

## ORV Management Alternatives Matrix 11/05/08

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Cape Hatteras National Seashore

ORV Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

Management Activity	Alternative A—No Action, Continuation of Management under IPSMS	Alternative B – No Action, Continuation of Management Under Consent Decree	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<b>ORV Access</b>	<p><b>General</b> Visitors accessing the Seashore by ORV must use only designated beach access ramps and soundside access roads to enter designated ORV routes.</p>	Same as alternative A			
	<p><b>Oceanside Access</b> ORV access is provided via 18 oceanside ramps and access points located off NC-12. Ramps are numbered and identified on the Seashore's ORV route map as official vehicle access routes. Seashore staff maintains ramps and signage.</p>	Same as alternative A	<p><b>Oceanside Ramps</b> [See ORV Use Areas Table for details.]</p>	<p><b>Oceanside Ramps</b> [See ORV Use Areas Table for details.]</p>	<p><b>Oceanside Ramps</b> [See ORV Use Areas Table for details.]</p>
	<p><b>Soundside Access</b> ORV access is provided via 21 soundside access points located off NC-12. Seashore staff maintains ramps and signage.</p>	Same as alternative A	<p><b>Soundside Ramps</b> Existing soundside ramps would remain open.  Signage/posts would be installed at the primitive parking areas and boat launch areas to prevent damage to vegetation and other soundside resources.</p>	<p><b>Soundside Ramps</b>  Same as alternative A.</p>	<p><b>Soundside Ramps</b> Soundside ramps to designated boat launch areas and Pole Road access to Cable Crossing and Spur Road would remain open. The remaining soundside ramps would be closed to ORV use and small parking areas would be constructed to provide pedestrian access to the water.  Signage/posts would be installed at the parking areas and boat launch areas to prevent damage to vegetation and other soundside resources.</p>
	<p><b>Interdunal Roads</b> One lane, interdunal routes have been designated as follows:</p>	Same as alternative A	<p><b>Interdunal Roads</b> Same as alternative A, plus:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Existing interdunal roads would be maintained as needed to provide access to ORV areas. Pull-outs or road widening would be provided where appropriate to provide safe passage.</li> </ul> </p>	<p><b>Interdunal Roads</b> Same as alternative A.</p>	<p><b>Interdunal Roads</b> Same as alternative C, plus:</p>

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	<p><i>Bodie Island Ranger District</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None.</li> </ul> <p><i>Hatteras Island Ranger District</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cape Point between Ramp 44 to Ramp 45</li> <li>▪ Hatteras Inlet from Ramp 55 to the inlet (includes Pole Road and Spur Road).</li> </ul> <p><i>Ocracoke Island Ranger District</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as alternative A</p> <p>Same as alternative A</p> <p>Same as alternative A</p>	<p>Same as alternative A</p> <p>Same as alternative A, plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extend interdunal road west of Ramp 45 to new Ramp 47</li> </ul> <p>Same as alternative A</p>	<p>Same as alternative A</p> <p>Same as alternative A</p> <p>Same as alternative A</p>	<p><i>Bodie Island Ranger District</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Same as Alternative A</li> </ul> <p>Same as alternative A, plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extend interdunal road west of Ramp 45 to Ramp 49. Establish new Ramp 47 off of interdunal road.</li> </ul> <p>Same as alternative A</p>
<b>Hours of Allowable ORV Operation on Beach</b>	All areas of the seashore open 24 hours a day year round.	<p>November 16 – April 30: All beaches open to ORV use 24 hours a day.</p> <p>May 1 – November 15: Beaches open from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and closed from 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.; except that from September 16 to November 15 ORV use is allowed from 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. subject to terms and conditions of a permit.</p>	<p>November 16 through April 30: Designated ORV routes and areas open to ORV use 24 hours a day.</p> <p>May 1 – November 15: All potential sea turtle nesting habitat (ocean intertidal zone, ocean backshore, and dunes) closed to non-essential ORV use from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.</p>	<p>November 16 through April 30: Designated ORV routes and areas open to ORV use 24 hours a day.</p> <p>May 1 – November 15: All potential sea turtle nesting habitat (ocean intertidal zone, ocean backshore, and dunes) closed to non-essential ORV use from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.</p>	<p>November 16 - April 30: Designated ORV routes and areas open to ORV use 24 hours a day.</p> <p>May 1 – September 15: All potential sea turtle nesting habitat (ocean intertidal zone, ocean backshore, and dunes) closed to non-essential ORV use from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m.</p> <p>September 16 – November 15: ORV routes and areas with no or low density of turtle nests remaining (as determined by NPS) open between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. subject to terms and conditions of permit.</p>
	Visitors accessing the Seashore by ORV must drive only on marked ORV routes and comply with posted restrictions.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.
<b>ORV Routes</b>	The ORV corridor will be marked by posts placed approximately 150 feet landward from the average, normal high tide line, or if less than 150 feet of space is available, at the vegetation or the toe of the remnant dune line; except as noted in the Interim Protected Species Management Strategy. The corridor width will fluctuate over time due to the dynamic nature of beach and surf. (Superintendent's Order #7)	Same as alternative A, except: In all locations not in front of the villages that are open to ORV use, NPS shall provide an ORV-free zone in the ocean backshore at least 10 m wide, wherever there is sufficient beach width to all an ORV corridor of at least 20 m above the mean high tide line, from March 15 to November 30.	ORV beach routes would be a designated area seaward from the toe of dune or vegetation line to high tide line.	Same as alternative C.	<p>September 1 – March 14: ORV beach routes would be a designated area seaward from the toe of dune or vegetation line to high tide line.</p> <p>March 15 – August 31: ORV beach routes would be a designated area from 10 meters from the toe of the dune to the existing tide line in areas open to ORV use. Such backshore closures would be implemented only when there is sufficient beach width to allow an ORV corridor of at least 20 meters above the mean high tide line.</p>

