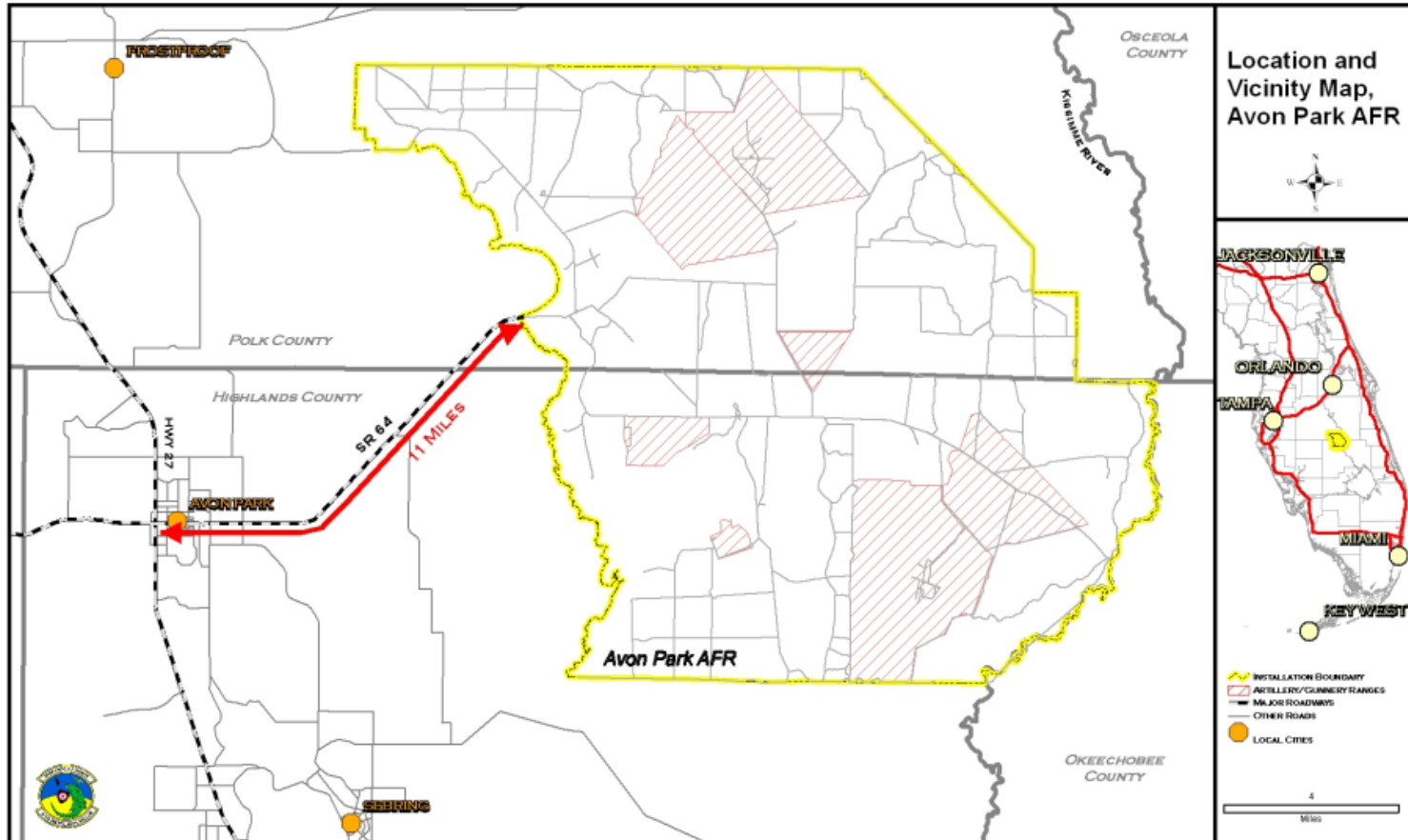




Case Study

Avon Park Air Force Range



Case Study



Overview

- Avon Park, FL has extensive endangered species habitat, with approximately 12 listed species including, but not limited to:
 - Red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) (*Picoides borealis*)
 - FL scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*)
 - FL grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum floridianus*)
 - Avon Park is the only area where this species is found on federal property
 - Eastern Indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*)
 - Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*)
 - Wood stork (*Mycteria americana*)
 - Northern Caracara (called Audubon's Caracara) (*Caracara cheriway*)
 - Pigeon wings (*Clitoria fragrans*)
 - Wireweed (*Polygonella baseramia*)

Case Study



Overview Cont'd...

