



# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



## *Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office*

# **Section 7 Consultation for the Former Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Ceiba, PR**

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San Juan, Puerto Rico

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# Roosevelt Roads Naval Station

- Approximately 8,660 acres
- Supported habitat for ten (10) listed species.
- Designated Critical Habitat for YSBB.
- Proposal included 3,868 acres for re-use in 8 re-developed zones
- Conservation Zone of 3,333 acres (Zone 9 – No development allowed)
- NEPA & Section 7 of ESA Compliance required.





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### Chronology of Section 7 Consultation

- **March 2004 - Navy formally ceased military operations and closed RRNS.**
- **As part of that closure an Environmental Assessment (EA) was produced for NEPA compliance. The USFWS was a cooperating agency in the production of the EA.**
- **For Section 7 compliance, USFWS worked with the Navy and its consultants on the Biological Assessment (BA) to ensure that the transfer of lands would not adversely affect Federally listed species on the property.**
- **The resulting BA, published in 2006, and EA, published in 2007, included the implementation of conservation measures for the terrestrial listed species as part of the mitigation of the project. Informal Section 7 consultation was concluded in April 2006.**
- **Since any development project in the water will require a Federal Permit, consultation for the Antillean manatee was not concluded in 2006, and it will be required when projects are submitted to the Federal Action Agency.**
- **A Supplemental EA was published in 2011 to transfer the lands to the government of Puerto Rico under the administration of the Local Reuse Authority (LRA). However, this did not change the conservation measures for listed species established in the Section 7 consultation.**

# Species Considered

- **Sea Turtles**
- **Yellow-shouldered black bird**
- **PR boa**
- **Virgin Island boa**
- **Listed plant, Cobana negra**



**Brown Pelican - delisted in 2009**





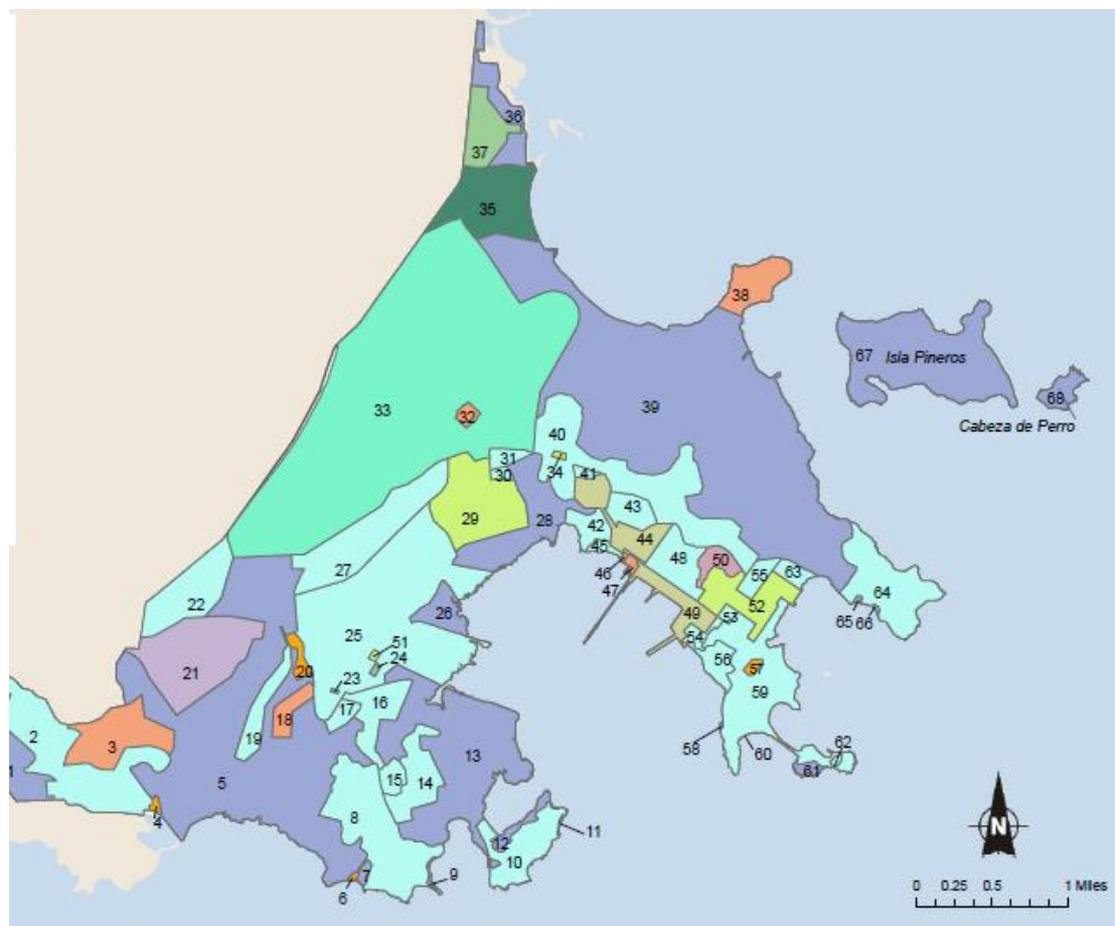
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### Re-use and Conservation Parcels

The Navy divided the property into parcels, each parcel was evaluated for listed species and parcel specific conservation recommendations were made. These conservation measures are part of the parcel deed.