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<b>ORV Use Areas</b>	All areas of the Seashore are open to ORV access. Refer to Use Areas Table.	Same as alternative A.	ORV access would be prohibited in all areas of the Seashore except where routes and areas are specifically designated. Refer to Use Areas Table.	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C
<b>Safety Closures</b>	Safety closures apply only to ORV safety. ORV safety closures established as needed to address safety conditions such as debris on the beach or narrow beaches. Narrow beaches are reopened as the beach widens. Safety closures applicable only to ORV access; pedestrian access is maintained. Existing ORV safety closures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ramp 1 to Ramp 2</li> <li>▪ 1.8 miles south of Ramp 38 to 0.4 mile north of Ramp 43.</li> <li>▪ Buxton to Lighthouse Beach</li> <li>▪ Northern boundary of Frisco to Hatteras Village</li> <li>▪ September 16 – May 14: Hatteras Village</li> <li>▪ 1.5 miles north of Ramp 67 to 1 mile south of Ramp 59</li> </ul>	Same as alternative A.	Safety closures established in areas open to ORV use as needed to address ORV and pedestrian safety considerations, including debris on the beach, narrow beaches, and congested areas. Safety closures would preclude ORV access, while pedestrian access would be maintained through all safety closures.  Safety closures would be reopened when/if conditions improve as determined by monitoring every two weeks by Seashore law enforcement.	Safety closures would not be established. ORV drivers would need to determine conditions and safety and would drive at own risk.	Same as alternative C, plus: For village beaches that are open to ORV use during the winter season, the village beaches must be at least 30 m (100 ft) wide from the toe of the dune seaward to mean high tide line in order to be open to ORV use.
<b>Administrative ORV Closures</b>	Beach in front of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse closed to ORV access. Buxton Woods road closed to ORV access.	Same as alternative A.	No administrative closures would be established. (Buxton Woods road is a non-ORV area.)	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Ramp Characteristics</b>			2-lanes wide with shell/clay base Standard regulatory signs and information boards at all ramps Gates at all ramps and access points Designated air down area with hardened surface (e.g., shell/clay base)	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C, plus for "high-use" ramps (to be determined); add toilet facility
<b>Wintering Closures</b>	Suitable interior habitats at spits and at Cape Point closed year-round to all recreational users to provide for resting and foraging for all species. For example, at present, such suitable habitats include ephemeral ponds and moist flats at Cape Point, Hatteras Spit, Ocracoke, and Bodie Island Spit. Actual locations of suitable foraging and resting habitat may change periodically due to natural processes.	Same as alternative A	Based on an annual wintering habitat assessment of the RAs conducted after the breeding season, wintering areas are established within the respective RAs, while allowing an access corridor (pedestrian or pedestrian/ORV) as identified in ORV Use Areas Table. At spits, access will be maintained to inlet shoreline via ocean shoreline.	Same as alternative C	Same as alternative C