- Inter-service combat training is an integral part of the training that the Air Force (AF) provides
- Long-term planning timelines for these scenarios can vary greatly
- Regulatory consultation periods can exceed the advance notice required for these types of training exercises



Florida Scrub-jay
Photo courtesy of USFWS

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Problems

- Review periods between the USFWS and Military Services can take a lot of time
- If the USFWS does not respond expeditiously to consultations for inter-service training scenarios, the subsequent delay could cause the training to be postponed or canceled
- The installation is currently updating its INRMP
- 4-5 years ago, the consultations and INRMP review process were very cumbersome and time consuming which impacted endangered species monitoring and habitat management



Eastern Indigo snake
Photo courtesy of USFWS

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Solution

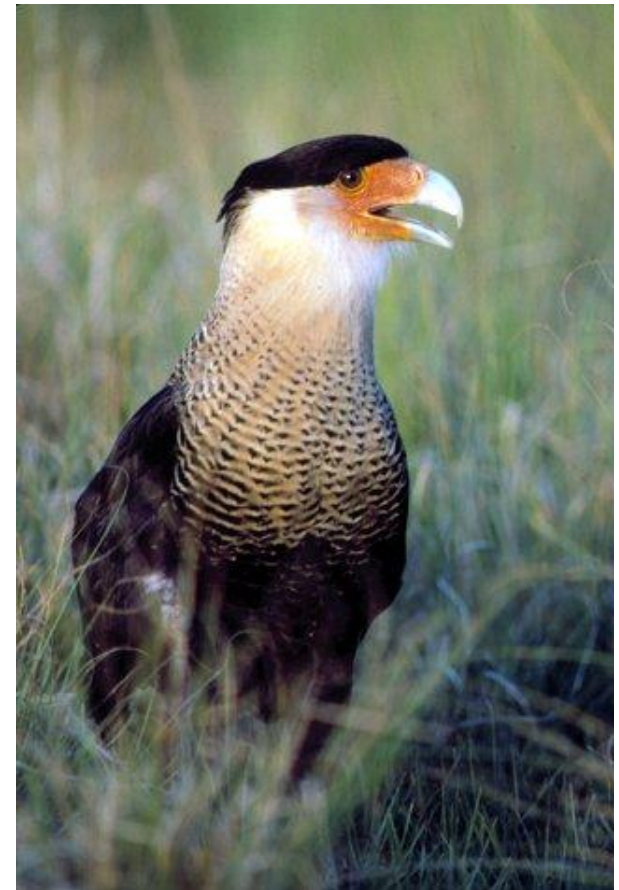
- The chief of the Ecological Services Office suggested placing a USFWS liaison biologist at Avon Park
- Avon Park and the USFWS initiated a Cooperative Assistance Agreement in 2004, and later updated it in 2009:
 - This agreement places a USFWS biologist at Avon Park to act as a liaison between the USFWS and the installation
 - The agreement also gives both Avon Park and the USFWS liaison authority
- A copy of this agreement is available online in the reference material section <http://www.dodworkshops.org/ESA-offerings.html>
- Avon Park covers the cost of the USFWS liaison's salary and training expenses, and provides transportation, and a workspace with a computer, etc.

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Examples of Success

- A major multi-force training exercise gave Avon Park minimal advance notice and required an ESA section 7 consultation
- Avon Park and the USFWS liaison completed the section 7 consultation in 35 days (vs. the usual 100 days), which met legal requirements and allowed the exercise to proceed on time



Northern Caracara
Photo courtesy of USFWS

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Examples of Success Cont'd...

- RCW
 - Avon Park worked with the USFWS to reintroduce RCW colonies onto training ranges
 - There was concern that endangered species activities on airspace and training ranges would impact sustained training
 - Avon Park and the USFWS closely coordinated translocations between training operations and away from emerging training requirements
 - Avon Park and the USFWS liaison worked together to meet ESA requirements while balancing sustainability of the installation to meet the military mission
 - Avon Park and the USFWS established an agreement to provide the range with the needed assurance/authority to translocate the RCW colonies in case an impact to the military mission occurred in the future
 - Avon Park worked closely with the USFWS liaison to manage forest structure and expand RCW colonies. The onsite liaison better understands the AF's concerns as well as the balance needed to meet ESA requirements and sustain the military mission

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Examples of Success Cont'd...

- Land Management Planning
 - Avon Park and the USFWS established an agreement to provide the range with the needed assurance/authority to translocate the RCW colonies in case an impact to the military mission occurred in the future
- INRMP Preparation
 - Historically, developing INRMPs at Avon Park was a real challenge
 - With a USFWS liaison on site, the installation is able to work closely with a USFWS biologist to develop the INRMP
 - The USFWS' active participation helps to reduce the time commitment for the INRMP review process, and better facilitates agency cooperation



Florida grasshopper sparrow
Photo courtesy of USFWS

Case Study



Questions