## Examples of Conservation Measures found in the EA

Table 4- 3. Presence or Absence of Suitable Habitat for Federally Listed Species by Parcel Number

Parcel Number	Listed Group or Species				
	BOA	ST	YSBB	M	P
1	✓		✓		
2	✓		✓		
3	✓		✓		
4	✓		✓		
5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	✓	✓	✓		
9	✓	✓	✓		✓
10	✓	✓	✓		
11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	✓	✓	✓		
13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	✓		✓		
15			✓		
16			✓		
17			✓		
18	✓		✓		
19	✓		✓		
20	✓		✓		
21			✓		
22	✓		✓		
23			✓		
24			✓		
25		✓	✓	✓	✓
26		✓	✓	✓	✓
27	✓		✓		
28	✓	✓			✓
29	✓		✓		
30	✓		✓		
31	✓		✓		
32			✓		
33			✓		
34			✓		
35		✓	✓	✓	✓
36			✓		✓
37			✓		
38	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
40	✓		✓		
41			✓		
42		✓	✓	✓	✓
43	✓		✓		
44	✓	✓	✓		✓
45		✓	✓	✓	✓
46		✓	✓	✓	✓
47		✓	✓	✓	✓
48	✓		✓		
49		✓	✓	✓	✓
50			✓		
51			✓		
52			✓	✓	✓
53			✓		
54			✓		
55			✓		
56	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57			✓	✓	✓
58	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60		✓	✓	✓	✓
61	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	✓	✓	✓	✓	
63	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Key:

✓ = Habitat present.

BOA = Puerto Rican boa and/or Virgin Islands tree boa (coastal habitats).

M = Manatee.

P = Pelican.

ST = Sea turtles (green, hawksbill, leatherback, and loggerhead).

YSBB = Yellow-shouldered blackbird.

Table 4.4. Conservation Measures for the Yellow-shouldered Blackbird During planning and development phases; vegetation removal, land clearing activities, new construction; demolition or remodeling of existing structures; grounds maintenance; building maintenance; and general operations the following conservation measures should be implemented to minimize possible effects to yellow-shouldered blackbirds or their habitat:

- Protect as many existing on site palms and trees as possible in new development plans.
- If forested habitat is proposed for clearing or alteration, consultation with the USFWS should be initiated. *Note:* A minimum of one year maybe required to complete consultation.
- Schedule activity from September 1 through March 14 or conduct outdoor survey of building(s) (ledges, etc.) and nearby trees (within 50 meters of the building) for yellow-shouldered blackbird nests prior to start date if the development activity is scheduled to occur between March 15 and August 30. Surveys should be conducted by qualified and experienced personnel. Consult with the USFWS if a yellow-shouldered blackbird nest is found.
- Consult with the Puerto Rico DNER to identify the need for an endangered species permit to conduct such surveys.
- No trimming or cutting of palms and trees between March 15 and August 30 except in an emergency (i.e., downed trees and palms from storms).
- Survey for yellow-shouldered blackbird nests prior to any outdoor building maintenance activities between March 15 and August 30. Determine identity of any bird nest found. If a yellow-shouldered blackbird nest is found do not disturb, notify and consult with USFWS.
- Before moving parked outdoor equipment (e.g., carts, vehicles) check for yellow-shouldered blackbird nests (March 15 to August 30). If a yellow-shouldered blackbird nest is located do not disturb, notify USFWS.

**Note:** The above noted conservation measures are applicable to all the parcels as noted on Figure 4-1 except parcel 28. For those parcels that have been identified for conservation no commercial or residential development should take place; however, habitat management activities should be closely coordinated with USFWS.

**Notice:** If you are willing to comply with the general requirements and conservation measures listed above during the development and subsequent use of this parcel, you may proceed with the project. If you have any questions on the conservation measures, please consult with USFWS, Caribbean Field Office in Boquerón, Puerto Rico. Property owners that cannot adhere to the conservation measures should consult with USFWS to seek an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) under Section 10(a)(1)(B). Be aware that the preparation of a Habitat Conservation Plan is required to apply for an ITP. Failure to comply with the identified general requirements and conservation measures may result in the violation of Section 9 of the ESA. The USFWS has the authority to prosecute violations under ESA.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION MEASURES—PARCEL 3

Common Name—Federal  
Conveyance—Fed  
Neighboring Parcel(s)—2,6

Yellow-shouldered Blackbird

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- All applicable federal laws (e.g., Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Clean Water Act) remain in effect.
- Consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding any development plans.
- Pesticide and herbicide applications must follow Commonwealth of Puerto Rico regulations.

