makes the difference in how our lives turn out."

Jim Rohn

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader"

John Quincy Adams

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> A little more info here. As noted in earlier emails, HQ (through refuges) indicated that "if we have significant resource concerns we should have them identified now." Time appears very short as DHS is on the fast track for releasing their plan. Thinking we want to be proactive on this one, and get started on something quickly.
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> **Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns**
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> Thanks,
> Seth
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> **********
> Seth L. Willey
> Deputy ARD for Ecological Services
> Southwest Region, USFWS
> Seth_Willey@fws.gov
> Work: 505-248-6492
> Cell: 505-697-7600
> **********
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> From: **Charles Blair** <charles_blair@fws.gov>
> Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 3:11 PM
> Subject: Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
> To: "Willey, Seth" <seth_willey@fws.gov>
> Cc: Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>, Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, cynthia_martinez@fws.gov, brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, charisa_morris@fws.gov
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> > **To:** cynthia_martinez@fws.gov
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Cynthia

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organized the meeting with the intent of providing the latest info on
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Mitigation funding is still a question but no one is optimistic

Sent from my iPad

Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>

From:	Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Mar 14 2017 16:26:01 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

I plan on adding to this tomorrow. I think the number
one priority is that all fence segments be on the north

side of the levee and include wildlife holes. Then
Regardless of where new construction is wildlife
Can pass through it and during flood conditions
Animals can find Refugio on the IBWC levee. Bryan

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Date: March 14, 2017 at 9:59:03 AM CDT
To: "McDowell, Kelly" <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>
Cc: Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Kelly,

I sent this info. to Chuck this morning and you can see it on Google Drive (listed below on this email) what issues that I came up with, so you and the Refuge can add to it; basically used what Larisa, the Refuge and I put together last time in 2007. You can add to the list or edit as you see fit. Chuck already sent this up to Seth this morning. Until we know more specifics where the fence will be placed, then we can get more specific for the impacts. The #1 priority is for us to keep fence out of the Ocelot Coastal Corridor.

Ernesto

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3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

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From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Wed Mar 15 2017 06:09:52 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
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CC:	"Whitehead, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Thanks much Chuck. Ernesto did a great initial job on inputting info, since he was instrumentally involved in dealing with border fence the first go around in 2007. However, he and I and Rob visited and there are a couple things we learned since installation of the initial fence that should be input, since we were not able to anticipate everything previously since it was something new. Now, we have 7 years of experience of working behind the fence, and have experienced a significant flooding event in 2010, so we know more now about the impacts to wildlife of the fence. We would also like to prioritize our concerns in the spreadsheet so in the event they take into account only our top 2-3 issues, we are assured that our biggest concerns will hopefully be addressed. Its a crap shoot, they may take into account our concerns or waive the environmental laws (again) and do whatever they want despite our concerns. Hopefully our good relations with CBP down here will help keep us at the table throughout the process.

thanks
bryan

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>
> **Chuck Ardizzone**
> Project Leader
> Texas Coastal Ecological Services
> U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
> 17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
> Houston, TX 77058
> W: (281) 286-8282 Ext 228

C: (713) 882-1912
F: (281) 488-5882

"Leaders must learn to discipline their disappointments. It's not what happens to us, it is what we choose to do about what happens that makes the difference in how our lives turn out."

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> From: **Ted Koch** <ted_koch@fws.gov>
> Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 9:56 AM
> Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
> To: Seth Willey <seth_willey@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>, Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>
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> Sent from my iPhone
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> Begin forwarded message:
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> > **From:** Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>
> > **Date:** March 10, 2017 at 8:21:24 AM MST
> > **To:** Joy Nicholopoulos <Joy_Nicholopoulos@fws.gov>, Ted_Koch@fws.gov, Kelly McDowell <Kelly_McDowell@fws.gov>, Juliette Gutierrez <juliette_gutierrez@fws.gov>
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Begin forwarded message:

From: Charles Blair <charles_blair@fws.gov>
Date: March 10, 2017 at 6:37:52 AM MST
To: cynthia_martinez@fws.gov
Cc: brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, Aaron_Archibeque@fws.gov
Subject: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Cynthia

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Mitigation funding is still a question but no one is optimistic

Sent from my iPad

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Bryan R. Winton, Refuge Manager
Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3325 Green Jay Road
Alamo, Texas 78516
(956) 784-7521 office; (956) 874-4304 cell

"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>

From:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Sent:	Wed Mar 15 2017 07:44:54 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Winton, Bryan" <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
CC:	"Whitehead, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Bryan,

no problem. I understand that things have changed and everyone has learned a lot since the first fence build. I am not sure what the exact time frame is for Seth to get the information up the chain, so the sooner the better when tweaking the table.