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<b>Resource Protection Buffers</b>	As identified in the Interim Strategy	As identified in the Interim Strategy, as modified by the Consent Decree.	SM1 and SM2 as described in the Resources Protection Measures Table. Implement SM1 at all locations, except implement SM2 at areas designated in Use Areas Table.	SM1 as described in the Resources Protection Measures Table. Implement alternative SM1 at all locations.	Same as Alternative C.
	ORV buffers are established for observed breeding behavior. See Resources Protection Measures table for SM1 and SM2 alternatives.				
<b>Permit Requirements</b>	No permits required.	Permit required for ORV use from 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. September 16 – November 15.	Vehicle permit required.	Vehicle permit required.	Vehicle permit required.
<b>Permit Distribution</b>	n/a	To follow Seashore guidelines to be developed	Available in-person at various locations and on-line.	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Permit Issuance Requirements</b>	n/a	Night driving permit application process has an educational component and the permit contains restriction on light use.	ORV owners must read the rules and regulations governing ORV use at the seashore and complete a written or online exam. The owner would sign for their permit in acknowledgement that they understand the rules and that all drivers will abide by the rules and regulations governing ORV use at the seashore, including beach driving safety, and resource closure requirements	ORV owners must sign for the permit in acknowledgement that they understand the rules and that all drivers will abide by the rules and regulations governing ORV use at the seashore, including beach driving safety, and resource closure requirements	Same as alternative C.
<b>Permit number limits</b>	n/a	No limit on night driving permits	No limit	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Permit types</b>	n/a	Night driving permit for Sept 16 – Nov 15	Annual permits would be available that would be valid for 12 months from date of purchase so as to span seasonal use.	Annual permits would be available. Valid for calendar year.	Annual and short-term permits (e.g., weekly) available. Night driving permits required under this alternative.
<b>Permit fees</b>	n/a	None	Fees subject to cost recovery	Same as alternative C <i>(although fee would be lower than alternative C due to decreased management costs under this alternative)</i>	Fees subject to cost recovery, with lower price for short-term or off-season permit <i>(although fee would be higher than alternative C due to increased management costs under this alternative)</i>
<b>Permit form</b>	n/a	Night driving permit to follow Seashore guidelines	Permit affixed to vehicle in a manner approved by the NPS.	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Permit Revocation</b>	n/a	Night driving permit to follow Seashore guidelines	A permit may be revoked for violation of applicable park regulations or terms and conditions of the permit.	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.

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<b>Beach Parking</b>	Parking within routes is allowed in any configuration.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Parking within ORV routes is allowed, but only one vehicle deep. Stacking of vehicles in more than one row would be prohibited.	Same as alternative A.
<b>Vehicle Carrying Capacity Determination</b>	Vehicle carrying capacity would not be determined.	Same as alternative A.	<p>Carrying capacity would be established for all areas (to be determined) based on their linear feet of beachfront and the following physical space requirements ("miles" refers to miles of beach open to ORV use):</p> <p><i>Bodie Island Ranger District</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 260 vehicles/mile (20 feet per vehicle)</li> </ul> <p><i>Hatteras Island Ranger District</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 260 vehicles/mile (20 feet per vehicle)</li> </ul> <p><i>Ocracoke Island Ranger District</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 100 vehicles/mile (54 feet per vehicle)</li> </ul> <p>Exceptions to carrying capacity limits may be approved for events operating under a special use permit.</p>	Same as alternative A.	<p>Carrying capacity would be established for all areas based on their linear feet of beachfront and the following physical space requirements:</p> <p><i>Bodie Island Ranger District</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 260 vehicles/mile (20 feet/vehicle)</li> </ul> <p><i>Hatteras Island Ranger District</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 260 vehicles/mile (20 feet/vehicle), except:</li> <li>▪ Cape Point – 400 vehicles allowed within a 1 mile area centered on Cape Point.</li> </ul> <p><i>Ocracoke Island Ranger District</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 175 vehicles/mile (30 feet /vehicle)</li> </ul> <p>Exceptions to carrying capacity limits may be approved for events operating under a special use permit.</p>
<b>Temporary Emergency Beach Closures</b>	Temporary emergency closures established per Superintendent's Compendium and NPS policy.	<p>In addition to beach closure restrictions under the Consent Decree, NPS retains the authority to implement a temporary emergency beach closure if any of the following conditions are observed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ORV traffic backing up on the beach access ramps, either on- or off-beach bound, which threatens to impede traffic flow</li> <li>• ORV traffic on the beach is parked in such a way that 2-way traffic is impeded</li> <li>• Multiple incidents of disorderly behavior are observed or reported</li> </ul>	<p>The NPS retains the authority to implement a temporary emergency beach closure if any of the following conditions are observed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ORV traffic backing up on the beach access ramps, either on- or off-beach bound, which threatens to impede traffic flow</li> <li>• ORV traffic on the beach is parked in such a way that 2-way traffic is impeded</li> <li>• Multiple incidents of disorderly behavior are observed or reported</li> </ul>	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Seasonal Element related to Carrying Capacity</b>	n/a	n/a	Applicable March 15 – October 14.	n/a	Focus is on peak use periods during breeding season, but may be implemented any time need arises.

