

INTRODUCTION

On February 17, 2016, Cape Hatteras National Seashore (Seashore) published a news release announcing the release of an environmental assessment (EA) for consideration of modifications to the final rule for off-road vehicle (ORV) management. Public comments were accepted through March 18, 2016. Five public meetings were held throughout the area of the Seashore. During the public comment period, the Seashore received 1,451 pieces of correspondence, including 467 form letters. The comments received were reflective of a public that is passionate about the future of the Seashore's resources, its uses, and management.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

In February and March 2016, the National Park Service held five public meetings for the consideration of modifications to the final rule for ORV management EA at the Seashore. The meetings were held in the following locations:

- February 26, 2016, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina
- February 29, 2016, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hampton Inn, Hampton, Virginia
- March 1, 2016, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Cape Hatteras Secondary School, Buxton, North Carolina
- March 2, 2016, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Ocracoke School, Ocracoke Island, North Carolina
- March 3, 2016, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the McKimmon Center, North Carolina State University Campus, Raleigh, North Carolina

These meetings were held to discuss the EA and get public comments. NPS staff began each meeting with a formal presentation, followed by a question and answer period regarding the EA, and an informal public comment period. Before and after the presentation, attendees were invited to walk around the meeting room, view display boards, and talk with NPS staff. The display boards included the following information:

- project background
- study area, including existing ORV routes and pedestrian-only areas
- purpose and need
- alternative elements analyzed
- how to comment

The meetings offered a variety of methods for the public to provide comments. While not officially in the public record, NPS staff took notes of all the questions and concerns raised during each public meeting. Individuals attending the meetings were also given an alternatives package and comment sheet that provided additional opportunities for comment, including directing comments to the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/caha-orv-ea>. The Seashore also e-mailed individuals, businesses, agencies, and organizations on the Seashore's e-mail mailing list and issued a news release inviting the public to comment.

Correspondence Distribution by State		
State	Pieces of Correspondence	Percentages
NC	605	41.70%
VA	350	24.12%
PA	62	4.27%
NJ	56	3.86%
MD	48	3.31%
DE	31	2.14%
CA	28	1.93%
NY	27	1.86%
OH	26	1.79%
SC	23	1.59%
FL	23	1.59%
WV	20	1.38%
WA	16	1.10%
IL	12	0.83%
CO	10	0.69%
UN	9	0.62%
TX	8	0.55%
CT	8	0.55%
OR	7	0.48%
MI	7	0.48%
TN	6	0.41%
NM	5	0.34%
GA	5	0.34%
MA	5	0.34%
MN	5	0.34%
MO	5	0.34%
KY	4	0.28%
AZ	4	0.28%
NE	3	0.21%
AR	3	0.21%
WI	3	0.21%
IN	3	0.21%
MT	2	0.14%
IA	2	0.14%
RI	2	0.14%
NH	2	0.14%
HI	2	0.14%
NV	2	0.14%
LA	2	0.14%
ME	1	0.07%
WY	1	0.07%
OK	1	0.07%
MS	1	0.07%
VI	1	0.07%
UT	1	0.07%
DC	1	0.07%
AK	1	0.07%
AL	1	0.07%
ID	1	0.07%
Total	1,451	100%

Correspondence Signature Count by Organization Type		
Organization Type	Number of Pieces of Correspondence	Percentage
Conservation/preservation	2	0.14%
Business	2	0.14%
Recreational groups	3	0.21%
State government	3	0.21%
Unaffiliated individual	1,441	99.31%
Total	1,451	100%

Note: Unaffiliated individual refers to a person representing no organization, society, business, or government entity, but only themselves.

Correspondence Distribution by Correspondence Type		
Type	Number of Pieces of Correspondence	Percentage
Web form	1,409	97.1%
Letter	35	2.4%
Park form	7	0.48%
Total	1,451	100%

Correspondence ID: 1 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,17,2016 20:15:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I see no good reason why "the Hook" is closed to driving year round. I have been closely observing birds here for many years and Cape Point does not have wintering Piping Plovers and they should not be expected as the habitat is not right for them in WINTER. And if the Red Knots are on the beach it is almost always west of this area between the new ramp and the old ramp at Frisco Campground, and they have dealt with the limited winter traffic for decades. Beach erosion is making it harder and harder to safely get to the Point from the north beach. At some point this will come to a head and there will be NO WAY to drive out there unless you allow access from the west side of the Salt Pond back of the Cape Point Campground. And if there is no improved drainage for the road to this area, it will be a moot point. It is appalling that NPS has avoided dealing with this flooding issue for the last decade- absolutely disgraceful and a disservice to the tax paying public. Why is it that we have to get to a no-go crisis situation before any action is taken? I am glad to finally see some movement on changes to the current configuration of the seashore, but this EA ignores some of the most pressing issues. We used to watch great seabird flights from Cape Point in late May and early June, and now we can't even walk out there to look for that because of the bird closures. It seems ironic that bird protection has ruined the opportunity to see a great birding spectacle. I am glad to see NPS try to work toward compromise in what has become an ugly situation with some miserable protesters on each side. It's a shame the NPS didn't see the handwriting on the wall by the early 'OOs, as cheap gas meant exponentially more 4X4s were coming here but there was no plan to deal with that impact. So now we have a situation where you cannot even walk out to Cape Point in late spring or drive the Hook in the dead of winter. Those are Draconian regulations that go beyond what is necessary to protect resources. I hope that will come to the attention of those who can effect changes here.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 2 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I see no good reason why "the Hook" is closed to driving year round. I have been closely observing birds here for many years and Cape Point does not have wintering Piping Plovers and they should not be expected as the habitat is not right for them in WINTER. And if the Red Knots are on the beach it is almost always west of this area between the new ramp and the old ramp at Frisco Campground, and they have dealt with the limited winter traffic for decades. Beach erosion is making it harder and harder to safely get to the Point from the north beach. At some point this will come to a head and there will be NO WAY to drive out there unless you allow access from the west side of the Salt Pond back of the Cape Point Campground. And if there is no improved drainage for the road to this area, it will be a moot point. It is appalling that NPS has avoided dealing with this flooding issue for the last decade- absolutely disgraceful and a disservice to the tax paying public. Why is it that we have to get to a no-go crisis situation before any action is taken? I am glad to finally see some movement on changes to the current configuration of the seashore, but this EA ignores some of the most pressing issues. We used to watch great seabird flights from Cape Point in late May and early June, and now we can't even walk out there to look for that because of the bird closures. It seems ironic that bird protection has ruined the opportunity to see a great birding spectacle. I am glad to see NPS try to work toward compromise in what has become an ugly situation with some miserable protesters on each side. It's a shame the NPS didn't see the handwriting on the wall by the early 'OOs, as cheap gas meant exponentially more 4X4s were coming here but there was no plan to deal with that impact. So now we have a situation where you cannot even walk out to Cape Point in late spring or drive the Hook in the dead of winter. Those are Draconian regulations that go beyond what is necessary to protect resources. I hope that will come to the attention of those who can effect changes here.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 3 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,18,2016 07:26:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Long time park patron and ORV enthusiast.

My problem with current access is of course in summer, when birds are "nesting" and the accesses that close on the south side of Salvo and the North side of Avon.

There's no reason to close access to these ramps, then create two more ramps through the dunes further away from the towns. It's a waste of money, resources, and time. Not to mention a hit to the local bait and tackle shops that have set up in each of those towns, counting on customers to surf fish closer to town.

There are negatives and positives to any plan, but all I see is a mismanagement of resources already in place. Use our resources a little more wisely.

Correspondence ID: 4 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: You forgot to add one important thing. How about you let us enjoy our "National Park". Residents of the Outer Banks also like to enjoy the Cape Hatteras Beaches, usually on their one, maybe two days off a week. No longer can we drive out on the beach for a nice day of family fun or fishing. You see, we don't have an extra \$50 to spend on a permit just to go to the beach once that week. We can't predict how much we'll benefit from paying \$150/yr plus the cost of a fishing license, etc. We have jobs, we have families. We are not on vacation! You have effectively removed most of the local population's access to that very thing that brings millions in revenues to this area. Now, think and include all the small businesses that are affected.

Correspondence ID: 5 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I started going to the outerbanks 20 years ago, and the best part of being there was the ability to drive on the beach, and more importantly to the point in buxton. with out access to the point my trips have become less frequent. please open the point to orv for the entire year. my kids loved going there and are very disappointed when it is closed. THE BEACH SHOULD BE OPEN TO ORV ALL YEAR, ITS WAS THAT WAY BEFORE AND SHOULD BE THAT WAY NOW.

Correspondence ID: 6 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,18,2016 08:57:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Access should be provided from the south to cape point. This would be through the area known as "the Hook" area. With this access more options would be provided to cape point with out disturbing any nests around the north access to cape point.

Correspondence ID: 7 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: ORV use should not be allowed in front of the villages any time of the year. I am surprised you have not considered this alternative, not only for safety sake, but also for the sake of what many consider a positive park/beach experience. People walking and sitting on the beach closest to their vacation rentals or home should not be punished by such a, in comparison, small user group that is capable of covering many miles in mere minutes, often exceeding unenforced speed limits. Shrinking beach fronts in many areas, especially during high tide, directly place drivers and those walking, sitting or playing on the beach in direct conflict with each other.
Children are placed in danger. Tire ruts make it virtually impossible for senior citizens to walk across the beach. The majority of beach users expect NPS to do what is right, not what is politically convenient. Yes, people visit the beach in October, November and all year around, especially parents with preschool age children, as well as senior citizens. Your chosen alternative is very dissapointing and wrong. You need to strengthen restrictions and not ease them. You have given into the loud bullies.
Please fight back.

Correspondence ID: 8 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,18,2016 09:44:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please allow us ORV acesa to the point from the south through the area known as the hook. Every year we pay full price for an ORV driving permit and are only allowed minimal access.

Correspondence ID: 9 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,18,2016 10:06:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Access to cape point from the south (the hook) should be allowed to provide more options to get to the point without disturbing nesting birds or turtles near the north ramps.

Correspondence ID: 10 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,18,2016 10:46:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: ladies and gentlemen,

i have written to you all on many occasions indicating my displeasure with the current beach closures and restrictions.

the hatteras island beaches were designated as a national recreational area decades ago. those who enjoy the island for the vast array of interests therein are your best environmental allies, and are true stewards of the resource.

i have enjoyed the beaches of cape hatteras national seashore recreational area for over 50 years. my children and grandchildren have enjoyed and, continue to enjoy the beauty, serenity, and wonder that the island has to offer. unreasonable beach access restrictions contradict and confound the very purpose and nature of the resource.

i object specifically to the beach access restrictions at ramps 43, 44, and 45. responsible fishermen, birders, surfers, and sight seers should still have access to ramp 49 via said northern ramps through the hook all the way to billy mitchell field.

we all share a common concern for endangered or threatened bird and turtle species. however, the closesures/restrictions are misguided and contrary to the spirit of fair play. no one wants to see the destruction of the beach habitat or of any animal species.

common sense, reason, and fair play should govern departmental decisions in regard to orv access. we(as well as i) gladly pay the \$120.00 fee for beach access.

it is only right and just that the department takes these considerations to heart.

please consider my concerns, and those of thousands of others who share these concerns.

thank you,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 11 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am in favor of as much access as possible, therefore I support Alternative 3. Access to the Point from the South would also be a great addition. I appreciate all the effort that has gone into this and look forward to the maximum amount of responsible park access to ORVs.

Correspondence ID: 12 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,18,2016 13:03:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I cannot attend any of the open forum but said simply I would like to have access to the point from the south from the area known as "the hook". Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Correspondence ID: 13 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,18,2016 16:37:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Access should be provided from the south to cape point. This would be through the area known as "the Hook" area. With this access more options would be provided to cape point with out disturbing any nests around the north access to cape point or blockage due to beach erosion or poor drainage planning.

Correspondence ID: 14 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,18,2016 16:53:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: access to the cape point should never be closed to pedestrians. When- if the need arises to close the cape point area to ORV use, pedestrian use should still be allowed. Ramp 45 and the hook area south of cape point should be opened up to ORV use.

Correspondence ID: 15 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,19,2016 03:01:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The area known to locals as the hook should not be a VFA. This is one of the best fishing and shelling areas around. Another VFA is ramp 34 north. This is another area that is popular with locals and visitors as well. Makes no sense at all to close this ramp to the north!! Use buffers if you need to, but do not close the area completely!

Correspondence ID: 16 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,19,2016 07:38:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have been visiting the outer banks since 1977, one of the main reasons is the fishing and the beach driving access. I have never hurt injured or even had a close call with endangering any wildlife. I believe that all of this is political and is a disgrace that we cannot access the property that belongs to the people of the United States. The businesses there are owned and operated by hard working people that care more about the environment than any lawyer or political group ever could. In this era of people needing jobs and the government wanting to grow an economy, it's funny how they are destroying one. Please keep the beaches open for the people.

Correspondence ID: 17 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,19,2016 09:14:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Expressing my support for Alternative 3 and suggesting an added access point from the south.

Correspondence ID: 18 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,19,2016 09:27:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Access should be provided from the south to cape point. This would be through the area known as "the Hook" area. With this access more options would be provided to cape point with out disturbing any nests around the north access to cape point.

Correspondence ID: 19 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,19,2016 11:07:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have travelled to the Hatteras area from Virginia several times a year to fish and enjoy the solitude with my family for over 40 years. My children grew up frequently traveling from Ramp 44 all the way to Ramp 49 enjoying sunning, swimming, fishing and just plain relaxing. Access (particularly vehicle access) to the more desirable places to fish along Hatteras Island has become increasingly difficult over the last 10 year. Add to that my age is limiting how much walking on the soft sands of Hatteras I can endure. Cape Point is one of the most desirable points to fish along the entire east coast and due to frequent closures and erosion is often limits for anyone with ailing knees.

In the past, there were multiple vehicle access points from the North and the South to Cape Point. Access from the South has been closed for years for no apparent reason other than to restrict vehicle access. Given the frequent nesting closures and tidal issues from the North, reopening vehicle access from the South via the inter-dunal road from Ramp 44 or through the campground would make it much easier for individuals to access Cape Point during nesting closures or at periods of high tides. The southern option is not as prone to the tidal issues or frequent nesting which creates so many bottlenecks during the turtle nesting season.

Please reopen the vehicle access to Cape Point from the south to allow for our future families to enjoy the treasure that Cape Point is.

Regards,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 20 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Feb,20,2016 05:09:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My biggest issue has been, and continues to be, morning access to the beach. Setting an arbitrary time of 6am, 630am, or 7am makes no sense. Times should be tied to sunrise. Many parks operate dusk to dawn or sunrise to sunset. Early morning fishing is some of the best fishing there is. Fish don't have watches, but they do see changes in lighting. In June, sunrise is around 545am. Or course, it begins to get light a good 20 minutes before then. But a good compromise would be sunrise - and easy to mark - at least on clear days.

The plan seems to imply that the main reason there is this restriction in the first place is to allow NPS to devote it's resources to daytime operations,not so much to protect new turtle nests. In either case, if you need to hire a few more people to allow more patrolling and early morning checks, just do it. You have been collecting a LOT of my money since the restrictions were put in place. Saying you don't have the resources and closing the beach because of it is not an answer.

Correspondence ID: 21 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,20,2016 12:48:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I think there should be access created via salt pond road or ramp 45 to Cape Point for use when no access is available on the east side from ramps 43 and 44. I also think ramp 34 should open north of said ramp.

Correspondence ID: 22 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,21,2016 09:13:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Open a way to get to the point from the south. This is caled the Hook . It would allow us access when the entrest from ramp 43 44 are closed. IT WOULD HELP IF YOU COULD SOLVE THE FLOODING PROBLEM ON THE ROAD TO THE CAMP GROUND. Drain the swamp and the salt pond. Sorry about the cap. letters my key board is not the best! Help us. Thank you [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 23 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,21,2016 12:38:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: There should be more than 1 way to get to cape point as there was in the past. This would protect Our rights as well as protect the birds and turtle nests.
There have been a way from the south and from the north in years gone by but now just the north for the most part of the year.

Please think of all not just a few.

Thank You

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 24 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,21,2016 17:02:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: ORV access to Cape Point needs to be accommodated year round, especially May to October.

Please establish a second access route. Cape Point is the most popular & historically significant surf fishing location on the east coast. Create an alternate ORV corridor beginning at Ramp 45 extending to Cape Point.

Thank You for your assistance in this matter.

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 25 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,21,2016 18:56:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Access should be provided to Cape Point from the south side through the Hook area as an alternative when the north side is closed because of suspected nesting. This would allow people visiting the seashore to enjoy the resource as it is intended.

Correspondence ID: 26 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,22,2016 08:21:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like the annual permit be issued for one year from the date of purchase.

Correspondence ID: 27 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,22,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Any of the proposed action alternatives is preferable to the no action alternative.

Each addresses ORV permits being effective on the date of issue for the covered period, a much needed alternative to the current calendar year option which currently exists.

Each addresses a reasonable approach to wildlife nesting as opposed to the current policy of closing access without reason in many cases.

Forty years personal experience informs my comments.

Primarily that experience has been enjoying Hatteras Island as an annual vacationer and sports fisherman. No small part of that enjoyment has been provided by off-road vehicle access to the unique and beautiful beaches. That access has changes dramatically over the years. Additionally, I have friends who have made the island their home. Throughout those years I have witnessed the inevitable natural changes inherent to a barrier island as well as the efforts, both successful and otherwise, to mitigate those effects. Additionally, I have witnessed the growing understanding of the need to address the interactivity between man and nature. I fully support the effort to protect indigenous wildlife. However, the 2012 Final Rule is an over reaction. That measure addresses environmental impact factors by closing beach access at predetermined locations whether or not any real threat to wildlife exists. The far more reasonable solution addressed in all of the alternatives is a significant improvement. Thank you for the opportunity to address these issues.

Correspondence ID: 28 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,22,2016 19:01:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: please ensure access to the key locations of the seashore. part of the problem is that everyone knows that the inlets, hooks, points, jetties and such are the best areas for shell finding, fishing, viewing wildlife. so by restricting access to them you are taking away more than 75% o the opportunities to enjoy the beach.

please allow access to the hook, point, and inlets.

create a system to educate people why nature and wildlife are so important, don't take away their ability to enjoy it (show them) the obvious solution is in teaching everyone to respect nature. {I can tell you that for sure it is indeed the people that drive on the beach that recover most of the trash and polystyrene off of it's shore, I personally make an effort to fill a bag of trash just about every time and many others do as well.} vacationers can leave their outer banks vacations a more enlightened and engaged citizen, taking with them the lessons and experiences here to places all over the country.

In short { I feel very sure about the fact that people with knowledge and understanding of the shore environment and possibly a bit of enforcement, can use ORVs witha great deal of freedom, and still we can have the strongest healthiest cleanest shores in the country} that would be my plan.

North Carolina being a beacon of green and sustainable interaction with the marine environment for all other state to follow our example (yes even CA)

Correspondence ID: 29 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,22,2016 19:01:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: please ensure access to the key locations of the seashore. part of the problem is that everyone knows that the inlets, hooks, points, jetties and such are the best areas for shell finding, fishing, viewing wildlife. so by restricting access to them you are taking away more than 75% o the opportunities to enjoy the beach.

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Correspondence ID: 30 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,22,2016 19:12:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: an additional comment:

If the federal government is even thinking about risking our coastline by engaging in acoustic testing for offshore drilling. or drilling at all

then people driving on the beach should be a non issue.
just a fact

no beach access no drilling period

Correspondence ID: 31 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,22,2016 21:35:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: think about this: we are about to spend a 187 quadrillion dollars repairing the Bonner bridge.

WHY?

I understand there are a thousand parties at stake{taxpayers,commercial fisheries, oil and gas, recreational fishers, private land holders, local economy}

the over all value here is the the healthy and vibrant ecosystem.
this is the common thread.

we CANNOT spend 187 quadrillion dollars on a bridge that leads to a contaminated oil field.
this is faulty logic even for a mad man.

I only ask for our leaders to do what is right for the longer term

open access to our own beaches is fundamental to the common goal in my belief
thanks.

{here is an idea Control the ORV. not the access, have local business rent at reasonable rates smaller designed lighter impact vehicles. That still carry
persons beach gear and coolers.}

then an economic factor hits,
while and environmental impact lessens.
because of the designed vehicle.

it's a beauty ain't it

Correspondence ID: 32 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,23,2016 04:28:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please drain the water at the fish cleaning table, and the Cape Pt. camp ground. This area is under water more than not. You can't get
to ramp 43 or 44 without a boat. The mosquito population will explode this summer,along with snakes!

Correspondence ID: 33 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,23,2016 09:55:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please do not cave in to demands by sport fishermen or recreational truck drivers who like to drive on the beach at all times of the day
and year. Please look out for the birds and turtles who nest on the beaches of North Carolina and us birders who enjoy nature and the beaches the natural
way, without motor vehicles driving on the beautiful sand. The trucks do not have any more right to the beaches than the wildlife and birders. This is
National Seashore and should be protected - Thanks, [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 34 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,23,2016 12:33:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The NPS doesn't see the financial impact this has on your local economy
See how many of the non off road people will come to rescue when needed
for any help that is needed The NPS is going to create a monster with any
more restrications put on the sportsman

Correspondence ID: 35 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,23,2016 14:52:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The No-Action Alternative is the best option. It is the beaches that attract tourist revenue; to over-use them will drive tourists away.
The impacts of the ORVs on the beaches and natural environment are mostly negative and need to be limited. Limiting the use of RVs allows the
shorelines to remain stable. Keeping the campground closed during the spring and summer helps balance the number of tourists in the area and limit
negative impacts to the beaches and shoreline.

Correspondence ID: 36 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,23,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: While ALTERNATIVE 3 seems to be the best option available, it needs to also include an alternative route to Cape Point, either
permanently or at least on an as needed basis when the beach route is closed due to natural or nesting closers.
The earlier opening and later closing of the beaches during the night time driving ban will certainly allow more people to enjoy one of the more spectacular
parts of a visit to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore with the chance to see a sunrise and sunset on the beach.

Correspondence ID: 37 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,23,2016 18:46:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: While I understand the importance of the area east of ramp 45 for use as a prenesting area, this is also a way for orv's to access Cape
Point.
Since Cape Point is probably the most sought after destination in the park other than the lighthouse, it makes no sense to keep ramp 45 a ped only area.
I would like to see ramp 45 east to Cape Point made an orv area again. Closing the area for prenesting in the spring and summer but opening it after for orv
access the rest of the time would be a good compromise worth considering.

Correspondence ID: 38 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Feb,24,2016 18:29:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It is critical that ORV access should be provided from the south to Cape Point and the South Beach. This would be through the area known as "the Hook". With this access more options would be provided without disturbing turtles. It would also spread out the folks.

This area was traditionally open and closing it was criminal.

Access should be provided through the dune roads that are close to the camping area.

My family would also like to see the ramp immediately north of Avon reopened to ORVs. This was a great beach for driving and the proximity to Avon reduced the length of the drive at slower speed with the tires aired down. This is another traditional area.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input.

Correspondence ID: 39 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,26,2016 05:33:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: 1. In the Summer I should have access to Cape Point by Sunrise, it is a great experience to be there and fishing for Spanish Mackerel as the sun rises.

2. After the turtle nests have hatched, fires on the beach should be allowed, this year the nests were all gone but we had to wait a month before being allowed to have fires, the date should change when the nests are gone.

3. The NO vehicle beach area should be moved North of Avon so as to allow a 2nd access to Cape Point. The area above Ramp 34 is closed all Summer so this seems like a logical area.

Correspondence ID: 40 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,26,2016 06:20:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please keep all access open as long as possible. We really appreciate all your help. We ride and enjoy every aspect of all beach access We fish pick up trash look for any issues that we might help and notify the nps

Sincerely
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 41 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,26,2016 06:21:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please keep all access open as long as possible. We really appreciate all your help. We ride and enjoy every aspect of all beach access We fish pick up trash look for any issues that we might help and notify the nps

Sincerely
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 42 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,26,2016 09:45:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I appreciate the improved attitude on the part of the NPS as well as the new ramps, roads and parking areas.

However, before "the troubles" began, my family fished ramp 34 and the Cape Point on summer evenings. It's been a very long time since either was open during the summer.

The cost of the beach closures is well into the tens of millions of dollars when everything from string fences to congressional hearings is accounted for. For this we've gotten a handful of plover fledglings over the years. Let's say \$2,000,000 per bird - an insane price tag that only the federal government and wealthy environmental groups can love. And that doesn't account for the emotional toll on the Hatteras and Ocracoke Island communities.

Make the Cape Point Accessible Year Round

Drain the swamp and run a road behind the dunes out to a large parking area within walking distance of the Point. This would provide access when the beach is eroded and allow safe pedestrian access when the area is closed to ORVs. Were that done, as far as I'm concerned, you could close the Point itself to ORVs for everyone except the elderly and the handicapped.

Open Ramp 34

The beach for a mile or so north of Avon has some of the best fishing sloughs and holes on the island. There never was a rational environmental reason for it to be closed.

As for "hearing about documents", the Island Free Press is where I get my news.

Correspondence ID: 43 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Feb,26,2016 12:16:22

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I want to thank all for their efforts working toward a viable solution. I have been a frequent visitor, property owner and parttime resident of the outer banks community for 45 years. My family, friends and I love the National Seashore and the opportunities offered to share in the natural beach environment.

I've been following and involved in the development of the Off Road Vehicle Management program from the beginning. I've reviewed the proposals and strongly urge the adoption of the second Alternative believing this offers the best solution toward protecting both wildlife and the enjoyment of the beach environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and urge your support of Alternative 2.

Correspondence ID: 44 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Feb,27,2016 04:19:43

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Wood someone please get the most popular surf fishing place on the east coast open for fishermen! The beach is open, but you need a boat to get there. This should not happen if the swamp is drained? Thank you in advance for your help!!!

Correspondence ID: 45 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Feb,27,2016 08:30:17

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been a surf fisherman for a number of years and one week in the spring and one week in the fall, I join a small group from Maryland and we rent a large house in Avon for the week. We buy two ORV passes for the year. The restrictions have been extreme and need to be loosened to accommodate the fisherman without unduly affecting the turtles or the Piping Plover nests. This can be easily accomplished as most fishermen are careful and understand the specialness of the Outer Banks environment. The history of the National Park's creation should be considered and special bird and turtle groups interests should not continue to be paramount with the NPS staff. Those individuals and organizations should be required to match the income that the fisherman contribute. Thank you for this opportunity to have a say!

Correspondence ID: 46 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Feb,27,2016 09:38:53

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Access wherever possible should be preserved. The access to "The Hook" should be maintained year-round in keeping with the directive to make recreational possibilities open to "all people".

No definitive scientific study thus far indicates any connection between access and wildlife populations.

Cape Hatteras is a National Seashore, not a Wildlife Refuge.

Correspondence ID: 47 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Feb,27,2016 10:01:16

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As responsible citizens I believe it is time to stop allowing recreational vehicles of all types from riding on our shorelines. These vehicles are destructive to the very sands they ride atop, compacting it densely, which in turn makes it difficult for the wildlife species that depend on these areas for nesting and dwelling.

I do not feel there is a need for people to 'have to' drive their fishing or camping equipment to the edge of the tide line. People need to traverse on foot, pulling a cart that does not weigh 1/4 as much as the vehicles they race over the sands with, laden with their needs.

I have lived on several coastlines over the course of my lifetime and respect nature. We, meaning mankind, do not have the right to destroy habitat areas of other creatures. It simply is not right for humans to destroy our planet.

Correspondence ID: 48 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Feb,27,2016 11:16:01

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I believe that an alternate route to Cape Point needs to be considered. The area from ramp AT Billie Mitchell field north to the point("The Hook") needs ORV access. Historically there has been little impact on this area. It serves as a bad wind location as well as a calmer area for families with small children.

Correspondence ID: 49 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Feb,27,2016 18:49:16

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The current closures and buffers are out of control. Please reduce the buffers and open the beaches back up to who they were intended for "public and recreational use". The current policy is destroying the economy of the OBX.

Correspondence ID: 50 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Feb,28,2016 08:37:25

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I hope you will give us an open road to the point. There is enough room for us and the birds. It would help if you could drain the campground swamp. It is a shame to let the swamp take over this land. I camped there when it was \$2.00 a night

Correspondence ID: 51 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,28,2016 09:30:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I request the comment period be extended to 30 days after NPS releases the 2015 resource report. This will add further history to, in particular, success/failure of resource closures and VFAs. We should have this info before commenting on the EA

Correspondence ID: 52 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,28,2016 09:47:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: For the record, I wish to express my preference to alternative #3 in the EA under consideration.

I also wish to express the following comments as a recreational angler of the Outer Banks for 40 years:

Years ago, probably in the 70's, I made a trip to Cape Point, Buxton to surf fish. As we started fishing, the flounder were biting exceptionally. Soon we were standing shoulder to shoulder and everyone was catching really nice flounder. I asked the fellow standing next to me, if the fish had been biting like this for several days as I had heard nothing. He replied "bud, I am from the west coast and heard of the fishing on the outer banks all my life. It's everything I expected." You cannot make up stories like this.

ORV access to the surf, especially Cape Point, must be preserved for future generations. Cape Point is in dire need of drainage today and has been for some time. I prefer my children/grandchildren hold a fishing rod not a game controller or crack pipe.

We all must deal with change, but in moderation. We all have a place in the world.

Correspondence ID: 53 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,28,2016 18:36:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Being of average education and not excelling in grammar I hope you forgive my poor ability to communicate.

Concerning the Hatteras beaches, Cape Point mainly as probably many have said the area is not a wildlife refuge but a National seashore for everyone to visit and enjoy. In the past many areas of the beach are closed off because someone saw birds having "nesting behaviors", whole sections in large areas where smaller closures work for the same reason in other parks in our country. The erosion and changes in the beach can not be prevented, this is a given. So in compromise and for the issue of PEOPLE safety, why cant the area known as the hook have an access road to what is known as Cape Point? Just an access road, not an open area for parking, not disturbing the vegetation that never comes within 150 feet of the water, just access. We pay for the overpriced permits to go out and drive on the beach to our favorite locations. This particular location affects many visitors to the area. Not having access to it and other locations on the National Seashore affects the business of the area also. I fish many other areas there also but this is one my favorites and the fishermen and ladies are owed this respect. After all, we do PAY FOR IT in taxes as well as permits.

Correspondence ID: 54 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,29,2016 11:10:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for the chance to comment on possible changes to the ORV rules currently in place. I think that the beaches should definitely open for driving earlier than the current 7 AM. Obviously, there need to be restrictions on lighting (hence driving at night) when the turtles are nesting, but by the time the beaches open at 7 the sun is well up and bright. Secondly, could we not have some flexibility in access to the point so that if the east facing beaches are impassible because of erosion temporary access be granted from the south, perhaps from Ramp 45 or the Salt Pond road going behind the dune line and the VFA on the beach there?

Correspondence ID: 55 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Feb,29,2016 19:34:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The park service needs to address the issue of vehicle access to Cape Point year round. There is no reason that we can not get there from either the north or south of the point. The idea that the beach needs to be closed from April until August of September defies logic. There has not been a significant increase of any species as result of the court order that judge Boyle implemented. The Parks service best available science was a sham and drove a wedge between the people that visit or live here and our Park service personnel. If the Park service will take care of those people that abuse our beaches or wildlife you will be performing your rightful duty. Don't look at ways to prevent us from enjoying the beauty of the National Seashore. Open up all the beaches from 23 south to Ocracoke inlet year round, And after the summer season from May 15 to September 15 open up all of the areas in front of the villages. I also want to thank our current Superintendent David Hallic for his leadership the past year. He has kept us informed of all situations involving the Park, stood up for his employees when they were criticized and has improved the cooperation between the public and his staff.

Correspondence ID: 56 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,01,2016 05:45:38

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: In evaluating alternatives, it's important to keep in mind we need an alternate access to Cape Point from the South. We need this more than additional ramps, parking areas, etc.

We also need drainage of the flooding that has blocked access to ramp 44, Campground, access road to ramp 43, etc. A lot of \$ has been spent building the Dune Road, and where does it take you now - to flooded ramp 44!

Please help. These items are critical.

I've written earlier, and continue to urge your support of Alternative 2.

Thank You

██████████

Correspondence ID: 57 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,01,2016 07:47:36

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please consider this.....

There should be an alternate ORV route to Cape Point. If there is a resource closure in the narrows it closes the entire point down for most of the summer. The point is "the" #1 premier surf fishing spot on the east coast. It should not be closed for the summer because there is only 1 ORV route to and from the point.

Options exist to still protect the resource closure (bird/turtle nest) AND allow access to the point for all to enjoy. Consider this...Ramp 45 and/or the campground access allows for a route to the point through the area known as the hook. This should be made accessible when there is a closure at the narrows which limits access to the point.

I have been coming down since I was 6 years old. I'm 39 now and bring my family to the same location my parents brought me. I have grown up fishing and loving the point. But the last few vacations, I have not been able to get there because of it being closed. What a shame this is!!!

An alternate (or secondary) ORV route to Cape Point must be part of the ORV plan and EA. It is a disservice to all people which use the national seashore if it is not included.

Correspondence ID: 58 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,01,2016 16:12:47

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please consider earlier morning & later evening access .1 hour on both ends would help fishing, sight seeing, recreating ect. As for earlier seasonal openings a small change would be sufficient. also a second access to the point via the hook would help immensely! Thank you ██████████ .

Correspondence ID: 59 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,01,2016 17:41:53

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a property owner on Hatteras Island, my comments to this project are as follows: Please restore the Cape Hatteras and Ocracoke beach accesses to the original or as close as possible to the original beach access prior to the 2012 ORV management plan. Please reduce the Wildlife Protection Buffers to as minimal size and without restricting beach travel. These buffers do not require the current over sized buffers to provide the adequate protection needed. Other National Parks do not have these restrictive and large buffers. Please restore the ability to drive and fish at night to these beaches in order to pursue recreational fishing for the great natural marine resources this park has to offer. And last, please reduce the beach access permit fees to something much more reasonable. I have never visited a National Park with access fees anywhere near the cost of this. This is unreasonably excessive. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Correspondence ID: 60 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,02,2016 11:15:48

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a property owner in Salvo and spend at least 10 weeks during spring to fall season on the beach. VFA south of ramp 32 is to large, I seldom see anyone there other than around 32 or north of 34 which becomes a nest area for birds in spring. The yearly nesting of terns outside of Hatteras village along Rt. 12 indicates that birds and people and trucks can coexist and may reduce predators in the Cape Point area. A adjustment to the VFA area there and a new path, trail or road to or near the point should be possible with all the space down there. Beach should reopen to driving 1 hr. before sunrise and phone number supplied to report new turtle nest and way to mark a nest determined to help the turtle patrol. Park wide beach fire use should be extended to June 1. CHNS and other parks and refuges along the east coast should develop a consistent policy on turtle nest to increase survival. Right now most of the VFAs have the highest and widest beach and nest could be relocated there to reduce use of the fabric that gets washed and blown around. When this policy was put into place the term "best science" was used to exclude people from areas of the park to protect wildlife. The increase of predators and the very poor survival rate of plovers should indicate that real science be used to set policy.