Activity	Conservation Measures
Development Planning	Save as many existing on site palms and trees as possible in new development plans.
New Construction/Clearing	If undeveloped yellow-shouldered blackbird habitat is proposed for clearing consult with USFWS a minimum of one year prior to planned project initiation.
Demolition/Remodeling	Schedule activity from September 1 through March 14 or conduct outdoor survey of building(s) (ledges, etc.) and nearby trees (within 50 m of the building) for yellow-shouldered blackbird nests prior to start date if the development activity is scheduled to occur between March 15 and August 30. Consult with USFWS if a yellow-shouldered blackbird nest is found.
Grounds Maintenance	No trimming or cutting of palms and trees between March 15 and August 30 except in an emergency (i.e., downed trees and palms from storms).
Building Maintenance	Check for yellow-shouldered blackbird nests prior to any outdoor building maintenance activities between March 15 and August 30. Determine identity of any bird nest found. Notify and consult with USFWS if a yellow-shouldered blackbird nest is found.
General Operations	Before moving parked outdoor equipment (e.g., carts, vehicles) check for yellow-shouldered blackbird nests (March 15-August 30). Notify USFWS if a yellow-shouldered blackbird nest is located.

**NOTICE:**

Consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if you have any questions on the conservation measures. Property owners that cannot adhere to the conservation measures must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to seek a Section 10.0 permit for authorization to modify the identified critical habitat. Failure to comply with the identified conservation measures violates Section 9.0 and/or Section 10.0 of the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has the authority to prosecute violations under the Endangered Species Act.

Depending on the location, a land parcel may have several conservation recommendations for each species found on that parcel

Table 4-5. Conservation Measures for the Puerto Rican Boa

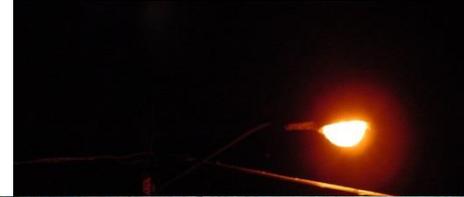
<p><b>During planning and development phases ; vegetation removal, land clearing activities, new construction; demolition or remodeling of existing structures; grounds maintenance; building maintenance; and general operations the following conservation measures should be implemented to minimize possible effects to the Puerto Rican boa or its habitat:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ When planning new developments in areas that contain Puerto Rican boa habitat (see Table 4-3) strive to save as many existing trees as possible.</li> <li>▪ If Puerto Rican boa habitat is present and proposed for clearing, consult with the USFWS. <i>Note:</i> A minimum of one year may be required to complete consultation. As part of the consultation process, USFWS may require a survey just prior to clearing to determine the presence/absence of Puerto Rican boas. If Puerto Rican boas are present contact the USFWS.</li> <li>▪ Notify the USFWS if a Puerto Rican boa is found during maintenance activities, inside a building/structure or on the grounds.</li> </ul>
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**Note:** The above-noted conservation measures are applicable to parcels as noted on Figure 4-1, specifically parcels: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8,9,10,11,12,13,14 18, 19, 20, 22, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 38, 39, 40, 43, 44, 48, 56,58, 59,60, 61,62,63,64,65,66,67, and 64.

**Notice:** If you are willing to comply with the general requirements and conservation measures listed above during the development and subsequent use of this parcel, you may proceed with the project. If you have any questions on the conservation measures, please consult with USFWS, Caribbean Field Office in Boquerón, Puerto Rico. Property owners that cannot adhere to the conservation measures should consult with USFWS to seek an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) under Section 10(a)(1)(B). Be aware that the preparation of a Habitat Conservation Plan is required to apply for an ITP. Failure to comply with the identified general requirements and conservation measures may result in the violation of Section 9 of the ESA. The USFWS has the authority to prosecute violations under ESA.

# Sea Turtle Conservation Measures for RRNS (33 parcels)

- Avoid vegetation removal, fence installation, construction, and light installation within 50 meters from high tide
- Designate buffer zone (20-50m) and plant sea grape & native vegetation
- Prepare and implement a comprehensive lighting plan (shielding, lowering, LPS, Ambar LEDs, planting).
- Conduct light inspection to identify and correct any problematic lights.
- Enhance costal vegetation & protect from vehicular traffic.



# Strategies for Lighting Plans



**LPS-  
Shoebox**



**Cylinder light**



**Bollard lights**



**Step Lights- Wall mounted**



**Indirect lights**

# Antillean Manatee

- **Although Section 7 consultation was not conducted for activities that may affect manatees at the former RRNS, it was recognized that impacts to the manatee could occur with increased boat traffic or habitat degradation.**
- **Any work in the water that requires Federal permits, will need a Section 7 consultation with the Service.**





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### In Summary:

- For compliance of Section 7 of the ESA, conservation recommendations for YSBB, PR Boa, VI boa and Sea Turtles need to be implemented in the re-use of RRNS
- Any water-related project will need a Section 7 consultation for the Antillean manatee
- BA for the re-use plan is available at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/Environmental%20Assessment%20for%20the%20Disposal%20of%20Naval%20Activity%20Puerto%20Rico%20-%20English%20Version.pdf>

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Environmental Assessment  
for the Disposal of  
Naval Activity Puerto Rico  
(formerly Naval Station Roosevelt Roads)

April 2007



Prepared by:

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Commander, Navy Installations

In compliance with Section 102(2)(C)  
of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969



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