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<b>Periodic Review of Carrying Capacity</b>	n/a	n/a	Visitation, crowding, and safety monitored periodically to determine if implementation of carrying capacity is warranted. Once implemented, carrying capacity limits would be reviewed every 2 years.	n/a	Same as alternative C.
<b>Areas of Implementation</b>	n/a	n/a	Would apply to all areas in the seashore. Carrying capacity requirements only implemented if increased visitation results in crowding threshold being met.	n/a	Same as alternative C.
<b>Off-Road Vehicle Requirements</b>	<p>All vehicles operating in area of the Seashore must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Have a valid vehicle registration, insurance, and license plate.</li> </ul> <p>Vehicles must be street legal. ATVs prohibited from beach driving.</p> <p>Recommend "air down" of tires prior to driving on beach.</p>	Same as alternative A.	<p>Vehicle Characteristics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All vehicles must be registered, licensed, and insured for highway use and comply with state inspection regulations within the state, country or province where the vehicle is registered.</li> <li>2. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended</li> <li>3. Two wheel drive vehicles are allowed.</li> <li>4. Motorcycles are prohibited on the ocean beachfront.</li> <li>5. ATVs are prohibited.</li> <li>6. There is a three axle maximum for vehicles (this is the axle maximum for the powered vehicle only and does not include the additional number of axles on towed trailers).</li> <li>7. Any trailers are limited to no more than two axles.</li> <li>8. The maximum vehicle length is thirty (30') feet (this is the maximum length for the powered vehicle and does not include the additional length of a towed trailer).</li> <li>9. Tires must be U.S. Department of Transportation listed and/or approved tires only.</li> </ol>	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.

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<b>Equipment Requirements</b>	n/a	n/a	<p>Equipment Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All vehicles shall contain a low pressure tire gauge, shovel, jack, and jack stand.</li> <li>A full sized spare tire, first aid kit, fire extinguisher, trash bag or container, flashlight (if night driving), and tow strap are recommended.</li> <li>When driving on designated routes, tire pressure must be lowered sufficiently to maintain adequate traction within posted speed limit. 20 psi <i>recommended</i> for most vehicles.</li> </ul>	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Speed Limits</b>	<p>25 mph (unless otherwise posted) on park beaches for public and private vehicles.</p> <p>Speed limit in front of villages during off season (September 16 – May 14) on park beaches posted at 10 mph.</p> <p>Emergency vehicles exempt when responding to a call.</p>	Same as alternative A.	<p>15 mph (unless otherwise posted).</p> <p>Emergency vehicles exempt when responding to a call.</p>	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Non-ORV Areas</b>	None designated. Temporary non-ORV areas occur as a result of seasonal (village) closures, safety closures, and resource closures.	None designated. Temporary non-ORV areas occur as a result of seasonal (village) closures, safety closures, and resource closures.	Non-ORV areas as designated in the ORV Use Areas Table.	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Parking Areas for Non-ORV Access</b>	Parking is currently provided in 64 park-maintained park lots throughout the Seashore, totaling approximately 1,000 spaces.	Same as alternative A.	<p>Any new parking areas to be located near Non-ORV Areas and located away from eroding areas or potential inlet areas.</p> <p>New parking areas will implement environmentally appropriate design standards to minimize stormwater runoff.</p> <p>New or expanded parking areas for oceanside locations are identified in ORV Use Areas Table.</p>	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Non-ORV Parking Area Characteristics</b>	None	None	<p>Establish standards/amenities for non-ORV parking areas. Could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each site would have a boardwalk or other appropriate pedestrian route for crossing the dune.</li> <li>Parking areas with 50? 100? (to be determined) or more parking spaces would have waste receptacles and toilet facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each site would have a boardwalk or other appropriate pedestrian route for crossing the dune.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each site would have a boardwalk or other appropriate pedestrian route for crossing the dune.</li> <li>Parking areas with 50? 100? (to be determined) or more parking spaces would have waste receptacles and toilet facilities.</li> </ul>