Chuck Ardizzone
Project Leader
Texas Coastal Ecological Services
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
Houston, TX 77058
W: (281) 286-8282 Ext 228
C: (713) 882-1912
F: (281) 488-5882

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Jim Rohn

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John Quincy Adams

On Wed, Mar 15, 2017 at 8:35 AM, Winton, Bryan <bryan_winton@fws.gov> wrote:

> Thanks much Chuck. Ernesto did a great initial job on inputting info, since he was instrumentally involved in dealing with border fence the first go around in 2007. However, he and I and Rob visited and there are a couple things we learned since installation of the initial

fence that should be input, since we were not able to anticipate everything previously since it was something new. Now, we have 7 years of experience of working behind the fence, and have experienced a significant flooding event in 2010, so we know more now about the impacts to wildlife of the fence. We would also like to prioritize our concerns in the spreadsheet so in the event they take into account only our top 2-3 issues, we are assured that our biggest concerns will hopefully be addressed. Its a crap shoot, they may take into account our concerns or waive the environmental laws (again) and do whatever they want despite our concerns. Hopefully our good relations with CBP down here will help keep us at the table throughout the process.

thanks
bryan

On Tue, Mar 14, 2017 at 3:26 PM, Ardizzone, Chuck <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov> wrote:

> Seth,
>
> just wanted to give you a heads up. Staff have been coordinating the boarder fence resource issues with Refuges so we will have a consistent message and there will be some changes to what I submitted for Texas. I have shared the link so staff can edit what I placed in the google spreadsheet already, it will probably take a few days for everything to be updated. I would consider what I entered into the table as a preliminary information for your eyes only at the moment. Let me know if you have any questions.

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On Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 4:40 PM, Willey, Seth <seth_willey@fws.gov> wrote:

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Chuck, do you think we are right track. Others, feel free to alter as you think appropriate. Anyone with this link can edit. Or if there is some other pre-existing document we could share, that might be fine (let us know).

Can folks take the ball and run with it? Thoughts?

Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns

Thanks,
Seth

****
Seth L. Willey
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Cell: 505-697-7600
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Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 3:11 PM
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To: "Willey, Seth" <seth_willey@fws.gov>
Cc: Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>, Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, cynthia_martinez@fws.gov, brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, charisa_morris@fws.gov

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"Willey, Seth" <seth_willey@fws.gov>

From: "Willey, Seth" <seth_willey@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 15 2017 13:51:18 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Sherry Barrett <sherry_barrett@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker

To: <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>, Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Mary Anderson <mary_anderson@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

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From:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Sent:	Wed Mar 15 2017 13:55:11 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Robert Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, "McDowell, Kelly" <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Dawn Gardiner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

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"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Wed Mar 15 2017 15:19:39 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

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> Deputy ARD for Ecological Services
> Southwest Region, USFWS
> Seth_Willey@fws.gov
> Work: 505-248-6492
> Cell: 505-697-7600
> **********
>
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From: **Charles Blair** <charles_blair@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 3:11 PM
Subject: Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
To: "Willey, Seth" <seth_willey@fws.gov>
Cc: Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>, Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, cynthia_martinez@fws.gov, brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, charisa_morris@fws.gov

Seth

There has been no discussion of format for the information. I suggest you compile in a spreadsheet and we will get you some additional guidance early next week.