Correspondence ID: 61 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,02,2016 12:09:54

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I fully agree with the document dated August 21, 2015: Proposed Changes to the ORV Rule-Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area by the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance.

In particular I would like to recommend some of the sections of the Environmental Assessment dated Feb. 17th, 2016:

SEASONAL ORV ROUTES: Alternate #3- -Extent beach driving season for 4 weeks, Oct. 1st through April 30th-this change would accommodate all visitors more fairly.

VEHICLE FREE AREAS: Alternate #3- -Same as Alternate #2 except designate entire 2 mile vehicle free area north of Ramp 34 as a seasonal ORV route--why not connect this area to Ramp 32 south-so would have a continuous route. Would not have to have a dead end(turn around area).

BEACH DRIVING PERMITS: Alternate #3- -Annual by date of issue, 3 day, 7 day, 14 day permits available. I worked for the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau for 8 years in Hatteras Village and this was one of the big issues for visitors-especially day trippers-just to spend a day or two driving on the beach and explaining to them what limited areas were open and having to buy a week(7day) pass.

Correspondence ID: 62 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,02,2016 12:56:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My comments have to do with VFA's, primarily ramp 34- -this beach was always a favorite with locals and tourists alike. Now it's used sparsely during the summer- -A handful of cars in the lot and perhaps 100 yds of beach being used. I feel this should be reverted to an ORV beach as it once was. Resource closures put in place as/if needed. More access would allow for more visitors and less crowding on the beaches. Hatteras Island is a fantastic place to live and/or visit. We should do our best to keep it that way.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 63 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 06:53:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge your support for adoption of Alternative 2.

I would also like to see plans for the draining of current access ramps as necessary, and adapting an alternative access route to the Point from the South.

Thanking you in advance for your support
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 64 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 07:24:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Option 3 is my choice.

Also I would like the road from 45 to 44 raised and improved so access would be available during heavy rain when water is trapped because the NPS will not drain the pond.

Would like an ORV alternate access to cape point.

Would like ORV access to the beach from ramp 45.

Would like to see Pole Road raised and improved.

Would like to see ORV access at the end of pole road.

Correspondence ID: 65 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 07:58:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've visited Cape Hatteras National Seashore for 30 years. I thank the NPS for protecting the natural resources but am sometimes frustrated with the lack of access to the beach. I support alternative 2.

Correspondence ID: 66 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 09:04:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: No alternative access is being provided to Cape Point. It appears that NPS wants to restrict access to Cape Point, regardless of the lack of impact that access would cause. I find it INCREDIBLE that I paid a FULL fee for beach access but could only get to Cape Point for 1/2 of the year. If we had had access to the Cape Point via the Old Bone rd, we would have been able to enjoy its beauty and fishing more fully, thereby getting more value for our money. The access to the inlets and hook area are VERY MUCH underused! Stop making this issue a political one!

Correspondence ID: 67 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 09:12:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I believe that additional considerations for ORV access are required. While the closures affect access to many areas but don't close those areas (such as Cape Point) no access is provided while additional access is being built for pedestrians. Since the revenue funding these improvements comes from the ORV licensing program, that revenue should also be improving ORV access as well.

My family has been driving on the Cape Hatteras National seashore for five generations, and i can tell you that every year we visit has been more

disappointing than the last. Last year, we considered not buying beach permits as they are not restricted numbers, yet the ORV accessible spaces of the beach are less than half the size, which means many people crammed together, in sub-optimal spaces. My family are recreational sport fishermen, and overall our impact is minimal, yet we are denied access.

Much of the seashore the NPS happily reports as not "closed" however there is no access so the appearance of minimal impact is maintained, however it's a huge farce. NPS will gladly block off the beach for non endangered migrant species, and then happily trap and kill as many local animals as possible to protect them. National Parks are supposed to enhance society's interaction with these wild desirable places but all you're doing is restricting access based on who is the loudest lobbyist or who has the most money. NPS and this reduced access is killing the town, and is providing no measurable positive impact to the park and it's inhabitants.

Correspondence ID: 68 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 09:32:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please vote for option 3 and add the following. ORV access to beach at pole road, ORV access to beach at ramp 45, Raise and Improve road from 45 to 44 to keep heavy rain from blocking access, and alternate ORV access to cape point. The link below will take you to the document and comment page.

Sincerely,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 69 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 13:55:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It is a shame and disgrace that we have to pay this much money for use of the beach that is closed off to pedestrian traffic being that 99% of traffic are fishermen and fisherwoman walking the beach because they are not allowed to drive there give us our beaches back were paying for them not the damn bird watchers

Correspondence ID: 70 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 14:24:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We spend 1/2 our year in OBX and we have enjoyed the free and open beaches for fishing, walking, swimming and boating. Closing the Hatteras Beaches will deter tourism, a major source of revenue for the OBX. Many folks enjoy the beaches and will follow the guidelines to allow the birds, turtles and humans to co-exist with mutual benefits. Request you keep the OBX open for all to enjoy.

Correspondence ID: 71 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 14:26:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hatteras is a public place. Do not sell out to private interest. Keep the beach open for 4X4

Correspondence ID: 72 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 14:30:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear NPS. While everyone one has a job to do in life, people in the free world want to vacation on God's earth. Hatteras Island North Carolina is one of the most beautiful seashores in North America. Please do not restrict the usage or closed down the beaches. This would be an economical disaster for the residents of the island. Most people earn their living in small mom and pop shops, food industry or being a working waterman. The island is made of ancestors dating back to the 1600's. Hatteras island serves as a gateway to other islands throughout North Carolina. I am pleading with you to keep our beaches and their access free and open to everyone that would want to visit. If you have never been to Hatteras Island, I suggest you plan a vacation and come visit to see for yourself what we have to offer and enjoy driving on the beach, fishing from the shoreline and basking in the sun. Thank you,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 73 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 14:34:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing in support of Alternative 2 as proposed in the ORV Management Assessment. North Carolina and the citizens of Hatteras Island ceded control of the beaches to NPS with guarantees put into place that assured access, especially fisherman access to the Cape Point area. The current structure closed Cape Point to anglers, locals, and visitors for nearly half of a season as result of overwash and one plover chick. The presence of one baby bird generated significant economic damage to the Hatteras Island local economy. Using myself as an example, up until the closures, I spent a week in Hatteras every spring to catch and release red drum. Since the ORV permit and closures were instituted I have not made the trip. My average expenditures included \$2000 on lodging/house rental, \$800 on food from local grocers and restaurants for me and my family, and untold dollars on fishing tackle, bait, and other assorted items. When you multiply me times the hundreds of families who stay home as result of the closures, the economic impact is devastating to a community that already often lives on the margins.

The National Park Organic Act was authored to balance the interests of economic impact, access, while preserving the nature and beauty of our Seashores, Mountains, and historic sites. It was not intended to put those places behind lock and key and keep people out. No family should go hungry, no child should be displaced in order to save a bird. Those who write in from far away un-impacted communities to support this kind of closure should be required to look those children in the eye and explain to them why that bird is more important than they are.

Correspondence ID: 74 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 14:40:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been coming to the Outer Banks for over 45 years. All these years have been to drive on the beaches an surf fish. In 2015 I purchased a place in buxton so I could be closer to the point for fishing. If the beaches are closed I will sell and never come back to your beaches. This is the wrong thing to do as it is the best beach on the east coast

Thanks for reading
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 75 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 14:42:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Keep Hatteras open, for the commuinity, for the economy, for the vacationers for the wildlife for everyone

Correspondence ID: 76 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 14:45:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: To whom it may concern,

I have been traveling to hatteras island since I was a young child. Growing up my grandparents actually lived on hatteras island and some of my greatest childhood memories were of my grandfather and I riding along the beach looking for a good fishing spot. And of course during our travels we would stop to look at the wildlife along the dunes and he would teach me about the animals and how to respect their environment and how they keep the island in its natural conditions.

Now I am slightly older and have children of my own. When I take them to hatteras every year I enjoy sharing the same stories with them that my grandfather shared with me. I understand the reasoning behind removing vehicles from the beaches. But removal is not the answer, education is. Please, as a citizen of North Carolina and a lover of the outer banks please consider these bonds that people have with hatteras and the economical impact passing this would cause. I support open beaches on the outer banks of NC.

Thank you

Correspondence ID: 77 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 14:48:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to encourage the NPS to open the beaches of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and lift as many restrictions for access as possible. The economy of the entire barrier Island relies on fishermen from all over the country to continue to come hear to enjoy the beauty that our beach provides. With more restrictions, fewer people are willing to travel to our beach and that , in turn, damages our economy. The main draw to our beach is fishing. If you regulate beach access to the point that there is no room to fish, hunt shells, or just enjoy the ocean, then you will kill an economy. Thank you for your concern and I pray that you all make the decision to keep our beaches open for 4wd access and close no parts of it to travel or bypass.

Correspondence ID: 78 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 14:56:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Ive been totally against having to pay to drive on the beach since the start. This is the livelihood of a lot of the locals on the Outer Banks. Also brings tourist to a tourist area to spend money in local businesses and more tax money for the state. Making people pay to drive on the beach like a tax is wrong. That money should go to replenishment of the eroding beaches that is causing pollution every time a sizeable storm comes in. Or use it for the Bonner Bridge replacement. These environmentalist are out to close everything down rather it makes since or not. Yes there are a few bad apples that ruin it for rest of us. Please don't let these people be one of them. Tread lightly and thanks for your time.

Correspondence ID: 79 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:00:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: If we believe in God and the bible we will give man dominion over the birds and fish. Tone down the closing of the beaches and give it back to mankind.

Correspondence ID: 80 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:00:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a frequent tourist any further restriction to publicly accessible heritage recreational lands should not be influenced by one sided interest groups. Public lands are for public recreational use and generate financial benefits to the surrounding community. Stop any further proposed closures.

Correspondence ID: 81 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:01:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: One of the few jewels left where you can still take the family and have an affordable vacation and enjoy the natural seashore and all it has to offer. We have vacationed there for 23 years and have boxes of photos of the many memories we made there. It's many remote locations afford the opportunity to experience the seashore like no other. A responsible ORV plan will continue to allow access as well as protect wildlife. An entire Generation

of my family has spent time every summer here and there wish is that they can bring their children to the same experience. Responsibility and education are the keys to keeping this beautiful piece of America open for ALL to use.

Correspondence ID: 82 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:06:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please preserve our rights to drive on and use our beaches. The economy is already suffering enough without outrageous demands made on citizens which stop them from visiting the Outer Banks.

Correspondence ID: 83 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:09:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It is very disturbing to see all the comments from people that have never nor will never visit the park, but instead are blindly lead by the special interest group that only wants to close the park to only those who belong to their group and limit or deny access to those who are not in perfect health.
The only comments that should be considered are from folks that actually have been or live in the area.
The current restrictions have all but killed the islands way of life. The special interest group that is leading the call for change has used lies and false finding to justify their cause. The recruit comments from members that never plan on visiting or could really care less, but only follow what they are told to do.
I urge you to look at where the comments are coming from before putting much stock in the words.
I have been going to the park for at least two weeks per year for over 35 years and I know what the over restrictive rules have done, none of which have helped the wildlife, but have has hurt the local business possibly beyond repair. We have got to get less restrictive and stop listening to the lies from the special interest groups that only want to close the park.

Correspondence ID: 84 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:11:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: In my opinion Option #2 is the best available option in consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule.
Additionally, there should be access to Cape Point all year round. Either by Vehicle or by foot. I believe that pedestrian access to VFA should also be allowed at all times. Even if there is a small fee involved.

Correspondence ID: 85 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:12:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am commenting in support of MORE orv access and SMALLER wildlife buffers in Cape Hatteras National Seashore. In particular Hatteras Island. My family and I used to come to Hatteras Island annually, but since the access restrictions were implemented we have reduced our visits significantly. I believe there needs to be smaller vehicle free areas, all the while moving the current VFA's to places where people will actually use them, not areas nearly inaccessible by foot. There needs to be flexibility in the way to get orv permit holders to popular areas when there may be wildlife buffers preventing immediate access to said areas. A flexible means to modify those buffers to allow access around and beyond them. Cape Point used to be a great family recreation area for decades, but overly-extreme buffer sizes have taken that away from us citizens whom used to spend time there in the summer months. I believe there can be a reasonable ballance reached that would allow access that citizens enjoyed prior to the consent decree, all the while protecting wildlife using more reasonable protection measures.
Thank you very much for your time.

Correspondence ID: 86 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:16:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The NPS needs to get out of the OBX period. They have messed it up bad enough as is & now talk of more restrictions to beaches by ORV's. This make me sick, listening to special interest group's & people who have never even been there for themselves. We've been going there for years and everything was fine up until th park service took over the beaches. Get out NPS!

Correspondence ID: 87 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:19:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am very upset to hear that someone/any one is trying to close the beaches of Hatteras Island to not only driving, but to people being on the beaches period. My first trip to OBX was in 1976, while in College. I have been returning since, some years more than others, but last year we actually bought a small place just for our enjoyment in Buxton. My husband and I appreciate and cherish the beaches, the sea life, the wildlife, everything and anything about Hatteras Island. I love hunting up the ship wrecks once they are unearthed by a storm, I love checking out the beaches for the wildlife that share it with the humans. I take my camera everywhere while there. Last Saturday we drove out to the point, Fishing was good, but what was great - was the show the dolphins were putting on by jumping, playing at the point. Experiences like that renew your soul and without being about to be on the beach, we would have never seen it. What joy it brought to me. I don't know if anyone really cares, as far as those that want to close the beaches, but if that happens Hatteras Island will become just about a ghost town, and part of the entire OBX will. People will lose their homes, businesses will have to close, the locals will end up in dire straits, because the economy will tank and tank fast.
As for us and our place, we would of course try to sell it and if that failed, we would just give it away- - if we can't enjoy the beach, we would go further sound and find a place- - give them our money and enjoy our time there. I say
Buxton is my favorite place on earth, I would love to keep it as such. Please think hard about closing the beaches- - think of what it would do for that entire area, and if there are no visitors or people, they won't need as many park service people- - just a couple would be enough. Plus where would the money come from the pay for such employees? I know the environmentalist have their opinion, I too want to save the area, but while saving it, want to enjoy it.
There is a way to do both. Most that do buy the drive on passes, do respect and take care of the area.

Correspondence ID: 88 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:24:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Save the beautiful beaches for the people who love them so very much I have been going to Hatteras since 1982 and have always loved it there so many wonderful memories!! I am hoping for so many more but if they close the beaches they will destroy the island because no one will want to go there if they cant enjoy the beach anymore!!!!

Correspondence ID: 89 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:27:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Save a bird, kill an island. That is exactly what is happening to Hatteras Island. As a homeowner, and manager of our rental property, I see first hand what the closed beaches and ramps have done to this island. The economy is suffering beyond belief and all because of a bird that isn't even on the endanger species list.

There is miles of Natural Seashore on the north end of the island. Transport the Piping Plover, the turtles NOT THE LOCAL FISHERMAN. If the NPS would look and see how many storefronts and homes are vacant, I doubt these regulations would continue.

I have visited Hatteras Island for over 50 years. I have friends and store owners that are family to me and my heart goes out to each of them as they try to continue to work and live on this beautiful island. Please consider the consequences of the humans and not a bird.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 90 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:32:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I do not support any other restrictions on Hatteras Island off road requirements. I have been vacationing on the island for many years and that is one of the main reasons I chose to go there for vacation. The rules that are in place now are to restricting so further rules will force me to choose somewhere else to vacation..thanks so much.

Correspondence ID: 91 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:36:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The beaches need to be left open for ORV's 24 hrs a day and 365 days a year for anglers. I understand that animals need to be taken into consideration, but full blown closures are not the answer. Fisherman and local businesses have been enduring hardships for too long. Thanks for the opportunity to express my views on this.

Correspondence ID: 92 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:39:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: With the up coming deal between Currituck co and the federal government that would allow beach driving to continue without gov. restriction, i urge those concerned to allow a plan that would allow Hatteris beaches open to public driving. Access to the beach is important to their economy as it is in Currituck county. Thanks

Correspondence ID: 93 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:40:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Leave the beaches alone. Hatteras island will loose lots of tourism if 4x4 access is hindered even more!!

Correspondence ID: 94 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:42:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have visited Hatteras Island and the Outer Banks 54 of my 56 years. I have camped with grandparents, my parents, my kids and my grandkids. There is no better feeling in the world than driving on the beach to go fishing, swimming or just hanging out with the family. Not to mention the livelihoods of the locals trying to live the dream and protect their heritage in a small beach community. I say leave things alone and let us enjoy a few more springs, summers and falls. Mother Nature will in time take care of things and it will all be a memory. Mother Nature has a funny way of showing who is actually in charge. Please leave Hatteras alone.

Correspondence ID: 95 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:45:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please allow more access to the beaches by ORV

Correspondence ID: 96 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 15:55:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: There should be open access to the beaches 24X7. We have stopped vacationing in Hatteras ever since you stopped allowing reasonable beach access for vehicles. The restrictions are onerous and are killing local businesses. Please open up the best beach in the world to the people that own it. The current restrictions have to go.

Correspondence ID: 97 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 16:03:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Free and open beaches for all.

Correspondence ID: 98 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 16:14:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We are home owners in Frisco and Chesapeake,VA. Since we are located at the border of NC we spend a great deal of time in Hatteras. Our family and friends frequently join us. Our activities involved taking our boat fishing off shore while spending a great deal of time on the beach during all seasons.

We felt it was reasonable to close off small portions of the beach for some birds and turtle nesting BUT it is totally unacceptable to see large portions blocked off when passage could be allowed by both those walking, fishing and driving. There is a need to find the middle point of this issue, allowing the nesting and passage at the same time.

Spending a great deal of time on the beach in Frisco and Hatteras Village we have found so many people who are totally respectful of nesting areas and protecting our beaches. We encourage you to find the solution that allows for the co-existence of birds, turtles and lovers of Hatteras. So many visitors and residents make the beach an important part of their day and as you well know many residents are so dependent upon the visitors.

Respectfully
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 99 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 16:15:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My family and I have been visiting Hatteras Island for over 65 years and one of my son's chose to make it his home. I drive across the country at least once a year to enjoy the wonderful food, beautiful beaches and great citizens of this magical place. LEAVE IT ALONE!!!

Correspondence ID: 100 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 16:20:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: While I grew up in Virginia and visited the Outer Banks through my childhood I am now an NC resident and still continue to love Hatteras Island. Camping there, and driving on the beach to relax. My in laws have three houses there that they rent and closing down beaches hurts the these places. Please allow free and open beaches.

Correspondence ID: 101 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 16:29:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Give us our beaches back. It is not against the law to fish. We pay for motels, gas, boats, trucks ,insurance, bait, tackle, liscense,beach refurbishment, you get the point.

Correspondence ID: 102 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 16:33:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My personal preference of the alternatives offered is number 3.

Correspondence ID: 103 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 16:39:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would like to see all restrictions of beach access lifted on Hatteras Island. The beaches there wonderful and people are being robbed of their chance to enjoy them because of current restrictions due to a bird. It's time to make a change for the people, not for the birds.

Correspondence ID: 104 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 16:42:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: After reading through the almost 169 pages, I would prefer alternative #3. There are not a lot of differences between the alternatives 2 & 3 however the slight differences with the additional 4 weeks of access in #3 differentiate enough for me. The differences in permit time frame also makes me wonder why have those differences? I would recommend you adopt into #3 what the time frames for permitting are for #2, there certainly can't be a cost savings by not doing as suggested.

Correspondence ID: 105 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 16:44:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I like Option #3

Correspondence ID: 106 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar.03.2016 16:46:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To Whom It may Concern,

Please put the interests of the native and migratory birds, turtles, and ecological concerns before those of a small group of people that want to run their cars and trucks on the beach, destroying and de-valuing the actual experience of a natural beach environment for all others.

Anyone who enjoys the beach for what it actually is can access it without ruining it by just parking their vehicle and getting out before venturing onto the beach. Such requirement is not unfair.

The short-sightedness and self-centered demands of the beach-driving minority must be resisted to preserve this ecologically-important and fragile environment for everyone's sake.

Thanks for your consideration,

█

Correspondence ID: 107 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.03.2016 17:01:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Option 3 is as good as it gets.

Correspondence ID: 108 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.03.2016 17:02:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Hi, my name is █ and I am writing you today to ask you to please leave the beaches open to ORV's. I have been using this beach since I was two months old in a baby pool and although I do not have any children of my own I hope to take mine here one day so they can grow up with the same love of the beach as I have. Many citizens who use this beach understand that there are well written rules so that the humans and wildlife of cape hatteras national seashore can peacefully coexist. However, the people who know and love the national seashore are being shut out. And why? Because many environmentalists who don't even use the beach want us out of there. What good is the national seashore if no one gets to enjoy it? Many many people have been using this beach for years and consider it a summer time tradition to go here. I know my family does. I remember the first time I learned to drive on this beach, it was a memory I will cherish and never forget. Many of the people who use this beach understand why law enforcement is being so strict, because of those who abuse the beach and it's wildlife. But please don't shut down the beach to those of us who treat it correctly. This place means a lot, to a whole lot of people. Please keep the beach open.

Correspondence ID: 109 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.03.2016 17:03:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I think that the people environmentalists individuals from California I think it is need to stay where they are at and leave the east coast alone. We come to the OBX twice a year and we drive on all the time to fish and enjoy the beach. We also do this in delaware where we live. I can guarantee that if the drive on beaches in the obx get closed that we will not spend all the money that we spend to go somewhere we can't do what we do and that main thing is fish and enjoy natures best and our family. So I'm not saying that there isn't times when things have to be monitored and changes have to be made but to possibly make it to where there will be no drive on beaches is ridiculous. We fight the tree huggers and bird people here in delaware as well.i don't think NC wants to lose thousands of not millions of dollars in tourism and possibly watch people loose jobs because places close down. Thank you

Correspondence ID: 110 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.03.2016 17:04:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Though I currently reside and work in Florida, I am a native of the southern outer banks of NC. I plan on retiring and coming back home at some point. I am so sad to hear NPS seems to keep listening to these special interest groups regarding environmental concerns instead of true science. Taking away access to our beaches is the worst thing you could do to NC economically and psychologically to the native Carolinians. Please don't listen to these people writing you all these letters. It's a kind of 'Eco-Terrorism' and could very well result in a civil war if this kind of atrocious miscarriage of our basic human rights gets taken away from us. The best things in life are not supposed to be taken away for absolutely no reason.

Thank You,
█

Correspondence ID: 111 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.03.2016 17:09:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please restore the cape hatteras national seashore back to the seashore we all know and loved. The beach driving restrictions along with the closures have significantly reduced my visits to the hatteras area and almost make pre planning a vacation impossible with the last minute nature of the closures. There needs to be a happier medium between the people and natural resources. The plovers for example are much more populated and thriving in the northern beaches and do not require or get anywhere near the same level of protection. This alone prevents me from believing that all the money spent on closures and predator control, along with lost tourist dollars are being allocated with the backing of actual scientific data, or with the best interest of the seashore in mind. Once again, please restore our beaches and the economy of the hatteras area, so that future generations can enjoy the beaches as I once did.

Correspondence ID: 112 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.03.2016 17:19:23

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please leave the beaches open. They are the lifeblood of the Outer Banks. My family has invested heavily into the area. I have been going down there for over 30 years. I do not believe there was a problem beforehand, and do not believe there will be a problem after. Everyone who comes down to the OBX respects the beach and its inhabitants as we have for many years. Why hurt it for the benefit of a few? I fully support open beaches and always will.

Regards,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 113 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 17:25:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: More stringent regulation needs to be made to protect shorebirds. Current plans are inadequate.

Correspondence ID: 114 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 17:29:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would enjoy Alt 3 for all but the last that I feel is better left alone. We have enjoyed the beaches for years and really wish that things were the way they used to be as we also have rental houses to care for and the permits have hurt the income from these homes.

Correspondence ID: 115 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 17:29:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: please keep our beaches open and free to walk on I have lived here 30 years and love the uncrowded beaches when it comes to issues why count emails from California they don't even come here it should be not counted they are trying to shut down beaches they don't come too .please keep them open and would love to see more open and less roping off large areas for little birds and not see any park service killing other animals that is just PLAIN WRONG!!!!!!

Correspondence ID: 116 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 17:29:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please, please, keep protections strong for wildlife. There is no world where somebody spending an afternoon cruising around the beach is more important than protecting multiple species. There are plenty of available beaches for humans, plenty of available entertainment for humans, but the turtles and the birds have no such options.

I write books for children professionally- -I'd like to think that the animals I write about are things they'll someday get to see in real life, not just in the pages of books. What a crime it would be to have to say "Sorry, no, there aren't any more turtles, people wanted to drive on the beach and that seemed more important."

Thank you,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 117 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 17:40:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have been fishing since I can remember not being able to fish and have beach access is just wrong I've just started taking my son he is 6 it instills family values and is wonderful family time Please keep the beach access open!

Correspondence ID: 118 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 17:41:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My family has been vacationing yearly at the Cape Hatteras Seashore for over 55 years. We are 3 generations vacationing at the Outer Banks. The main objective of our trips is fishing at Cape Point. We have been driving out to The Point since 1977 when my Father bought his first 4X4. In the past we have spent as much as 4 weeks a summer in Buxton. Now we only go down for 1 or 2 weeks. And NEVER in the summer because the beaches are closed. Closing the beaches at a National Seashore? This makes no sense! I have read the Modifications to the Final Rule for Off Road Vehicle Management document and I feel it does not allow enough access to the PRIME fishing locations. I also do not understand why the beach south of Cape Point is ALWAYS closed to vehicles. I do not feel that the NPS has done the job that Congress asked them to do. You can be sure that I will convey this to my representatives and anyone else who will listen. I understand that the "tree huggers" are sending thousands of automated letters asking for less access. I would hope that the opinion of those of us who live and vacation at the Outer Banks will be given greater consideration that people who have never spent any time enjoying the beaches alone Cape Hatteras.

Correspondence ID: 119 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 17:47:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: if the nps considers ANY comments about Cape Hatteras from ANYONE in California, across a whole country....there will be a serious lawsuit!

Correspondence ID: 120 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 17:50:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a tax paying, hard working American I ask you to please keep our Cape Hatteras Point and all our states beach access open to off road travel. I grew up with my family driving these beaches and not once have I ever seen one Piping Plover on these beaches. It is totally made up by the audobon to control our rights. Never seen a single turtle nest disturbed by anyone other than the nosey bird photographers staging pictures to make poor little old ladies in Iowa donate money to fund the lies they tell. We pay to drive on beach and that money is supposed to be for beach nourishment and rehabilitation after storms. We pay for this, not the Audubon or others that make us out to be killers. We save the wildlife and support all efforts to protect turtle nest but the bird is totally made up!! Please help us so I can drive my grandson out to Cape Point at Hatteras to catch his first red drum and take his kids and so on. Our heart is this beach, please help us keep it and let us drive to our piece of heaven. Thank you!! [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 121 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 17:50:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Save Cape Hatteras.

Correspondence ID: 122 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 17:50:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a tax paying, hard working American I ask you to please keep our Cape Hatteras Point and all our states beach access open to off road travel. I grew up with my family driving these beaches and not once have I ever seen one Piping Plover on these beaches. It is totally made up by the audobon to control our rights. Never seen a single turtle nest disturbed by anyone other than the nosey bird photographers staging pictures to make poor little old ladies in Iowa donate money to fund the lies they tell. We pay to drive on beach and that money is supposed to be for beach nourishment and rehabilitation after storms. We pay for this, not the Audubon or others that make us out to be killers. We save the wildlife and support all efforts to protect turtle nest but the bird is totally made up!! Please help us so I can drive my grandson out to Cape Point at Hatteras to catch his first red drum and take his kids and so on. Our heart is this beach, please help us keep it and let us drive to our piece of heaven. Thank you!! [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 123 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 17:50:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a tax paying, hard working American I ask you to please keep our Cape Hatteras Point and all our states beach access open to off road travel. I grew up with my family driving these beaches and not once have I ever seen one Piping Plover on these beaches. It is totally made up by the audobon to control our rights. Never seen a single turtle nest disturbed by anyone other than the nosey bird photographers staging pictures to make poor little old ladies in Iowa donate money to fund the lies they tell. We pay to drive on beach and that money is supposed to be for beach nourishment and rehabilitation after storms. We pay for this, not the Audubon or others that make us out to be killers. We save the wildlife and support all efforts to protect turtle nest but the bird is totally made up!! Please help us so I can drive my grandson out to Cape Point at Hatteras to catch his first red drum and take his kids and so on. Our heart is this beach, please help us keep it and let us drive to our piece of heaven. Thank you!! [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 124 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 17:51:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a tax paying, hard working American I ask you to please keep our Cape Hatteras Point and all our states beach access open to off road travel. I grew up with my family driving these beaches and not once have I ever seen one Piping Plover on these beaches. It is totally made up by the audobon to control our rights. Never seen a single turtle nest disturbed by anyone other than the nosey bird photographers staging pictures to make poor little old ladies in Iowa donate money to fund the lies they tell. We pay to drive on beach and that money is supposed to be for beach nourishment and rehabilitation after storms. We pay for this, not the Audubon or others that make us out to be killers. We save the wildlife and support all efforts to protect turtle nest but the bird is totally made up!! Please help us so I can drive my grandson out to Cape Point at Hatteras to catch his first red drum and take his kids and so on. Our heart is this beach, please help us keep it and let us drive to our piece of heaven. Thank you!! [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 125 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 17:52:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support free and open beaches. I also believe in the protection of wildlife, which has gone a little overboard. I do NOT wish to see any wildlife harmed. There are special interest groups with people who could not pick out Hatteras on a map that wish to dictate their desires upon us. I ask that you consider the thoughts and ideas of the locals, and the ones that pour money into the local economy over the wishes of "outsiders". I also ask that you recognize the "stuffing of the ballot box" as what it really is by the outside groups. Thank you for your time. [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 126 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 17:53:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The area has captivated the hearts and minds of many over the years, including myself. Over the past 30 years I have been coming down to the area in order to enjoy the beaches and the area in general. As a child the beach seemed a place of freedom, one where I could play to my hearts content while my mom enjoyed the sun and my dad fished. Over time I grew older and joined my dad in fishing or went out body board surfing. With a few more years under my belt I would come back and enjoy sitting along the beach with friends. Time has progressed forward and now I want to be able to bring my own family down to the beach now and into the future so that they may all continue to love and cherish the things nature has provided.

Plus it's pretty awesome to go ship wreck hunting and see what comes up after a storm.

Correspondence ID: 127 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 18:03:47

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The entire process is too restrictive including the permit process. This park belongs to the people who (at least most) pay taxes to US government. All voices must be heard however mass mailing from those who live thousands of miles away and have never visited or plan to visit should be taken with a grain of salt. Drop the permits and open up the beaches!!!!

Correspondence ID: 128 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 18:13:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: 125\$ for a driving permit and the beach can be closed any where any time. It's obvious that the environmentalist are keeping the politicians at the nps enough money to get what they want.the money is all its really about humans don't hurt the wildlife anything like natural predators do.

Correspondence ID: 129 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 18:23:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Ocracoke has been a place for beach lovers and visitors who love and respect nature since the beginning of its existence. I chose to make Ocracoke my home based on the freedom, the beauty, and access to the beaches where I enjoy walking, surfing and fishing. There have always been closures for certain areas, however, they were reasonable to protect species and still allow access to people. The current closures are enormous and completely unreasonable. Birds and people have shared the beach since the beginning. The closures have not changed the numbers of the species, science has proven. It is unfortunate that our small villages of local people trying to make a living, are suffering from our access and freedoms being taken away because of the money fueled Audobon Society. A corporation backed by people all around the world who have no concept of what their money goes toward. Or in our case, against, our freedom to access our beaches. They win because they have more money. Since these closures have been put into place, the entire feel of the island has changed. The freedom I once felt here no longer exists. You can no longer drive to the end, either end...there are signs, thousands of signs. So many signs everywhere that you cannot even see the beauty of the beach beyond the roped off barriers. Flags and steaks in the dunes, chains blocking access; places I used to enjoy while leaving nothing but a footprint, are no longer accessible during their prime times of the year. I am part of a family motel business on Ocracoke. The effects of these closures have been detrimental. I am on the receiving end of the frustration of visitors to Ocracoke every day. Places once enjoyed by generations are blocked. The best fishing spots cannot be accessed. Everyone in the summer is jammed into about 2 miles of beach, the least desirable areas at that. The disappointment I see on visitors faces when I tell them they can no longer go to South Point is heart breaking. The closures are the largest during our most prime season. When we have the most visitors, the beach access is the smallest. Our shoulder season business has fallen off dramatically. We have lost so many regular visitors because they no longer have the option of enjoying their favorite places. Ocracoke has about 6 months of the year to make all of their money to get us through all 12 months, these are the months where the constraints are the tightest. I am bitter. I used to enjoy living here. Now, we are fighting for our own land...against rich corporations. I wish I could leave but I can't. It is very hard to maintain a positive attitude in the tourist industry and encourage people to come visit when you no longer believe in the place you are trying to sell.

Correspondence ID: 130 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 18:31:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been a visitor to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore since the early 70's and have lived on Ocracoke Island year round since 1996. Over the 40 year time period, I have seen the public lose more and more access to the Seashore area that was originally setup for their recreation and enjoyment. It is disappointing that a once tourist and resident friendly Park Service is now looked upon as the enemy. There is no reason that we cannot go back to the way things were before the current ORV plan came into play. Common sense ruled the day and things went much more smoothly with respect to access and public vs. Park relations. The current plan is hurting local businesses, especially in the shoulder seasons, by not allowing access to inlet and point locations. I do appreciate that there is thought being put in to expanding access on the sound side of the islands but this does not offset the loss of prime inlet/point areas for fishing, swimming, and shelling for the public. I truly hope that we can go back to allowing the public to enjoy all of the beauty that the Seashore has to offer which includes our point and inlet areas.

As far as the alternatives listed, Alternative 3 seems to give the most access as well as the additional 3 day permit possibility which is needed.

Correspondence ID: 131 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 18:32:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: i also own property in salvo i would hate to think i could not drive out to the point to enjoy it please consider all who pay taxes and other permit fees to keep this open as it should be for all to enjoy. thank you.

Correspondence ID: 132 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 18:39:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please keep our beaches on Hatteras open for fishing and driving. Need to look at reducing safe zones for the bird bearings

Thanks



Correspondence ID: 133 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 18:40:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We need more access to the shore. While I support responsible management of resources we have to balance that with practicality and need. The seashore is one of the few places where the ORV experience is available and is like no other. Please find ways to expand availability not restrict it.

