

Self-Contained Vehicle Camping on Cape Hatteras National Seashore

NOTE: The following is a recommendation being considered by the Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CAHA) Off-Road Vehicle Driving Negotiated Rulemaking Committee. The Committee is looking for comments on the recommendation by those who may be affected by such a potential regulation. The intent of the recommendation is to provide a unique and limited beach experience, maintain consistency with similar activities in other National Parks, and encourage and support recreational activity and local businesses.

Self contained vehicle camping is allowed in CAHA and will be managed under a **special use permit** system. The special use permit will be an addition to any other broad beach access permit or pass system required.

The special use permit will include a **fee** whose price will be determined under NPS rules, regulations, and policies regarding a value of service determination.

Self contained vehicle camping **is limited** to designated areas in the beach environment only. At all designated times there will be at least one designated area on each of the three islands (Bodie, Hatteras & Ocracoke) contained within CAHA. These areas include Oregon Inlet, Cape Point Campground, and Ocracoke Campground.

For the purpose of this CAHA-specific regulation, a self-contained vehicle camper is defined as follows:

- Self contained vehicle campers must meet the ORV characteristics and requirements.
- Self contained vehicles must be 4WD only. 2WD campers are prohibited.
- Self contained vehicles are limited to a maximum length of thirty feet (30') including front racks and rear decks.
- Self contained vehicles must have a self-contained water or chemical toilet and a separate permanently installed holding tank for both black and grey water, each with a minimum capacity of 3 days waste.
- Tents and camping trailers are prohibited.

There will be no limit to the total number of available self contained vehicle permits.

The number of self contained vehicle campers allowed to camp in CAHA at any one time will be **limited by the space available** in the designated self contained vehicle camping areas. The camping space limits are as follows:

- Oregon Inlet: 100 spaces
- Cape Point Campground: 100 spaces
- Ocracoke Campground: 50 spaces

SUBCOMMITTEE DOCUMENT

Working Document DRAFT 12/11/08

Other than the parking space for self-contained vehicles, the **NPS will provide no additional services** (such as drinking water, waste disposal, etc.). The experience is intended to be a primitive, beach camping experience within appropriate self-contained vehicles. When possible, the only access to the camping will be via a four-wheel drive only path or road (i.e., access to Cape Point Campground only via the interdunal road).

Such camping will be allowed annually from November 1 until March 31.

Self-contained camping permits will be offered either weekly or annually.

There will be a self-contained camping limit of no more than seven consecutive days/six nights) in any one visit.

There will be a self-contained camping limit of no more than **one visit per month**.

All self-contained beach camping spaces are available on a **first-come, first-served basis**.

All self-contained vehicles arriving for an overnight stay must **check in/register** via a system to be determined before going onto the beach. An overnight authorization must be displayed at all times the vehicle is in the designated self contained camping area.

Self-contained vehicles **MUST** exit the beach **after each 72 consecutive hours** in order to empty holding tanks and gray water at an established septage dumping facility.

Any self contained vehicle that is found to be camping in a non-designated area will be banned from obtaining any ORV related permit at CAHA for a period of no less than five years.

Generally, the NPS will work to discourage illegal camping on any and all NPS properties via signage, education, information, and/or other appropriate and effective means