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On Mar 10, 2017, at 12:09 PM, Willey, Seth <seth_willey@fws.gov> wrote:

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Ernesto Reyes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
Alamo Ecological Service Sub-Office
3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
Tel:956-784-7560
Fax:956-787-8338

"Winton, Bryan" <bryan_winton@fws.gov>

From:	"Winton, Bryan" <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
Sent:	Wed Mar 15 2017 15:47:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
CC:	Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

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Thanks for your patience on this as we continue to rub the crystal ball and envision impacts to a yet-to-be-determine project. Not knowing what or where and making statements about our concerns is a double-edged sword.

bryan

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Chuck Ardizzone
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Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns

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3325 Green Jay Road
Alamo, Texas 78516
(956) 784-7521 office; (956) 874-4304 cell

Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>

From:	Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Sent:	Wed Mar 15 2017 16:26:54 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Winton, Bryan" <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
CC:	Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Denise Ruffino <denise_ruffino@fws.gov>, David Hoth <david_hoth@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Bryan,

I am out tomorrow and Friday. I shared the link to the google document so anyone could make edits. If you need help Denise will be acting for me and should be able to make any required edits. If you are working from Ernesto's spreadsheet it would be a simple copy and paste over the entries that are in the google document now.

Sent from my IPhone

Chuck Ardizzone
Project Leader
Texas Coastal ESFO
US Fish and Wildlife Service
17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
Houston, TX 77508
C: 713-882-1912

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From:	"Winton, Bryan" <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu Mar 16 2017 10:23:14 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

I added or elaborated on a few things.
bryan

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Bryan,

no problem. I understand that things have changed and everyone has learned a lot since the first fence build. I am not sure what the exact time frame is for Seth to get the information up the chain, so the sooner the better when tweaking the table.

Chuck Ardizzone
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> Thanks much Chuck. Ernesto did a great initial job on inputting info, since he was instrumentally involved in dealing with border fence the first go around in 2007. However, he and I and Rob visited and there are a couple things we learned since installation of the initial fence that should be input, since we were not able to anticipate everything previously since it was something new. Now, we have 7 years of experience of working behind the fence, and have experienced a significant flooding event in 2010, so we know more now about the impacts to wildlife of the fence. We would also like to prioritize our concerns in the spreadsheet so in the event they take into account only our top 2-3 issues, we are assured that our biggest concerns will hopefully be addressed. Its a crap shoot, they may take into account our concerns or waive the environmental laws (again) and do whatever they want despite our concerns. Hopefully our good relations with CBP down here will help keep us at the table throughout the process.

thanks
bryan

On Tue, Mar 14, 2017 at 3:26 PM, Ardizzone, Chuck <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov> wrote:

> Seth,
>
> just wanted to give you a heads up. Staff have been coordinating the boarder fence resource issues with Refuges so we will have a consistent message and there will be some changes to what I submitted for Texas. I have shared the link so staff can edit what I placed in the google spreadsheet already, it will probably take a few days for everything to be updated. I would consider what I entered into the table as a preliminary information for your eyes only at the moment. Let me know if you have any questions.

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Fyi.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>
> **Date:** March 10, 2017 at 8:21:24 AM MST
> **To:** Joy Nicholopoulos <Joy_Nicholopoulos@fws.gov>, Ted_Koch@fws.gov, Kelly McDowell <Kelly_McDowell@fws.gov>, Juliette Gutierrez <juliette_gutierrez@fws.gov>
> **Subject: Fwd: Border Fence Meeting in MIB**
>
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> > **From:** Charles Blair <charles_blair@fws.gov>
> > **Date:** March 10, 2017 at 6:37:52 AM MST
> > **To:** cynthia_martinez@fws.gov
> > **Cc:** brett_hunter@fws.gov, shannon_smith@fws.gov, Jeff_Rupert@fws.gov, Aaron_Archibeque@fws.gov
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--
Bryan R. Winton, Refuge Manager
Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3325 Green Jay Road
Alamo, Texas 78516
(956) 784-7521 office; (956) 874-4304 cell

--
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"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>

From:	"Jess, Robert" <robert_jess@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu Mar 16 2017 13:10:16 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
	Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Dawn Gardner

CC: <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, kelly mcdowell <kelly_mcdowell@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Chuck,
I've gone through and made my edits, add's and changes but I'm sure there are more that could be done... It's all yours now!
talk soon, Rob

On Tue, Mar 14, 2017 at 3:11 PM, Ardizzone, Chuck <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov> wrote:

> Bryan and Rob,
>
> Here is the link to the google document you can edit as you feel appropriate.