Regards,



Correspondence ID: 134 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.03,2016 18:41:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My grandfather once owned the land that the Park Service now occupies. When the land was taken he was told that it would be used for the good of all. I don't see how this promise has been kept. He was also told that the beach would always be open for fishing. My grandfather was a fisherman who raised 16 children, went to church every Sunday and believed in his government. If he was alive today he would feel ashamed of what has come to pass with the NPS. Open Cape Point so that we can enjoy the beach and fish.

Correspondence ID: 135 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.03,2016 18:42:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The idea of closing OBX beaches ORV is disgusting. We have been visiting the Outer Banks for 40 yrs. My parents retired there. The effects on the local economy will be destroyed if a ban is put in place. We will Simply stop visiting there if these extreme measures are put in place

Correspondence ID: 136 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.03,2016 18:43:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: No further denied access is needed at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. In fact, there should be more open access!

Correspondence ID: 137 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.03,2016 18:45:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We need to save our 4x4 beach rights, no 4x4 beaches and im not coming to hatteras to spend my money.....period

Correspondence ID: 138 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.03,2016 18:57:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Allow for beach access for those actively surf fishing. This should be year round access

Correspondence ID: 139 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.03,2016 19:02:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support Alternative number 3. Its the only one that makes any sense.

Correspondence ID: 140 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.03,2016 19:23:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I live in the area and want the beaches to be kept free and open for the public. I do not want to see people from outside the area dictating how the local beaches should be used. The local population has taken care of this resource for literally 100's of years and they have done a pretty good job of it; Especially if you compare it to other areas of our country. We have to take care of it because our lively kids are all based on its health. I believe that good management of the resource is possible without taking away the rights of the local population to access our resource. We appreciate what we have and want to keep it, not trash it as some who don't live here may want to convince the NPS into believing.

Correspondence ID: 141 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.03,2016 19:24:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My family fell in love with Hatteras Island over 30 years ago and it's been our destination vacation every year since. We love the beautiful island and the nature it has to offer. We also love the people who live and work there. For centuries man and fish and fowl have inhabited the island without intervention from NPS. Please don't destroy this beautiful island with your needless restrictions.

Correspondence ID: 142 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.03,2016 19:29:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please let us drive to cape point year round un restricted.

Correspondence ID: 143 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.03,2016 19:37:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I HAVE BEEN GOING TO BUXTON AND HATTERAS FOR THE LAST 15 YEARS SOMETIMES 4 TIMES A YEAR. IN THE LAST 6 YEARS I HAVE SEEN SO MUCH CHANGE TO THIS ISLAND. I TALK SO MUCH TO LOCALS WHEN I AM THERE AND TO STAND AND HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH THEM IS JUST HEARTBREAKING TO SEE HOW THEY DEPEND ON SO MUCH FROM THIS VERY SPOT ON THE ISLAND. I HAVE BRINGING MY DAUGHTER THERE FOR 10 YEARS SINCE THE YEAR SHE WAS BORN. I WILL TELL YOU SHE HAS ENJOYED THIS ISLAND SO MUCH. IT DOESNT MATTER WHAT TIME OF YEAR WE GO TO THE ISLAND SHE IS SO INVOLVED WITH FISHING SHELLING ENJOYING WALKS WITH ME HER MOM. BUT IS ASHAMED THAT WE HAVE TO WALK SO FAR BECAUSE OF THESE BIRDS AND WILDLIFE. I WAS THERE A FEW WEEKS AGO AND SEEN SO MANY PIPING PLOVERS. DONT GET ME WRONG I ENJOY THE WILDLIFE AND RESPECT THEM BUT THERE HAS TO BE A COMPROMISE ON SO MUCH CLOSER OF THE BEACHES I JUST DONT UNDER STAND WHY THERE IS EVEN SO MUCH BEACH IS CLOSED I CAN REMEMBER DRIVING IN PLACES YOU CANT NOW. I

STAND THERE AND WOUNDER WHY. WE LOVE SPENDING FAMILY TIME ON THE POINT WE ARE A VERY ACTIVE FISHING AND SHELLING TYPE OF FAMILY. MY DAUGHTER IS 10 YEARS AND SHE HAS BEEN SURF FISHING SINCE SHE HAS BEEN ABLE RO CAST A SURF POLE. I HAVE HAD MANY LOCALS AND FISHERMAN CONE TO ME AND HER AND THANKS US FOR CARING THERE TRADITION ON WITH OUR CHILDREN. I AM JUST WORRIED SHE WONT HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DO THESE THING WITH HER CHILDREN PLEASE CONSIDER KEEPING THESE BEACHES OPEN

THANKS
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 144 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 19:39:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not restrict access and deny off-road vehicles from being allowed to drive on the beaches of the park service. Many who use their off-road vehicle for beach access are conservatives and help cleanup and protect the beaches. I'm a long standing member of AMSA and do my part to help preserve the beach so that my children and their children and so on, can also enjoy the beaches for decades to come. There are regular beach cleanups and committees of volunteers dedicated to cleaning up the beach, most of whom are off-road vehicle users. Every time my family and I go down the beach, we come back off the beach with trash and debris and dispose of it properly. Something even more important than beach cleanup is abiding by the access routes provided by the park service. This helps in the preservation of the protective dunes and beach grasses as well as the nesting birds. Off-road vehicle drivers are the most conversationalist people you will meet.

Correspondence ID: 145 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 19:40:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I request more access to cape point by vehicle. I retire a few years ago and moved to Nags Head with the hopes of fishing cape point. The limited access to the point hurts me and others who want access. For generations fishermen had access and it seems there is an effort to keep us away. Closing beaches to off road vehicle for the purpose of shell collecting is absurd. Please give us fishermen free access to cape point.

Correspondence ID: 146 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 19:50:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thankyou for the opportunity to comment. I visit obx yearly and as an avid surf fisherman Hatteras is a special place.I support more access to the OSV zone.I like the idea of opening the beaches at 6 am and closing traffic at 10 pm but would like to have the ability to stay out on the beach overnight once there to fish.I have no problem protecting the wildlife but this can be accomplished and continue to have osv access with decreased buffers and a way around closures. Of your proposals I will support number 3.

Correspondence ID: 147 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 19:57:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have seen our wonderful Island start to die bit by bit since the NPS put these rules in affect. It is so sad that something that has always been a part of my life being removed from my children and grandchildren's lives. I think rules are for the betterment all within reason, these rules are certainly not for the betterment of anyone that was born and raise here on the amazing Island and our birth right given freely to the NPS has be so miss used by you. Please look at the business that are or have gone under. The Red and White grocery store in Hatteras Village is almost out of business in the winter months. When a grocery store dies, so does a huge part of a Village and then what? Our Medical Center in Hatteras Village needs to be staffed and open all the time, it would be if people had a reason to come here year round. It cost enough to come here to visit and now they have to pay alot of money to buy a permit to go to the beach. Who would have ever believed that would ever happen here. You have the ability to right some wrongs now and I pray that you take this opportunity to become a part of the Island again and not the awful people here looking in. I think everyone would understand if they had to pay a small fee every year, to help maintain the ramps and Lighthouse and all the things that bring pleasure to our Island Visitors. I have a son in a wheelchair everyday I would take him down to the ramp down by the Ferry Dock and go up that ramp and sit on the large deck that is there and look at the birds and boats. Shame on you all, since Isabel in 2003 that ramp has been so covered with sand and we have not been able to use it..Shame on you for limiting the disabled access, when they have no means to get any closer to the ocean. Sincerely please take this time to make a difference on our Island and remember those who gave for the purpose that has been taken away. Thank you!

Correspondence ID: 148 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,03,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Specifically, my concerns are:

I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open to ORV traffic both before and during nesting season, and that adequate protection for migrating shorebirds is also addressed.

Open beaches during sea turtle nesting only after beaches have been checked for nests and nests have been adequately protected from vehicle traffic, regardless of time of day.

I want you to use the best available science to protect birds and turtles: pre-nesting closures, adequate buffers, no driving in front of chicks and enumerate specific triggers for closures based on bird behaviors.

I am counting on you to protect:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles and other wildlife.

Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers and other shorebirds.

Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 149 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,03,2016 22:22:05

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not take away our freedoms. This island does not belong to you. It belongs to the people who live here. We have cherished it and done our best to protect it for ages. And you decide to close off areas of our beaches at a whim. If there are eggs, rope it off reasonably. We will always abide by logic. Same thing with turtle nests. Rope it off reasonably. No one wants to destroy them. But you take miles away from us with no sound science to back it.

Businesses have suffered and closed down since this all began in 2008.

Visitors are angry that they cannot return to a special area of the beach where they celebrated an engagement or a wedding or a birthday or whatever previously, because you have closed it down with all your nasty ugly signs and rope and strings. Truly, you have uglified up our beaches to the point of NO RETURN - - literally! Many visitors have decided not to return because of how ugly you have made our beaches with all your unwanted signs.

We love our beaches and we want full access to all areas again. Period.

We respect our beaches and we clean up our beaches better than you do, and it's supposed to be YOUR job to keep them clean and OPEN.

Please stop playing God. Stop killing other animals that prey on bird eggs.

Stop being so unreasonable and illogical and hurtful to Nature.

Stop making us pay to drive on our own beaches. That is so wrong. Just stop.

Correspondence ID: 150 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,04,2016 02:54:25

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Superintendent:

As a retired Coast Guard Captain and one who was in the first group of Secretary of Transportation appointed members to the Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Committee responsible for coming up with the original fishing vessel regulations, I know how difficult it is to make all sides of an issue happy. There is always the few who will never be happy but the goal of regulations should be to satisfy the majority of affected individuals. In this instance, the majority is heavily in favor of fishermen and fisherladies who live to be able to go to Cape Hatteras National Seashore and RECREATION area. The ill-will that has been brought about by the original regulations that required an Act of Congress to bring some sense to the issue is unfortunate as the will of the vast majority was overlooked for the small and vested interest of a few.

While none of the proposed alternatives will return the beaches to their rightful owners, the people of the United States where all can enjoy them freely, I believe as does the North Carolina Beach Buggy Association that Alternative Two (2) represents the best of the three alternatives. Please allow me to cast my vote for Alternative Two.

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 151 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,04,2016 03:30:36

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I continue to have difficulty in understanding "Vehicle Free Areas", when most of these areas are only accessible by vehicle. Visitors enjoy the experience of having access to our wonderful beaches, but not having vehicular access makes it extremely difficult if you have children, senior citizens or the usual too many items for an enjoyable day: chairs, coolers, toys, towels, food and drinks. Not too many are people are physically able to walk even 1/4 mile with the above paraphernalia for an enjoyable day on the beach, much less further.

Alternative 1 is extremely restrictive for open access. Alternative 2 is much better but very confusing regarding morning beach openings. Alternative 3 even better. I vote for Alternative 3, to get as much access as possible, earliest as possible. Even with 29 miles of proposed ORV routes, there is no telling how much will be closed during the seasonal months due to Wildlife Closures, not even to mention the damage that can be done by Mother Nature.

I do appreciate the changes made in acquiring a Beach Permit starting March 1, 2016. This is a great improvement.

Alternative 3 is my choice.

Correspondence ID: 152 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,04,2016 04:01:01

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I think as a tourist and family member of locals that there is no benefit to the public for this motion.

We are opposed and wish to keep things the way they were.

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 153 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,04,2016 04:05:25

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: even before I lived here..I came here as a child.To climb the big dune and swim in the ocean.The beach was always open for 4 wheel drive vehicles.I do not understand why now we cant.I understand the endangered species laws but surely there is enough beach to share. I support the alternative to more access to OUR beaches.Someone needs to come up with a better plan to support both sides. I cast my vote for more access.

Correspondence ID: 154 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 04:39:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please keep our Outer Banks beaches open for driving on, fishing and swimming

Correspondence ID: 155 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 05:21:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please stop! We all know PEW and there money controls you.

Correspondence ID: 156 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 05:28:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Comments:

I applaud the opening of ramp 2. Please eliminate the seasonal opening/closure of the North point of Oregon Inlet. You need more space for all the people who use that beach to spread out. Also seasonally open ramp 0 (when Coquina Beach closes.)

Morning Beach Openings - I would prefer alternative 3. It is easier to administer for NPS and easier to remember for the public. I am not opposed to seasonal times, however, it becomes confusing. It would be easier and better all around to say all accesses open at sunrise.

Seasonal ORV Routes - Alternative 3 is much preferred. All seasonal ORV routes other than those in front of villages and Ocracoke campground and Coquina Beach should be eliminated!

Vehicle Free Areas - Prefer alternative 3. (see note above on seasonal routes) All VFAs should be eliminated! (See note below) There is NO good reason, for example, that VFAs exist between ramps 34 and 23.

Access Improvements - Alternative 2 is fine. What the public wants is NOT more access ramps but more access BETWEEN ramps. (see note above on VFAs) Everyone wants to spread out including the pedestrians. I understand and accept a need for closures for beach erosion or a section of the beach being impassible (too narrow) but ONLY for those reasons!

Permits - More choices is always better. Not sure why you want yearly permits on a "date issued" basis. It makes it harder to administer and enforce. I feel that the costs for both weekly or yearly permit is too high.

Total VFA and ORV Route Mileage - Alternative 3 is better. More available mileage and less or NO VFAs is better.

Additional comments -

VFAs are overly restrictive. Fishermen do not begrudge pedestrians the privilege to walk on the beaches anywhere nor does the NPS. Why shouldn't fishermen/vehicles be afforded the same privilege. In addition pedestrians can walk the beach in the National Wildlife Preserves e.g. Pea Island - the fishermen can't! I would say that there is a vastly greater majority of fishermen that want to use any and all of the beach than one or two who want to walk great distances on the beach undisturbed! If all of the beach is opened those pedestrians can do still walk, they may have to tolerate an occasional vehicle maybe a park service vehicle!

With more beach open to the fishermen they can spread out and won't offend the sensibilities of the pedestrians. By being able to spread out they won't over work/use the minimal amount of beach that is open to them. A compromise might be that the current VFAs are made seasonal routes.

People have been driving vehicles on the beaches since the first vehicles came to the outer banks almost 100 years ago. The seagulls, including the piping plover, did not suffer at all during that time. No matter what the NPS does or doesn't do, they will still continue to prosper.

I think that it is totally wrong for votes/comments from people on the West coast to be counted/rated the same as comments from locals and property owners. Reason - most have probably NEVER set foot on the Outer Banks. Let the locals decide! Someone who spends 20-30 or more days per year in the National Seashore certainly has a greater vested interest and should have a greater voice in what goes on than people who have never been there! It would be just as wrong for me to comment on how to manage Yosemite National Park and I've been there!

I applaud this step in improving access to the National Seashore. I implore you to make this ONLY a first step. As I feel that more changes are needed.

Correspondence ID: 157 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 06:06:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please keep these beautiful beaches open

Correspondence ID: 158 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 06:13:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Alternative #3 is the best option which balances the purpose and needs of Ocracoke and Hatteras Islands and the intent of the U.S. legislation.

Correspondence ID: 159 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 06:14:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a 40 year part-time resident of Hatteras Island, Alternative 3 presents the best option under this NEPA document for Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands.

Correspondence ID: 160 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 06:15:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please keep the beaches open to responsible vehicle traffic!!

Correspondence ID: 161 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 06:15:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To whom it may concern...
I think that more access for ORV on the beaches should be allowed as many people come to the Outer Banks for the purpose of driving on the beaches for recreation as well as for the tremendous opportunities for fishing. Restricting more access would detrimental to tourism dollars as well as the opportunities for people to enjoy the awesomeness that is unique to the Outer Banks that so many of us come there to enjoy! It would be a shame to miss out on these opportunities that so many of us have enjoyed throughout our lives!
Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 162 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 06:15:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Who owns the national parks? That would be the people, the tax payers whose taxes pay for the personnel, upkeep of the parks. Special interest groups should not be allowed to ruin the lives of the folks whose very financial well being depend on access to these parks. The folks of Hatteras island have had enough damage done by people who do not have any dog in the fight. To make beach access even more difficult to the owners of the park (us, the tax payers) make no sense. But then not much the feds do makes sense. The rights of the people, the majority, are being suppressed by the few. I believe the original Cape Hatteras Island national seashore documents have wording that the access to the beaches will never be infringed. As with the American Indians the feds lie. You have no shame. Is it the money? Hum, do the feds pay taxes on all the land they " own". Bet not. Do we, the tax payer pay them on the land we own. Oh yeah. Leave Hatteras Island to the owners. It is their best interest to protect it.

Correspondence ID: 163 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 06:25:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The Park service last year promised to supply a way to get to the point if or when a bird nest or turtle so I trust you will keep your word and do so this year.Still don't under why the south beach in Buxton cannot be used when no birds etc are there.with it being more shallow than the north beach it is great for young children.my grandchildren when small spent the summers on that beach now Noone can get there.thank you for what you are doing to help the ovr drivers.

Correspondence ID: 164 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 06:29:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I implore you, those who make the ultimate decision makers of the ORV status of Cape Hatteras and the Outer Banks, to keep the ORV areas open and accessible to the the residents of and visitors of The Outer Banks. For myself and my family we visit Outer Banks at least yearly for a month at a time and we are seriously considering moving to OBX. The biggest draw to OBX for us is the ORV as my husband and daughter are disabled and it is impossible to pull a wheelchair through the sand and over dunes to access the water. The ORV makes it possible for them to enjoy the beach with out making it extremely difficult for the rest of the family. OBX relies on the tourism that the ORV brings there. Not just beach goers but also huge fishing enthusiasts whether its for sport or income and some of the best fishing areas are remote and require ORV to reach them.
If the ORV becomes limited or non existence Our vacation and future residence would have to be reconsidered and probably would not at OBX.

Correspondence ID: 165 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 06:31:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support Alternative 3 with the following changes / additions.

Seasonal Routes.

I see no real justification for not having the seasonal ORV routes in front of the villages, proposed for VFAs between Salvo and Avon and Ocracoke campground 15 Sep - 14 May. Sure there "may be active" nests but as with any ORV route, an affected route or portion(s) would be subject to resource closure. It seems staff would be actively monitoring such nests regardless of whether ORVs could be present, but in general excluded from the route or portion(s) there of due to resource closure.

Further, all ORV seasonal routes in the towns North of the Bonner Bridge are 1 Oct to 30 Apr, have been for decades, and with much more off season visitation, have experienced no problems. The lighter visitor load on Seashore beaches, coupled with ORV resource closures, seems to easily justify the 15 Sep - 14 May period.

Access Improvements.

The existing bypass to the Point should also be extended South as far as possible toward the Point. Wildlife activity or active nest(s) just South of the current bypass South end can easily close the Point to ORVs.

A provision in the rule should be provided for a temporary ORV route from the West to the Point thru that VFA, only made active if the East beach and bypass are not usable to ORVs. The provision should include both the use of Salt Pond Rd or Ramp 45 as appropriate. For example if a resource closure on the beach between Salt Pond Rd and Ramp 45 would prevent use of Ramp 45, then Salt Pond Rd could be used. Correspondingly, if a resource closure prevented use of Salt Pond Rd, then Ramp 45 could be used.

The corridor on the beach thru the VFA should not be firmly located but be flexible as to location so it could even "snake" over to the Point, sometimes using the foreshore, then the backshore, then the foreshore, etc etc to get around resource closures.

Yes I know the current wildlife situation in that area is likely to prohibit near term use, but the new buffers at least give it a better chance for use.

The provision should also include that if the route is active, it would be a priority route for morning opening.

And finally if the provision for such a temporary ORV route is provided in the rule now and down the road it can be used, we don't have to go thru the several year process of a rule change.

I also believe the parking area proposed at Ramp 45 would be better located at the end of Pole Rd, with Pole Rd designated as a "road" with no permit required. This would provide two well touted at REG-NEG vehicle free experiences for pedestrians. The same vehicle free "wilderness experience" as would the Ramp 45 area and the vehicle free "inlet experience" so seemingly desired. It would also avoid any problems pedestrians might have if Ramp 45 were to be temporarily opened to ORVs.

Permits.

In addition to the annual ORV permit from date of issue, I would suggest eliminating the current 7 day permit and implementing a 5 day permit to accommodate fully a "3 day weekend" and the Thanksgiving Holiday period, a 10 day permit to accommodate 2 weekends with the week between (as well as corresponding with the NC fishing license period) and a 15 day permit to accommodate 3 weekends and the 2 weeks between. With the advent of on line purchase of all permit types, the added permits should not be a large administrative burden.

Correspondence ID: 166 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 06:37:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The spirits and livelihoods of the people of Hatteras Island have been destroyed. It reads "we the people", not "we the plovers". Peoples lives matter!!!!

Correspondence ID: 167 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 06:41:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a resident of Hatteras Island for 10 years and a visitor for 30 or more I worry about both nature and our economy and feel that they can peacefully coincide with mutual benefit. Hatteras is a natural wonder and should be shared with the humans that would like to see it. The point in Buxton is a remarkable piece of land, two huge currents converging. An amazing natural wonder that brings fish to the shore. Watch mackerel being caught one every 10 seconds - AMAZING ! Please make the point accessible somehow during all seasons. Have a bulldozer at the ready to create inter-dunal access.

Make birding enclosures as small as possible, let people drive on the beach. Don't make 1/4 mile pens for people to park in ! This has to do more damage that good to that small 1/4 mile area. Birds cannot be as important as people. Our economy struggles - please let the people come and enjoy our natural wonders and then go to the grocery store or a restaurant so our residents can make a living.

If need be, hire more rangers to police any bad behavior, people driving too fast or getting rowdy on the beach and making a mess. But let us have as much beach as you can. We are a unique and amazing piece of nature. Please let us have access.

Correspondence ID: 168 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 07:00:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Regarding requests for additional VFAs- -I think it's more likely requests are for more and better access to the ones they already have.

Correspondence ID: 169 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 07:04:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: After years of doing things why change what works

Correspondence ID: 170 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 07:07:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: March 4, 2016

Hello David,

In regards to the new plan, I would like alternative plan 3 to be applied in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I personally know a good number of your fine staff here on Hatteras Island. These are very capable people that could certainly monitor the very small increases plan 3 would cover. I also believe opening the beaches 30-60 minutes earlier in popular areas like ramps 43, 44, and Cape Point would not be an issue. A simple shoreline corridor on the east side beaches to Cape Point would provide access while making the rest of the area much easier to monitor with no people or vehicles present. People just want access, they do not want to be walking in the seasonal bird enclosures. People would actually endorse larger seasonal enclosures as long as shoreline access to the popular beaches was provided.

I also encourage you to improve access at ramp 44 by raising the level of the road once over the high dune ramp to the beach. This is by far the most popular ramp on the island. It provides access for both pedestrians and ORV's. Over the past few years it has been flooded for 4-5 months during the year. This is not a good reflection of our National Park and a lot of people are asking "why". This has really become a safety access issue too. Could the Park be liable if our law enforcement, rescue services, and EMT's were denied access to the popular Cape Point and the vehicle free pedestrian area in an emergency because of a flooded ramp? Thousands of people have needed assistance in this dynamic area for literary 200 years. That's why the lighthouse and life saving stations were built here.

In closing I would like to say I'm excited about having a new superintendent at the Cape Hatteras Seashore. There's a new breeze blowing through the island that feels good. Please be careful dealing with the special interest groups. I have known many of their leaders for years and in some cases decades. Some of these people are not truthful people. I thought my National Park here was doing a good job before Audubon's and the SELC lawsuits. Yes, some changes were needed but the way it was done divided many real environmentalists and nature lovers like myself. I wish you and your family the best while here on the Outer Banks.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 171 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 07:32:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Sir
I vote for Alternative #2 .
Let us get to the Point to fish.



Correspondence ID: 172 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 07:38:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: free and open beaches as promised when the government took the land over

Correspondence ID: 173 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 07:41:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I was born in Buxton in 1956. My grandmother owned a lot of property on the island. She lost 200 high wooded acres when NPS came to Hatteras island in the 50's to form the first National seashore. Federal promises were given to the natives of Hatteras island that our beaches would always remain open and free. They promised to " protect the villages from the intrusion of the ocean" and other promises that have all been broken. The feelings the natives have against the NPS are very real. Until recently I didn't allow any nps on my property. Two years ago I went to Washington, D.C. And took pictures of the Buxton oceanfront crisis, it looks like a warzone, humans and wildlife are in danger in Buxton, they finally agreed to allow beach nourishment in Buxton. It has been 42 long years since any sand has been replaced along the beaches of Hatteras island. The new superintendent Dave Hallac has come to Hatteras island and repaired many of the hard feelings between the natives and NPS. When our beaches closed because NPS were required to follow the rules of congress endangered species and started killing thousands of animals on Hatteras island that could not fly back, to protect bird eggs, the hatred grew to an all time high. Cape point has been closed during our high season for eight years. Cape point to us is like the Empire State Building to NY city. It is our social place. I took my children there several times a week to socialize with the natives of Hatteras. Closing it even to foot traffic has had a devastating effect on our business community. Many businesses have closed since the beach closures. Piping plovers breed on the dredge islands that are created all around this barrier island. The people of Hatteras island co-exist with nature everyday. As a child growing up in Buxton we had no TV, radio or newspapers. We looked to nature for our weather and storms that were coming towards us. To kill raccoons, rabbits, fox and others on Hatteras is just not accepted under any circumstance! Human beings trying to make a living with a short tourism season, hurricanes, lack of a safe and secure highway and bridge to the mainland are the ones endangered. Our civil liberties as Americans are being violated. Please allow our beautiful beaches to remain open and free. What NPS has done to us for the past eight years is horrible. If NPS wants to repair the relationship between them and the natives of this barrier island, Cape Point needs to stay open and allow us to take our children and grandchildren to this famous place where the Labrador currents come together along with the people that call this island their home. Thank you, I hope you listen to us. It's critical to our survival of the business community and health of any relationship between the NPS and us. What has happened in the past eight years is so wrong, I hope director Jarvis and secretary Jewel change the current statue to " Save Hatteras"!

Correspondence ID: 174 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 07:41:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I was born and raised in Virginia Beach Va grew up going to the Outer Banks mainly Hatteras Island.
I am also a home owner on Hatteras Island. One of the most beautiful places in our country. This Island is a Nature Island. We have more birds and wild

life than you can image. And the Pelicans are back !

The locals rely on the tourist coming down every year to fish, boat and drive their 4x4 on the beach. There is only a small portion of the beaches that you can even drive on. There is plenty of room for everyone.

We had more birds, turtles and wild life on our beaches now than I have ever seen. People driving on the beaches are NOT harming any birds or wildlife on the Island. So much of the Island has been marked off for the birds & turtles allowing for more. There is room for all of us !!!

Stop listen to the few complaining and come & see for your self !

Hatteras Island would be devastated if 4x4 were not allowed on the Island ! That's what makes this Island so special & Unique.

Please continue to allow the 4x4 on our beaches Year Round !

Correspondence ID: 175 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,04,2016 07:50:09

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please restore beach driving access to as many areas as possible. Please do not restrict the time of day or night we have access. Make the beach driving pass annual from the date of purchase, instead of according to the calendar year. Allowing flooding of access areas does not accord with fair access.

Correspondence ID: 176 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,04,2016 08:06:20

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Hatteras Islands economy is primarily driven by the tourist dollar. The hospitality industry (motels ,restaurants,campgrounds,tackle stores,and gift shops) employ a good majority of our year round residents. Closure of any or all of our beaches could cause a negative economic impact of epic proportion. Those who vacation on Hatteras Island for the sole purpose of enjoying our beautiful beaches forfishing,surfing,taking a walk or a drive along the shore. If you were to take these privalages away from them they would spend their vacations elsewhere.This would be a direct impact on our economy.Less tourists equals less income equals less jobs equals more unemployment. How can any rational human think that any good can come from this.

Correspondence ID: 177 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,04,2016 08:11:36

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: 1. Permits. I am quite pleased to support your Alt. 2 proposal to issue permits on a 12-months-from-date-of-purchase basis.

2. Access improvements. It is my opinion that parking along Rte. 12 at Kite Point/Canadian Hole is a critical safety issue which should be addressed before parking for the convenience of clammers and kayakers. If that's addressed, then I'm OK with Alt. 2, providing permit money is not used to pay for the non-ORV roads and parking lots. Let the kayakers and clammers pay for their own access.

3. General. The superintendent isn't fooling anyone by implying, as he did last evening in Raleigh, that ORV permit holders are a small minority of the millions of annual "visits" to Hatteras. We permit holders buy the permits so we can "visit" over and over and over again.

Correspondence ID: 178 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,04,2016 08:40:46

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Good morning.

I fully support off-road access on HI. As a native Virginian, I have the great privilege to live close enough to the beautiful Outer Banks of NC. I have visited countless times since childhood, and our family considers it our home-away-from-home, a little piece of paradise on Earth. We visit multiple times per yera. In fact, our eldest child became engaged on Frisco and will be married in Hatteras Village this Spring.

In my experience, the people who visit Hatteras Island have a profound respect for nature, wildlife, and the preservation of this great place. This is what we love about it. People protect what they love. Of course, reasonable limits are needed to help preserve this ever-changing environment. However, I believe the limits have become too great. One of the things I love about the people who go there is their respect of the island. Fishermen are respectful and never leave trash. Visitors leave the island as they found it. In order to preserve the great past times and communities of Hatteras, off road access must be permitted.

Wildlife is more resourceful than human beings in many ways. They find a way to survive and thrive. Sometimes human intervention in trying to preserve actually backfires against wildlife.

If the communities of Hatteras cannot financially survive because the visitors leave, it will be a great travesty. Reasonable limits are understandable, but I believe the politics have tainted good decision making. Please carefully consider the opinions of the locals and nearby visitors who frequently visit Hatteras. Political opinions from far away locales do not truly understand the impacts on the environment and the community.

I appreciate your time and attention. May the beautiful island of Hatteras remain accessible to the human beings who love, protect, and appreciate it. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 179 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,04,2016 08:48:41

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Cape Hatteras National Seashore is a unique blend of natural habitat and history. Part of that history is tradition and a way of life. That was all changed with the implementation of VFZ and unnecessary beach driving restrictions. A balance of nature and common sense can be achieved. Please allow for year round access to Cape Point, please open the Hook so families can enjoy it again, please protect the turtles. These are not mutually exclusive, fair, balanced, common sense is all I am asking for. OPEN THE BEACH.

Correspondence ID: 180 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 08:50:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to oppose any additional ORV use of the Cape Hatteras National Sea Shore, whether it be extending the seasonal use for ORV or increasing the use areas. The National Seashores belong to all of us and are designated to protect native wildlife. When a minority seeks to alter rules arrived at in good faith and designed to protect the integrity of this regional and national resource, it is the responsibility of the Park Service to do its job. Let me be frank, the loudest voices would have you believe that they are the only or the most prominent economic interest in this arena. That is hardly the case. Organizations such as Audubon North Carolina speak with a softer, more data rich voice and are therefore often dismissed as less determined. Please appreciate that in fact individuals and organizations opposed to additional OVR use of the CH Seashore have considerable economic and political clout which they will use to rectify environmentally reckless policies.

Thank you for an opportunity to express myself.

Correspondence ID: 181 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:08:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 182 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:11:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable. Let's make this work for everyone. It's easy to do what's right!

Correspondence ID: 183 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:20:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 184 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:27:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Best regards,

Correspondence ID: 185 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:30:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: If NPS wants to repair the relationship between them and the natives of this barrier island, Cape Point needs to stay open and allow us to take our children and grandchildren to this famous place where the Labrador currents come together along with the people that call this island their home. Thank you, I hope you listen to us. It's critical to our survival of the business community and health of any relationship between the NPS and us. What has happened in the past eight years is so wrong, I hope director Jarvis and secretary Jewel change the current statue to " Save Hatteras"!

Correspondence ID: 186 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:34:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 187 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:37:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 188 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:40:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It amazes me how NPS can take control over an island such as closing our beaches i.e Cape Point. Seeing this issue spread farther south towards Cape Lookout is happening as I type this. Protect our Seashore is what we are supposed to be doing, destroying it is what the NPS is doing. Keep our Beaches open.

Correspondence ID: 189 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:42:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The current policies restricting beach access are excessive. It is time to weigh the costs of these policies against the minimal benefit.

I fully support the following three points:

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

Correspondence ID: 190 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:42:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As an avid angler, I do wish that further review / consideration be made for public and vehicle access to our States outer banks..

Correspondence ID: 191 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:43:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear NPS,

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Best regards,

■

Correspondence ID: 192 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:43:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 193 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:44:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit. The Cape Point area is critical for the local economy and the community of locals.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 194 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:45:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 195 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Gentlemen and ladies:

With regard to Cape Hatteras National Seashore, I support and encourage the following rule changes. I am a recreational fisherman who feels access to these resources needs to improve. Now is the time to act.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Your consideration of the above matters is deeply appreciated,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 196 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:47:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 197 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:47:23

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please keep our beaches open it is vital to the economic stability of this area. It is also part of our heritage as many of our family members have passed this land to the state parks on the contingency of continued use to their family. It is not fair for environmentalist on the other side of this country to be deciding what is economically best for this area when they have not even visited . Everyone in this area believes in wildlife conservation but when it goes to an extreme it does not seem to be fair to anyone. Please keep our beaches open

Correspondence ID: 198 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:48:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 199 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:48:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 200 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:49:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 201 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:49:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 202 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:49:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 203 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:49:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Have enjoyed this area for years, first with my Father and now with my family and hopefully future generations

Correspondence ID: 204 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:51:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have been visiting Cape Hatteras National Seashore for many years and enjoy fishing, swimming and exploring the seashore. The recent driving restrictions have seriously impacted recreational activities and should be eliminated or at least made more visitor friendly.

Correspondence ID: 205 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:52:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The fed's need to serve not prevent!

Correspondence ID: 206 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar.04.2016 09:54:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 207 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.04.2016 09:54:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a beachgoer with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 208 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.04.2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman and someone who has been vacationing in Hatteras for 40 years I am a supporter with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated. I would also suggest a 14 day permit as quite a few of us vacation for 2 week periods.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 209 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:56:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As an avid outdoors-man and conservationist I find the restrictions put on the Outer Banks and specifically Hatteras Island to be detrimental to the local population and tourists alike. Current regulations as well as further regulations that close off large sections of the beach are killing small businesses and causing families who have lived on the island for generations to have to leave to find work and support their families. That being said I do support paying a small fee for a license to drive on the beach as it does help support the creation of new beach access roads etc. That I do support but the restrictions that cause complete beach closures especially at the point due to a non-native bird species is ridiculous. It is technically an invasive species to the islands and should be treated that way. Rangers will go out of their way to protect an invasive species but will do little to protect the foxes, etc that have been on the island for much longer.

