

**From:** [Perez, Chris](#)  
**To:** [Buzek, Aubry L](#); [DeLaGarza, Imer](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Checking In - Starship Launch/USFWS Assessment  
**Date:** Monday, April 24, 2023 8:10:09 AM

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I'm working on a report this morning.

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**From:** Buzek, Aubry L <[aubry\\_buzek@fws.gov](mailto:aubry_buzek@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 8:09 AM  
**To:** DeLaGarza, Imer <[Imer\\_DeLaGarza@fws.gov](mailto:Imer_DeLaGarza@fws.gov)>; Perez, Chris <[chris\\_perez@fws.gov](mailto:chris_perez@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Checking In - Starship Launch/USFWS Assessment

Good morning! Just checking in to see if staff were able to complete the assessment this weekend or if it is still ongoing. Thanks!

Aubry Buzek  
Public Affairs Specialist – Texas  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
512-962-0289  
[aubry\\_buzek@fws.gov](mailto:aubry_buzek@fws.gov)

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**From:** Maidenberg, Micah <[micah.maidenberg@wsj.com](mailto:micah.maidenberg@wsj.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 23, 2023 9:24 AM  
**To:** Buzek, Aubry L <[aubry\\_buzek@fws.gov](mailto:aubry_buzek@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] WSJ press inquiry -- Starship anomaly

Hi Aubry:

Micah @ WSJ again. I wanted to check in on this thread.

My understanding is the Highway 4 leading to Starbase and the beach opened yesterday. Could you please let me know what FWS has found?

When did FWS enter the site? How many people from the service participated in the analysis? Is there any way FWS has measured the launch impact to the lands it oversees, to the surrounding flora and fauna?

Would a FWS who worked on the analysis take a call?

Micah

On Fri, Apr 21, 2023 at 11:29 AM Maidenberg, Micah <[micah.maidenberg@wsj.com](mailto:micah.maidenberg@wsj.com)> wrote:

Thanks for the update—really appreciate it.

On Fri, Apr 21, 2023 at 10:27 AM Buzek, Aubry L <[aubry\\_buzek@fws.gov](mailto:aubry_buzek@fws.gov)> wrote:

Hi Micah! Our staff will be going in to assess as soon as the road closure ends. The last update I received about an hour ago said they expect that will be late today. After refuge staff have completed the assessment I will work with them to get a summary drafted for media release and will send it up to USFWS headquarters and DOI for approval. Once we have that approved by leadership I can send it out to reporters. At this point without knowing exactly when the closure will end, or how long it will take staff to complete the assessment, I can't give a great answer on when we will be able to release any information.

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**From:** Maidenberg, Micah <[micah.maidenberg@wsj.com](mailto:micah.maidenberg@wsj.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 11:16 AM  
**To:** Buzek, Aubry L <[aubry\\_buzek@fws.gov](mailto:aubry_buzek@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] WSJ press inquiry -- Starship anomaly

Hey there — any guidance about when there might be more information about how things look from the FWS perspective? Is there any chance that someone who worked on the analysis for the agency would be up for an interview today?

Micah

On Fri, Apr 21, 2023 at 7:33 AM Maidenberg, Micah <[micah.maidenberg@wsj.com](mailto:micah.maidenberg@wsj.com)> wrote:

Many thanks!

On Fri, Apr 21, 2023 at 9:33 AM Buzek, Aubry L <[aubry\\_buzek@fws.gov](mailto:aubry_buzek@fws.gov)> wrote:

Info on Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge:

- The Service protects more than 110,000 acres of habitat in the South Texas Refuge Complex, which includes the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge managed lands and public beach adjacent to the SpaceX facility in South Texas.
- Boca Chica State Park, fronting on the Gulf of Mexico just 3 miles north of the mouth of the Rio Grande, was acquired by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) in 1994, and consists of a number of tracts totaling 1,056 acres of dunes,

flats, marshes, and coastal grasslands. TPWD's lands have been managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) as a component of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge since 2007 under the terms of a 50-year lease.

- A GIS map with tract boundaries, acreage and ownership details can be found here: [https://www.cameroncad.org/cadclientdb/map\\_disclaimer.html](https://www.cameroncad.org/cadclientdb/map_disclaimer.html)

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**From:** Maidenberg, Micah <[micah.maidenberg@wsj.com](mailto:micah.maidenberg@wsj.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 10:22 PM  
**To:** Buzek, Aubry L <[aubry\\_buzek@fws.gov](mailto:aubry_buzek@fws.gov)>; Kauffman, Vanessa <[vanessa\\_kauffman@fws.gov](mailto:vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] WSJ press inquiry -- Starship anomaly

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Hi Aubry and Vanessa:

It's Micah from the WSJ. I cover SpaceX, and wanted to reach out with the following questions about Thursday's explosion of the Starship vehicle.

The FWS's BCO related to the company's Starship project says the company would coordinate with the FWS (and others) about potential impacts to sensitive wildlife habitat tied to debris cleanup.

Has SpaceX contacted FWS about any potential impacts to habitat tied to any of its potential debris removal work?

Could the FWS please comment about any steps it is taking related to yesterday's launch and explosion? Have you determined if there were any impacts on wildlife or habitat tied to the launch?

I'm on an immediate deadline and hope this email catches you late on Friday morning. Please don't hesitate to call me at 773 428 2113 to discuss.

Micah

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