Chuck Ardizzone
Project Leader
Texas Coastal Ecological Services
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
Houston, TX 77058
W: (281) 286-8282 Ext 228
C: (713) 882-1912
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Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 4:40 PM
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Cc: Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov>, Charles Blair <charles_blair@fws.gov>, Aaron Archibeque <aaron_archibeque@fws.gov>

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Can folks take the ball and run with it? Thoughts?

Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns

Thanks,
Seth

****
Seth L. Willey
Deputy ARD for Ecological Services
Southwest Region, USFWS
Seth_Willey@fws.gov
Work: 505-248-6492
Cell: 505-697-7600
****

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Sent from my iPad

--
robert jess
project leader
south texas refuge complex
alamo, texas

Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>

From:	Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu Mar 16 2017 18:59:23 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
CC:	Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Refuge gas added their comments and proofed by Rob today

Bryan

Sent from my iPhone

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> just wanted to pass on this email things need to be finalized in the google document by Friday.

Chuck Ardizzone
Project Leader
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17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
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Subject: Re: Border Fence Meeting in MIB
To: Sherry Barrett <sherry_barrett@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Thomas Harvey <thomas_harvey@fws.gov>, Susan Jacobsen <Susan_Jacobsen@fws.gov>, Denise Baker <denise_baker@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>, Susan Millsap <susan_millsap@fws.gov>, Steve Spangle <Steve_Spangle@fws.gov>, Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Mary Anderson <mary_anderson@fws.gov>

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Seth L. Willey
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shannon_smith@fws.gov,
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Aaron_Archibeque@fws.gov
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Sent from my iPad

Label: "Sierra Club FOIA - CBP"

Created by:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov

Total Messages in label:254 (67 conversations)

Created: 06-01-2017 at 14:21 PM

Conversation Contents

Re: Typo - Border Fence Meeting in MIB

"Ruffino, Denise" <denise_ruffino@fws.gov>

From:	"Ruffino, Denise" <denise_ruffino@fws.gov>
Sent:	Thu Mar 16 2017 08:05:38 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
CC:	"Winton, Bryan" <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Ernesto Reyes <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, David Hoth <david_hoth@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Typo - Border Fence Meeting in MIB

Hey Bryan, Rob, and Ernesto,

If you are going to cut and paste over this one, please have a look at #21 and the word "thereo" first. Should read "thereof". Didn't see anything else. Looks good!! :)

Let me know if there's anything I can do to help. Have a good one!

Denise

Denise M. Ruffino, Ph.D. CWB
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas Coastal Ecological Services Field Office
17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
Houston TX 77058
Phone: 281-286-8282 ext. 226
Fax: 281-488-5882

On Wed, Mar 15, 2017 at 5:26 PM, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov> wrote:

> Bryan,
>
> I am out tomorrow and Friday. I shared the link to the google document so anyone could make edits. If you need help Denise will be acting for me and should be able to make any required edits. If you are working from Ernesto's spreadsheet it would be a simple copy and paste over the entries that are in the google document now.
>
> Sent from my IPhone
>
>
> Chuck Ardizzone
> Project Leader
> Texas Coastal ESFO
> US Fish and Wildlife Service
> 17629 El Camino Real, Ste 211
> Houston, TX 77508
> C: 713-882-1912
>

On Mar 15, 2017, at 4:47 PM, Winton, Bryan <bryan_winton@fws.gov> wrote:

> I will (for certain) get my additions made tomorrow. Rob is in on Friday so he can review our collective list before finalizing it and sending it to you on Friday.
>
> Thanks for your patience on this as we continue to rub the crystal ball and envision impacts to a yet-to-be-determine project. Not knowing what or where and making statements about our concerns is a double-edged sword.
>
> bryan
>
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Label: "Sierra Club FOIA - CBP"

Created by:ernesto_reyes@fws.gov

Total Messages in label:254 (67 conversations)

Created: 06-01-2017 at 14:21 PM

Conversation Contents

Border Fence Impacts

Attachments:

/11. Border Fence Impacts/1.1 Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns (1).xlsx
/11. Border Fence Impacts/3.1 Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns (1).xlsx

"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Mon Mar 13 2017 14:56:39 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Dawn Whitehead <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
Subject:	Border Fence Impacts
Attachments:	Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns (1).xlsx

Here is what I have come up with so far.