Correspondence ID: 210 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:56:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Allow 4x4 access to the beaches and I will resume visiting cape hatteras with my family

Correspondence ID: 211 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:58:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 212 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:58:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings

are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 213 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 09:59:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 214 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:00:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: For the past eight years, access to "OUR" beaches(Cape Hatteras Seashore) has been controlled by the NPS. Our driving permit revenue, the taxes we pay and other funds of revenue the NPS receives is not shown or directed towards any beach access initiatives. Maybe the state or feds should conduct an audit directed towards the NPS based on Cape Hatteras, so Hallac can be out quicker than Louis Daniel. Would this make a difference who knows, but it sure would get some heads spinning on doing what's right, and that is keeping our beaches open. The NPS can't control the uncontrollable!

Correspondence ID: 215 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:04:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My family and I are once again saddened by the decision of others to restrict access to Cape Point. Cape Hatteras is a beautiful place. It is full of local permanent residents, business owners, property owners and families who escape the hustle of city life to relax on the island.

No one other than the NPS, residents, business owners, and property owners should have any control over the decision making process when it comes to ORV access. How many people do you think come from California to visit our beautiful island? I HIGHLY doubt they would drive to our island since it takes at least on average 46 HOURS to drive to Buxton, NC.

I have lived in North Carolina all my life. I absolutely enjoy taking my children to Buxton for vacations. They love to drive out on the beach and fish. To take something so peaceful away from EVERYONE is asinine. Birds fly. People pay taxes. We also pay for ORV permits to drive out on the beach. True OBX lovers respect the beaches including the sound. To close miles and miles of beach access for ONE or TWO birds is beyond ridiculous.

Vacationers come and pump the local economy full of money. Money that these business owners rely on to keep their business afloat. Not to mention the employment opportunities they give the locals. When you start closing beach access, vacationers will stop coming. Is that the ultimate goal of the NPS and the unethical environmentalists? Close down Hatteras Island? Turn the island into a bird sanctuary that NO ONE can visit? Which that includes the environmentalists.

No changes should be made to beach access. In fact more ramps should be opened up for access. I'm not saying we want to turn OUR beautiful island into a tourist trap such as Myrtle Beach or Daytona. Hatteras Island is unique in it's own way. My family and I really dislike not being able to enjoy our "crown jewels" as President Roosevelt said. If the beaches get shut down, how can we preserve our history so it can be passed down generation after generation? I highly doubt President Roosevelt would not approve of how the NPS manages Hatteras, no offense. His goal in helping to found the NPS was to save the land and preserve it to be enjoyed and passed on. He would roll over in his grave knowing the initial goal of the NPS is no longer the motto of the government now.

Once again, limiting access to beaches by ORV's should NOT be controlled by "OUTSIDERS". They have no direct interactions with our island. By them controlling the decisions, they control everything including NPS employees? Ultimately that would mean that the NPS would no longer control Hatteras and therefore there would be no need for Park Rangers to be here. Honestly allowing more access to beaches will help to be able to preserve and pass on to our younger generations. Of course there will always be a few bad apples in the bunch, but the majority of "visitors" (including locals, etc) RESPECT the rules and "Do No Harm" to the beach. I cannot wait till my family gets to visit and stay in our camper in Buxton. I also hope that Cape Point is accessible. Fishing on Cape Point is amazing, no words can describe it. Relocation of the birds makes more sense, it's more economical. Also, Kudos to the Rangers last year who ticketed the bad apples who walked passed the ropes to the Point and collected seashells. NONE of them were locals. I want to be able to continue to teach my kids to enjoy the outdoors. That there is more than just video games and television. They love fishing, even my five year old daughter! Please listen to the locals, business owners, and property owners. Do not let outsiders control what happens on Hatteras. THEY DON'T LIVE HERE NOR PROBABLY EVEN VISITED! I encourage you to follow the ideas of President Roosevelt and keep allowing us access to the beaches. Otherwise, we cannot preserve our wonderful American History! May God Bless each one of you who has to determine or change ORV policies. May he also guide you in your decision making process.

Correspondence ID: 216 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:04:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Thank you.



Correspondence ID: 217 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:05:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Let's keep fishing access via off-road vehicles and foot at all National Parks on the ocean! So long as there is clear access in and out, particularly in the early spring and fall!

Charge fees if you must!

Correspondence ID: 218 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman who has been annually visiting the Outer Banks of North Carolina for over 40 years, and with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

For many years I would visit the Outer Bank 3 to 4 times a year, enjoying every minute whether I caught fish or not. Ever since the prohibitive restrictions on ORV access were put in place however I only vacation there once a year in November - to participate in the Cape Hatteras Anglers Club Invitational Tournament.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 219 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:08:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 220 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:08:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I feel it is important to provide access to public property for the good of all citizens.

Correspondence ID: 221 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:16:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 222 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:17:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns on this important subject under consideration. To get my point across, I think you need to know that my family lives in Virginia, we drive 5 hours to reach our paradise in Hatteras. My husband has been fishing in Hatteras since the late 1960's. He and our children, now also grandchildren have been coming to Hatteras Island for 25 years. To my family there is no other beach but Hatteras. Instead of visiting Disney World like their peers, my daughters picked Hatteras Island every year for our weeks of vacation. My oldest daughter always would comment that she wanted to teach on Hatteras Island. Well, she wasn't hired by Hatteras, but her first teaching job after graduating from college was at Kitty Hawk Elementary. She met her husband, married and had twins while living in Nags Head. She and her family made many trips to Hatteras, even after her move back to Virginia. My husband and I dearly miss being able to go out on Cape Point and share the memories with our grandchildren of all the fun times spent fishing, crabbing and romping in the waves. My husband caught his seventh World Record fishing in Hatteras. Our daughters learned to drive while driving on the beaches of Hatteras Island. Last summer, our twin grandchildren learned to drive on the beach. We purchased a place in Hatteras Village in July 2010 because of our love of Hatteras. Driving on the beach, fishing, shelling and boating is our life. We want to perpetuate this life for our grandchildren.

I would love to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times, but being a realist; I would settle for Alternative #3-first preference; Alternative #2-second preference.

Please listen to the voice of the people that love and care about Hatteras Island.

Correspondence ID: 223 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:20:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 5am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 11pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 224 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:21:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Provide greater access to the "hook" via Ramp 45. Even a small vehicle area of a few hundred yards as it was prior to the complete closure would be appreciated and would reduce crowding at the point and provide an alternative to the point for recreation on north wind/swell days.

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 5:30 am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

Correspondence ID: 225 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:24:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

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- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 226 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 227 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:24:24

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Keep the beaches open for off road vehicles is was the reason it was set aside for us that enjoy Cape Hatteras not FOR the nut job ANIMALS RIGHTS GROUPS THAT ALREADY KILLED THOUSAND OF ANIMALS JUST TO SAVE SOME LITTLE BIRD THAT BARLEY'S NEST OF THE ISLAND so stop the lies.

Correspondence ID: 228 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:24:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Hatteras Agreement. I have been and are still an avid fisherman, meaning surf fishing. I used to fish at Hatteras and adjoining areas but since the closure and strict laws concerning access and limitations to key fishing areas I have reduced or eliminated even visiting this once beautiful place. Now I have to take my dollars else where to do my fishing and most of it is out of NC, may not seem like much to you but for my friends and state residents who make their living in that industry you and other individuals have greatly pushed them out of their JOBS and TAXES. May not sound like much to you but rest assured, if they loose their jobs how long will it before YOUR JOBS are not needed. I agree, better laws concerning preservation need occur- but lets put the people who are using it to good use in preserving it too. They are the best stewards and for people that act irresponsible in taking care of this valuable asset- then fine eliminate their ACCESS not the good Stewards and owners of this project. Please incorporate a shared view of access and protection or like all the liberties we enjoy they may have to be re-won over TYRANY.

Correspondence ID: 229 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:25:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been a visitor to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area for 25 plus years. Over the last decade so I have witnessed access to the beaches taken away by legal action brought forth by the SELC. The consent decree only succeeded in taking away more access.

Please take this opportunity to restore access to our National Seashore recreational area.

Back in the 1990's through the late 2000's my family would vacation at Cape Hatteras multiple times per year. We would rent ocean front homes, spend our vacation dollars at local businesses and restaurants. Some years we would budget and spend up to \$10,000 vacationing on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. Since the closures began, each year we have spent less time and money there.

Please work to add alternate access routes to Cape Point. This is THE PRIMER surf fishing location on the east coast of the USA if not the world. Each year it is closed earlier and for longer periods. The general condition of ramps 43 and 44 are horrible have been allowed to deteriorate due to flooding that can easily be drained and corrected.

We have seen access taken away over and over since this assault began almost a decade ago. PLEASE do the right thing and help restore our access to OUR National Seashore Recreational Area.

Sincerely,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 230 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:25:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 231 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:26:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

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Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 233 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:27:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 235 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:28:08

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for the time and effort invested here to better manage the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Recreation Area. After reviewing the proposed alternative plans, option 2 is as close to anything I've seen that would serve pedestrians and ORV users well. The vehicle free areas are often times quite remote and not having parking available is limiting opportunities for everyone. The extension of ORV access into Oct and April is needed. I believe more focus should be placed on access to Cape Point and also the removal of VFA areas to the immediate north of Avon Village.

Correspondence ID: 236 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:28:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac-

I do appreciate your taking on the Congressional charge of finding a more balanced approach to ORV management on Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Of the three options in the EA regarding the ORV plan, Alternative 3 is my preferred alternative. If Alternative 3 isn't an acceptable option with the NPS, I could support Alternative 2 with a couple of adjustments which I feel are significant.

1. The NPS should make additional alternative access to Cape Point via a modified extension to the existing by-pass to the "narrow". The proposed extension only takes into consideration an extension of the by-pass to ramp 44. However, an additional extension should be included to provide access to Cape Point via an extension of the by-pass South of the Narrows to Cape Point which would provide access via times of resource closures for turtle nest hatch windows.
2. The VFA North of ramp 34 should become at the very least an extended seasonal ORV route from Oct.1 - Apr. 30. This would provide ORV access to this area during times of lower family vacation use of the area. With the adjustments to the Seasonal ORV Route timing at the South Point of Ocracoke (Sept. 15-Mar. 14) The NPS has shown flexibility for Seasonal closures and thus not all Seasonal ORV Routes must open and close at the same date.
3. I understand the NPS wanting to provide access to a VFA at ramp 45 by building a parking lot, however to access the parking lot one would still need an ORV to safely do so. I understand the ORV route would become a park road and thus an ORV permit would not be required, but the reality is a ORV would still be needed to safely access the parking lot. The complete closure of the South Beach/ The Hook isn't justified! This is one of the premier areas to fish during a North wind and allows NPS visitors additional space to spread apart and lessen the potential for user conflict. Additionally, the NPS should develop and prepare to use ramp 45 as an alternative access point to Cape Point. I can't tell you the number of times I've used ramp 45 to access Cape Point due to unsafe beach conditions south of ramp 44 or due to tidal overwash at ramp 44. The addition of this alternative route is so simple to me, It baffles me it hasn't been part of the process. At the very least, the VFA at ramp 45 should be for 1 mile total from the exit of the ramp (0.5E-0.5 W) with a designated ORV route around the VFA.

Lastly, the NPS needs to address the flooding issues surrounding the entire area between ramp 43 and ramp 49. As a child I can remember driving out lighthouse road and seeing the standing pines and native undergrowth. Now, it is a dead ecosystem simply due to the mismanagement of the area by the prior NPS Superintendent and staff. Obtain the necessary permits from the EPA and drain the area. The lack of forestry in this area is eliminating the natural filter for the ground waters supply for Buxton and the surrounding areas which gain it's water source from Buxton Woods.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

Best regards,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 237 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm. Let's not restrict those trying to make a living or provide services locally.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

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Correspondence ID: 239 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:34:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 240 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:37:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am in support of changes to the regulations that would give better access to fisherman to any and all of the beach areas via 4 wheel drive vehicles. Limited access has been a great hardship on local businesses and persons like myself are less likely to come down fishing due to the current restrictions.

Correspondence ID: 241 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:38:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 242 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:39:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 243 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:39:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The shoreline should be open to recreational anglers 24 hours a day when conditions permit. We should have access to all ramps to drive on the beach. The cost of the annual and weekly permit should be reduced. Access to Cape Hatteras point should always be available if weather conditions permit.

Natural predators do more harm to the birds and turtles than any fisherman, visitor, or vehicle.

Correspondence ID: 244 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:40:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to

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Correspondence ID: 245 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:40:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Complete access to the park should be for all - fishermen and non fishermen alike

Correspondence ID: 246 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:42:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have been fishing the surf at Cape Hatteras since 1973. I have not returned since the current restrictions have been in place keeping me from fishing the best spots at the best time of the year. I believe Congress wants these rules modified to allow better access for mobile fishermen and a better economy for the local residents.

Correspondence ID: 247 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:43:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 248 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:46:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I started visiting the OBX about 40 years ago. I can't imagine the \$\$ that I've contributed to the local economy over the years, but as far as I'm concerned , it was money well spent! The memories made at OBX will never be forgotten . I just hope my children & their children have the same opportunity to make their own memories on one of the best beaches for fishing on the East Coast!
DO NOT LIMIT BEACH ACCESS!!! If anything, IMPROVE BEACH ACCESS!!!!

Correspondence ID: 249 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:50:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 250 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:51:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I wish to express my sincere hope that the NPS will re-open ORV access to most of the beaches from Avon to ramp 55 including the 'hook' ramp 45.

Whereas I can understand some of the concerns of protecting wildlife, I can not understand the excessive closures of some of my favorite fishing areas that my family has enjoyed for so many years. I am 63 years old and no longer able to haul myself and my fishing gear the distance now required to enjoy many of the areas we have over the years. I have taught my family as I was, to be considerate of nature and try to always leave it as clean as possible. We have removed hazards from the beaches in order to prevent harm to others as well as our wildlife. As many items wash up on shore we have hauled away old netting, spikes, boards with nails and other hazardous debris that did not belong there. Why can't the park rangers riding the beach in our vehicles, burning our fuel, being paid with our money, not pick up the same debris to help keep the beaches clean and less hazardous? The restricted ORV access puts an unfair burden on me and my friends and family to pay for less access at more cost to enjoy our time on lands that the citizens of this great nation own. Please reopen ORV access to all of our beaches so they may be enjoyed by the people they belong to.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 251 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:53:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 252 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:56:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: On some beach's, there is a need for vehicles because its too far to get to fishing but most beach's should not allow vehicles. There is no reason for vehicles on Atlantic Beach.

Correspondence ID: 253 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:57:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 254 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 10:58:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 255 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:05:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Do not let current development trends restrict access to a culture established long ago.

Correspondence ID: 256 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:06:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman, and frequent visitor to Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area, with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 257 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:11:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 258 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:14:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 259 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:16:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Sirs,

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 260 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:19:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent David Hallac, EA for the Consideration of Modifications
As with the vast many others, I was blessed having the opportunity to experience the Cape Hatteras beaches early in life. We raised our children visiting the ORV areas and with a fourth grandchild due any day i see the closures and growing restrictions detrimental to free and open access to teach and enjoy. I know things cant go back to how they were but getting a better balance is needed. The size and number of the VFA's are excessive and many seasonal ORV routes need to be reclassified year round. The NPS should open the beaches at first light where possible. Access to Cape Point this last year was awful. Please place a high level of importance on the Point, hook and the inlet's. Oregon inlet area by the bridge has been closed too long. Seasonal beaches in front of the villages should be open earlier in spring and fall. As for the Alternatives provided #3 is the best reasonable option.
Mr.Hallac, please get us a better balance and closer to where we love to fish and enjoy the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.
Thank You, Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 261 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:21:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to consider seasonal driving restrictions on Cape Hatteras (and other beaches) that restrict ORVs on the beaches during breeding and nesting times for important birds. We are learning more and more about the life histories of migratory birds, and it is becoming evermore obvious that every stopping point is critical to the survival of those species. It is a mistake to keep ORV routes open during nesting. I also can't help but believe that ORV use in these areas detracts from other people's experiences. NPS wouldn't be restricting access for people, just vehicles. It is important to think long-term about the protection of these places. In the face of climate change, we cannot afford to make any mistakes simply because of pressure from a small subset of people. Instead of allowing more ORV access, areas free of ORV access should be expanded to protect wildlife.

I live in western North Carolina but my family travels frequently to the coast of NC because it is simply spectacular. The birds, wildlife, ecosystems, sand and sea. These are incredible assets and we are so lucky to have them. Please don't degrade these beautiful places or put wildlife at risk just because someone wants to ride their loud and disruptive ORV in more places. Sure, people have a right to do what they want (harmless activities that don't injure anyone or break the law), but everyone has the right to not be disrupted or negatively impacted by someone else's hobbies.

I hope you will protect the current plan, and if you make any changes, please do so based only on the best available, peer-reviewed science that takes long-term datasets into account to make long-term predictions. Our wildlife deserves these protections, and current and future generations deserve to enjoy our beautiful and biodiverse NC coast.

Correspondence ID: 262 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:27:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 263 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:27:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been a resident of Avon for the past 13 year. In those brief years I have seen the demise of businesses, families, and visitors to the Outer Banks.

I have seen studies from organizations that were so wrong and were used in presenting "facts" to close beaches and ORV use of our beaches. My family members have even stopped coming to the beach because things they use to enjoy they no longer can. Fishing at certain beaches, staying on beaches during the night time hours and being able to enjoy the beaches free of fees that are so ridiculous, especially to visitors, that so many will never come back to the Outer Banks.

I work in a tackle shop and in just one season, you can see the decline in people coming to the beach. People that stay in camp grounds, and have stayed in them for years, not coming back simply because of rules and regulations placed on them.

The National Government, and the National Park Service have ruined the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Park, a most beautiful place for people to visit for ever. Get smart and return this place back to its original way of life. Stop letting people from Calif. tell us what to do with our beaches.

Correspondence ID: 264 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:29:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 265 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:35:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: To whom it may concern.

I would like to comment on the ORV use of cape Hatteras national Recreation area. Since the inset of the new rules my wife and I have not used the Park nearly as much as we used to. The restrictive practices are way over the top especially given the ability of the Service to expand ORV areas during the fall months. I would like to see a more reasonable time for opening the beaches in the fall. By the middle of October almost all of the turtle have completed nesting and those that haven't hatched usually do not hatch. To hold vehicles off the beaches during the fall fishing season is heavy handed in my opinion. I would like to see open beaches from 15 October to 15 March. This would allow those of us who fish the beaches in the fall a good deal more freedom with minimal disturbance to wildlife.

Regards



Correspondence ID: 266 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:36:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My first comment has to do with the totally unnecessary and overly large VFAs in CHNSRA. I live on Hatteras Island and drive the beach regularly. Rarely, other than areas adjacent to Cape Point when ORVs are allowed are they used!

Alternatives 2&3 allow for some of these areas to be opened to seasonal ORVs.

This creates very little change to our access.....there's rarely much use of the seasonal areas now Nov-March so why add 2 miles more seasonally? Open up these areas 'ALL the TIME'! Close for resource protection of Endangered and Threatened species only.

Why is Ramp 34 totally closed to the south seasonally? There is a lot of very usable beach before the village lines. Open it up! Avon needs more available beach that is accessible by ORVs all the time!

These changes will make ramp 34 accessible in the Spring/Summer when there are people here to USE and ENJOY it!

Grand Canyon, Denali, Old Faithful, Cape Point...All managed by NPS. We are glad you are here, thankful we do not look like Nags Head, Myrtle Beach, Corolla...BUT, In 2009 Cape Point opened on July 29th, my 65th Birthday. I had 4 of my Grands here. Two I was caring for as their Dad underwent radiation treatment in Boston and 2 others that came to keep them company. All walked out to the island that had formed- snorkeled...the hook was like a pond...even Grandpa went in!

That was the last time any of them or my other 2 Grands have had access to Cape Point. It is closed Easter to when school opens! You are losing an entire generation and generations to come to the majesty, spiritualism of Cape Point to fish, shell, swim and enjoy with their entire family, young and old. Things have been lost - bonfires, night time and sunrise fishing. Will the Children develop the same feelings about the oceans, birds, conservation having seen the NPS deny them things their families have done for many generations!

Please think of the Children when you plan for access...Corridors so Cape Point is accessible to All Always!

Correspondence ID: 267 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:36:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 268 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:40:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a very frequent user to CAHA, I would like to see Alternative 2 implemented. I would like to see more VFA areas returned to ORV access than any of the alternatives suggest. Some VFA areas go unused by humans are are difficult to access.

The argument that pedestrians want access far from ORV use would tend to be supported if pedestrian access on the Pea Island Wildlife Refuge were higher than it is. That area was formerly part of CAHA and was removed from ORV access. The current ORV Rule served to remove even more ORV access, much of which is still not being returned by the alternatives suggested. I do, however, appreciate that the pendulum is swinging back toward ORV access' favor.

Personally, I would not like to see any more new asphalt laid at CAHA. ORV permit fees should go to serve ORV routes, not pedestrian paths or parking lots for people that don't pay ORV permit fees. I see a trend towards this and I encourage its continuance.

The parking area at the former Frisco Pier should become an off-season access ramp. Also, the drainage problem that has plagued the ramps 43,44, and 45 areas (also 49 now) should be remedied as quickly as possible. These are far more beneficial to ORV users than opening new ramps or parking areas.

Respectfully,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 269 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: A proposal currently open for review could result in significant improvements to recreational fishing access at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, NC, but anglers like you need to weigh in today.

Excessive public access restrictions in recent years have limited fishing opportunities at Cape Hatteras, causing significant economic harm to the local community. Fortunately, due to a law passed by Congress in 2014, the National Park Service is required to review its management plan and make modifications to better facilitate public access to the seashore.

While some of the proposed changes are positive, others don't go far enough to provide the access needed to enjoy many areas of the seashore at critical times of the year.

Public comment will be accepted until March 18 through this National Park Service webpage. A sample letter to copy and paste into the comment form is provided below.

Sample letter:

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 270 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:48:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

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Correspondence ID: 271 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:49:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Parks are for people! There is no justification for such restrictive access.

Correspondence ID: 272 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:50:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 273 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:52:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I am signing this for my husband I am on the side to protect the beach the fish and the birds, shells and the deer and other wildlife. A compromise is needed so fisherman can still fish. But we do need to protect that coastal land, The focus in my opinion needs to be on the commercial fisherman who over fish and take the lives of the sea creature dolphin turtles in those waters I see every time I go with my husband. They need to regulated way more.



Correspondence ID: 274 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:52:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

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Correspondence ID: 275 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.04,2016 11:53:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 276 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.04,2016 11:57:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: March 4, 2016

National Park Service
Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area
Planning, Environment and Public Comment

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Environmental Assessment (EA) for consideration of modifications to the Off Road Vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area (CHNSRA). After reviewing the EA document and the alternatives proposed, I cast my vote for Alternative No. 3 which best aligns with the passage of Section 3057 of the Defense Authorization Act - 2015 which requires the National Park Service (NPS) "to insure that the buffers are of the shortest duration and cover the smallest area necessary to protect a species...". I have additional comments below that I propose be considered and added to whichever alternative is selected.

1. Buffers and Corridors proposed shall not be contingent upon NPS having the resources, either funding or staff, to perform the required monitoring.

Fiscal budgets should be proposed and adopted to provide for these resources.

2. If a species requires buffer changes, the buffer perimeter should be moved/modified to accommodate those changes, not just enlarged.

3. There should be unison in the pre-nesting, nesting, and unfledged chicks' buffers for American Oyster Catchers (AMOY), Colonial Water Birds (CWB) and Piping Plover(PPL) and Wilson's Plover (WIPL). Current NPS proposals for AMOY and CWB negate the benefit proposed for the PIPL.

4. Flooding from rain and ocean over wash are frequent reason for ramp and campground closures. The drainage system implemented over a decade ago by the NPS was declared a violation of state and federal law and shut down. The NPS must do something to provide drainage to allow these ramps and campgrounds to stay open.

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 277 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.04,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this extremely important subject under consideration. Living in and loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island is extremely important to myself, my family and many other sportsmen many of whom visit from many hundreds of miles to spend time and more importantly money on our island.

Naturally my preference would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Thank You,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 278 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 11:59:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: keep access open as much as possible

Correspondence ID: 279 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:04:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 280 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:05:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 281 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:07:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: For NPS to bow down to DOW & Audubon was completely insane. To have fishing spots closed due to the mating of non-endangered birds; and restricted by acres of seashore; like no other area in the U.S.; is ridiculous. Then, not allowing any vehicles on beach at night; when the best fishing is done is just not right. You do not have to have acres of

beach area closed to protect turtle nests either. These turtle nests are found every morning and marked, and could be roped off to prevent damage. When it's close to hatch time, then you could block the beach, or better yet, have a team of volunteers watch over the hatchlings.

Most all fishermen are nature lovers, and would never try to harm any creatures on purpose. But the environmental groups try to make fishermen look like evil monsters trying to destroy nature. We are out fishing because we enjoy nature, and love being there. We would never try to harm nature.

Give us our beach back.



Correspondence ID: 282 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:07:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you

Correspondence ID: 283 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:08:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: If I am still able to understand our language, when will the NPS comply with the law and establish the ORV corridor to Cape Point, around the closures that will be forthcoming soon. If a fraction of the effort were being made to comply instead of thinking of the lame excuses used to circumvent what you were instructed to do, things would already be resolved! There is NO reason that a ORV Corridor could not be constructed through the hook. One bulldozer is all that is required! People have grown weary of these issues that have been ever present for years, and finally a solution of sorts has been implemented, supposedly, and we are not seeing a lot of change. We don't need or want more parking places that enables us to carry everything we need for a mile or more through soft sand, what we need, simply is for you to do what you are required to do, by law. I've been coming to Hatteras for over 50 years, and all I can say is that I am very disappointed in the things that have happened there over the years, but when the government get bullied by Terrence Boyle, and Derb Carter, I guess it's too much to expect to have enough backbone stand and do the right thing. This, after all IS a recreational Area to be used by the people, not environmentalist and their lawyers! Derb has apparently focused his attentions elsewhere for the time being so lets comply with the law. LETS FISH THE POINT ALL THE TIME! 

Correspondence ID: 284 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:11:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 285 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:12:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 286 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:16:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 287 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:19:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 288 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:25:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Cape Hatteras is a wonderful place for fishing and other recreational activities. Being able to drive on the beach has always added to the enjoyment of these activities. With proper management there is no reason to further restrict this freedom. Banning driving on the beach would severely impact fisherman and others. It would also negatively impact the economy in the area.

Correspondence ID: 289 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:30:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
Sample letter:

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 290 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:32:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen and sportswomen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable.

Correspondence ID: 291 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:45:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please open up more access to our beaches.

Correspondence ID: 292 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:46:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 293 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:51:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please keep our beaches open for access. Our livelihood depends on tourism, fishing, beachgoers. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 294 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:54:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 295 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 12:57:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 296 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 13:10:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 297 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 13:12:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Regards, [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 298 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings

are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 299 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 13:21:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 300 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 13:23:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I forgot to mention in my last email that all of these people commenting on anything that concerns Cape Hatteras should be visitors of the park or at least be knowledgeable of the issues occurring there instead of filling out a mass issue letter from any of the environmental groups. I could just about guarantee that the majority of these people don't even know where Cape Hatteras is. Lets get on the Birdy Bandwagon and fill out one of these letters for the cause! [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 301 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 13:30:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: OK

Correspondence ID: 302 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 13:43:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Gentlemen:

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation. The closure was way overdone and destroyed the livelihood of many residents.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings

are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 303 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 13:49:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the opening of more access for driving on the beaches. I liked plan 3 the best and appreciate the parks service and their helping congress with their request.

thank you

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 304 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: TO NPS

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable! Access to Cape Point is essential to any of these plans in my opinion.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 305 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 13:51:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support more access to driving on the OBX beaches on Hatteras island.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 306 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 14:00:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 307 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 14:03:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am an avid Surfcaster, to fish from the beach I use my ORV to transport my equipment and provide access to areas non accessible to parking or walking. In the 30 years I have been doing this I never once done anything to harm bird wildlife or the the Environment, in fact I have participated in numerous beach grass plantings, beach clean-ups, fencing projects to protect the Pipping Plovers, Terns and other endangered species. Access to those beaches that allow recreational ORV use should continue to allow taxpayers like myself to pursue their sport in a public recreation area. Reasonable regulations should be put into place to protect endangered species that allow taxpayers to use a public resource. Entire beaches need not be closed for nesting birds, rather, use law enforcement to prohibit intrusion into nesting areas, while still allowing the public ORV access to fishing, surfing, or other water activity areas.

Correspondence ID: 308 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 14:04:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
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- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 309 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 14:27:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to ask you to not extend ORV routes or extend spring and fall access on any area of the beaches that are affected by wildlife. Being a lifelong lover of wildlife I first make my appeal from my heart. I'm overjoyed when I see wildlife, like oystercatchers, red knots, plovers, and sea turtles living unperturbed on our beaches. I find it deeply disturbing when I see vehicles driving in the areas where these animals nest and take refuge.

My second appeal is more cut and dry, based on statistics I've gleaned from a 2006 Fish and Wildlife survey on the economic impacts of wildlife-watching on national and state economies. The report tallied 2.6 million people that spent \$916 million through wildlife-watching in North Carolina. They also supported 18,000 jobs and \$1.5 billion in salaries, wages, and business owner's income. In addition they accounted for \$199 million in federal and \$133 million in state and local tax revenue. This is a vibrant industry that often goes unnoticed behind the scenes.

To me, the benefit in conserving our natural resources and in supporting our wildlife economy far outweighs the benefit of offering ORV enthusiasts expanded driving privileges on our beaches. The drivers can choose a variety of places to ride, but wildlife are constricted by their biology to use specific spots that we must protect.

Correspondence ID: 310 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 14:31:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 311 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 14:34:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please improve access for fishermen like myself.

Correspondence ID: 312 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 14:36:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 313 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 14:39:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As marine fisheries continues to destroy our commercial fishermen, as our inlet becomes increasingly dangerous due to a lack of dredging and thus driving our charter boat industry out of business, why not continue to close the best surf fishing beaches in the world to make it a complete slam

Correspondence ID: 314 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 14:53:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a lifelong resident of Hatteras Island, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational area. I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate those who would like to access large portions of the park for recreation.

As a lifelong resident of Hatteras Island, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational area. I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate those who would like to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions:

* Beach openings from 6:00am to 10:00pm

* Extending seasonal ORV routes by 4 weeks in spring and fall

* Provide a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit

I urge the NPS to restore balance and provide reasonable access to Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Correspondence ID: 315 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 15:02:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: i am an avid fisherman. i frequently visit and fish the beaches surrounding Cape Hatteras. i find it very disturbing that the access roads are not maintained to allow public/vehicle access. i frequently find flooded access roads and closed access roads. i am aware of the controversy involving migrating birds in recent years, but believe there are alternatives to complete closures of the access roads and beaches. i believe that the fishermen, local and visiting from elsewhere, should have access to this national recreation area. i do not agree with the closing of these areas for one or two birds. i think that a vast majority of regular recreational fisherman, do respect the environment and the wildlife that exists at these public places. Through educating

recreational anglers and the ranger service taking measures to ensure safe travel in the parks i believe that the recreational fisherman and the wildlife can and will coexist.

Correspondence ID: 316 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 15:05:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Besides not going far enough to open the park, your protection of the birds and beach access has failed with little to show from the pass five years of hard closing of Beach from people. The birds would do better if your protection was cancelled. Check the recorded history from 1995 to today and you will see effect of your mistakes. Less people and less birds. The third option may help, the people, but you need to change your plans to help the birds.

Correspondence ID: 317 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 15:06:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 318 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 15:15:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am opposed to the changes in regards to ORV.

I feel if any changes are needed that there should be MORE access by ORV by the public to these areas. Everyone has a right to use this property along with those that use ORV.

I believe the environment will be just fine with more ORV's in the future.

Correspondence ID: 319 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 15:31:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Leave our beaches alone! This is where I learned to fish and this is where I take my children to fish and learn all the good things in life. The people of only NC should have a say of what we do on our beaches! What is a happy family on a beach hurting? What is a man with a fishing pole hurting standing on our beaches enjoying what's his? People and motor vehicles are NOT destroying our beaches. The government is destroying them, and mother nature is changing them!!! LEAVE OUR beaches FREE AND OPEN!!!!

Correspondence ID: 320 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 15:37:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Hello there,
I have been going down to kinnakeet since I was 5 years old. I have experienced the sand and surf from Chicamicomaco all the way to Hatteras. I am also a fishing lady, I love salt water fishing. I believe in a throw and let them grow policy. What I do not believe in, is restricting our beaches. The locals are not the problem, it is the tourists who come in with no respect towards our (North Carolina) coast. I feel that locals (anyone living within the 252 area code) should have free access to the beaches, While the tourist should be the ones to pay. And charge them heavily. They should pay to park, go on the beach, rent equipment, drive. Whatever the case may be. It would limit the disrespect towards our coast.

Correspondence ID: 321 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 15:37:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I applaud the efforts of NPS to provide a balanced use of facilities while keeping in mind the public's obligation to protect the environment.

Sportsmen often express objections to changes in rule making but must also be educated as to why the changes are warranted.

Correspondence ID: 322 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I'm submitting the following prepared statement as a comment. Although I live in NY, I come to Hatteras Island every year, and I'm dismayed by what's been happening there in the past few years. Please consider this comment at least as much as you consider the birder comments from California (who really should have no say in this matter).

"I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!"

Correspondence ID: 323 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 15:45:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: For the most part fishermen and wildlife and nature have got along just fine for decades on the outer banks and there is no viable reason to have all these restrictions on the fishermen or the rest of the public wanting to use the Park properties. I was a Wildlife Officer for North Carolina for a 30 year career, and worked all of the outer banks at one point or another, and the vast majority of fishermen and visitors follow the rules. The park is there for all to enjoy, not just the wildlife. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 324 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 15:47:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have fished the Hatteras beaches for years and wish to continue so. My grandkids are becoming fascinated with the beach and nature. Please do not let special interest groups destroy the beauty that is sunrise and sunset on Cape Point. The economy of the island is already in shambles, keep it from being destroyed. [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 325 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 15:56:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I own a house in Hatteras and visit often. In addition I often have friends and family come down to be on the beaches. Please strongly consider option 3. That might provide at least some balance between environmental and access concerns.

Correspondence ID: 326 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 16:06:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am glad to see the National Park Service continuing to work with humans on keeping a reasonable amount of offroad vehicle routes open to the public, as was the intent of the original legislation. There seems to be a good balance between human recreational access/use and the preservation of natural wildlife with this alternative 2, which I think is fair.

Correspondence ID: 327 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 16:06:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We visit the park several times a year. The VFAs are always empty but the ORV areas are over-crowded. We would like to see the VFA on South Beach reduced in size and expand the ORV area 1-2 miles toward ramp 45. No one is coming to the park to use this VFA. The only VFA used by pedestrians are in front of the villages or those with easy access with parking along Hwy 12. Very disappointed this was not in the alternatives.