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<b>Alternative Transportation</b>	Alternative transportation is not provided at the Seashore.	Same as alternative A.	Refer to Use Areas Table	Refer to Use Areas Table	Refer to Use Areas Table
<b>Restroom Facilities</b>	Existing porta-potties located throughout the seashore.	Same as alternative A.	<b>To be determined</b>	<b>To be determined</b>	<b>To be determined</b>
<b>Pets</b>	Per 36 CFR 2.15: The following are prohibited: Possessing a pet in an area closed to the possession of pets by the superintendent. Failing to crate, cage, restrain on a leash which shall not exceed six feet in length, or otherwise physically confine a pet at all times. Pets are prohibited in all resource closures. Pets are prohibited, even if on a leash, from the landward side of the posts delineating the ORV corridor at the spits (Bodie, Hatteras, Ocracoke) and Cape Point.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A, except that pets, even if on a leash, are prohibited in Resource Areas from March 15 – October 15.	Same as alternative A, except pets prohibited in Resource Areas year-round.	Same as alternative A, except pets prohibited in Resource Areas March 15 – August 31.
<b>Beach Fires</b>	Permitted per 36 CFR 2.13. Prohibited 12:00 midnight to 6:00 AM per Superintendent's Compendium Section 2.13.	Same as alternative A.	Beach fires prohibited 12:00 AM – 6:00 AM year-round. Permit required for any beach fire to ensure user is informed of basic safety and resource protection measures, including no fires within a 100 meters of a known turtle nest.	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Nighttime Beach Use</b>	<p><i>Camping</i>*, as defined in 36 CFR § 1.4, is prohibited on seashore beaches per Superintendent's Compendium § 2.10(a).</p> <p>ORVs allowed on beach overnight only if someone associated with the vehicle is actively fishing.</p> <p>ORVs allowed on all areas of the seashore 24 hours a day, year round.</p> <p>*<i>Camping</i> means the erecting of a tent or shelter of natural or synthetic material, preparing a sleeping bag or other bedding material for use, parking of a motor vehicle, motor home or trailer, or mooring of a vessel for the apparent purpose of overnight occupancy. (36 CFR § 1.4)</p>	<p><i>Camping</i>, as defined in 36 CFR § 1.4, is prohibited on seashore beaches per Superintendent's Compendium § 2.10(a).</p> <p>See allowable hours of ORV operations for this alternative.</p>	<p><i>Camping</i>, as defined in 36 CFR § 1.4, is prohibited on seashore beaches per Superintendent's Compendium § 2.10(a).</p> <p>See allowable hours of ORV operations for this alternative.</p> <p>Unattended beach equipment (i.e., chairs, canopies, volleyball nets, water sports gear, etc.) is prohibited on the Seashore at night. Turtle patrol and law enforcement will tag equipment found at night. Owners have 24 hrs to remove equipment before it will be removed by NPS staff.</p>	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C
<b>Boat Access</b>	<p>Launch sites, as designated under 36 CFR § 3.8(a)(2), are identified in the Superintendent's Compendium.</p> <p>Launching or recovery of vessels is prohibited within resources closures.</p>	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.



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<b>Commercial Fishing Vehicles</b>	Authorized by permit to enter all ORV and pedestrian areas that are not closed for resources protection. Treated as non-essential vehicles and may not enter resource closures.	Same as alternative A, plus are subject to night driving restriction in consent decree.	Same as alternative A, plus may be authorized by special use permit to access non-ORV areas and night driving restricted areas if there is no resource conflict. <b>To be determined.</b>	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Law Enforcement (LE)</b>			<b>To be determined. Need to develop "LE1" and "LE2" enforcement measures and staffing levels to complement the SM1 and SM2 Resources Protection Measures (i.e., an SM1 site needs LE1 enforcement coverage; and SM2 site needs LE2)</b>	<b>To be determined. Need to develop "LE1" enforcement measures and staffing levels to complement the SM1 Resources Protection Measures</b>	<b>To be determined. Need to develop "LE1" and "LE2" enforcement measures and staffing levels to complement the SM1 and SM2 Resources Protection Measures (i.e., an SM1 site needs LE1 enforcement coverage; and SM2 site needs LE2)</b>
<b>Staffing</b> <i>(including RM, sign crew, LE, Maintenance, and others?)</i>			<b>To be determined</b>	<b>To be determined</b>	<b>To be determined</b>
<b>Materials</b>			<b>To be determined</b>	<b>To be determined</b>	<b>To be determined</b>