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Texas DOI State Border Coordinator
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3325 Green Jay Rd
Alamo, Texas 78516
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Fax:956-787-8338

"Gardiner, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>

From:	"Gardiner, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Sent:	Mon Mar 13 2017 15:34:47 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
CC:	Bryan Winton <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, Chuck Ardizzone <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Impacts

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On Mon, Mar 13, 2017 at 3:56 PM, Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov> wrote:

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"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>

From:	"Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Mar 14 2017 06:09:02 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Impacts
Attachments:	Border Fence - Significant Resource Concerns (1).xlsx

Chuck,

Here is the Excel version that I sent to Dawn yesterday. I guess she forgot to send the attachment. Let me know if you want me to transfer this to Google Drive that has an existing document by Sherry Barrett for AZ. Dawn is driving down to SA for a 1pm meeting.

Ernesto

On Tue, Mar 14, 2017 at 6:09 AM, Ardizzone, Chuck <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov> wrote:

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Sent:	Tue Mar 14 2017 14:01:02 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
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"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>

From: "Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>

Sent:	Tue Mar 14 2017 14:07:24 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Winton, Bryan" <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
CC:	"Gardiner, Dawn" <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>, "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>
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Dawn Gardiner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>

From:	Dawn Gardiner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
Sent:	Tue Mar 14 2017 14:10:52 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	"Ardizzone, Chuck" <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>
CC:	"Winton, Bryan" <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>
Subject:	Re: Border Fence Impacts

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Sent:	Tue Mar 14 2017 14:12:51 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:	Dawn Gardiner <dawn_gardiner@fws.gov>
CC:	"Winton, Bryan" <bryan_winton@fws.gov>, "Reyes, Ernesto" <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>, Rob Jess <robert_jess@fws.gov>, Sonny Perez <sonny_perez@fws.gov>
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State	County(s)	as necessary / applicable	Concern	Basic description of the "significant concern"	Notes
Texas	Hidalgo, Star,		Connectivity	Impacts to the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR wildlife corridor (275 miles) along the Rio Grande River.	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Connectivity	populations or disrupt metapopulation dynamics.	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Connectivity	with Mexico for their continued existence in such as the endangered ocelot and jaguarundi.	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Connectivity	Cessation or reduction in gene flow among or within populations that may result in loss of genetic variability in populations and ultimately reduce the likelihood of species' long-term	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Connectivity	hydrological processes by fence and road placement	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Water quality	not avoided, etc.	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Connectivity	Impingement of animals depending on type of fence material	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Disturbance	and operations.	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Vehicle strikes	Potential risks of increased vehicle strikes for ocelots, jaguarundi, birds and bats.	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Connectivity	International bridges already act as east-west barriers	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Connectivity	fragmentation.	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Lights	frogs, ocelots, and jaguarundi by making them more susceptible to predation.	
	Star, Zapata		Water available	semi-arid areas along the Texas border, the only surface water animals have is the Rio Grande.	
	Star, Zapata		Water available	A border wall would prevent animals from accessing their only water source.	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Invasive species	volatility, are likely to be exacerbated by the clearing of brush and the establishment of a	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Staff Safety	activities south of a Border Fence is a great concern	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Staff Safety	Long-time security for natural resources south of a Border Fence	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Staff Safety	Border Fence	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Public Safety	Natural Resource protection may be jeopardized due to public safety, or lack thereo	
	Hidalgo, Star,		Connectivity	Ocelot coastal corridor wi h Mexico will be impacted by Border Fence	
	Cameron		Wildlife corridor partnerships	Agreements or Memorandum of Understandings between the Service and various other federal and state agencies in Texas and Mexico have been established after many years of negotiations to establish international wildlife corridors on both sides of he border.	
	Cameron		Wildlife corridor partnerships	Sister parks will be impacted by the border fence and potentially reduce survival rates of the ocelot and jaguarundi in Texas.	
	Cameron, Hidalgo, Star, Zapata		Biological Opinions could be nullified	Biological opinions issued for projects in he Valley that put in place acquisition and management of wildlife corridors and other measures could be fragmented and nullified by a fence.	
	Cameron, Hidalgo, Star, Zapata		Habitat Loss	Corridors established by the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge and native habitat restoration activities could be lost or destroyed depending on the placement of the fence.	
	Cameron, Hidalgo, Star, Zapata		Resource management restrictions	Management of areas located behind the fence will hinder responses for fire, wetland management and invasive grass and brush control along the fence and border patrol roads, resulting in a loss of habitat for listed species and prevention of brush restoration.	
	Cameron, Hidalgo, Star, Zapata		Ecotourism will be negatively affected	No access for wildlife enthusiasts interested in wildlife watching, canoeing, kayaking, and hiking along the river.	
	Cameron, Hidalgo, Star, Zapata		Ecotourism will be negatively affected	Estimated total annual expenditures by intentionals for 2011 were $307,052,400. This direct economic contribution from RGV nature tourism led to a total county-level economic output of $463.0 million and 6,613 full- and part-time jobs annually.	
	Cameron, Hidalgo, Star, Zapata		Ecotourism will be negatively affected	This total contribution includes a $266.6 million contribu ion to gross regional product and a $163.0 million contribution to labor income across the region.	
	Cameron, Hidalgo, Star, Zapata		Ecotourism will be negatively affected	Eco-tourism brings more than $125 million to the RGV annually from 200,000 eco-tourists, creating 2,500 jobs in the local economy	