There needs to be a second ORV route from ramp 45 to Cape Point established. Year-round Cape Point access is very important to many park visitors and it can be accomplished with no impact to wildlife.

ORV fees are very discriminatory, they should be eliminated or reduced. Pedestrians should be responsible for equal burden. Beach badges could be required to balance the cost to all visitors.

Please make my opinion matter this time. I know many people that feel the same way. NPS should start weighing actual park visitors opinions higher than the special interest groups conducting mass email campaigns, most never visit CHNS and are motivated only by misleading propaganda from environmental groups.

Thank You for your consideration in this matter.

Correspondence ID: 328 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 16:40:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

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- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 329 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 16:40:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The current ORV rules defy common sense and have forced me to cut back on the number of times I visit the CHNS. What use to be a wonderful place for a family vacation has become a uncertainty of where and when we may be able to access and fish. Here in NJ we also have nesting plover pairs. And we have beaches under local, State, and Federal control. On local beaches such as Barnegat Light on Long Beach Island if a plover pair establishes a nest a predator enclosure is placed over top and some string fence and signage is put up that keeps those walking from the street ends to the water 50ft from the nest. And eggs hatch and chicks are fledged. On NJ State owned beaches such as the North Brigatine WMA vehicle access is only restricted to the areas where there's a best and only from mid June to approx mid Aug. The beaches re-open as soon as the chicks hatch and can get moving. Closure is minimized. On NJ Federal beaches, such as the Holgate Unit of the Forsythe WMA, the FWS closed a gate on April 1 and doesn't reopen until Sept 1. Regardless of if or where nests are placed.

Why? Why different rules for the same bird. Why does the current access plan for the CHNS even more restrictive than anything I typed above? Why when a nest occurred on the sound side that could have prevented home owners from utilizing their back yards "bump tests" were used to minimize buffers? Why are these tests not done on every nest where there's a possible public resource closure?

The WMA (Pea Island) is up the road. The rec area should be managed as such and have reasonable bird/turtle protections. Not the most restrictive of dam near anywhere on the east coast. Oregon inlet, the point in Buxton, the hook south of the point, hatteras inlet, the north end of OI, and the south point of OI are some of the best places to surf fish on the east coast. The spots are the draw and are which bring people (and money) to the island. These spots need to be open year round. Period.

Please do the right thing and improve public access to what it was prior to 2007.

Correspondence ID: 330 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 17:04:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We need less government intervention in our land its not the gov. its the people's land. They are taking away our fishing slowly pretty soon you're going to have act like a criminal just to have some fun.

Correspondence ID: 331 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 17:07:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Open Cape Hatteras Nation Recreational Area to what was the original purpose was. Recreation please

Correspondence ID: 332 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 17:34:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please keep the beaches open. My family and I vacation on Hatteras annually and take multiple short trips to the island often.

Correspondence ID: 333 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 17:38:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Improve access for disabled anglers using ATV, golf carts and other type vehicles.

Correspondence ID: 334 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 17:43:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: please keep the beach open as a fisherman for 50yrs ouch i wont come down there if i cant get on the beach I CANT SPEND ANY MONEY THERE OR IN CAPE COD IF THE BEACH IS CLOSED

Correspondence ID: 335 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 18:06:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
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- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 336 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 18:33:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We run a retail seafood company, with more restrictions we have less business. When we bought this business in 2002 we could go to the beach any time of day or night we could stay as long as we wanted and paid nothing for doing so. If we wanted to fish no problem and no licenses was required. We have lost good customers to these regulations. We are a GOD fearing nation so what happened to GEN. 1:26???. Our beaches must stay open, what good are they if we can't enjoy them. With no access we have no business, no business we have no funds to meet our responsibilities, this equals a disaster to our economy not to mention sales tax not collected for our state.

Correspondence ID: 337 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 18:50:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a child, some of my best memories were driving the beaches of North Carolina. We were respectful to wild life, cleaned our areas, and shared good quality family time in ways that allowed us to have a connection with nature that was special.

Please do not close these beaches to off road vehicles. The vast majority of people who enjoy this also do not enjoy the very few who do not respect nature. I am behind policing these areas, but I cannot support any bans on the natural resources that we pay taxes to enjoy in the conventional ways we always have.

Thank you for your consideration



Correspondence ID: 338 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 19:26:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when

conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 339 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 19:39:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Off road vehicles should be allowed for accessing fishing areas on beaches.

Correspondence ID: 340 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 20:01:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a voter, I support alternative 2.

I think since we are using ORV funds to build parking areas for pedestrians that it is time to have a permit to walk in VFAs. A \$25 permit to get a feel for how many folks are really using the areas and more money to spend on access for pedestrians.

Correspondence ID: 341 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 20:13:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My goodness where do I start. I work in the field of computer animation. My credits include "Ice Age", "Robots", "Ratatouille", and I'm partly responsible for the talking camel in the Geico "Humpday" commercial. With that being said, I spend long hours, sitting in front of a computer in cities such as New York, San Francisco and currently Chicago. The Outer banks is the Happy Place that I go to in my mind when I have a producer breathing down my neck, as sirens are going off in the bustling streets below. Standing on a beach in Avon where we threw my mother's ashes into the sea is an escape from the harsh reality of the corporate world. Catching 3 citation whiting in a span of 15 minutes on ultralight tackle while the full moon lights up the rim of a miller lite I have rested in the sand. These are the magical moments in my life that I experience due to the privileges and freedom that I've experienced on the barrier islands of North Carolina. In recent years, this is where I practice being a respectful and professional fisherman. Where I invite and teach others the lifestyle. Where I plan nearly all of my vacation time. Where I direct 20 percent of my annual salary.

If the privileges of this island are to continue to be lessened and or terminated, I will have no other choice than to be depressed and ashamed that it's reached that point. On the flip side, I'd be happy to have experienced it as I have these last 25 years. This is my axis of happiness and freedom to refer to... My happy place... My memories.

Please consider myself, and every other soul that shares this with me when deciding what or what not to allow on this wonderful strip of land that earth has gifted us. In an age when we can appreciate it with our modern vehicles, our fancy fishing gear, our bodies and our minds.

ThankYou,

Correspondence ID: 342 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 20:32:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. I enjoy fishing, surfing, windsurfing and emersing myself in nature of Hatteras Island. I have been enjoying the National Seashore for the better part of two decades therefore this matter is extremely important to myself, my family and many other sportsmen.

My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the seashore open for full access at all times. However, I realize one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue as well. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3, Alternative #2 would be acceptable as a second option. I'd also like to state that the VFA zones should be reduced in size as they are not being utilized as intended. It would also relieve some of impact that condensing orv beach goers has on the Hatteras experience. Prior to the final rule it was possible to drive out to a spot and only see a handful of other people. Last season some areas felt more like a shopping mall parking lot while VFA areas had no use.

Thank you for you time and consideration

Correspondence ID: 343 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 21:31:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I'm in favor of increased access to fishing at Cape Hatteras. It is an experience that many people that don't live near a coastal area are not likely to experience once restricted to the point where access is denied. The sport does contribute in a huge way to the local economy so any decisions must take that into account as people do make their living from providing equipment, bait and other essentials to those participating in fishing. I do hope that those concerned with making the decisions on this topic would take serious steps to consider all sides of the discussion and all outcomes of their decisions prior to enacting any further legislation on this matter.

Respectfully,

Correspondence ID: 344 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,04,2016 21:46:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The NPS, SELC, Audubon, and Defenders of Wildlife have made a joke of what once was a place I and many others used to enjoy. Since this fiasco began in 2007, I have not made one trip to Cape Hatteras. I used to make 10-12 trips per year. Please, do what you can to make it a more visitor friendly place to come. The residents are truly the ones that suffer the most, but many are just fed up with the incompetence of "said" groups, their pseudo-science, and outright lies to all but shut down the Cape Hatteras Seashore. All we are asking for is common sense to be used. Derb Carter, Jason Rylander, and many others should be ashamed for what they have done.

Correspondence ID: 345 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 04:18:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 346 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 05:08:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Hello, I have been going to the outer banks for 40 years. we recently had to sell our home there because of the problems with the unfair beach closings. As a sea turtle volunteer there is know place that sea turtles are so guarded. Please open the outer banks beaches back to the people. Thank You

Correspondence ID: 347 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 05:10:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The current rules are ridiculous. Too many closures to entice birds to nest in popular areas and too many closures for birds that are neither endangered or threatened. It's Cape Hatteras Recreation Area. open the beach back up. It belongs to the people not the select few and powerful organizations. I do not approve of the tactics taken by the park service in the past regarding the management of this area.

Correspondence ID: 348 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 05:54:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I believe the beaches should be opened up again. We rent a ocean front house every year. We also spend a lot of money there. Part of the reason we come there is because the beaches were open! Now they are not open in June!!! If you have to save that small number of birds nesting- --put a inclosure around them and label it properly. We bought a truck to drive on beach to fish. Now we cant. Wize up, before everyone stops going there [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 349 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 06:46:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 350 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.05.2016 06:49:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We have been going to Hatteras National Seashore for decades and we have been driving around turtle nests for decades.

We want our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to be able to enjoy Cape Hatteras National Seashore for more decades to come.

There is no perfect plan but in general the third alternative to each action is most favorable to those of us who arrive in the Sept/Oct time to fish the beaches; earlier daily openings, longer seasonal ORV routes and annual by date of issue ORV permits.

When beach access is denied for any reason, natural or political (gov't shutdown) the fishermen leave the island and have a negative effect on the local economy. We have many friends who live on the island year round and know of their struggles. A reasonable plan not only supports the visitors but the year round residents and businesses.

Correspondence ID: 351 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.05.2016 06:51:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: my grandfather took me ,my father took me and now i take my son .They taught me to respect the outdoors and how to live with the wildlife god gave us. when they became older and health not as well , we drove out on the beach . being stubborn they did not want handicap as a label so they would not apply for the sticker. But driving on the beach let us keep going . N ow my grandfather has past on i can still share this with my son. driving along and showing him the beautiful beaches of our coast and the things god and mother nature has provided for us to enjoy. i am not able to walk like i could but i do not want to take a handicap when someone worst off could use it . Please do not take this heritage and memories away , it would be nice to pass to my grand child and on to his or her kids . Thank you for your time. [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 352 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.05.2016 06:51:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a resident of a beach community, and an avid fisherman and outdoorsman I personally find it disturbing that people who call themselves friends of the environment, without personal knowledge try to restrict the access to our land and beaches. having vehicle access to the beaches not only allows people who would otherwise not be able to do so, access and enjoy them, but would disallow people like myself from removing garbage washed ashore which Is a direct threat to the local ecosystem.
As a consumer I would like to stress that if access would be disallowed, I would no longer be interested in utilizing the area, it is the only reason that I leave one beach community for another.

sincerely, [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 353 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.05.2016 06:57:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 354 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 07:12:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The coastal environment needs to be protected as well as looked over but when the right of the people are overshadowed by the power of the governing body of our coastal shores is excessive and not justified We the People want our due rights to have access to our coast. I have a issues when the rights of the community are ignored, especially when economic havoc may occur and not respected. Please allow the ORV to be allowed to enjoy what has been a tradition and has proven benefits to the coastal shore line. Please make it as easy as possible for the process of obtaining permits that are fair and reasonable to all parties concerned.
Thank you [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 355 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 07:13:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 356 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 07:18:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I really wish we had more access to the Point around Ramp 44. That is some of the prettiest and best area on the east coast. I would not scoff at the permit fee if there were more chances to be out there with my vehicle. Some day I Would like my children to experience the Point as I did growing up

Correspondence ID: 357 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 07:24:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the

preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 358 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 07:36:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the extending the off road 4x4 season in the spring and in the fall because that is when the fishing is the best and should be for mobile sport fishing

Thank you
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 359 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to use the recreational areas of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to me, my family & friends. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Thank you for your consideration,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 360 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
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- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 361 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 08:21:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- ** Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- ** Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- ** Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the

preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 362 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 08:27:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a full time resident of Ocracoke Island from 2007, as well as an ex employee of Eastern National at the Ocracoke Visitors Center for 7 years where I worked closely with all of the NPS employees, including law enforcement, maintenance, interps and bio techs, I feel there are some beneficial ways to improve the access management to off road sites on Ocracoke. One of the biggest problems, which seems to have been avoided in the past, is the lack of free access to the sound side waters by tourists or locals. At present a permit is required for any road access to the sound. Whereas I can see the argument for permitting the beach areas for protection of wildlife, there is no real danger to sound side areas from a few kayakers and birders. As it stands now it is nearly impossible to put in kayak or canoe soundside without paying \$50 dollars for an off road permit!! Another improvement to the permit process would be to have a day pass for a nominal sum, rather than the expensive weekly \$50 permit. Last, make the permits for one year from the date taken out, you surely will not only be fairer to those involved, but will undoubtedly make more money in the long run, thanks for listening, [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 363 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 08:29:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Charge pedistorins a fee for walking on the beach. All i want is open acces to the point. !00 feet from high tide line. There is enough room for us and the birds.

Correspondence ID: 364 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 09:08:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Public land should be open to the public. Parks are important to preserving our heritage and wildlife but the Nps struggles with this task and often chooses lobbyists over citizens.

Correspondence ID: 365 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

Areas of the EA that are silent in which Congress has directed NPS to review are as follows:

-Access /Camping Improvements are drastically needed due to improper management by NPS of the drainage system in and around Ramps 43, Ramp 44 and the campground. Due to sea over wash and then improper drainage, Ramp 43, Ramp 44 and the Ramp 44 Camping grounds have been flooded out since last fall causing limited at best access. Urgent Senior Management NPS attention is required in this matter to remedy as soon as possible so that the public can access their National Seashore in accordance with the Enabling Legislation requirements.

-The current bird buffer protection distances need to be re-evaluated using peer reviewed best available science as required by recent legislation passed by Congress and report back. Cape Hatteras National Recreational Seashore Area is to only Public place on earth that utilizes a 1000 meter buffer distance to protect certain species of birds. This buffer distance was used recently by the NPS, recommended by protocols of another Governmental Organization, in which the Protocols were not peer reviewed as required by NEPA. This EA is silent in that area and needs to be addressed.

-Current legislation requires NPS to review with the State of North Carolina which birds require protection. Currently NPS is protecting birds inside the National Seashore by denying access to the public with closures, and these birds are not on the Environmental Species Protection Act lists. This EA is silent in this area and needs to be addressed

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Respectfully Submitted,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 366 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 09:23:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly urge that curtailed beach access for recreational fisherman and the general public be eased. I also strongly urge the federal government try to preserve our coastal heritage by working with the state to facilitate an ocean pier at the location where the old historical Frisco pier was located. This would also be a project that would model the Jeanette's fishing pier on the northern banks. It would be a perfect project that would retain one more ocean fishing pier on our coast as fishing pier access has been decimated in the last few decades by rising costs of ocean front real estate and natural disasters which have closed many fishing piers. Please consider and balance the recreational aspects and cultural heritage and history for future generations. The private citizens has no voice and large conservation conglomerates have silenced the average citizen with their special interests which favors wildlife over human access to the very core of why the national park system was established, to provide recreational access for every American in our great nation.

Correspondence ID: 367 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 09:27:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear NPS,

I applaud the recent efforts to improve access to our National Seashore. Adding new ramps, parking areas, and limiting the size of closures are a step in the right direction to ensure access while still protecting wildlife. My preference is for Alternative 3. In addition, solving the issue of access to Cape Point when there is flooding or closures would go a long way in strengthening the relationship between locals, visitors, and NPS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 368 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 09:28:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: none

Correspondence ID: 369 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 09:46:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt,surf, and windsurf in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other people. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable.

As a government employee also, I truly AM disappointed in the management of the park. I grew up near Hatteras Island and have spent my entire life vacationing here. The beaches have always been and open free place that one could enjoy. Now it seems that people that don't even know where Hatteras Island is located have the loudest voice. If you truly want to know the opinions of those that use the park I would encourage a short ride to the beach. The one thing that you will not find are special interest groups, politicians,or anyone that wants to destroy nature.
Thank you for your time.
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 370 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 10:21:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

-Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

-Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 371 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,05,2016 10:25:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 372 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,05,2016 10:47:44

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 373 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,05,2016 10:55:58

Correspondence Type: Web Form

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By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 374 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 11:02:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 375 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 11:13:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation. I agree that there needs to be protection, but by approving more access to sportsman and outdoor enthusiasts it will help to cultivate an appreciation for the environment that you are trying to protect. Without a broad range of appreciation, the burden of protecting what we have will fall on a small percentage of the population. Of course, a greater range of access, also take environmental pressures off the currently accessible locations.

Thanks,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 376 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 11:20:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I WOULD LIKE TO VOICE MY SUPPORT FOR ALTERNATIVE 3. IN MY OPINION IT IS THE BEST ALTERNATIVE. THE EARLIER BEACH OPENING WOULD GIVE FISHERMEN AND SHELL HUNTERS A CHANCE TO FISH AND HUNT SHELLS TO GET ON AND OFF THE BEACHES EARLIER, MAKING THEM LES CROWDED FOR EVERYONE INCLUDING THE BIRDS AND TURTLES. ALSO, OPENING THR SEASONAL FOR THE EXTRA WEEKS IN FALL AND SPRING WOULD BENEFIT ORV WITHOUT HAMPERING

OTHERS AS IT IS OFF SEASON. FINALLY THE ONE DAY PASS WOULD ALLOW THOSE VISITING FOR THE WEEKEND OR TRAVELING DOWN FROM THE NAGS HEAD AREA FOR THE DAY TO EXPERIENCE THE JOYS OF THE BEACH.

Correspondence ID: 377 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.05.2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Pat Kenney and others involved in this rule making process for Cape Lookout National Seashore:

I am writing you in strong opposition to the proposed rule changes, basically Alternative (C) your preferred alternative. Here are the three areas in which I believe are to be a serious burden on the park visitor and resource user:

(1) The implication of the permitting system. Most visitors to CALO would prefer no permit process what so ever! However we also realize you will most likely move forward with this system even against the wishes of the majority of your visitors. So with that in mind. My advice would be, make the process fair and easy! It is imperative that the permitting application process be done online. Including the educational ORV driving video. Being required to show up on Harkers Island and wait in line the day of your trip to obtain a permit would be total chaos and a very big inconvenience at the least. An online permitting process would also be more cost effective and less labor intensive for the NPS. This current proposal is highly unacceptable, the NPS can do better than this. Next the permits should NOT be vehicle specific. The permit should be transferable between his or hers own vehicles. The only reason I can see for this is to try and collect extra revenue or to deliberately make the process inconvenient. So what if the permit holder has a mechanical problem or sells the permitted vehicle or simply wants to take a buddy's vehicle ? This would invalidate the permit. Another highly unacceptable proposal. Furthermore the 5,500 cap or limitation on permits issued will trigger a mad dash for everyone to obtain their permit on the start issue date or the first of the year. This unfair process will inevitably disenfranchise tax paying citizens use of their National Seashore. In other words once the permits are bought up, their will be many people who are left out and can't experience the Seashore in it full glory. The cap should be set at a thousand above historic levels to 6,500. After all the parks 56 miles of Seashore was historically set up for ORV use rather than pedestrian. Again very unacceptable.

(2) permit pricing. This is a Federally funded, by US tax dollars, National Seashore. There should be zero expense for the park visitor. Why? Because we're already paying for it ever week out of our pay checks. Again, If we're going to have this system forced upon us. Not only is it going to have to be fair but it is going to have to be affordable. \$150 long term or annually and \$75 short term is not affordable. Especially figured in with the \$80-\$150 ferry ride. I think most people would be happy to pay \$25 short term and \$50 annually. 6,500 permits times \$50 would equal 325,000 in extra proceeds. You can ask Congress for more if you need it.

(3) Night driving:
Night driving has been allowed on the Seashore since before the parks establishment March 10, 1966. Their have be no incidences ever recorded between vehicle use on the Seashore and wildlife fatalities day or night for that matter on Cape Lookout. With that in mind the new proposed 9:00 PM vehicle curfew is unfair and unacceptable. For heavens sake, the sun isn't fully down by 9:00 PM in the summer. Superintendent Pat Kenney am I going to have to leave my favorite fishing, swimming, shelling spot at the best part of the evening 7:30 PM so I can make the long trek back to camp by your 9:00 PM curfew? A night driving ban is totally unacceptable and out of line with the parks intent of providing recreational opportunities. I realize this is about compromise. So let's be fair to both sides and actually compromise and not be one sided. If this regulation that the vast majority of Seashore visitors disagree with absolutely has to be put in place. Than I think 12:00 on the beach and 12:00 on the back road would be acceptable by many. That would give people time to get where they need to go and settle down for the night without ruining the best part of the day. It would also allow a full eight hours of undisturbed beach use for the turtles. This is not Cape Hatteras, beach camping is permitted. Let us get to where we need to go in a reasonable time frame

Most like-minded persons will not accept anything less than fair compromise here. The key here is fair which I believe I have laid out in my suggestions. Anything less and a whole bunch of like minded persons will contact Senator Richard Burrs Office 202 224 3154, Senator Thom Tillis Office 202 224 6342 and Congressman Walter Jones office 202 225 3415 every single day indefinitely if necessary. They do move slow but they eventually do move

So in conclusion I would just like to say let's get this rule making process done right the first time so we can drop the lawsuits and stop petitioning Congress. With fair regulations we could go back to just enjoying the awesome beautiful island again.

Thank you for your consideration,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 378 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.05.2016 11:48:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

-Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

-Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 379 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 11:52:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To Whom it May Concern:

While I appreciate efforts to increase the total number of miles available to surf fish I am disappointed that improved access to Cape Point and Ramp 44 have not been included.

These areas are major attractions to users of Cape Hatteras and not coming up with a route to access the point when birds and or turtles block historic access routes is a mistake.

I have held annual vehicle permits for as long as they have been available and visit 2 to 4 times a year. Between flooding and resource closures access to the best fishing and recreation areas have been nearly eliminated.

Please fix this!

Correspondence ID: 380 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 11:55:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Needless to say but I am very disappointed with the NPS handling of the North Carolina "NATIONAL RECREATIONAL SEA SHORE" note that I did not say National Park. I know some regulations are necessary but in consideration of all give us our BEACHES and ORV access to the point all year long. I am a senior citizen and cannot make long beach walks. You spend the ORV fees wrongly they should be to help us not for parking lots. Use other funds for this type of building also you need to cut a few drainage ditches and get us back to getting along with each other rather than all the almost hostile attitude. I hope you read this WHICH I DOUBT. But if you did please respond in order for me to have a little more faith in the NPS. At this time I don't have a lot, you care more about Birds than people and their livelihood. Thanks

Correspondence ID: 381 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 12:44:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a visitor to Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area since early 1970's I urge you to move the seasonal closings back to their original dates to allow more access to the areas in front of the Villages, to extend the permit from weekly to 10 days and provide more access to Cape Point. [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 382 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 13:13:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a full time resident / property owner in Avon I prefer alternative #3 of the EA. I believe #3 allows for the most compromise between user groups, but also amongst residents and tourists and non resident business owners as well. As a longtime surfer, fisherman, & kite surf professional I prefer as much access as possible while still preserving the wild and undeveloped nature of the seashore and all of the species who depend on it, including human beings. Surfers have always been preservationists, however, we must also maintain access. Thank you for considering my comments.

Correspondence ID: 383 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 13:22:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

-Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

-Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the

preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 384 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.05.2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: While this is a form letter, I have read it and agree with and support all of its requests for access to Cape Hatteras. I and my family have enjoyed Cape Hatteras and its surf fishing for over 26 years. But once the restrictions mad wit difficult and expensive to fish, we chose to limit our visits. I know this hashed an impact on the local economy but has has also had an impact on the quality of my families vacations and time at the Cape. Please do everything possible to increase access. We always have been and will continue to be very good stewards of the park.

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

-Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

-Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 385 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.05.2016 14:47:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a United States Citizen and Taxpayer, I request that you provide as much access to ORV vehicles/Routes as possible, so that my family and I may continue to use the Cape Hatteras National Seashore for Recreational purposes. Thank You.

Correspondence ID: 386 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.05.2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman who owns property in Virginia as well as Nags Head, NC and with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I am taking this opportunity to voice my concerns with the proposed changes and/or modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) and public access regulations currently mandated by the national Park Service at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I respectfully urge that you incorporate the following needed changes in order to better accommodate ALL park visitors by allowing them to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I commend the following proposed changes for your consideration and hopefully approva:

- Morning beach openings: the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: extend seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: more areas need to be restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: suggested permit modifications are positive and appreciated.

It is unfortunate that the National Park Service through their implementation of regulations that were one-sided, draconian in their extent and implementation, helped to single-handedly destroy much of an Outer Banks economy, and created contempt for the organization from hundreds of thousands of Outer Banks visitors that it took an act of Congress to force change. The Park service has been given the opportunity to make the changes necessary to restore the CHNSRA to its rightful owners, all of the people of the United States, not the few with vested interests that do nothing to protect our natural resources but are solely intended to line their pockets with taxpayer funds from lawsuits.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.



Correspondence ID: 387 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 15:11:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Do whatever it takes to restore or improve our fishery

Correspondence ID: 388 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 15:18:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 389 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. We choose Hatteras and the Outer Banks for our vacation every year, spending several weeks there throughout the year. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 390 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 16:05:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Common sense required to allow access to the beach for fishing. If fisherman are not allowed no one else should be able to drive the beach. Not even park police because they are people or supposed scientists.

Correspondence ID: 391 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: nps,please give our beach back so we can enjoy ourselves like old times.i know things change but when people walking have more rights and pay nothing to go to the beach that is a shame.i have been coming to hatteras for over 40 years and miss being able to go to the point because of no access when there should be.this is just my 2 cents and doesnt mean much against the big money enviromint people but i had to say something 

Correspondence ID: 392 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 19:43:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

-Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 393 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 19:53:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

-Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

-Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 394 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,05,2016 21:41:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 395 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under that is under consideration. I grew up fishing and hunting on Hatteras Island and hopefully my children and grandchildren will grow up loving to fish and hunt on Hatteras Island as well. That makes this matter extremely important to myself, my family, and the many other sportsmen across this state and region as well. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion the best balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3, however if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable.

Correspondence ID: 396 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please open more access for fishermen and everyone else

Correspondence ID: 397 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To whom it may concern,
I am a teacher in PA. I strongly believe in conservation and do my best to instill these values into my students. I appreciate the park's efforts to protect these amazing beaches and the wildlife that make their home there. (Even temporarily). I do not, however, feel that the park service has done justice to this sensitive situation.
For decades, islanders used these beaches without restrictions and valued the wildlife with as much reverence as the most devout conservative group out there. The beach was the main highway for much of the island's length. By restricting access to their, and our, precious resources, the park has created terrible friction among both groups. From a teacher's perspective, education is the answer. Instead of restrictions, educate folks on stewardship for protecting these species and allow them to see and share the habitat. There is plenty of room for both beach goers and wildlife on the cape. When you consider how few nests and fledglings there were last year, it doesn't make sense to restrict miles of beach.
These closures are creating turmoil among many groups, discouraging appreciation of wildlife, keeping folks from one of the most impressive and unique stretch of beach in America, and hurting the local economy.
Educate and encourage stewardship, not prohibit. People will surprise you.
Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 398 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: March 6, 2016

David Hallac, Superintendent
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, NC 27954

Subject: Environmental Assessment for Consideration of Changes to Final Rule for Off-Road Vehicle Management

Dear Superintendent Hallac:

I am writing to you on behalf of over 1,100 members of the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks (Coalition). Our membership is composed entirely of retired, former, or current salaried employees of the National Park Service (NPS). As a group, we collectively represent more than 30,000 years of national park management experience. The Coalition studies, educates, speaks, and acts for the preservation of America's National Park System. Formerly known as the Coalition of National Park Service (NPS) Retirees, we participated in the off-road vehicle (ORV) negotiated rulemaking advisory committee at Cape Hatteras National Seashore (Seashore) from 2007 to 2009 and have continued to be actively involved in the issue through the public comment process.

The purpose of this letter is to submit comments on the Environmental Assessment for Consideration of Changes to Final Rule for Off-Road Vehicle Management (EA). In 2010, NPS finalized the Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (ORV plan/FEIS) to guide the management and use of ORVs at the Seashore (NPS 2010a). As part of the selected alternative, certain elements of the plan were implemented through a special rulemaking process. The related Final Rule for ORV management (final rule) was published in the Federal Register on January 23, 2012. NPS is now considering changes to the ORV plan/FEIS and final rule as required by Section 3057(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2015 (the Act), which states:

The Secretary shall undertake a public process to consider, "consistent with management requirements" (emphasis added) at the National Seashore the following changes to the Final Rule:

- (1) Opening beaches at the National Seashore that are closed to night driving restrictions, by opening beach segments each morning on a rolling basis as daily management reviews are completed.
- (2) Extending seasonal off-road vehicle routes for additional periods in the Fall and Spring if off-road vehicle use would not create resource management problems at the National Seashore.
- (3) Modifying the size and location of vehicle free areas.

While we understand NPS is required to consider revisions to the Seashore's ORV plan/FEIS and final rule we have a number of comments and concerns regarding the proposed action.

Comments and Concerns

1. The Act requires NPS to comply with other management requirements: The Act's reference to "consistent with management requirements" at the Seashore inherently directs NPS to comply with the "conservation mandate" of the NPS Organic Act, which is summarized in NPS Management Policies

2006 Section 1.4.3:

Congress, recognizing that the enjoyment by future generations of the national parks can be ensured only if the superb quality of park resources and values is left unimpaired, has provided that "when there is a conflict between conserving resources and values and providing for enjoyment of them, conservation is to be predominant" (emphasis added). This is how courts have consistently interpreted the Organic Act.

The Seashore's management requirements also include adherence to the "primitive wilderness" and resource "preservation" mandates that are spelled out in the Seashore's enabling legislation, as referenced on pp. 2-3 of the EA:

Except for certain portions of the area, deemed to be especially adaptable for recreational uses, particularly swimming, boating, sailing, fishing, and other recreational activities of similar nature, which shall be developed for such uses as needed, the said area shall be permanently reserved as a "primitive wilderness" (emphasis added) and no development of the project or plan for the convenience of visitors shall be undertaken which would be incompatible with the "preservation of the unique flora and fauna" (emphasis added) or the physiographic conditions now prevailing in this area.

NPS has done little over the years to protect the "primitive wilderness" character that prevailed at the time the Seashore was authorized. Because of the manmade dunes built from the late 1930's until the 1970's, most Cape Hatteras beaches today are unnaturally narrow and often heavily eroded, nothing like the broad natural barrier island beaches that existed when the Seashore was authorized. The areas least impacted by the manmade dunes are the inlet spits and the Cape Point area, which today provide the Seashore's most remote and undeveloped "natural" beach locations. As a result, these areas, if properly managed, are highly valued as vestiges of what Cape Hatteras once was - a natural barrier island system shaped largely by the forces of nature. Regrettably, due to decades of unregulated ORV use, these spits and Cape Point were often the most crowded and heavily impacted places at the Seashore prior to implementation of the new ORV Management Plan in 2012.

A noteworthy change in management philosophy began to occur at the Seashore in 2010 when NPS issued the Final ORV Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (plan/FEIS), followed in 2012 by the final rule to implement the plan/FEIS. For the first time NPS elevated the conservation of "park resources and values" over "ORV user convenience. Finally, due consideration was given to the value of pristine visitor experience opportunities offered by the Seashore's remote, natural beach locations. In particular, the Vehicle Free Area (VFA) west of Cape Point created by the ORV plan/FEIS, more than any other location at the Seashore, provides the largest (est. 2.8 miles long), most remote, and arguably the highest value opportunity for visitors to experience the type of "wild," natural barrier island beach that defined the Outer Banks when the Seashore was authorized in 1937. As NPS complies with requirements of the Act to consider changes to the final rule, we urge that the respective mandates of the NPS Organic Act and the Seashore's enabling legislation continue to serve as the fundamental guidance regarding "management requirements" at the Seashore; and when there is a conflict between conserving park resources and values and providing for enjoyment of them, conservation must be predominant.

2. The EA Tiers Off the ORV Plan/FEIS: As described in the NPS National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidance (NPS NEPA Handbook 2015, pp. 25-26):

A NEPA document that is tiered to a previous, broader NEPA document must include a finding that environmental conditions and impacts as described in the earlier NEPA document are still valid; or if not, address any exceptions (46.140). If conditions or impacts have changed, the tiered document must explain this and provide any updated information or analysis (46.140(b))... Tiering is essentially a specific form of incorporation by reference. When tiering a new NEPA document to an existing one, "you must state that you are tiering to another NEPA document" (emphasis added), give a brief description of the earlier document, and state where the earlier document is available. Following the procedures for incorporation by reference, you must also cite and summarize the relevant portions of the broader document to which the new NEPA document is tiered (1502.20; 1502.21).

The EA (p. 2) states, "[b]ackground information relevant to the proposed action is provided at length in the ORV FEIS (NPS 2010a). That information is not repeated in this EA..." Though not explicitly stated, we assume this implies that the EA is tiered off the ORV plan/FEIS, which is appropriate. However, on several occasions the EA overlooks key information and rationale contained in the ORV plan/FEIS, and the proposed actions undermine the objectives of a number of the ORV management decisions made during that process. In this regard, we have a number of concerns that are described below.

3. Chapter 2 - No Action Alternative: The No Action clearly offers the most benefits to park resources and values, to the majority of beach visitors (i.e., pedestrians), and to park management and operations. As a result, the Coalition strongly supports the No Action Alternative. However, we recognize that NPS must respond to the Act by describing and considering changes to the final rule.

4. Chapter 2 - Action Alternatives: As described in the EA, each of the three action alternatives presents a variety of measures which would increase ORV use at the Seashore by increasing ORV route locations and increasing periods of time that some areas would be open to ORVs. The action alternatives, as described, would provide virtually no benefits to the preservation of park resources and values, to the majority of park beach visitors (i.e., pedestrians), or to park management and operations. Rather, if implemented, they would diminish the current levels of resource protection and the quality of visitor, particularly pedestrian, experience opportunities. This one-sided focus sends the wrong message to park visitors and stakeholders alike. We believe that NPS has been short-sighted in not presenting offsetting measures, proportional to the identified increases in ORV access. Despite these criticisms, we commend NPS for showing reasonable restraint in the range of action alternatives and the specific alternative elements considered, and thereby limiting the extent of harm that will result should some or all of these actions be implemented. We believe that the range of alternatives considered adequately satisfies the requirements of the Act and that the NPS decisions regarding "Alternatives Considered but Dismissed from Detailed Analysis" (EA pp. 52-54) are entirely appropriate.

5. Chapter 2 - NPS Preferred Alternative: NPS has identified alternative 2 as its preferred alternative (EA p. 54). We offer the following comments on each section of alternative 2.

A. Morning Beach Openings: The primary reason for establishing a consistent morning opening time for ORV access during the turtle nesting season is to ensure that NPS staff has adequate time to safely and reliably survey the beach for new turtle nests each morning before any recreational ORV's enter the beach and possibly damage or obscure new, unmarked nests. Our primary concerns about the proposed changes in opening time(s) and date(s) are two-fold.

