

**From:** [Winton, Bryan](#)  
**To:** [Stacey \(FAA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Kendal.Keyes@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Kendal.Keyes@tpwd.texas.gov); [Devriendt, Donald J](#); [Navarro, Reynaldo](#); [Orms, Mary](#); [Reyes, Ernesto](#); [Perez, Sonny](#)  
**Subject:** Comments to Space-X Fire Mitigation and Response Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 20, 2019 3:57:56 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Stacey:

I reviewed the Fire Mitigation & Response Plan by Space-X and have the following comments/corrections/additions:

1. p.4. 1.0 Purpose. "Potential emergency responders may include...."; "it is Space-X's responsibility to determine what response is required...."

I would like to see a statement that gives the surrounding land owners/land managers assurance there will be adequate coordination prior to, during, and upon completion of each days closure of Highway 4. When the road is closed, and because currently there is no refuge law enforcement officer that has been hired yet by Space-X to represent the land owner/land manager, we have had no assurance that our interest(s) remain represented prior to, during and upon completion of each event, particularly due to the delayed communication by Space-X. While the communication continues to improve, there is still indication by the quoted statements above that coordination and decisions by Space-X could continue to impact the surround conservation lands The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service wants to be notified of any action or unanticipated event that impacts federal property IMMEDIATELY upon its occurrence in the future, not the next day, or two days later, as has happened previously with 1) the fire; and 2) 3 stuck vehicles by Space X employees, rather until and even when we have Law Enforcement representation each and every time they close the road and conduct testing in the future, we want to be notified in real time upon its occurrence.

2. p.5. We appreciate the response by Space-X to install an additional 5 water canons on their site in order to maximize capability to suppress any future fires occurring on surrounding state and federal lands.

On August 6, Fire Management Officer Donald DeVriendt and Assistant Fire Management Officer Reynaldo Navarro and myself (Bryan Winton, Refuge Manager) met with Brownsville Fire Department and Randy Rees, Space-X. At this meeting there was a request by Space-X to conduct dozer operations surrounding their Launch Site. We declined. However, later I called Randy Rees and informed him we would consider installation of a fire break surrounding their site, without causing soil disturbance however, because of federal requirements involving cultural

resources/artifact protection. After more discussion with the Fire Management Program, it was decided that a 15-20' Fire Break surrounding the Space-X site is not necessary, nor would it likely be effective in the event of a Hopper-caused fire that ignites beyond the Space-X Launch Site fencing. Rather, the newly-installed canons by Space-X and further evaluation of future prescribed fire for habitat impacted on July 25, 2019 by testing, should suffice in best-protecting the surrounding conservation lands/habitat outside the Space-X site.

3. p.6. Correction/clarification for Federal personnel/agencies:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System, Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, South Texas Refuge Complex, Fire Management Program

4. p.7. Davis Libbey did indeed organize 2 Task Force Meetings. The first was fairly well attended, the 2nd not so much. Since then, there has been no continued coordination or implementation of Task Force Coordination in conjunction with HW 4 Road Closures and Testing. When a Law Enforcement Officer is hired by Space-X for the National Wildlife Refuge System, so that agency interest/investment can be monitored prior to, during, and following future testing, the Task Force will at that point function as anticipated/needed. Until then, there needs to be sustained effort to collectively contact and notify interested agencies affiliated with the Task Force prior to each Testing event that has the possibility of causing disturbance or impacts to lands outside of the 50-acre Space-X site. The Task Force concept was established so that the potentially affected landowners outside of the Space-X facilities could continue to monitor and protect their interests (i.e., conservation), while insuring other activities remain in compliance with refuge regulations (i.e., drone activity, etc.).

Incident Briefing (ICS 201)

Page 9. Communications List

Recommendation: Organize by Agency rather than Alphabetical

Also: Correct as described above:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System, Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge - Bryan Winton

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, South Texas Refuge Complex, Fire Management Program - Donald DeVriendt; Reynaldo Navarro

Also, Add: Leticia Handy, Dispatcher (after hours contact information: 956-330-5007 cell)

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Fire Mitigation & Response Plan.

bryan winton

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