Board Meeting Minutes of

Friends of the Wildlife Corridor

March 29, 2017, 8:30 AM, Santa Ana NWR conference room

Board members: Debralee Rodriguez, John Thaxter, Lois Hughes, Jim Chapman, Roy Robles, Sharon Slagle, Tiffany Kersten, John McClung, Rick Ramke.
USFWS staff: Gisela Chapa, Rob Jess.
Guests: Karen Hernandez.
Call-in: Victoria Cappadona.

Action Items from Previous Meeting

1. **Rob. 3/7/2017.** Send Sharon points to include in letter to incoming DOI secretary and appropriate Congressional leaders regarding border fence.
2. **Fundraising Committee. 3/28/2017.** Present recommendations for fundraising.
3. **Bob, Lois.** Follow up with the City of Roma regarding purchase of Friends' canoes and equipment for $1,500. Resolution: Roma City Council will purchase canoes for $1500. Sharon will send invoice.

New Action Items

1.) **Sharon. 4/25/2017.** Invoice Roma for canoes.
2.) **Debralee. 4/25/2017.** Meet with Karen and Gisela regarding vinyl patches for Salinasville, and bring recommendation back to Board.
3.) **Fundraising Committee. 4/25/2017.** Present recommendations for fundraising activities for seedling survivorship research site.
4.) **Lois.** Send Sharon proposed agenda for meeting in April to discuss information from 2016 national Friends training.
5.) **Debralee.**Send Doodle poll for date for above meeting.
6.) **John T.** Find volunteer to work at Nature Store on weekends, especially Sunday afternoons.
7.) Rob.Check on agreements with CBP regarding access to FWS tract south of Hidalgo Pumphouse.

Agenda Topics

Apologies

Bryan Winton

Guest Introductions and Announcements

None

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approved

Financial Report

No items of concern.

Nature Store Report

Karen reported that store sales total in February 2017 (including Coastal Expo and online sales) was $14,596. Sales total in February 2016 were $17,300. Volunteers who have been working weekends for Karen are leaving; Karen solicited help for weekend work for the off-season.

USFWS Staff Report, STRC, Rob

- The complex will probably experience a 12% funding cut after April 28. Service funding is currently operating under a continuing resolution. Overhead projects are on hold through September. The priority programs, habitat restoration and the urban program, will continue to function.
- Rob is meeting with CBP to map strategic areas for road access assuming that the proposed extension of the border fence will happen. Three styles of fence or wall are being considered by the Administration, including a 30' tall concrete wall on the north side of the levee. Rob is trying to get Secy Zinke to visit the area.

USFWS Staff Report, SANWR, Gisela

- The Urban Transportation Initiative meeting was held to discuss how to overcome barriers to visitation at SANWR. Among the ideas discussed were bus and hike-and-bike transportation and marketing.
- 21 students attended the photo workshop.
- SANWR had >1,400 visitors during spring break.
- Raul hosted a field trip to SANWR for Capt. D. Salinas Elementary in Donna. The students run a "minitropolis" (Salinasville) with a wildlife refuge, including student park rangers (first through fifth grade). Gisela requested that FWC buy patches for their uniforms.