First, as explained in the ORV plan/FEIS (pp. C-58 and C-59), during the turtle nesting season "[r]estricting night driving between the hours of 9:00 pm and 7:00 am provides an easily understood, enforceable restriction. Opening the beach to ORV use prior to 7:00 am would not allow staff ample daylight hours to patrol the entire Seashore for turtle nests prior to ORV use. Such a decision would force them to start before daylight, which may cause them to miss turtle nests or late nesting turtles." Important as well, the current 7 a.m. opening time is a policy that is easily understood by visitors. For this reason, visitor compliance with the existing opening time is reportedly very good. The proposal (which would establish different openings times at different locations and changing times on different dates) is far more complicated and potentially confusing to visitors than the current regulation. This increases the likelihood that ORV users could "jump the gun" and drive onto the beach, whether intentionally or unintentionally, before the designated opening time.

Such behavior would increase the chances of "take." As stated in Section 3(18) of the Endangered Species Act: "The term 'take' means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." "Take" in the context of Seashore beaches could include missed sea turtle nests or human-caused disturbance of, or harm to, nests, nesting turtles, or hatchlings. While visitor compliance with the morning opening time has reportedly been very good since the implementation of the ORV plan/FEIS and final rule, the longer history at the Seashore has been of adverse impacts caused by night-driving and related violations of night-driving closures, sometimes with dramatic adverse effects on sea turtles (e.g., ORV plan/FEIS, pp. 237-238). The history of failed compliance is well documented in past annual law enforcement reports and resource management reports, which were carefully considered during the preparation of the ORV plan/FEIS. If NPS decides to establish variable times, places, and dates for ORV travel on beaches, we urge substantial actions to provide improved signing regarding night driving restrictions, improved ORV user education (which NPS indicates it plans to do as mitigation), and sufficient and consistent early morning NPS law enforcement presence to ensure compliance and protect resources.

Second, the proposed earlier morning opening of "designated priority routes" at differing times on differing dates may seem to be a manageable workload, but successful implementation can be achieved only if NPS staff is able to consistently, reliably, and safely survey all areas for turtle nests each and every day before the new beach opening time(s). The EA suggests that staff can accomplish this, but provides no information (such as an analysis of staffing needs) to support this; so we cannot comment on whether the park can realistically and reliably accomplish the earlier patrols or not. Presumably, compliance can be assured by increased staffing; however, recruitment and retention of seasonal staffing in bio-tech positions has been a challenge at the Seashore for many years. Because of the lack of staffing analysis in the EA and the uncertainty of staffing in general, we have doubts about the capacity of NPS to consistently complete the morning surveys before the proposed beach opening times. We therefore recommend that NPS clearly state in its forthcoming decision document that it retains the management authority to revert to the standard 7:00 a.m. morning opening time, if increased capacity to perform beach patrols is not available, to ensure the protection of park resources and the safety of NPS staff.

B. Seasonal Off-Road Vehicle Routes: The proposed opening of the seasonal ORV routes in front of the villages and Ocracoke campground two weeks earlier/later at either end of the season (i.e., open October 15 - April 15), only benefits ORV users and is unsupported by any other rationale. According to the ORV plan/FEIS (p. 558), the November 1 to March 31 dates for seasonal ORV routes were based on data that indicated when park visitation and rental occupancy are the lowest. In addition, there are many references in the ORV plan/FEIS confirming the NPS goal of providing a relative balance in the amount of ORV access and vehicle free areas (VFA's) in order to achieve the plan/FEIS's stated objectives of providing diverse visitor experience opportunities, as well as protection of breeding and migrating and wintering wildlife. We are not aware of any significant changes in visitation or occupancy trends since the completion of the ORV management plan that would support the changes proposed in the EA. If anything, recent data indicates a continuing trend of gradually increasing shoulder season and off-season visitation and occupancy, particularly during winter vacation periods, which argues against expanding the period of ORV use on village beaches. As a result, the proposed changes will adversely affect increasing numbers of visitors staying in the villages and campgrounds. The proposed expansion of ORV access dates could also be problematic during years in which spring vacation week (typically Easter week in VA and NC) occurs on or before April 15, when family vacationers, typically beach pedestrians, and ORV users would be competing for the same popular beach locations; and similarly during years when Columbus weekend occurs on or after October 15. Changing the dates, as proposed, to allow earlier and later ORV use of these areas is another one-sided proposal, beneficial only to ORV users. For these reasons, the Coalition opposes any increases in seasonal ORV route periods that would result in decreased periods for seasonal VFA's, unless such changes are proportionally offset by increased VFA periods or improved pedestrian experience opportunities at other suitable locations.

C. Access Improvements: Many of the "access improvements" proposed by NPS would quite obviously result in increased ORV access and reductions in VFA's, benefitting only the relative minority of all park visitors, ORV users. The purpose and benefits of VFA's are well described throughout the ORV plan/FEIS. For example (p. 81), the NPS Preferred Alternative (Alternative F) was "designed to provide visitors to the Seashore with a wide variety of access opportunities for both ORV and pedestrian users, including access to the spits and points. Areas of high resource sensitivity and high visitor use would generally be designated as vehicle-free areas year-round or as seasonal ORV routes, with restrictions based on season, etc. Vehicle-free areas throughout the Seashore would provide for relatively less disturbed foraging, resting, and roosting habitat for migrating and wintering birds." Comments about specific proposed access improvements, listed north to south, are as follows:

1) Ramp 2 - Coquina Beach is one of the most heavily used pedestrian beaches at the Seashore and the ORV route south of Coquina Beach, which is currently accessed by Ramp 4 (and formerly accessed also by Ramp 2), is one of the most congested ORV routes. The reason for closing Ramp 2 and extending the VFA 1/2 mile south of Coquina Beach in the ORV plan/FEIS was to provide a sufficient buffer, both for safety and visitor experience reasons, between the two uses. Designated Ramp 2.5, if constructed, would provide ORV access at the northern end of the designated route, which is desirable, while maintaining the objective of separation of the uses. In the EA, NPS proposes to reopen Ramp 2, which would re-establish heavy ORV use next to a busy pedestrian beach. Granted, NPS proposes to reconfigure Ramp 2, so that it would come out 200 ft. south of the previous location. However, such reconfiguration only partially addresses our safety concerns, and does not address our visitor experience concerns. As proposed, reopening Ramp 2 to ORV use could significantly increase the number of vehicles entering and leaving the Coquina Beach parking lot during the busy season and therefore increase the traffic congestion and related safety hazards at the entrance to the parking area on NC 12. Based on past use of Ramp 2 (i.e., before it was closed), reopening the ramp will result in a significant number of ORVs accessing and parking on the beach right next to Coquina Beach, creating the appearance and effect of a massive beach parking lot. The park should have aerial photographs of such congestion in the past, or see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87K6-tmN0ks>. Given the lack of traffic count data and analysis provided in the EA, it is not possible to quantify our concern; however, we believe that NPS should evaluate the potential for significant traffic congestion problems, as well as potential visitor experience impacts. This should include reviewing any past traffic count data that may be available for NC 12, the Coquina Beach parking lot, and Ramp 2. While we see some relative benefits of NPS not building a new Ramp 2.5 (no construction impacts, etc.), if NPS proceeds with this proposal we urge NPS to designate Ramp 2 only as part of a seasonal ORV route (consistent with whatever dates NPS decides to use for seasonal ORV routes), so that it is not open for ORV use during the busy season when the conflicts with Coquina Beach would be the greatest.

2) Ramp 45 - NPS proposes to reopen Ramp 45 and re-designate the old ORV route from Ramp 45 to the beach as a "park road" so that no ORV permit would be needed to use it, then build a new parking lot with a "pervious" surface (i.e., shell, etc.) on the upper beach. While creative, this approach would be inconsistent with NPS management policies (e.g., Sections 9.11.5 and 9.4.2) and establish a bad precedent at Cape Hatteras. In our opinion, it would be an alarming precedent if NPS were to redesignate this particular (former but never officially designated) ORV route as a "road" in order to reopen it to vehicle use without an ORV permit, a tactic that could presumably be used in the future for similar redesignations of other past or present ORV routes. Furthermore, of all the VFA's identified in the ORV plan/FEIS, particularly those involving the spits and points (the only "natural beach" areas at the Seashore), the Cape Point VFA is the one that best restored an opportunity for visitors to experience some of the "primitive wilderness" that the enabling legislation explicitly directed NPS to protect. As a result, we strongly object to NPS building a parking area on the upper beach in the middle of the Cape Point VFA, which in many ways would spoil an important visitor experience opportunity and would also likely increase human disturbance of migrating and nonbreeding shorebirds that the VFA was also designed to protect.

There are practical concerns, too; the proposed "road" and parking area on the upper beach would likely be difficult to maintain for street vehicle access

due to recurring flooding and over-wash events creating, in essence, another facility maintenance challenge. And, more importantly, the proposed parking area is manifestly unnecessary for pedestrian access to the VFA. As measured on the CAHA Google Earth Beach Access Map, the distance from the existing parking lot at the rear of Cape Point Campground out to the proposed parking lot on the upper beach is only 0.3 to 0.4 of a mile - a 10 minute walk for most visitors. If NPS believes the Cape Point VFA is "underutilized" by pedestrians, as is often alleged by ORV supporters, then we recommend that NPS better inform and support pedestrian use of the existing VFA. This could include improving the parking area at the rear of the campground as needed to make it more resilient to flooding; designating and signing the parking area as a trailhead; showing the trailhead and the "trail" on park maps; making visitors aware of the opportunity by listing the trail as a "recommended hike" in the park newspaper and on the park website; and perhaps offering regularly scheduled Interpretive walks of the trail to the beach to talk about the Seashore's purpose and significance and its natural and cultural history. There is no other VFA at the Seashore that offers such an experience.

3) Ramp 59 - The NPS preferred alternative (Alternative F) in the ORV plan/FEIS identified the north end of Ocracoke as a year-round VFA and proposed to create a new Ramp 59.5 to provide for ORV access to the designated ORV route south of the VFA. The underlying reason for building the new ramp was to relocate the ORV access point to the south of the existing parking lot along NC 12 (which is several hundred yards south of the current ramp), so that pedestrians accessing the VFA from the parking lot would not have to walk a quarter mile or more on the beach through a heavily used ORV route in order to reach the VFA. This small measure was intended to enhance the visitor experience from the pedestrian's point of view. Because such access improvements would require additional planning and compliance, the final rule allowed for the continued short-term use of the existing Ramp 59 by ORVs until such time that the new Ramp 59.5 could be planned and constructed. In the current EA, NPS proposes to redesignate and extend the year-round ORV route so that Ramp 59 becomes the designated long-term ORV access point and constructing a new Ramp 59.5 would no longer necessary. While this seems like a practical, common sense approach, it fails to address the fundamental reason, described above, for relocating the ramp. This strikes us as another example of NPS being more concerned about enhancing ORV access than the quality of visitor experience for pedestrians. If NPS proceeds with redesignating Ramp 59 as part of a year-round ORV route, then we urge NPS to relocate the parking area to a suitable location north of Ramp 59.

4) Soundside access on Ocracoke - Improving soundside access opportunities on Ocracoke Island was clearly one of the intentions of the ORV plan/FEIS. The EA's proposals in this regard appear reasonable and appropriate to us.

D. ORV Permit Lengths: As stated in our scoping comments, the proposal to change the length of permit periods is outside the scope of review required in the Act. That said, we understand that the proposed change(s) are primarily administrative in nature, may be perceived as beneficial to some visitors, and would have little direct impact on park resources or operations. We have no specific objection to changing the calendar-year annual permit to a one-year-from-the-date-of-purchase annual permit; or the 7-day short-term permit to a 10-day short-term permit. Though not part of the NPS preferred alternative, we oppose changing the short-term permit period to anything less than 7 days (as proposed in alternative 3), as we believe such minimal permit lengths invite a resumption of the kinds of inappropriate ORV behavior that was common prior to implementation of the current ORV permit program (e.g., see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkcymsicOA8>). Lastly, we note that the current calendar-year and 7-day permit lengths are specifically designated in the special regulation at 36 CFR Â§ 7.58(c)(2)(iv). As a result, the special regulation must be changed before the proposed changes in permit lengths can be implemented.

6. Chapter 2 - Mitigation Measures for Proposed Action: CEQ regulations require inclusion of appropriate mitigation measures in alternatives (1502.14(f)). In most cases, mitigation measures should be developed and incorporated as integral elements of the alternatives. Often, identified mitigation consists of best management practices designed to minimize impacts that are included as elements common to all alternatives. Because the proposed action would benefit only ORV users, and likely result in harm to park resources and values, pedestrians, and park management and operations, we recommend that the NPS revise the preferred alternative to include additional mitigation actions. Such measures should contribute to the protection of park resources and values and/or improve pedestrian experience opportunities in ways that are proportional to the proposed increases in ORV access. Adding such measures would demonstrate a clear ongoing NPS commitment to fulfilling all the objectives of the ORV plan/FEIS, not just the objective related to ORV access.

7. Chapter 2 - Lack of An Environmentally Preferable Alternative: NPS has identified alternative 2 as its preferred alternative (EA p. 54). Though CEQ regulations and NPS NEPA guidance do not strictly require it (in an EA), our experience has been that it is common practice for NPS to also identify an "environmentally preferable alternative" in many EA's. As described in the NPS NEPA Handbook (p. 57):

The environmentally preferable alternative is the alternative developed and analyzed during the NEPA process "that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment and best protects, preserves, and enhances historical, cultural, and natural resources" (46.30). An environmentally preferable alternative must be identified in a ROD and "may" (emphasis added) be identified in EAs, FONSI's, and draft and final EIS's (1505.2(b); 46.450)."

Unlike other recent EA's related to ORV management at the Seashore, NPS has not identified an environmentally preferable alternative in this one. For example, the 2013 "Proposal to Facilitate Additional Public Beach Access EA" identified "No Action" as the environmentally preferable alternative (p. 66). The 2015 "Review and Adjustment of Wildlife Protection Buffers EA" also identified "No Action" as the environmentally preferable alternative (p. 37). After reviewing the impact analyses in Chapter 4, it is clear that "No Action" would also be the environmentally preferable alternative in the current EA. In the interest of public disclosure and to fully and accurately characterize the prevailing adverse effects within all the action alternatives, we encourage NPS to identify the environmentally preferable alternative in its forthcoming decision document.

8. Chapter 4 - Environmental Consequences: NPS, using a broad brush approach, has concluded that many of the adverse impacts of the proposed action would be "long term, negligible to minor, and adverse." However, it is evident from all the analyses that the primary and perhaps only beneficiary of the proposed action will be ORV users - not park resources; not the majority of park visitors who access the beach on foot; not visitors seeking to experience a remote, natural beach; and not Seashore management and operations. All action alternatives call for a variety of increases in ORV access, which will undoubtedly increase the level of harmful impacts from ORV use. Given the similar levels of adverse effects to wildlife described in the recent Modifications to Wildlife Protection Buffers EA, we suspect that the cumulative effects of the those changes combined with the proposed changes to the final rule would have a synergistic effect and are therefore underestimated in the current EA. We fully understand that characterizing cumulative effects is a qualitative process, part reason and part alchemy; however, we believe that by implementing several new plans in response to the Act, each increasing the long-term adverse impacts of ORV use at the Seashore, the combination will likely cause additive or even compounding cumulative adverse effects. We have no specific recommendation for how NPS should address this in its analysis, other than this concern further reinforces the need for NPS to include reasonable and effective mitigation and other measures that would offset the adverse effects and enhance wildlife protection and pedestrian experience opportunities proportional to the improvements in ORV access.

9. Other - Many of the Proposed Changes Require Rulemaking to Implement: The NPS general regulation at 36 CFR Â§ 4.10(b) requires that "Routes and areas designated for off-road motor vehicle use shall be promulgated as special regulations." In practical terms, this means that ORV route locations and dates for seasonal routes at a park must be codified in special regulations, not in the Superintendent's Compendium. As a result, many of the proposed

changes in the EA require rulemaking to revise 36 CFR Â§ 7.58 (c) before implementation can occur. These include: redesignation of ORV route locations; changing portions of current VFA's into ORV routes; changing dates for seasonal ORV routes; changing times for morning beach openings for ORVs; and changing the current calendar-year and 7-day ORV permit provisions. We encourage NPS to clearly communicate in its forthcoming NEPA decision document the need for rulemaking to be completed before implementation can occur, as it is not made clear in the EA. It would also be appropriate to amend the "Need for Action" section in Chapter 1 of the EA to include "Action is needed to serve as a basis for proposed rulemaking, which is necessary to implement most of the proposed changes."

10. Other - Adequacy of NPS Sign Maintenance and Law Enforcement Presence: Changes in management plans, particularly addressing controversial issues, invariably result in the need to assess the adequacy of NPS staffing needed to implement those changes. We have discussed concerns above about the adequacy of resources management staffing for morning turtle nest surveys; we are also currently about the adequacy of law enforcement staffing. The current level of law enforcement (LE) staffing at CAHA was developed specifically for implementing the ORV plan/FEIS and was based in large part on the management controls inherent in the plan/FEIS. We understand that due to attrition and budget constraints the park may not currently be staffed to the level described in the plan/FEIS. In addition, the changes proposed in the EA will expand the locations and times that beaches would be open to ORV use without apparently providing for any additional LE staffing. Presumably, LE staff will be expected to "work harder" and "do more with less" in order to keep pace with the expanded locations, expanded seasons, and expanded morning hours of ORV access. Yet, the EA (pp. 143-144) concludes the impact of the preferred alternative on NPS operations "would contribute a small incremental impact to overall cumulative impacts as a result of the small additional area that must be managed for ORV use and increased natural resource and maintenance staff workloads." This conclusion is understated at best. We are very concerned about the capacity of NPS to provide consistent and sustained law enforcement patrol presence in resource sensitive areas and at the interfaces between ORV areas and VFA's, particularly during the proposed increase(s) in early morning access hours. It is not realistic to expect resources management turtle survey staff to deal with violators of the new morning beach opening times, particularly since the staff will be expected to complete the surveys earlier than in the past. We also wonder whether NPS patrol staff can consistently provide timely maintenance of ORV-related information and regulatory signs and route markers on the beach, which has always been a challenge in the Seashore's dynamic beach environment. To effectively implement the proposed changes, it is critical that NPS provides sufficient early morning patrols to ensure compliance with earlier beach opening hours and adequate attention to detail to ensure the timely maintenance of ORV route signs and markers: however, the EA is not reassuring in that regard.

11. Other - Next Periodic Review: The ORV plan/FEIS (pp. 73-74) calls for NPS to conduct a periodic review (of the Plan) "every five years, after storms or events that Seashore management determines to be a major modification of habitat quantity or quality, or if necessitated by a significant change in protected species status." The Act, in effect, has forced NPS to conduct an earlier-than-planned review, resulting in changes to wildlife protection buffers and presumably (based on this EA) pending changes in the ORV final rule. As a result of these recent and pending changes, NPS should reset the periodic review "clock" and wait five years from now (i.e., in 2021) before conducting another periodic review or considering further changes in the ORV plan (rather than conducting the next periodic review in 2017 five years after the final rule went into effect). This would allow sufficient time for the new measures to produce results that reveal trends, and there would sufficient data to conduct a reasoned analysis of their effectiveness during the next periodic review. We encourage NPS to make the date of the next planned periodic review clear in its forthcoming decision document for the EA.

In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,


Coalition to Protect America's National Parks

Correspondence ID: 399 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 06:51:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The beaches between Cape Point and Ramp 49 should be open to ORV access. No one uses this section of beach since the NPS intentionally isolated it from use for the majority of the public. The plan to designate an area half way out ramp 45 as a parking lot is a poor attempt to pacify a few of the public while actually continuing to deny them the ability to enjoy the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area established by the US Congress.

Correspondence ID: 400 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 07:05:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Any further incursions of any kind of vehicles onto the national seashore beach will be a great danger to nesting sea turtles and shore birds, including migrating shore birds. My husband and I go the Hatteras specifically to enjoy the wild birds, and so do thousands of others. Increased vehicle traffic on beaches will severely detract from Hatteras as a tourist destination, not to mention the dangers they would incur against treasured wildlife. Please do not modify beach-driving rules on Hatteras!

Correspondence ID: 401 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 07:11:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

-Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings

are warranted.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

-Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 402 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: the east coast parks should be maintained for the tax paying working people. they deserve access for r&r.

Correspondence ID: 403 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 08:01:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am in favor of alternative 3. Additionally, access to cape point should always be a top priority year round.

Correspondence ID: 404 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My husband and I are frequent visitors to Cape Hatteras and we recommend that the CHAPA position be passed. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Correspondence ID: 405 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I recommend that the CHAPA position be adopted.

Correspondence ID: 406 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 08:43:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a life long North Carolinian, visitor to the Outer Banks for over twenty-five years, and a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 407 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a person who previously lived in Dare County for over ten years and spent a large amount of time as a volunteer working for sea turtle protection I urge common sense approaches to beach driving
There is no valid reason for the excessive rules now in place which are thinly disguised attempts at prohibition
People and groups who have no knowledge or investment in Dare County have overrun the local interests
Allow local business people to again use and protect the beach as they did a great job before the NPS takeover

Correspondence ID: 408 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Fishermen need more public access to oceans ,lakes ,rivers and streams.

Correspondence ID: 409 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The proposed modifications to the rules on ORV use in Cape Hatteras National Seashore clearly threatens birds and other wildlife, sea turtles in particular. Protections for turtles and birds would be reduced by allowing driving during courtship and nesting periods, and opening beaches to driving before the areas are thoroughly checked for sea turtle nests. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize populations of oystercatchers, Least Terns and more priority species that arrive earlier and provide no protections for migrating and wintering shorebirds, including the endangered Red Knot. Please do not allow these modifications to the current rules!

Correspondence ID: 410 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 09:41:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Morning Beach Openings-I support Alternate #3. Sunrise during the summer is early enough for the resource patrols to reconnoiter enough of the beach to open some of them before 0700. The earlier opening will allow longer access before the heat of the day. Also it will give fishermen the opportunity to fish earlier, closer to dawn, when they are more likely to have greater luck.

Correspondence ID: 411 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Yes, too much attention is paid to the turtles and birds and not enough to the people, tax payers who use the National Seashore. I want all areas open all year.

Correspondence ID: 412 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 09:49:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Seasonal ORV Routes- -I support Alternative 3,I believe that earlier openings in the fall and later closings in the spring will enhance the experience of Park goers as they will have a longer period to enjoy the fishing, sightseeing, and the Hatteras Seashore experience.

Correspondence ID: 413 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 09:50:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Sir
I chose alternative 2.
Please open a road so we can get to the point to fish.
There is lots of room for the birds to nest and still give us room to get to the point. Please have someone to look into this.
Thank you


Correspondence ID: 414 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: 3 decades a resident,lifetime visitor.12 years a business owner on Hatteras Island.the beach is our lifeline.we endure hurricanes and storms.our business season is limited.this attraction to our special area is essential to our economy.I have been here to our small family cottage or lived here for 59 years.have driven out beaches since I was a boy.the birds and turtles know where to go when the storms take away their breeding spots.what about the people.I appreciate your effort but it will solve nothing and kill an island.we hope you give US the thoughtful consideration that we deserve.Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 415 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 10:07:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Vehicle Free Areas-I support Alternate three-I want to address the areas specifically on Hatteras as they are the routes I use personally. I believe that opening the beach south of ramp 23 will enable the use of the most northern Hatteras Island beach for ORV beach driving. Opening the beach north of ramp 34 will also benefit ORV drivers. The extra space on the beaches between Avon and Salvo will help to control overcrowding thus enhance the Seashore experience.
I also support making the entire length of ramp 45 a park road thus opening another access point to the south end of the hook, one of the best shelling and fishing spots in the seashore.

Correspondence ID: 416 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 10:19:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: ORV Permit Lengths-I support Alternate Three- I believe that the issuance of a three day permit will bring in more revenues do to the fact that the seashore still enjoys a fairly significant number of day trippers, those folks who only come for a weekend. Since they will now be able to pay for and print out their permits on line they will have more time to enjoy the resource should this alternative be adopted. The 7 and 14 day permits will as always suit those park goers who come for a week or more.
The extra convenience of an annual permit being good for a period of on year from the date of issue is also a great change for the better.

Correspondence ID: 417 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We need more open access to the beaches of the Cape Hatteras Nat. SEASHORE.

Correspondence ID: 418 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 11:06:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

-Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

-Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 419 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My family has been traveling from the Great Plains to the Outer Banks for over 35 years. The beauty of the islands and the respect of the ecology, demonstrated by the local citizens, has been the foundation for our continued support of this National Park over the decades. We have experienced being able to drive without any tests, actions, to taking the class and paying for them opportunity to enjoy the shore line. We support wildlife management and protection of our planet's natural resources. We are not able to provide Thousands of dollars to have our voice heard more than political lobbyist or special interest groups. We are middle class Americans who treasure the opportunity to come to the National Park and feel proud our taxes are helping to allow citizens from across our country the experience and connection with this piece of America. Please, do not move in a direction limiting the memories and love of the Islands we are passing down to our grandchildren and future generations from the Great Plains. Thank you [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 420 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 11:20:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Of the alternatives outlined in the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for Off-Road Vehicle Management Environmental Assessment, Alternative 3 is the best option available at this time and should be implemented.

However, in addition to these measures outlined in Alternative 3, an alternative route should be established to Cape Point. Also, the VFA south of Cape Point, known as "The Hook", should be re-opened to ORV's via Ramp 45 and/or Salt Pond road. This area has been closed for no good reason. The birds the NPS claims they are protecting are NOT even on the endangered species list. The NPS needs to do the right thing and return these recreational areas to the public.

The NPS should also start requiring pedestrians to obtain a permit to walk in the VFA's. As it stands now, ORV users are funding much the park improvements and pedestrians are not contributing anything. Although it would be fair to charge for a permit for pedestrian access to the VFA's, there would probably not be any opposition to the NPS issuing these pedestrian permits for free so that statistics on pedestrian use can be factored into the park policy decision making processes in the future. The truth is, some of these VFA's are too big and are hardly used at all because they are too difficult to get to. Give back what has been taken away for no good reason!

Furthermore, something needs to be done about the flooding in the park which continues to hinder access to the beaches in the Cape Point area at ramps 43, 44, and the Cape Point Campground. This flooding is a huge stinking mess and the NPS should be embarrassed that they have done NOTHING to resolve this problem!

Correspondence ID: 421 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 13:04:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: NPS ought to take a closer look at the VFA areas relative to whether or not folks are actually using them. While some are, others get little or no use and can almost be classified as ghost towns. It seems that, although it may be somewhat resource-intensive, sending staff out to check for a month each day during high tourist season, could yield more accurate information to support a decision.

Also, I have a major concern about the standing water in the areas surrounding the Point. Have you really looked at or care about the impact that this will have on the mosquito and tourist population? the Zika virus is quickly moving up the coast and it since we still don't know for sure whether or not it causes birth defects, why take a chance? I realize that the pumps are expensive, but draining these areas should be a higher priority.

I also have an issue with how these comments are collected and categorized. Having done this sort of work at the job I retired from, I know that categorizing them can be very subjective depending on who is doing it on any given day, and how you split and count them if a comment falls into multiple categories. And you need at least one person verifying the work. Superintendent Hallic alluded to the imperfection of this approach at the meeting last week, and I can tell you that for something this important to residents, it is a statistical nightmare. One of the meeting attendees suggested that a formal survey be provided to tourists through the realtors. This is a much more valid approach. A web survey, which could be authored by a small representative committee of NPS staff and resident stakeholders, could be emailed to tourists after their stay by the realtors. It could also be emailed to locals through the CH Angler's Club and other local organizations that collect member email addresses. In my experience with web surveys, there is usually a much higher response rate since it is easy to do. Not everyone feels eloquent enough to write comments. And there is free survey software out there (e.g. SurveyMonkey.com).

One more thing as long as I am on a rampage. It was brought up at the meeting.....do something about the lack of parking on both sides of Rt. 12 near the water sports areas. The surfers and kite boarders are milling around their cars and trucks into the road. Will it take a fatal accident to give this some priority?

Correspondence ID: 422 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We do not need traffic on these beaches- --please leave them for the wildlife that lives there. It is a privilege to be able to walk there with our two feet!!!

Correspondence ID: 423 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The current arrangement at the Cape Hatteras National Recreational Seashore (CHNRS) is designed with anything but RECREATION in mind. The NPS does almost anything and everything they can to prevent RECREATION. Strategic parts of Buxton have been flooded since Oct, and the NPS has done nothing to alleviate the flooding. I cannot believe they plan to do anything unless it is after the seasonal closing go into effect. The NPS does everything they can to prevent ORV usage and limit the recreational activities of the American Citizens.

With the "taxes" that are received from us ORV users the NPS continues to build parking lots and occasionally construct a ramp in an area that not prime for recreation. The NPS should immediately construct a route that will keep Cape Point open year round to ORV use. I understand that I chick fledged last year with all of the efforts of the NPS, Audubon Society, and DOW; while keeping thousands of tax paying citizens from enjoying the CHNRS.

PLEASE OPEN THE BEACHES FOR THE US CITIZENS - DO YOU JOB!

Correspondence ID: 424 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: This area has belonged to the public for hundreds of years. Please allow it to belong to the public for recreational use, camping, fishing, bird watching, and family time. Keep the NPS away from the management of this pristine area.

Correspondence ID: 425 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 18:59:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 426 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 20:25:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 427 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,06,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: PLEASE STOP MESSING WITH THE SAN JOAQUIN DELTA WATERS FOR THE SAKE OF POLITICAL VOTES. IF YOU WANT TO REALLY HELP THE STATE WITH MORE WATER, THEN BRING IN "NEW" WATER FROM OUTSIDE OUR STATE. OREGON HAS PLENTY OF WATER....BRING WATER FROM OREGON AND PLACE IT IN THE SHASTA DAM SYSTEM WHICH WILL FEED THE STATE. THANK YOU [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 428 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Access Restrictions on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore have been extremely Overzealous...Imposed by Environmental groups like Defenders of Wildlife and Audibon...

Cape Point access is the main area that surf fisherman are concerned about...

Access to the Point has been closed every Spring...

There are already Preserves, Sanctuary's and Refuge's that offer plenty of habitat...These groups want more!...and More!...

Not Fair...

Our access has been taken away on false science and false characterizations of fisherman...

Keep Cape Point Open!

Correspondence ID: 429 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 05:44:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Correspondence ID: 430 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 06:10:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

-Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

-Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 431 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,07,2016 06:26:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I opt for alternative #2. We need more access to "The Point" to fish responsibly in this natural wonder.

Correspondence ID: 432 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 06:28:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Sirs,

Thank you for reviewing the EA, and providing users of the Park to have input. After reviewing the proposals I prefer Alternative 2 for the modifications. I believe this provides the most effective, and essential time frames to benefit both the Park and the Public.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 433 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 06:34:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a long time visitor and homeowner in the Outer Banks, I would like to add my voice to thousands of others to make the new rules for beach access more open and relevant to actual wildlife protection. The proposed NPS rules are a good start, but we need to make beach access more equitable for recreational use as well as safeguard wildlife. I strongly support Alternative 2 to achieve this goal.

Correspondence ID: 434 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My husband and I love to go fishing at Hatters. We try to go 5 times in the summer. We would love to go out early on the beaches in the mornings.

Correspondence ID: 435 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 06:49:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks. Or put it back the way it was and keep these areas open all the time.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 436 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We have been vacationing in Buxton and then purchased a Homeplace in Frisco since the late 70's. A few of my family members have lived there over the years. We have had 4 generations of family and friends involved. Hurricane repairs, fortunately it has not been worse. We have always respected the laws of the Banks. Missed fishing trip when the Gov. shutdown a few years ago. It takes more planning as our family's have expanded. Still remember the spring time when we were building a deck. A call came over the scanner "the blues are running, Cape Point" loaded up, what a great work break. Then the freshest Dinner!!! We need to keep our beaches open! Recent photographs from the Cape Point show water ponds close to the lighthouse. These need to be drained! The simplicity of maintaining the Point will ensure the Island recede at a slower pace. The south route to the point should be open. Yes there have been times when ponds have prevented the complete route. It is the most beautiful drive on the Islands. I still do not understand the cost driving on the beach. It is too expensive. It is good to know we can now do it online. It should be eliminated. Some years we are able to come more than once the expense adds up.

Correspondence ID: 437 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 438 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I agree there should be more choices for ORV permits. There should also be free or reduced permits for residents. The buffer zones for wildlife should be reduced and closures should be limited.

Correspondence ID: 439 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 08:57:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Access should be provided from the south to Cape Point. This would be through the area known as "the Hook" area. With this access more options would be provided to Cape Point with out disturbing bird nests near the ramp 43-44 access to Cape Point.

Correspondence ID: 440 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 09:21:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 441 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 09:44:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My husband, [REDACTED], and I both support Alternative 3.

Correspondence ID: 442 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hello & greeting !

I am a long time visitor to the Cape Hatteras National Recreation seashore for more than twenty years , and i would like to comment about the to tight restrictions that put an undue burden on the fine people of the outer banks , and also me. I do believe conservation is important but not at the expense of freedom which is being taken from us in the form of high fees and restricted access. Give the birds there a buffer but don't close large swathes of beaches in the most popular places in the most popular times, we also should have the right to fish at night too , as fishermen we have a duty to protect wildlife just as much or more than the environmentalist who brought this burden to us. So please don't restrict the good people of the outer banks with further regulations that restrict and forbid, I believe in free and open access for all. Thank you for your time.

Correspondence ID: 443 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 10:32:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 444 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 10:33:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable! Thanks [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 445 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 446 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It would make sense to make the Off Road Vehicle permits valid for 10 days to match the North Carolina fishing license. I would like to see a decrease in the time that the beaches are closed in front of Avon by as much as possible. Opening them several weeks earlier in the Spring and closing them several weeks later Fall would benefit visitors to the park.

Correspondence ID: 447 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 448 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements
Thank You,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 449 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please implement Alternative 3 outlined in the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for Off-Road Vehicle Management Environmental Assessment.

Correspondence ID: 450 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 11:19:30

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 451 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would love to see all the beaches open back up like they use to be. We love it south of Nags head but have started going above Corolla because of the limited access. We go at least two weeks a year and a couple weekends. Thanks.

Correspondence ID: 452 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been visiting Hatteras Island for over 30 years, and hope you consider reopening the beaches, the Point in particular, the way it used to be many years ago. While i have compassion for shorebirds, etc., the closures have placed undo hardships on many of the local businesses, and made it harder to rent the beach house i am involved with.

There are many, many miles of shore along Pea Island that have been restricted for many years, and should continue to be, which offer more than enough area for these animals/birds to populate.

