

Bodie Island Spit - Alternative E 11/05/08

NPS is not seeking or considering public comment on these materials at this time. NPS is sharing this information with the negotiated rulemaking advisory committee now solely for members' use in negotiating a consensus alternative for recommendation to the NPS. NPS highly values public input in the planning process and will actively seek public comment on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), which will include these alternatives and an analysis of their impacts. NPS plans to have the DEIS ready for public review in the early fall of 2009.

CAHA ORV Management Alternative E Site Specific Plan for Bodie Island Spit

GOAL

- Protect natural resources and maintain some sort of access to Bodie Island Spit, to the extent possible, year-round.

DEFINITION OF AREA

- The Bodie Island Spit Resource Area is defined the area where Ramp 4 reaches the beach, and from that point south to the inlet. Bodie Island Spit includes the ocean, inlet and sound (including bait pond) shorelines and all the land in between.

MEASURES

- Designate Bodie Island Spit as a “restricted access” ORV area from March 15 to August 31. Entire area is closed to ORV use during this period, except for a designated ORV access corridor running more or less along the ocean shoreline to the inlet. (Exact terminus and configuration of access corridor TBD by NPS resources management staff based on an annual habitat assessment).
- By March 15, establish prenesting closure and modify access corridor from the non-breeding season configuration. The corridor would be no more than 33 m wide above the intertidal zone at most locations. Adjacent to recent (i.e., in past three years) PIPL, AMOY, or CWB nesting areas, there would be an ORV “pass through” zone approximately 15 meters wide located above the intertidal zone. Exact location and width of the “pass through” zone to be determined by NPS Resources Management staff based on an annual habitat assessment and observed bird activity.
- All access within the Resource Area is restricted to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7 p.m. from March 15 to August 31.
- No pets allowed within Resource Area from March 15 to August 31.
- Stopping, parking, or disembarking passengers, and pedestrians and pets would be prohibited in the pass-through zone.
- Once the access corridor, including pass-through zone, is established, it will not be significantly modified or relocated to accommodate access, except for minor adjustments that do not affect park resources.
- Beginning March 15, follow SM2 monitoring procedures.
- Breeding Behavior/Nesting/Incubation:
 - PIPL: Provide SM2 buffers and monitoring. If breeding adult PIPLs forage outside of the established resource closure(s), adjust buffers and lengthen pass-through zone as needed to protect foraging sites.
 - AMOY and CWB: Within or along the ORV access corridor, provide SM2 ORV pass-through buffers and daily monitoring of observed pre-nesting and nesting behavior for non-listed species. Expand buffers as described in SM2 if needed to

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- minimize disturbance during incubation.
- Unfledged chicks:
 - All species: Follow prescribed SM2 buffer distances and monitoring for unfledged PIPL, AMOY, and CWB chicks. Close access corridor, including pass-through zone, if needed to implement or maintain SM2 buffers, or to protect park resources.
 - Once chicks have hatched, allow pedestrian access along ocean shoreline access corridor if possible to maintain SM2 buffers for unfledged chicks of the respective species present.
 - Reopen ORV access corridor when SM2 buffers for unfledged chicks can be maintained for all species present; or reopen ORV use when all chicks have fledged (and 2 weeks after AMOY chicks have fledged).
- Pedestrian Route: Establish pedestrian route from new parking area near Oregon Inlet Campground cross-country to the open “flats” at south end of the narrows. Pedestrian access to spit allowed along designated access corridor, subject to site specific resource closures.
- NPS retains the right to impose further restrictions than described above if necessary for resource protection.
- Boat access: Once the prenesting area and access corridor are established, designate and post boat landing zone (“drop-off”) near inlet that could be used to drop off pedestrians if/when inlet shoreline is not otherwise closed to protect park resources. NPS to encourage water shuttle for this purpose; however, drop-off point is subject to closure on short notice if needed to protect park resources.

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