Committee Reports: Land Acquisition, chair Rick

FWC properties to be sold to USFWS have been surveyed but not appraised. New FWS guidelines require further title work; the current title policies attached to the deeds are not sufficient. FWS needs bids on title services. FWS has no money for this work currently due to the continuing resolution (no budget) and expected budget cut of at least 10% after April 28. Staff complications also have delayed work. The amount of money required to buy the properties is unknown until appraisals happen. Money is expected to come from emergency in-holding funds, but this is not guaranteed. Yvette (Region 2 Realty) will proceed with work, when possible, on individual properties; that is, FWC won't insist on selling all properties at once.

Committee Reports: Fundraising, chair Debralee

None

Committee Reports: Grants, chair Sharon

Seedling bids were sent to 11 growers; 4 responded. No update on NFWF grant application to redo Sal del Rey video.

Committee Reports: Communications, chair Rick

Newsletter will be posted first week of April. Send articles and photos to Rick at rwramke@gmail.com. Thank you to Gisela and Alyssa (intern) for articles. Rick will add SANWR Calendar of Events to the FWC website.

Committee Reports: Volunteer Coordination, chair John T.

None

New Business

- Tiffany described a field trip to an FWS tract south of the Hidalgo Pumphouse. The tract has trails that are not maintained. Tiffany will send the Board information on any future similar events.
- Lois requested a 4-hour meeting in which Lois, Debralee, and Victoria will present information they learned from the national Friends training.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 25, 2017
8:30 AM SANWR conference room

Adjournment

9:58 AM
Call in at B5 [redacted], PIN B5 [redacted]

Board Meeting Minutes of

Friends of the Wildlife Corridor

April 28, 2017, 8:30 AM, Santa Ana NWR conference room. Call in at 1[redacted], PIN [redacted].

Board members: Debralee Rodriguez, John Thaxter, Lois Hughes, Jim Chapman, Roy Robles, Sharon Slagle, Tiffany Kersten, Kelly Smith (by phone), Rick Ramke.
USFWS staff: Rob Jess.
Guests: Karen Hernandez.

Action Items from Previous Meeting

1.) **Sharon. 4/25/2017.** Invoice Roma for canoes. Status: Done. No response yet from Roma.
2.) **Debralee. 4/25/2017.** Meet with Karen and Gisela regarding vinyl patches for Salinasville, and bring recommendation back to Board. Status: No progress; Debralee will arrange to meet with Gisela.
3.) **Fundraising Committee. 4/25/2017.** Present recommendations for fundraising activities for seedling survivorship research site. Status: Committee hasn't met yet.
4.) **Debralee.** Send Doodle poll for date for above meeting. Status: Not enough responses to justify a meeting.
5.) **John T.** Find volunteer to work at Nature Store on weekends, especially Sunday afternoons. Status: John is working weekends at the nature store but we need more workers. John will appeal to Master Naturalists again with Kelly's help.
6.) **Rob**. Check on agreements with CBP regarding access to FWS tract south of Hidalgo Pumphouse. Status: No such agreement exists.

New Action Items

Kelly and John will work together to appeal to Master Naturalists to volunteer in the Nature Store.

Agenda Topics

Apologies

None

Guest Introductions and Announcements

None

Votes

- Approved: Minutes of previous meeting's minutes.
- Approved: $100 for lunch for the Boy Scout/FWC plant sale, May 20.

- Approved: Donate 500 plants to Texan by Nature PSJA project.
- To be voted via email: $250 for refreshments, June 3 Family Day at SANWR.

Financial Report

No items of concern.

Nature Store Report

Karen reported that sales total in March 2017 was about $11,000. (Sales total in March 2016 was about $14,000.)