Thanks you very much for your time, i could go on & on, but i hope & pray that you will restore the shore to the people and visitors of Hatteras Island.



Correspondence ID: 453 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 13:13:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 454 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 14:23:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area (CHNSRA).

Both Alternatives 2 and 3 offer meaningful and much needed improvements in several areas for visitors to CHNSRA and recreational fisherman. The document states the National Park Service (NPS) is in favor of Alternative 2. Conversely, I support Alternative 3, which offers extended ORV use in the spring and fall and opens more of the Vehicle Free Areas (VFA).

Despite the improvements offered, I respectfully urge NPS to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors and offer more access to larger portions CHNSRA for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

1. Morning beach openings: Alternatives 2 and 3 both open the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year. I believe the seashore should open at 6AM on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10PM.
2. Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall as offered in Alternative 3 instead of the proposed two weeks in the NPS preferred Alternative 2.
3. Vehicle-free areas: I am truly disappointed that more of the VFA's are not being restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted. The VFA's are too large and there is simply too much of CHNSRA closed for vehicular access. These closures are not being utilized by the public. Moreover, I object to revenues derived from ORV permits being spent to build public parking areas and pedestrian ramps. In fairness, those who choose to recreate in the VFA's and utilize the public parking should be required to have a permit just as ORV users of the ORV portions.
4. Access Improvements: Alternatives 2 and 3 offer the same important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point. There is simply no justification for Cape Point being closed as much as it has been. The VFA on the south side of Cape Point is too large and only accessible by ORV. This area provides ample space for a (temporary) corridor to reach Cape Point when the conditions warrant.
5. Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and appreciated. I can easily support the changes offered in either Alternative 2 or 3. As stated earlier, in fairness to all users of CHNSRA a permit should be implemented for those who choose to use the public parking and walk to recreate vs. those who choose to purchase an ORV permit.

Congress intended for meaningful access improvements to be made when they passed legislation requiring the current review process. From the Alternatives offered, Alternative 3 offers the greatest improvement. I support Alternative 3 and urge you to consider the additional suggestions offered

above.

Respectfully,

Correspondence ID: 455 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.07,2016 14:23:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I believe Alternative 3 will be a good plan. In the Floodplains paragraph Page 6 it states that unsurfaced access points will be improved so the don't hold water. This needs to be addressed sooner then later. Also alternate ORV routes to priority ORV routes that are closed for an extended period of time needs to be address as stated on page 18 under Morning Beach Openings. Thank you for your time, [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 456 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.07,2016 14:24:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: This is yet another attempt to compromise, chip away and reduce the effectiveness of the ORV management plan that was so carefully and painfully crafted, then implemented in 2012. These proposed plans once again take access away from the vast majority of park users, including many of us local people, who prefer vehicle-free areas, and they give more concessions to a small minority of National Seashore users who drive vehicles on the National Park beaches. The National Park Service continues to cave in to the loud voices of ORV users while failing to acknowledge and serving the pedestrians who basically have no voice and no interest group. The NPS is supposed to manage our national parks, not politicians who introduce cowardly back-door legislation and not users intent on destroying the natural elements of the parks. Any more whittling away at this plan will likely produce another lawsuit against the Park Service for violating the federal order for managing ORV use here, and for violating the legislation that requires the NPS to maintain this National Seashore in a natural state. These continual demands on the Outer Banks Group staff, and the legal activity that results, amount to a shameful waste of taxpayer dollars. Please leave the ORV management plan as is. Sooner or later the NPS will be required to strengthen the plan anyway, and we all know that.

Correspondence ID: 457 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.07,2016 14:32:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To Whom may concern,

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Most Sincerely Yours,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 458 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.07,2016 15:27:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

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- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

-Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Name [REDACTED]

Store Address: Street, City, State, Zip

Correspondence ID: 459 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am an overlander. I use my vehicle to get into the remote wilderness to enjoy it as much as any hiker. In fact I use my vehicle as my base camp to hike. The more remorse, the better.

There is a common mental image when mentioning ORV of people tearing up the ground. Wheels spinning. Dirt flying. Etc. That isn't me. That isn't a lot of people. I take out what I take in. In fact I often take out more than I take in. My goal is to leave it as beautiful as when I got there. If not more so by removing the trash others have left behind. Please keep me and others like me in mind when making your decision.

Thanks for all that you do. It is truly appreciated.

Best regards,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 460 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: This is, yet Another, example of Government Over-Reach. Do the Citizens, and Tax Payers, no longer have Voice? How long have you been attempting to Foist your Agenda on the Sportsmen that Pay Your Salaries?

It is time for us Sportsmen to Push-Back and put a halt to this Contrived Non-sense!

Correspondence ID: 461 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 18:29:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

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- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 462 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 19:11:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: When the world as we know and enjoy it is threatened, we demand action to satisfy our own self-interests often to the detriment of the community and beyond. I believe that is happening at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. My comments are behalf of the birds, sea turtles and myself, a person who welcomes the raw beauty of nature on our unspoiled beaches.

I recognize the need for recreational activities such as fishing. But I also recognize the need for sharing and protecting the beaches for our wildlife, even when it means I may have to change my plans or go to a different location. If I'm not willing to make a very small sacrifice to protect nesting birds and sea turtles, then I denigrate the very resource I'm there to enjoy. A science driven management plan, not based on convenience or community pressure, is essential to give wildlife the protections they need. I ASK THAT YOU USE PEER REVIEWED SCIENCE IN MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT THE CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Many migrating birds fly at night and come to rest and feed at dawn. Ranges are expanding and some birds of various species are arriving earlier than ever along their migration routes. It is essential that the Seashore develop seasonal driving restrictions that will protect early morning and early seasonal arriving birds on their historic nesting grounds. ORV access routes that are open until April 14 may jeopardize nesting for some of these species. I ASK THAT YOU SET SEASONAL DRIVING RESTRICTIONS TO GIVE BIRDS, TURTLES AND OTHER WILDLIFE THE TIME THEY NEED TO REST AND FIND SECURE NESTING LOCATIONS.

Our quality of life is enhanced by wildlife. Birds are perhaps our most visible connection with the natural world beyond our human connections. North Carolina is blessed to be on the Atlantic Flyway where some species, such as Red Knots, stop by to rest on their long migration journey while American Oystercatcher and other shorebirds come for the summer for nesting and raising their young. I ASK THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO PROVIDE VEHICLE FREE AREAS FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL SPECIES WHETHER PASSING THROUGH OR COMING TO STAY A WHILE.

In closing, I'd like to share this quote from Aldo Leopold:

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

That is what I am asking for:

A SCIENCE BASED MANAGEMENT PLAN SUPPORTING ACTIONS TO PROTECT AND SHOW RESPECT FOR THIS EXTRAORDINARY CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE COMMUNITY OF BIRDS, TURTLES AND OTHER WILDLIFE TO WHICH WE HUMANS ALSO BELONG. THE CURRENT MANAGEMENT PLAN IS WORKING AND I ASK THAT YOU CONTINUE WITH THAT PLAN.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Correspondence ID: 463 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 20:26:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish in the area of Hatteras Island, this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3, but if not achievable, then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 464 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 20:27:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish in the area of Hatteras Island, this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3, but if not achievable, then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 465 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 22:56:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish in the area of Hatteras Island, this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3, but if not achievable, then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 466 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,08,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: AS I'm nearing 63 years old, I look at the current state of ORV access on Cape Hatteras National Seashore with great sadness. My family and dear old friends have, for decades, enjoyed responsible use and great enjoyment of the Outer Banks. Unfortunately, due to current regulations and limited access, many of our favorite surf fishing spots are closed or access is extremely limited (physically and time of day/night).

It is difficult to explain to non-anglers the joy of participating in a dawn run of many different species of fish, but alas, time of access restrictions prevent this in Many ORV access areas. For all intents, the Cape Point is shut down during most of the optimal spring fishing season.

In the fall, as I experienced last season, many access ramps were flooded, and access to Cape Point was very limited. Our ORV Access permit fees (which I support) appear not to be used for creating improved/alternate access to several areas.

VFA zones, intended for visitors to enjoy a pristine, vehicle free beach experience are practically vacant. I did not see anyone walking the VFA adjacent to Cape Point for the entire week we were there.

Nesting enclosures have effectively shut down massive areas of prime fishing areas leading to little or no impact of increased species nesting. It appears that they are more intended to prevent access to the ORV angling population.

Surely, effective consensus can satisfy all parties wishes in this matter without continued negative impact to ORV access users. Until now, I have seen no real evidence of this happening.

I respectfully request fair treatment and reasonable access for the ORV angling community.

Regards, [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 467 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,08,2016 05:47:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

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- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 468 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,08,2016 07:00:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a friend of many recreational fishermen with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 469 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form

Correspondence: I am a permanent resident of Avon, NC. I have attended several of the meetings on ORV use on Hatteras Island beaches. I think that the comments you receive from Hatteras Island residents should hold more weight in your decision than comments from people who don't come to H.I. or even know where it is.

Correspondence ID: 470 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Park Form

Correspondence: I am a permanent resident of Avon. I would like you to consider opening 2 miles north of ramps 34 on a permanent basis, closing it only when there is a need. We walk and fish there and we always took a bag to collect trash to protect wildlife from those hazards. If it can't be opened permanently, at least seasonally as Alternative 3 suggests.

Correspondence ID: 471 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,07,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Park Form

Correspondence: I would like to comment on the access to Cape Point. I've been fishing on this Island practically all my entire life and I'm seventy-five years old. At one time, you could fish any time you so desired. At the Point. And then latter when Park Service decided the had rather have birds and turtles than people they started putting up barricades all along the beach.

At one time, they roped off a long area at the Point and people could drive to the end and still fish and the birds and gulls/terns stayed in the roped odd area. You never saw birds out where we fished except old pelicans and old big gull begging for your old bait when change it. Why did all at once did it all change? You close it each year when the fish arrive and open it up when they leave. Why has a bird have to get priority over we people that live here and pay taxes on your land? And please don't keep closing more and more beach front. I think Audubon has got this country in a strange hold and will not let go, and esp are no better sit in the truck and watch us work.

Correspondence ID: 472 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,08,2016 07:34:14

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please adopt alternative 3.

I am disappointed that more of the Vehicle Free Areas and not being restored to at least limited vehicle access. The VFA's are too large and much of the CHNSRA is closed to vehicle access For example the the VFA on the south side of Cape Point is excessively large and is only accessible by ORV. Please provide a ORV corridor to Cape Point when conditions warrant.

The improvement in the different lengths of permits is badly needed and should result in additional revenue for the park service.

Permits should also be required for those walk into the park to recreate.

Visitors to the park provide a ably need source of revenue to the entire area. The rules for using the park should encourage use rather then restrict.

Best regards,

Correspondence ID: 473 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,08,2016 07:48:06

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I think of the proposed alternatives offered by the National Park Service ; (re off road vehicle management of the Outer Banks in National Recreation Area) Alternative 3 woud appear a good choice. Better yet open orv access to the same vehicles as on Portsmouth Island . apparently ther are no issues there. Then the N.P.S. can concentrate there efforts on Pea Island. And lighten up on Hatteras Island soutof Buxton to cape point and south of Hatteras village to Hatteras inlet.

Correspondence ID: 474 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,08,2016 08:05:03

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the oppportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 475 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,08,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a frequent, respectful and responsible ORV fisherman of Cape Hatteras and the Ocracoke seashore, I would strongly support the measures in alternative 3. The plan provides the necessary provisions to protect the sea life and provides acceptable access for ORVs and recreational fishing.

Correspondence ID: 476 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,08,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
VIA:Cape Hatteras Anglers Club

Many of you have asked for a copy and paste to post on the NPS comment site so here it is.

I would like to thank you for the oppportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the

park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 477 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,08,2016 09:55:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Document Comment: Alternative 3 seems the best choice, except for reduced access at Cape Point.

Narrative: Driving my Jeep on the Outer Banks is what gave me the idea to use my photography skills for conservation in the first place. During the 10 years that I lived in Virginia Beach, nearly every weekend my friends and I would pack our fun and photo gear and camp out on the beach. Like most four-wheelers we were fantastic stewards of the area in which we played, constantly picking up trash, helping stuck motorists and warning off tourists who were unequipped for the terrain, and reporting issues that needed attention to the local and NPS authorities. We were often the first to report negative impacts to wildlife resulting from environmental or man-made phenomena. The birds were better off for having us looking out for them, and our imagery raised awareness for conservation groups as well. Today, having honed my photo skills over many years, I am an active aviary conservationist with a focus on raptors here in Colorado. It would be a ironic crying shame to hide the incredible beauty of the Outer Banks away from a huge segment of the public, in the name of conservation.

Correspondence ID: 478 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,08,2016 11:01:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To the National Park Service:

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

-Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 479 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,08,2016 12:10:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 480 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,08,2016 13:00:19

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I oppose any driving restrictions on Hatteras Island. I do think there is away to provide vehicle access to Cape Point Year round and not to have it blocked for any purpose.

We also should have use of the hook. It is the safest place for families with kids that also want to fish. The frisco beaches are too shallow and the fishing is not as good.

Correspondence ID: 481 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,08,2016 14:10:15

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 482 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,08,2016 14:56:58

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The proposed changes do not go far enough in allowing access.

The Vehicle Free areas are not used and should be opened for additional access. Specifically Ocracoke Inlet, Hatteras Inlet on the Hatteras and Ocracoke sides and the Hook area at Ramp 45. I have a small child and these areas are the best places for her to enjoy the ocean with no waves.

The cost of the permits should be reduced. The current administration process is expensive and inefficient. They could be administered on the internet for a low cost which would reduce the amount the NPS needs to recover for permit administration.

In the current process ORV users are the only users who pay for services that benefit all resource users. There should be fees for parking at day use areas and pedestrian access points.

Correspondence ID: 483 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,08,2016 15:02:14

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Supt. Hallac,

Please withhold making my personal information publicly available.

I favor minimal restrictions.

--RE: Morning Beach Openings

There is little evidence that night closures of the beaches have improved the turtle nesting/hatching results since the court order and plan has been in place. Our entire east coast has had the strong nesting numbers, so it is impossible to link ours to the ORV regulation. We appreciate the help NPS has given us by making nest passing available close to the hatch window.

--RE: Seasonal ORV Routes

Reduce NC DOT speed changes to Alternative 3 extending the opening to October 1 - April 30.

--RE: Vehicle Free Areas

Alternate "temporary" ORV access behind the dune line from Ramp 44 (like the narrows by-pass) should be a urgent priority to this plan to enable such access to be used when the East Beach to the point is unpassable. Temporary access routes should be established via ramp 45 or the pond road to be used

when other access to Cape Point is unusable due to bird or turtle closures.

~~RE: Access Improvements

Need a shore bypass behind the dunes from Ramp 44 to Cape Point to ensure less closures to the point. Extend Ramp 4 opening south around to the sound-side year round since bird activity has been reduced in recent years. Do the same at Hatteras Inlet both on the Hatteras side and Ocracoke side of the inlet. If birds nest, closures will be instituted to protect them. These areas are too far to from access to be included as vehicle free areas. Temporary access routes should be established via ramp 45 or the pond road to be used when other access to Cape Point is unusable due to bird or turtle closures.

~~RE: Permits

Annual by date of issue and a 10 day license that mirrors the fishing licenses issued.

Liberal use of Frank Folb's ideas included in these comments

Correspondence ID: 484 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,08,2016 17:25:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 485 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,08,2016 17:29:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: An alternate ORV route to the Point should be provided through either Salt Pond Rd or Ramp 45 with at least an ORV corridor through the VFA; from there over to the Point. There should also be ORV access to the inlets on both Hatteras and Ocracoke.

Correspondence ID: 486 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,08,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The Park Service now sells OSV permits at what I'm guessing it a good profit, would it make sense to open fire roads in the parks and require the same type of permit? The roads could be seasonal so that the impact of riders would be minimal and considering people pay \$\$\$\$ to drive "off road parks". I think the price of the permits could be high enough to cover all maintenance costs on the fire roads and that in turn would save the Park Service some much needed money.

The rate "Jeep Trails" are closing in the east I think that this could be a money maker for the Parks. I would think the Park Service could even call upon the local and national off road clubs to pitch in and help financially, lord knows we spend enough on our vehicles.

Correspondence ID: 487 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,08,2016 18:19:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 488 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,08,2016 19:08:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area (CHNSRA).

Both Alternatives 2 and 3 offer meaningful and much needed improvements in several areas for visitors to CHNSRA and recreational fisherman. The document states the National Park Service (NPS) is in favor of Alternative 2. Conversely, I support Alternative 3, which offers extended ORV use in the spring and fall and opens more of the Vehicle Free Areas (VFA). Despite the improvements offered, I respectfully urge NPS to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors and offer more access to larger portions CHNSRA for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

1. Morning beach openings: Alternatives 2 and 3 both open the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year. I believe the seashore should open at 6AM on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10PM.
2. Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall as offered in Alternative 3 instead of the proposed two weeks in the NPS preferred Alternative 2.
3. Vehicle-free areas: I am truly disappointed that more of the VFA's are not being restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted. The VFA's are too large and there is simply too much of CHNSRA closed for vehicular access. These closures are not being utilized by the public. Moreover, I object to revenues derived from ORV permits being spent to build public parking areas and pedestrian ramps. In fairness, those who choose to recreate in the VFA's and utilize the public parking should be required to have a permit just as ORV users of the ORV portions.
4. Access Improvements: Alternatives 2 and 3 offer the same important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point. There is simply no justification for Cape Point being closed as much as it has been. The VFA on the south side of Cape Point is only accessible by ORV and should be opened to ORV all year. This area provides ample space for a (temporary) corridor to reach Cape Point when the conditions warrant.
5. Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and appreciated. I can easily support the changes offered in either Alternative 2 or 3. As stated earlier, in fairness to all users of CHNSRA a permit should be implemented for those who choose to use the public parking and walk to recreate vs. those who choose to purchase an ORV permit.

Congress intended for meaningful access improvements to be made when they passed legislation requiring the current review process. From the Alternatives offered, Alternative 3 offers the greatest improvement. I support Alternative 3 and urge you to consider the additional suggestions offered above.

Respectfully,

[Redacted Signature]

Correspondence ID: 489 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,08,2016 19:13:43

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please consider the following comment by [Redacted]. I support his comments... [Redacted]

The existing bypass to the Point should also be extended South as far as possible toward the Point. Wildlife activity or active nest(s) just South of the current bypass South end can easily close the Point to ORVs.

A provision in the rule should be provided for a temporary ORV route from the West to the Point thru that VFA, only made active if the East beach and bypass are not usable to ORVs. The provision should include both the use of Salt Pond Rd or Ramp 45 as appropriate. For example if a resource closure on the beach between Salt Pond Rd and Ramp 45 would prevent use of Ramp 45, then Salt Pond Rd could be used. Correspondingly, if a resource closure prevented use of Salt Pond Rd, then Ramp 45 could be used.

The corridor on the beach thru the VFA should not be firmly located but be flexible as to location so it could even "snake" over to the Point, sometimes using the foreshore, then the backshore, then the foreshore, etc etc to get around resource closures.

Yes I know the current wildlife situation in that area is likely to prohibit near term use, but the new buffers at least give it a better chance for use.

The provision should also include that if the route is active, it would be a priority route for morning opening.

And finally if the provision for such a temporary ORV route is provided in the rule now and down the road it can be used, we don't have to go thru the several year process of a rule change.

Correspondence ID: 490 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,08,2016 23:37:26

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I prefer Alternate 3 because I seldom get to spend a full week anymore at the Outer Banks because of having to look after aging parents. I just can't be away from home for more than 2 or 3 days at a time and a 7 or 10 day permit is just not worth it for no longer than I can stay! I also would like to see in one of the alternates another alternate route to get to the point area from the west maybe by way of the salt pond that could be opened when the other routes are closed because of the birds or turtle nest or other mitigating factors. Also something needs to be done to address the weeks of flooding taking place at a lot of the ramps which stop any and all access for everyone!

Correspondence ID: 491 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,09,2016 04:04:01

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 492 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,09,2016 06:06:40

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The continuing restrictions to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore is denying the tax paying public, who's hard earned dollars go to maintain the parks, the right to enjoy what the exact parks they are paying to run! It's further proof once again of lobbying power overruling common sense and fair treatment of citizens.

The huge closures has not had as big of an impact as the NPS reports show. Predation and weather events influence the breeding numbers more than anything and everyone knows this but the NPS tries to make the unknowing public seem like it's the closures that are increasing the numbers. It would be fair to give the report on how many 'predatory creatures' the NPS has had killed to 'protect the birds' as much promoting as the report on how 'well' they are doing saving the birds but that will never happen. More so, some of the species in the closures aren't even endangered!

It's hard to understand how state run parks like Fort Fisher can have the exact same issues but handle it so much better. Closures for nesting for birds are much smaller and more reasonable and do not close access points to the beach. It would be smart for the NPS to take a field trip to see how they do it and find the balance to make it worth to both protect the birds and allow the citizens to enjoy the beautiful park. And they can do this for almost half the price of an ORV permit for Hatteras.

It would be interesting to charge a fee for the VFA to see how many people actually utilize these areas. We visit 4 times a year and I never see anyone in these areas. The VFA's are a waste of prime spots that nobody can get to without a vehicle.

I suppose option 2 is the lesser of the evils but it's my hope that Dave Hallac recognizes the many flaws in the options and will stand up to call for an entire overall of the plan to make it fair to all, not just what the SELC influences them to do.

Correspondence ID: 493 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I think there should be some sort of beacon device established at the ramps to leave the beach area. This will aid in leaving the beaches after dark. I know it would not cost much because it could be a solar device so no electricity would be involved. It does not have to be something that is spectacular. There could be something like a strobe or blue light that would be visible from a few thousand feet. It would make driving on the beach from point A to point B easier to navigate especially if there is an emergency! Thanks.

Correspondence ID: 494 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,09,2016 07:59:05

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: After review Alt 2 seems to be the best

Correspondence ID: 495 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Limiting access limits the positive economic aspect of recreational fishing. By making it harder for anglers to fish, they lose interest in the sport and stop buying equipment. This will cause the loss of jobs and destroy the economy of the local areas around the access points.

In addition, restricting access lowers the visibility of the area and makes it likely that public funds supporting the seashore will be reduced. After all, why pay for something that one cannot use?

Open access!

Correspondence ID: 496 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,09,2016 08:38:10

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and recreate in the area of Hatteras Island, this matter is extremely important to me and many other people. My preference would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing a combination of Alternative #3 and Alternative #2.

Cape Point was closed for half of last year and mostly for one non endangered chick and then for flooding from the east side. Had we been able to come from the NPS back road to the Old Bone road and out the south beach we would have had a lot more time to fish and recreate on the Point. We would do that with absolutely no pedestrians in sight. All of the inlets and Cape Point's hook are simply unused.

I think also since we are using ORV funds to build so many parking areas for pedestrians that it is time they step up and have a permit to walk in VFAs. A \$25 permit and then NPS begins to get a feel for how many folks are really using the areas and they get more money to spend on access for pedestrians instead of leaving it up to us to pay it all.

Correspondence ID: 497 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 09:11:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input

Correspondence ID: 498 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 09:19:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please implement Alternative 3 outlined in the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for Off-Road Vehicle Management Environmental Assessment

Correspondence ID: 499 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 11:00:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Mr. David Hallac
Superintendent, Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Hi David,

We are excited about having a new superintendent at the Cape Hatteras Seashore and here on Hatteras, any positive change with the Park Service feels great!

Just to let you know I have been out to the point the last 1.5 weeks fishing and had to drive through about 5-8 inches of salt water. Fortunately, I know the drill and have an old truck. I would however, strongly suggest you drain that area because of the threat it will have to folks not accustomed to salt water, potential rescues and the threat of an incredible mosquito population that will thrive in that now vast area of flooded timber. The other very sad scenario was that Ramp 43 is closed and the camp ground will probably not open because of the flooded area. Can Ramp 43 be raised? I would keep this in mind if there is an emergency out there and EMT could need get there in time.

I love birds and nature but these closures that the Audubon and SELC lawsuits/changes have caused are preposterous. Driving down from Salvo to Avon yesterday and seeing new ramps built, when old ones will close soon because of closures, simply makes no sense. Talking about an eye sore, all those signs and flags, looks like litter. I wonder how that makes the wonderful visitors feel as they drive across America and get here to find denied access?

In regards to the new plan, I would like to vote for alternative plan 3 to be applied in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I also believe opening the beaches a few hours earlier in popular areas like ramps 43, 44, and Cape Point would cause no harm. A simple shoreline corridor on the east side beaches to Cape Point would provide access. America just wants access. They do not want to be walking in the seasonal bird enclosures or in the water. But what a joke anyway, like last week, this enclosure at the Point got completely washed out as it does several times a year. The enclosures have proven now not to be effective for birds and the unfortunate result is that visitors cannot experience one of the most incredible places on earth, Cape Point.

In closing I would like to say we are excited about having a new superintendent at the Cape Hatteras Seashore. I feel you have much more compassion for the public, more common sense than your predecessors and also understand the Park Service's need to improve its image. I wish you and your family

blessings and all the best while here on the Outer Banks!

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 500 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The desires of a few should not override the need to protect wildlife and the environment

Correspondence ID: 501 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,



Correspondence ID: 502 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I live in an area where there is a good deal of open land. Some of the young people around us have noisy, polluting off-road vehicles. The noise is very disturbing and I imagine the fields they roar over are rutted and damaged. WE can go inside and close our doors and windows to shut out the noise, although that won't help with the damage to the land. The fragile flora and fauna at the seashore have no where to go to escape this noise, pollution and damage.

Please do not allow more of these vehicles onto this special place.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 503 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 504 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-

road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 505 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 506 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 507 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Protect visitors, sea turtles, and shorebirds at Cape Hatteras. Not ORVs.

Correspondence ID: 508 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Prioritizing a destructive activity over more benign activities is just plain wrong. One that's a detriment to the majority of visitors' enjoyment of true wilderness is equally wrong. Off-road vehicles with their noise, air pollution, and destructive "footprints" belong on private property at best.

Correspondence ID: 509 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: All of God's Critters need their living space. Please use rules that balance these needs.

Correspondence ID: 510 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

We strongly oppose allowing noisy off road vehicles on this stretch of wilderness.

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects

the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 511 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: There are many other places ORV fans can drive their vehicles. This noisy minority should respect the wishes of those who want to preserve and enjoy nature.

Correspondence ID: 512 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 513 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 11:19:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Dave Hallac, Cape Hatteras Superintendent,

I ask the National Park Service to protect the park's wildlife, and the experience of each park visitor- -from beach strollers to birdwatchers as Cape Hatteras is a special place. Let's keep it that way.

I ask you to support the No Action Alternative, which is supported by years of science and public input and protects the park's wildlife, beach goers and future generations.

Correspondence ID: 514 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 515 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Correspondence ID: 516 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I grew up on Florida Panhandle the Gulf Coast when driving on the beach was permitted. Due to all the environmental damage done, as well as the threat to the non-driving human population, the county all but eliminated beach driving except as needed to meet ADA.

If a conservative area dependent on a tourism economy can effectively end beach driving on regular public beaches, I cannot fathom why the Park Service

cannot take similar action when they are required to more fully account for natural environmental and human safety consequences and concerns. The barrier island where I grew up makes the Outer Banks look like a glorified sand bar, so if beach erosion and habitat destruction was an issue there, it certainly is here.

While I may drive to get to the beach, I do not go to the beach to drive, any more than I drive to the Smokies to go four wheeling off road. That era should have passed long ago for beach driving.

Correspondence ID: 517 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 11:24:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: No, no, no! Please do not reinstate ORV use on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Our family asks that you support the No Action Alternative, and maintain the 2012 decision that eliminated driving at Cape Hatteras. We would MUCH rather have sea turtles and shorebirds stay safe than provide fishermen in their SUVs have easy rides to their fishing spots.

Thank you,



Correspondence ID: 518 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 519 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: More off road vehicles mean more people. That means more trash, damage, noise. Basically more damage to the environment, more trouble even death to the animals that live there. I saw the ORVs pen the ponies against the sea when they obviously wanted to leave the area. They ran back and forth in the shallow water trying to get beyond the string of vehicles. They were stressed! This was above Duck, NC. People, especially the vacationers are trouble. They do not understand what they are doing and they are on VACATION! Do not ruin their VACATION! If you want more access for people select the location carefully and you provide a park guide and the transportation. Do Not turn people loose on their own devices. Our parks and all they contain belong to all the generations of the future not just ours. 

Correspondence ID: 520 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 521 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please keep our parks safe!!

Correspondence ID: 522 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am against these new rulings, please protect the wildlife and don't jeopardize them.

Correspondence ID: 523 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Frankly, I am appalled that you would even consider allowing ORV use in a place like Cape Hattaras! My first visit there was in 1967, and I go back whenever I can, but if you allow ORV use I would never return. I find that the presence of ORVs on the beach is ruinous to the enjoyment of the natural surroundings. A beach is no place for them, especially. Besides the noise and generally obnoxious behavior of the drivers (I've been exposed to plenty of that on regular public beaches), I believe that allowing them on Cape Hattaras would greatly affect the wildlife and the ability of visitors to enjoy the peace and quiet normally associated with national parks. Please do not make this terrible mistake because a small minority of users are trying to make demands.

Correspondence ID: 524 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please protect wildlife. This mission should be of utmost importance. ORVs are dangerous and disturbing to many humans as well as to wildlife. Please severely restrict their use.

Correspondence ID: 525 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The most frustrating part of the existing rules limiting vehicle access to the beaches is the 7 AM rule. After driving 7 hours to come fishing, and liking to be on the beach fishing before sunrise, to have to wait for 7AM is really frustrating. We have over the past several years, come to areas that have open access and are close to the ocean and walked over to fish- -like ramp 43. However would be nice to be able to access most of the ramps early in the morning- --like 5 AM. No problem with small areas with nest of protected/sensitive species being closed as long as people have access earlier in the morning. Thanks for your consideration. [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 526 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Correspondence ID: 527 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Personally, I do not think that the folks who operate OTV truly value the visitor experience at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. They are too busy gouging ruts in the sand, going as fast as they can, being as noisy as possible and feeling the wind in their hair. Never mind the environment and the creatures they disturb and upset. While I appreciate the wind in my hair, I do NOT appreciate the wreckage of the environment nor the awful noise. People who value our environment, go to places like Cape Hatteras for the PEACE, silence, beauty, and knowledge that this is a haven for the creatures who share this habitat with us.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

[REDACTED]
Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 528 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of park-goers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

ORV use is very destructive to the habitat and environment, wherever it is allowed. My own past experiences at Cape Hatteras, and those of fellow church

members who own properties near Cape Hatteras, would be forever have been marred had there been expanded ORV use at the National Seashore.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 529 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please continue to protect the sea turtles on Cape Hatteras, the beaches are their birthing grounds and they need to be kept safe.

Correspondence ID: 530 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: PLEASE PROCEED with caution! Sustainability of the environment demands intelligence in these human decisions that can obliterate ecosystems for good. At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 531 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

As a visitor, I certainly understand and support the continuing efforts to protect indigenous habitats and their denizens. I do not see any reason for off-road vehicles to be permitted to endanger anything, or ruin the experience of other parkgoers at the whim of a spoiled few who think that should be able to run roughshod over protected areas.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 532 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To allow off-road vehicles on some North Carolina beaches is a blatant move to allow injury and death of the young of endangered sea turtles, not to mention the resulting noise and disruption of a habitat valued by tourists for restful enjoyment. Do not allow ORV access to Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Correspondence ID: 533 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: No ORV's in Turtle nesting areas!

Correspondence ID: 534 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None

Correspondence ID: 535 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please help nature.

Correspondence ID: 536 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for holding the hearing last week in Raleigh about changes to off-road vehicle use on the Outer Banks. It was enlightening to hear the differing opinions from various interested parties.
I have been going to Cape Hatteras every year with my family since the 1950s. My father was an avid surf fisherman who would hike out to the point to

fish. We camped for many years there, so that we could enjoy the full beauty of the wild, unspoiled landscape. We were taught to be good stewards of our natural world and respect all God's creatures.

There have obviously been many changes over the years, and some changes have allowed more people to enjoy this national treasure. However, even more important than ever larger numbers of the public with their 4-wheel drive vehicles out on the beaches, is our responsibility to future generations that they too can have a wilderness experience with birds and turtles and fish.

I believe it's time to draw the line in the sand. This is a very fragile eco-system and there is enough access to ORVs now. I don't know how long the Outer Banks can exist with climate change and sea level rise, but I don't think we can give up now in our protection of them.

I'm so grateful that there is a place on this earth like Cape Hatteras, with unspoiled vistas of shore and sea, where the natural world can still exist undisturbed by humans and their ORVs.

Thank you for your efforts at protection and education of the public.

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 537 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please limit off road vehicle from or beaches to exclude turtle breeding and protect areas for sea bird nesting. As a coastal resident I appreciate the variety and excitement of seeing and interacting with wildlife and nature. The annual turtle nesting is a thrill and responsibly that the locals choose to protect and monitor. It is a choice to protect rather than destroy, and enjoyment of sport can be secondary to maintenance of our coast and its inhabitants.

Correspondence ID: 538 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 539 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Keep off road vehicles away from fragile or any ecosystem.

America suffers from obesity and getting using their own locomotion to enjoy to beauty of our National Parks is a luxury, not a right.

Let them walk or drive to lot and then walk, bicycle where not damaging.

Let the lazy ones drive around on roads, let the active adventurers enjoy pristine parks with no motorized vehicles.

Correspondence ID: 540 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please keep control of off road vehicles in place. Protecting the land, plants and animal is still very important. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 541 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Your job is to protect nature, not white trash ORVs.

Correspondence ID: 542 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 543 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Allowing ORVs onto our beaches is an appalling way to treat them. ORVs are extremely damaging to a very delicate ecosystem and should be completely banned all year round. When my family travels to Cape Hatteras, we go to enjoy nature and peace and quiet - not loud vehicles destroying the beach.

Please completely ban ORVs from beaches, especially Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Correspondence ID: 544 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

We travel to a lot of national parks around the country as probably our primary preference for visiting new places, and we were very happy to visit Cape Hatteras last summer for the first time. But we were sad to hear about the rule modifications regarding ORV use at this beautiful natural area.

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 545 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I grew up near the North Carolina coast.

Please protect our shores for human and nonhuman life, not for polluting gas-powered machines.

Correspondence ID: 546 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please keep the protections in place for our wildlife when considering changes to off road vehicles in our parks. Wildlife is so vulnerable. We can enjoy our beaches on foot during seasons when nesting and hatching take place. Don't cave in to the demands of a few; think of the bigger picture. Nature and its delicate balance. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 547 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect Cape Hatteras National Seashore from any expansion of ORV use. Thank you, [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 548 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect the wildlife!