USFWS Staff Report, STRC, Rob

- Celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of SANWR will be held in 2018. Sharon will apply for a $500 grant to support the event.
- June 3, 2017 is Family Day at SANWR. Bryan is asking for $250 for refreshments. Sharon will send an email vote.
- Gisela asked Rick to look into Google Ads for the STRC.
- Texan by Nature is supporting a PSJA initiative to encourage other school districts to become certified schoolyard habitat districts. The project was selected as the 2017 Conservation Wrangler (http://texanbynature.org/programs/conservation-wrangler/), and an event will be held November 8 or 9, 2017.
- STRC now has a Twitter account. Please share any information with Gisela to be posted via Twitter.
- Hidalgo County Precinct 2 will be pursuing construction of a hike-and-bike trail to connect PSJA to SANWR.
- Gisela will share weekly Urban updates on Mondays.
- A border wall national meeting was held yesterday, 4/27/17, at SANWR. A border wall proposal will be publicized next week.
- The Complex will be more strategic in future regarding winter volunteers, which will probably result in fewer volunteers. All volunteers will be housed at Marinoff. Sharon asked Rob if the FWC need for FWS volunteers in the Nature Store was considered. He said no but that he will make sure that such volunteers will be made available to us.
- Rob has asked Bryan and Gisela to review SANWR tram costs and benefits.

Committee Reports: Communications, chair Rick

Sales through our online store are continuing. Rick and our website provider are working on an issue with the USPS plug-in to make the shipping charges realistic.

Committee Reports: Fundraising, chair Debralee

The committee hasn't met, but they are interested in working with Bryan on a walk/run fundraising event.

Committee Reports: Government Relations, chair Jim

Jim asked Rob about Friends advocacy that could be controversial (such as border fence/wall issues). Rob asked that he be kept informed on any such efforts.

Committee Reports: Grants, chair Sharon

- The Boy Scout/FWC plant sale will be May 20. Sharon asked for a vote to provide $100 for lunch for the event; this was approved.
- Sharon signed an agreement with the Student Conservation Association for a 26-week intern to assist Kim in the re-veg program. Funding comes from the seedling account.

- Sharon met with Bryan and Richard Moore on the video on Sal del Rey funded by FWS with funds administered by FWC.
- Sharon is working with Gisela on funding plans for a project to replicate PSJA's schoolyard district model to additional districts (the Texan by Nature project mentioned above). FWC will administer the funds. Sharon asked for a **vote** to donate to the project 500 plants from our 1,500-plant allocation for administering the seedling account; the donation was **approved**.
- American Forest will contribute an extra $10,000 to STRC reforestation in 2018 based on their recent contest.

Committee Reports: Land Acquisition, chair Rick

CBP and the Corps of Engineers wants to rebuild an overgrown boat ramp on our property near El Calaboz. Rick is negotiating with them and will report on the results at the next meeting.

Committee Reports: Volunteer Coordination, chair John T.

John T. will work with Kelly to contact Master Naturalists again to solicit volunteer help in the nature store.

New Business

Tiffany described the environmental impact of balloons released into the environment; see https://balloonsblow.org/. The SPI Lantern Fest on May 10 will be just such a release. This FB group is pushing back: SPI Against Lantern Festival.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 31, 2017
8:30 AM SANWR conference room

Adjournment

9:40 AM

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Border Wall System/Enforcement Zone Project

Thursday, April 27, 2017
10:00 AM (Central) – 11:30 AM (Central)

Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge
3325 Green Jay, Alamo, TX 78516

AGENDA:

9:45 **DOI Starts Conference Line**
- B5 [redacted] Conference code: B5 [redacted] #

10:00 – 10:15 **CBP: Border Wall System Program Background**
- Executive Order
- U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) RGV FY17

10:15 – 10:30 **CBP: Border Wall System Project Overview**
- Location, Scope, & Anticipated Schedule
- Planning Activities (Real Estate/Records Property Research)

10:30 – 11:00 **CBP & USFWS: Project Coordination**
- Recap of Meeting with DOI
- Project Coordination Process
- Current Coordination Efforts
- Benefits of Border Wall System
- Communications Path Forward

11:00 – 11:15 **USFWS Questions & Concerns**

11:15 – 11:30 **CBP: Action Items & Next Steps**

CBP Attendees:

- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Director, Border Patrol & Air and Marine Program Management Office (BPAM PMO)
- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Environmental Branch Chief, BPAM PMO
- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Division Chief, RGV Sector, USBP
- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Communications Director, RGV Sector, USBP

DOI Attendees:

- Rob Jess, Refuge Manager
- Ernesto Reyes, USFWS

IBWC Attendees:

- Juan Uribe, Area Operations Manager
- Francisco Martinez, Assistant Area Operations Manager