I remember as a child visiting Topsail Island in NC- the south end was full of nesting birds. Nowadays there are a lot fewer nests and species i used to see in abundance are almost non-existent. Topsail does a good job protecting the turtle nesting sites, and all beaches should follow their example. Humans have caused a great deal of the problems facing wildlife- it's time we stepped up and intervened on its behalf.
DO NOT weaken the laws on ORV use.

Correspondence ID: 549 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Protect the beauty of Hatteras wildlife!

Correspondence ID: 550 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of park-goers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 551 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I do not see the need to increase the usage of off the road vehicles in Cape Hatteras National Seashore. This is likely to be damaging both to the terrain and harmful to wildlife, particularly to vulnerable endangered species such as sea turtles. Please protect the wildlife and natural beauty of Cape Hatteras by not allowing expanded usage of OTRs. Adding to the carbon pollution also makes no sense.

Correspondence ID: 552 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Wildlife does not do well with vehicle noise and exhaust. Please limit access of off road vehicles in this beautiful area.

Correspondence ID: 553 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: What an abysmal idea. Cape Hatteras is no place for ORVs. Stop this nonsense and keep them out of our parks and away from our wildlife!!!

Correspondence ID: 554 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the nation's first national seashore, is home to a wide variety of plants and animals, including shorebirds and endangered sea turtles. They nest in the park's beaches and provide visitors with an unforgettable experience. Therefore, please limit the use of OFVs for recreation to none on the Hatteras Shore in order to save the environment and flora and fauna. Protecting Nature there is much more important than a few jollies for humans.

Thank you for your consideration,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 555 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Last summer our extended family spent a week in Waves, NC and much time along the national seashore, enjoying nature programs, history lessons, and the diverse wildlife along the shore. One of the nature programs regarded sea turtles and their fragile ecosystem. It would be sadly ironic if all of the Park Service's and volunteers' efforts to preserve sea turtles were met with an increase in off-road vehicular traffic, potentially hitting the hatchlings and making deep ruts and tracks in the sand which would make the hatchlings' journey from nest to sea significantly more arduous and dangerous and less likely to result in success.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 556 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Please protect the wildlife there from offroad vehicle traffic! I'm writing to you as a North Carolinian, only living in VA temporarily. Please protect the wildlife that's native to my native state!

I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor

experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 557 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

ORV use should not be a priority in the Cape Hatteras Seashore!

Thank you for your consideration,

Correspondence ID: 558 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, although I would prefer absolutely NO ORV on the shore, in the interest of compromise I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Correspondence ID: 559 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Cape Hatteras is a special place. Let's keep it that way.

Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 560 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 12:48:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when

conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 561 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Are we protecting the environment and its creatures OR the people looking for a THRILL RIDE destroying NATURE
????????????????????
IF it is allowed--- it MUST BE MONITERED !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Correspondence ID: 562 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,



Correspondence ID: 563 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: ORV's have NO business in our parks. Throw them the hell OUT!!!

Correspondence ID: 564 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,



Correspondence ID: 565 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,



Correspondence ID: 566 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for what makes Cape Hatteras National Seashore so special. Your action is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 567 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am asking that pressure from a limited number of ORV drivers not be given more attention and acceptance than the very real concerns of the multitudes of citizens who care very deeply about preserving the special qualities of this natural area.

Their temporary convenience and selfish pleasure does not match the many years of solace and pleasure offered by this area in its natural condition to far more people. Once damaged and/or destroyed, a natural area can never recover its beauty, and is lost to generations not yet born. Value this area and protect its future. We have already lost too many of these precious natural resources. Please, I beg of you, take the long view and protect this one.

Correspondence ID: 568 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 13:23:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please select the No Action alternative. Priority should be given to wildlife conservation. ORV users do not need to take up driving on all the beach areas. Protect areas for wildlife & those of us who visit Cape Hatteras for the birding & other wildlife viewing.

Correspondence ID: 569 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 570 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I do NOT want to hear noisy engines and see people tearing up the landscape! Please keep the peace and quiet for the majority of the tourists AND the wildlife!

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 571 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 572 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: NO to a bunch of noisy, rowdy, people on ATVs disturbing the peace, animals and landscape.

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 573 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please keep 4wh vehicles off the Park's land. My family has been involved in the outer banks since 1943 and there is no reason under the sun that people should be permitted to drive over the dunes and disturb the wildlife on park property.
Instead buy my land beside the wright museum and develop it into a 4wh park for everyone. They would have sound side access and 20 plus acres to have fun on.
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 574 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please keep protected places protected-that means from ORVs which are disruptive and dangerous to wildlife and human life, as well. Not every open space should be open to ORVs which are just that-recreational. Usually, the occupants are only concerned about wildly tearing through places with no regard for quiet, safety or consequences for others. This area needs no such vehicles.

Correspondence ID: 575 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please keep our beaches fully open to ORV and beach goers. Open back up the beaches that were closed to give the people full access to "OUR" park. The park was created for Recreational use by the people.

Correspondence ID: 576 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 14:16:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 577 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 14:18:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please don't favor off-road vehicle use instead of wildlife protection at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 578 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,09,2016 14:19:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 579 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 14:21:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 580 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 14:32:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you

Correspondence ID: 581 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: A big part of the magic of the coast is the wildlife that lives there. Humans should back off, quit riding their ATV's, and quit throwing trash everywhere. The government needs to corral these fools and protect wildlife before it becomes extinct, and all that is left are idiot humans.

Correspondence ID: 582 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for what makes Cape Hatteras National Seashore so special. Your action is appreciated.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 583 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 15:18:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 584 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 15:28:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 585 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Allowing off road vehicles on beaches, much less national parks, is destructive to the very thing the Park Service is trying to protect and save. For whatever reason such a request is being made can not be more important than the protection of the very earth upon which we live. Please do not allow such vehicles.

Correspondence ID: 586 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Wildlife should be top priority.

Correspondence ID: 587 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Traditional fishing areas should be open for the enjoyment of the citizens of the United States. The founding legislation mandated that all traditional activities be allowed in the seashore. Beach driving for transportation as well as for recreation and fishing has been a part of life on Hatteras Island since the invention of the automobile.

Needed closures should be as small and as short as possible and still be able to meet the intended goal. Closing so much of the hook to ORV and no alternate route to the Point proper are unnecessary restriction to access to the National Seashore and Recreation Area.

Correspondence ID: 588 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 15:54:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 589 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 16:30:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 590 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 16:42:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 591 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 16:57:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: There is a reason that a plan was implemented in 2012 to limit off-road vehicles in certain areas of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Park.

These off-road vehicles are harmful to the area's animals that include shorebirds and endangered sea turtles. The pollution from these off-road vehicles will also be harmful to the animals and plants and could not possibly be a favorable thing for tourists.

I ask that the park's wildlife, plants and the experience of each park visitor be preserved as much as possible. Please support the No Action Alternative which is the documented outcome of years of study as well as the position supported by the public.

Correspondence ID: 592 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The Outer Banks is a special place and has special inhabitants. ORVs do not need the entire length of beach all the time. I own property at OBX and enjoy driving on the beach, especially during stripe bass season. some walking does the body good.

Correspondence ID: 593 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect the parks wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 594 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Prioritizing an activity that is preferred by a minority of visitors and puts wildlife protection at unnecessary risks should be unacceptable. Please protect the roles of our parks as a natural nursery for our oceans. Heaven knows it is greatly needed.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 595 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect the sea turtles from off road vehicles. We need to protect them before they are gone.

Correspondence ID: 596 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: good cause

Correspondence ID: 597 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Off roading on Beaches is not acceptable, to much damage.

Correspondence ID: 598 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

Please do not increase park access for off road vehicles (ORVs). They detract from the enjoyment of our national parks.

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Correspondence ID: 599 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I grew up in Virginia Beach & have spent much time on Cape Hatteras since the 1960s. In that time we have seen the healing of the environment in so many ways. There was a time when the only wildlife we saw was seagulls or whatever dead marine life washed-up on shore or was left behind by someone who was fishing. The beach was a high traffic roadway littered with garbage & death. Now because of efforts of so many individuals & organizations Life is returning to the east coast - especially Cape Hatteras. Every summer we see new turtle nesting areas & shore birds of all descriptions - because they are Finally allowed to thrive! Off Road Vehicles have NO place on the beaches of Cape Hatteras - present OR future. They need to remain a thing of the past But what they caused should never be forgotten!

Correspondence ID: 600 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I ask very fervently to please not expand off road vehicles to this lovely area. Beaches are disappearing even from mother nature herself, so with "man" added to it, I can see it disappearing completely. We must preserve what we can or else it will be lost and not able to be recovered.

Correspondence ID: 601 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 18:40:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 602 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please helo us proyecto this planet!

Correspondence ID: 603 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 18:47:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection.

Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 604 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 18:47:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 605 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 18:55:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 606 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 18:58:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you

Correspondence ID: 607 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 19:12:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 608 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 19:31:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 609 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a former National Park Service employee, I am very well aware of the difficulty presented to the NPS to balance the flow of people with the need to protect the wildlife and environment that they come to see. I understand that you are in the process of making some " Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment" and that includes the possibility of favoring off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection. The presence of ORVs would, of course, have a highly negative impact on visitor experience for the majority of people who visit Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I have been to Hatteras and other east coast beaches and am greatly upset by the noise and damage done by ORVs. I am especially opposed because of the damage done to bird nesting sites.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 610 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 20:26:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat. Please take care of the turtles.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 611 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 21:14:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support no action alternative

Correspondence ID: 612 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Amazing how the lilly-livered appointees of the Obama Administration are always so quick to do the bidding of a very few, loud greedy SOBs at the expense of everyone else's rights and thats coming from a long time Carolina surf fisherman who thinks that overall, there are MANY more users of the NATIONAL PARKS and REFUGEES then just one interest group.
Grow some BALLS!

Correspondence ID: 613 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 21:30:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 614 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 21:31:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 615 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 21:32:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 616 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: ORVs are just selfish. People do not need to disturb and frighten the animals for what they think they need for pleasure. NO ORVs!!!!!!!

Correspondence ID: 617 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As far as I am concerned, vehicles do not belong on the beach, definitely not any time when nature needs to be protected: during the time when birds are raising their chicks, turtles need to be able to go on shore to lay eggs, when the turtles hatch and any other time when cars would be in the way.

Correspondence ID: 618 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for what makes Cape Hatteras National Seashore so special. Your action is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 619 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 22:33:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a life long resident of NC and 60 year visitor to the Nation Seashore I have been very concerned about the recent limitations imposed on tourists. Being unable walk on the beach after the sun comes up is unacceptable and not defensible. Restrictions have been too severe by any measure. Alternative #2 seems the least that should happen to open the beach back up for public use.

Correspondence ID: 620 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 23:12:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 621 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: OTR vehicles need to be kept off the beaches where the turtles nesting sites are. Dig up the beaches with off road vehicles and destroy the nests and another animal goes into extinction. Haven't we lost enough creatures to man? Keep the enforcements where they are and the off road vehicles to other places that won't endanger the turtles.

Correspondence ID: 622 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,09,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Cape Hatteras National Seashore is a special place for wide variety of plants and animals that live there, including shorebirds and endangered sea turtles, and for the humans who visit there. The inhabitants of the seashore who are there year round and those that nest in the park's beaches need to be protected in their own right and for the humans who visit the area. Noisy vehicles that run over dunes damaging the plant roots and compacting the sand near the water where invertebrates may be tunneled in, scare birds that need to rest from migration, run over turtle nests or hatchlings just don't have a place on our beaches. They need to be banned.

Correspondence ID: 623 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 02:08:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

As an outer banks home-owner, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

The proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of park goers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Please so not succumb to the pressure from the selfish, and honor the purpose of NPS which is to provide access to our Nation's great treasures, but in a manor that also protects the reason why they are treasures!

Correspondence ID: 624 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 02:11:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 625 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 02:23:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 626 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 05:00:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: At a minimum, plan # 3 the best option for our park. However, additional items need to be addressed.

(A) The area around the salt pond near Ramp # 45 needs to be cleared of vegetation for a bird area and this ramp need to be opened to allow access to the point. Vehicle access to the point may help in predator control.

(B) Year around access to the point should be maintained either from Ramp 45 or 48, the VFA from Ramp 48 to the point should be eliminated.

(C) Building parking lots with ORV fees for beach goers who do not pay access fees need to be stopped.

(D) The access times for the open beaches need to be open earlier and closed later than the times offered in the 4 options. Resource should start beach monitoring as earlier as possible each day, be on the beach at first light.

(E) For the non ORV visitors, facilities similar to the Frisco Bath House needs to be constructed between Tri village and Avon at one of the existing ramps with a walk over.

(F) A shower facility needs to be constructed near the fish cleaning table at the point.

(G) The parking lot at Frisco Bath House needs to be expanded to make a safer area. During high use times June thru Aug, vehicles park on Hwy 12 creating a dangerous situation, The rest room facilities also need to be expanded.

Correspondence ID: 627 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 05:33:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you for your time,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 628 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 05:47:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the No Action Alternative. NPCA is the defender of our wildlife and has the responsibility to protect the natural world. Please keep this as the main plan of action. The sea turtles and other wildlife needs to be protected!
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 629 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 06:00:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 630 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 06:36:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support alternative # 3.

Yours truly
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 631 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

This is to urge you to balance the experience for all visitors to Cape Hatteras National Seashore with wildlife and habitat protection.

Because the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and peaceful enjoyment by the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, I support the No Action Alternative. This alternative maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Please do not allow a small gang of non-conservation-minded individuals to destroy this wonderful natural area.

Correspondence ID: 632 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use which is only done by a small minority of people over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of park-goers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I ask you urgently to support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat. The park is for everyone, especially for wildlife, not just for a small group that loudly disturbs the peace for many.

Please.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 633 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Qualified vehicles should have a permit to travel on Cape Lookout National Seashore. If monies are needed at Cape Lookout, by all means, charges for the permit need to rise to help keep the special relationship between recreational fishermen and the park as is. It is a treasure to visit, camp in our ORV, fish, and travel the island where allowed. Don't change what you have for someone who has never even visited the island or know its history and relationship with North Carolina fishermen. I have seen no studies as to the median age of those who visit Cape Lookout with their ORVs or 4-wheel drive vehicles in the Fall. I would suspect they will be in the majority of 50-70 year olds since those are the ones who can most afford such vehicles, take time off from work, and are used to the rough conditions on the Outer Banks. Since most of us will be dying out over the next 20 years, don't take away one of our most cherished memories: fishing at Cape Lookout. We'll be gone soon enough, anyway. We can't backpack in or carry heavy fishing items on anything except our vehicles anymore. Be patient before making sweeping changes.

Correspondence ID: 634 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Off road vehicles don't belong in parks. They are the toys of cowardly and lazy people who tear up the parks and do no good whatsoever. Whoever passed this bill was obviously in the pocket of the ORV manufacturer.

Correspondence ID: 635 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 07:57:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 636 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 08:06:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 637 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.10.2016 08:14:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Mr Hallac,

I would like to submit the following comments (echoing those of the NCBBA) concerning changes to the ORV Rule:

1. MORNING BEACH OPENINGS

Open beach segments each morning on a rolling basis as daily management reviews are completed.

Priority Beaches: Ramps 2/4; Ramps 43/44; Ramp 45; Ramp 49; Ramp 72; Open by 6:00 AM Close at 10:00PM.

All Other Beaches: Open at 7:00am, Close at 10:00 PM.

These hours will allow visitors to access the beaches at sunrise and in the cool of the evening. Photographers and fishermen both will benefit greatly from having greater access during these earlier and later hours of low light conditions. Families will be able to enjoy the beaches at first light and picnic late in the evening. Wildlife watchers will have a greater opportunity to see more birds and mammals.

2. SEASONAL ORV ROUTES:

Extend seasonal off road vehicle routes for additional periods in the spring and fall if off road vehicle use will not create resource management problems at the National Seashore.

Seasonal ORV Routes in front of the Villages: These beaches should remain open in the spring until April 30 and re-open on October 1.

Seasonal ORV Routes not in front of the Villages should be closed on March 31 and reopen on September 1.

3. VEHICLE FREE AREAS:

Potential areas for modification:

Ramp 1:

Reopen as a year round ORV Route to the north to allow access to seasonal beach in Nags Head (permit required) and to the South to Coquina Beach. The ORV Route would end north of the lifeguarded beach. This is one of the original ramps and receives little use as a VFA. Opening this will reduce congestion on beaches at Ramps 2 & 4 and enhance the visitor's experience. Rest room facilities would be available at Coquina Beach.

Ramp 2 South:

Reopen as a year round ORV route. This will allow 2 means of ingress and egress to the beach between Ramps 2&4. This is a public safety concern. This also will allow ORV users to have access to the restrooms at Coquina and eliminate the need for the hard to maintain porta-john at Ramp 4 which is entirely inadequate. It also eliminates the need to construct proposed Ramp 2.5.

Some of that money could be used to put in another pedestrian boardwalk to the beach in the area where the permit office is located. Signs should be placed to encourage pedestrians to go to that access and Coquina Beach to minimize conflicts between pedestrians and ORV use if the Ramp is clearly "VEHICLE USE ONLY".

Bodie Island Spit:

Change from VFA to Seasonal ORV. This is an extremely popular fishing location and this change will open it after the summer nesting season.

Ramp 23 North and South:

Change from Seasonal to Year Round Access. This will enhance the visitor's experience by relieving crowding at Ramps 25 and 27. It will make summer access to ORV users more convenient to visitors staying in Rodanthe/Waves/Salvo.

Ramp 34 North:

Change from VFA to Seasonal ORV. This is an extremely good fishing area and will allow fall use after the summer visitors have left and the nesting season is over.

Ramp 43 North:

Change from VFA to Seasonal ORV Route. This will enhance the visitors experience by reducing the crowded conditions that occur on Ramps 43 and 44 during the summer as resource closures occur. The lifeguard protected beach would remain a VFA and would not be affected by this change.

Ramp 45 East:

Change from from VFA to a Seasonal ORV Route. The areas of Ramps 43-44 are subject to erosion and the Superintendent should have the option of opening an alternate route to the Point.

This would allow for adaptive management with proper resource management practices to ensure the option of having another means of ingress and egress in this area. Resource protection would limit the use of this, but the option should exist as a matter of public safety.

Ramp 45 West:

Change 1.30 miles of VFA to a Seasonal ORV Route. This will allow ORV Visitors to a popular fishing area. Change .5 miles at the western boundary from VFA to Year Round Access. This will increase the size of the year round access east of Ramp 49 by .5 miles. This is one of the most popular ORV destinations during the summer for visitors who do not have direct access from their rental homes or motels. This change will ease crowding and enhance the visitor's experience.

VFA Hatteras Island Spit:

Consideration should be given to making this a Year Round ORV Route. Much of the former spit is under water at the present time but that will change with time as proved at the Bodie Island Spit. It wasn't long ago that Bodie Island Spit went out to the bridge pilings. A storm a couple of years ago made it an island. It is now smaller in size but no longer an island. To get to the spit one must ride in an ORV along the beach or on the Pole Road to a small parking lot. Since this is not a nesting site it should be designated as an ORV Route in the event of the spit growing in size and being able to accommodate recreational fishermen.

Ramp 59:

Change from VFA to a Year Round ORV Route. There have been no plover fledging in this area. Amoy and CWB can be protected by buffers and ORV corridors.

VFA Ocracoke South Point:

Change to a Year Round ORV Route. ORV use can be controlled by buffers and ORV corridors.

4. ORV PERMITS:

ORV permits should be issued for 14 days to allow for visitors to enjoy long holiday weekends. This would also allow anglers wanting to fish two of the

fall tournaments to participate in both on one permit.

12 month Permits should be issued instead of the current annual permit. This can be accomplished by using a windshield permit like the state inspection sticker used in Virginia. The month and year can be easily determined.

Consideration should be given to a 3 day permit to allow the one weekend a year visitor an opportunity to drive on the beach.

Many National Parks allow Golden Passport holders a discount on camping permits. Consideration should be given to allowing a discount for holders of these on ORV permits.

Changes should be made to the administrative procedures involving the issuance of permits to reduce the administrative cost and to make them available on line on short notice. There should be a printed receipt that is available at time of online purchase good for a limited number of days on 12 month permits to be used until the regular permit is mailed to the individual. Short term permits should be issued on line with info printed large enough to be viewed at a reasonable distance.

5. ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS;

Coquina Beach: A boardwalk should be constructed at the site of the current Permit Office that would provide easy pedestrian access to the beach at that location.

Ramp 2 should be posted as ORV access only and pedestrian traffic prohibited. Signs should direct pedestrians to the existing beach access boardwalk and the new boardwalk. This will address a public safety issue.

Many have expressed a desire for additional sound side access especially on Ocracoke Island. and Bodie Island. Consideration should be given to this. Recently we discussed the need to improve and make available safer access to Pea Island. I have agreed to contact the Refuge Manager and see if it will be possible to do this since the legislation establishing CHNS calls for cooperation between the two agencies regarding recreational use of the Pea Island beaches. If this comes to fruition this will allow visitors to safely access 13 miles of VFA only a short drive from the towns north of the Refuge. The 13 miles of Pea Island Beach should be included as VFA miles for statistical reporting and consideration should be given to including bird populations as well. This area represents a large portion of the seashore and shouldn't be treated like a "red headed stepchild".

We thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 638 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I recommend the chapa 8/2015 recommendations confirmed 3/2016 to the orv changes on the off road vehicle management

Correspondence ID: 639 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 08:16:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I believe wildlife protection and a quiet visitor experience should take precedence over ORV use at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Correspondence ID: 640 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 08:24:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,



Correspondence ID: 641 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 08:38:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you



Correspondence ID: 642 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 08:40:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

One of the major purposes of our National Parks is to provide visitors the opportunity to view and learn about wildlife. What I value most about the Parks, and specifically Cape Hatteras National Seashore, is a chance to get away from the noise, pollution, and crowds at commercial seashore sites.

Please protect wildlife and its habitat in the National Parks. This is becoming our last refuge to escape constant development and destruction of wildlife habitat. The balance between humans and other living forms must be kept, or we risk losing both.

Please keep Off Road Vehicles out of Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,



Correspondence ID: 643 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Protect the sea turtles!

Correspondence ID: 644 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 645 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:01:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Not sure the first letter went to the right place so I'm resending it.

Hello David,

In regards to the new plan, I would like alternative plan 3 to be applied in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I personally know a good number of your fine staff here on Hatteras Island. These are very capable people that could certainly monitor the very small increases plan 3 would cover. I also believe opening the beaches 30-60 minutes earlier in popular areas like ramps 43, 44, and Cape Point would not be an issue. A simple shoreline corridor on the east side beaches to Cape Point would provide access while making the rest of the area much easier to monitor with no people or vehicles present. People just

want access, they do not want to be walking in the seasonal bird enclosures. People would actually endorse larger seasonal enclosures as long as shoreline access to the popular beaches and Cape Point was provided.

I also encourage you to improve access at ramp 44 by raising the level of the road once over the high dune ramp to the beach. This is by far the most popular ramp on the island. It provides access for both pedestrians and ORV's. Over the past few years it has been flooded for 4-5 months during the year. This is not a good reflection of our National Park and a lot of people are asking "why". This has really become a safety access issue too. Could the Park be liable if our law enforcement, rescue services, and EMT's were denied access to the popular Cape Point and the vehicle free pedestrian area in an emergency because of a flooded ramp? Thousands of people have needed assistance in this dynamic area for literary 200 years. That's why the lighthouse and life saving stations were built here.

In closing I would like to say I'm excited about having a new superintendent at the Cape Hatteras Seashore. There's a new breeze blowing through the island that feels good. Please be careful dealing with the special interest groups. I have known many of their leaders for years and in some cases decades. Some of these people are not truthful people. I thought my National Park here was doing a good job before Audubon's and the SELC lawsuits. Yes, some changes were needed but the way it was done divided many real environmentalists and nature lovers like myself. I wish you and your family the best while here on the Outer Banks.

Sincerely,

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Correspondence ID: 646 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:02:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 647 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:02:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have lived on Ocean Lane, Avon full time since 1987. I retired from the National Park Service, Cape Hatteras Group in 2007. After retirement I worked for the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau as a visitor representative at the Hatteras Weather Station center for 8 years. The beach access issue was a main topic of conversation. I fully agree with the recommendations of the Outer Banks Preservation Alliance letter of March 8th, 2016- Alternatives 3 & 2 are very fair. I have always felt the original regulations enacted in 2012 were too strict but realized they were a beginning and hopefully could be fine tuned once more information was studied. Now is the time to be more realistic on the ORV regulations. The Nags Head Beaches are open for ORV use from Oct.1st to April 30th annually and the permit fee is only \$25.00.

Correspondence ID: 648 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect the birds, turtles and other wildlife that depend on Cape Hatteras for survival. Off road vehicles should be banned, or at the very least curtailed greatly. Before any use the beaches should be inspected to make sure it is clear of all wildlife. Animals should not be put at risk for someone's "entertainment". The greater good is to preserve and protect this area. ██████████

Correspondence ID: 649 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Use the original Ott...our legs!

Correspondence ID: 650 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect our seashores, beaches and animals.

Correspondence ID: 651 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:13:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 652 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:14:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 653 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

I understand that recreation is important to people, but it should not come at the expense and cost of life to birds and other animals who need this beach to live and breed. No sentient creature should have to suffer or die, so some humans can enjoy themselves.

Correspondence ID: 654 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Proposed rule for Cape Hatteras National Seashore fails to adequately protect birds

The National Park Service is considering changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) regulations at Cape Hatteras National Seashore that would fail to adequately protect our birds. The changes include morning opening of beaches, extending the length of fall and spring seasonal ORV routes, and modifying the size and location of vehicle-free areas.

Protections for birds and turtles are reduced by allowing driving during courtship and nesting periods, and opening beaches to driving before the areas are thoroughly checked for sea turtle nests. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14 in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 655 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:18:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 656 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:19:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for

families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 657 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Scientific research has shown that North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive. They were there first!

Correspondence ID: 658 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:20:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 659 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:21:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 660 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Correspondence ID: 661 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:24:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
I LOVE CAPE HATTERAS!!!!

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 662 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please help protect the birds here: we've already lost so many species and we need birds as they're important to the ecosystem and greater systems in general!

Correspondence ID: 663 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:25:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 664 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:25:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 665 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
I am writing on behalf of humans, birds and sea turtles who all share the need for natural places to remain protected from off road vehicle traffic. Please protect our National Seashore for people and all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to continue visiting our peaceful National Parks, to get away from the traffic that is only increasing EVERYWHERE.
- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect humans enjoying nature, sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect humans and wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * My peaceful visits to our parks. Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect people, Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Room for humans to enjoy the beaches without vehicle traffic, noise and fumes. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our people and wildlife deserve these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive, while the human need for rest and relaxation away from the daily stress of traffic and pollution levels speak to the need to increase vehicle-free open areas

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Sincerely,

████████████████████

Correspondence ID: 666 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not allow driving on the beaches at Cape Hatteras. The bird and turtle populations are rebounding so if we allow people to drive it will impact the gains that we have made. I visit the beaches and they are beautiful. Let's give the birds and turtles the opportunity to nest and live on their lands. Do not allow driving on the beaches. If people need to drive on the beach, create one or two roads to access the water so limit the driving area.

Correspondence ID: 667 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have learned that The National Park Service is considering changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) regulations at Cape Hatteras National Seashore that would fail to adequately protect our birds. The changes include morning opening of beaches, extending the length of fall and spring seasonal ORV routes, and modifying the size and location of vehicle-free areas.

I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach. Do "NOT" extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on "ANY" area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do "NOT" affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to "PROTECT":

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access is "NOT" the stewardship we and wildlife count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, "NOT" just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is "NOT" the experience we EXPECT when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific RESEARCH HAS "SHOWN" that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

"PLEASE" protect birds, sea turtles, and "all" wildlife! Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 668 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,10,2016 09:37:56

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oyster-catchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 669 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,10,2016 09:42:46

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a high-schooler who cares deeply about wildlife protection, I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your considerations!

Correspondence ID: 670 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:44:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As an organic farmer and nature enthusiast, I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 671 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
I am a bird and turtle lover and expect the National Park Service to do its very best to protect the Piping Plover and Turtle nests which occur on the wonderful beaches which NPS protects for our citizens to enjoy, especially Cape Hatteras in North Carolina which is my most favorite beach/park. But . . .
..

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 672 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.10,2016 09:44:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 673 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:46:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 674 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The proposed rule for Cape Hatteras National Seashore in North Carolina does not provide enough protection for birds. Please adjust this rule so that the fowl so desperate for help, get the conditions they require.

Thank you for your attention,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 675 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for wildlife and the coast. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

My concerns are:

*Bird and turtle nests. Nests, eggs and chicks should be monitored before the beaches open in the morning. Beaches should be cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

*Spring and fall closures of ORV routes should be maintained on areas of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds.

I am counting on the NPS to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle-free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds. ORVs should be able to have routes only where wildlife is not negatively affected by them.

* The current plan. Any rule changes need to be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife. We won't get a second chance to save species from extinction; they need a chance to breed successfully.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle, or to enjoy the sounds of nature and the seashore.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 676 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,10,2016 09:48:04

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 677 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,10,2016 09:48:59

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize

nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 678 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:50:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

The proposed rule for Cape Hatteras National Seashore fails to adequately protect birds.

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 679 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:51:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Sample Comments

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 680 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 09:51:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, least terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves and visits our beaches respectfully, and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns seriously.

Correspondence ID: 681 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for what makes Cape Hatteras National Seashore so special. Your action is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 682 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

I have vacationed on the Carolina Coasts for over 30 years, as well as making regular trips each year to the Eastern Coast of Jacksonville FL. I spend a solid amount of my time doing bird watching on the beaches and inner coastal salt marshes.

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize

nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 683 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 10:04:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 684 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The modifications to off-road vehicle (ORV) regulations at Cape Hatteras National Seashore that are proposed by the National Park Service include: morning opening of beaches, extending the length of fall and spring seasonal ORV routes, and modifying the size and location of vehicle-free areas.

I want you to know that I feel the proposed changes are misguided and wrong.

The NPS has been charged with overseeing the operation of the National Parks and Seashores so that visitors can enjoy them. But there is also a responsibility to protect our National Seashore for wildlife. The proposed changes would work to the detriment of wildlife, particularly shorebirds and turtles that nest in these areas.

The enjoyment by the public should not preclude preserving the areas that birds and turtles rely on. Specifically,

â– The beaches need to be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks, before the beaches open in the morning. The beaches should be cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

â– The ORV routes and spring and fall closures should not be extended on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Extended closures should be granted only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

Those of us who value our National Parks are relying on you to protect both the wildlife AND the visitors. Allowing more ORV access in NOT going to help accomplish this task. Instead, vehicle-free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

And beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts present both ugly scars on the beach as well as a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

I and other National Park visitors expect you to preserve the current plan because it WORKS. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, NOT just convenience or community pressure.

That means that adequate seasonal driving restrictions should be kept intact. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife. Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. Those of us who care about the Parks and are not just out for thrill-

seeking and joy-riding are asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Correspondence ID: 685 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 10:08:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 686 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to protest expansion of access to beaches by off-road vehicles. Why should a National Park, charged with preservation of habitat for nesting birds, turtles and other wildlife, take steps to further disturb these animals, many of whom are endangered? It is NOT about pleasing the loudest constituency, the lobby with the most dollars or the politician with small ambition beyond his locality. It is about native birds, turtles, and wildlife who rely now on humans to save their very existence, and it would be a poor repayment to allow their nests to be ridden over by some yahoos with ATVs, trucks or whatever other contraption that they can gas up and get on. Is this good stewardship of a National Park? To allow destructive access just because someone wants it?

Many visitors treasure the natural PEACE and QUIET and do not want to have the wind and waves and the call of birds drowned out by the sound of motors, or be forced to "get out of the way" or be injured. Responsible parents can't let their kids free in traffic- -why make it easy for traffic to be on the BEACH? How much worse for a weary bird, who has flown thousands of miles in the hopes of nesting and raising young- -this bird cannot flee but once, and then the nest is ruined. It's worse for the turtles and once they, their nests, or their young are run over there is no second chance. Even disturbing them is wrong. Turtles are critically endangered and it is beyond me why a "recreation" that involves a lawn mower engine would be allowed at all. But money talks.

I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach and I really prefer NO ORV traffic. There are many of us who do not see value in this sort of tourism and in fact will not come to a park that allows it.
Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife and I would submit that these are FEW.

Again, there are many people who do not like the sound, the smell of or the people that ride ORVs. There is much at stake here- -how will you decide? For noise and pollution or for the disappearing wildlife that you should be working with my tax dollars to protect.

Correspondence ID: 687 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 10:14:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oyster catchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 688 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 10:16:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 689 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 10:19:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving

restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 690 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 10:19:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 691 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 10:20:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 692 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 10:20:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: While I am not able to take the time to personalize this comment, I am in full agreement with all the points listed here. I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 693 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: There should be no ORVM on my beaches

Correspondence ID: 694 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: writing in support of maintaining restrictions to off road vehicle driving in outer banks during nesting season for turtles and shore birds. Humans need to be educated on their role as protectors for species that cannot protect themselves from aggressive urban expansion. Lets teach and show some respect for our fragile natural habitats.

Correspondence ID: 695 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles who can't speak for themselves. I urge you to protect our National Seashore for all wildlife.

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

It's crucial that you protect:

* Our birds - vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* the beaches from seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 696 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 10:34:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Correspondence ID: 697 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 10:37:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 698 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 10:39:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 699 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 10:43:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Our families visit these areas every year specifically for the protected nature and lack of "touristy" noise and disruption.

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 700 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 10:43:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 701 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect our National Seashore.

Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds as well as turtle nests.

Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

The entire country depends on the National Park Service to protect wildlife and our national seashores for posterity. Our national seashores were created for all our citizens. The health and welfare of these areas for all persons to enjoy and the survival of wildlife should not be jeopardized to satisfy a special interest group regardless of how much fun it would provide them .

Correspondence ID: 702 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect the wildlife on Cape Hatteras National Seashore and limit ORV. It's time to manage human impact on our wildlife areas.

Correspondence ID: 703 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please, do not allow further and increased access to beaches for longer periods of time for ATV's and other beach vehicles. Birds nest here who have nowhere else to go. People want their beaches without being marred by vehicles and ruts and smog. Cars are king in America....but they are not supposed to be everywhere.

Keep them off these important habitats. In fact, they should not be allowed at all, but that just isn't going to fly, now is it? So at least, RESTRICT them! Please!

Correspondence ID: 704 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 10:54:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

I would like beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. Beaches should be cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the what we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not what we expect to see when we visit a National Seashore. They are a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 705 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hello,

I live in Greenville, NC and visit the Cape Hatteras National Sea Shore every year. I understand there is pressure to allow off road vehicle use there. However, I urge you not to let that happen. There are many endangered sea turtles and shore birds that depend on this area for nesting. We must protect them. Isn't it enough that people can park near the beach and enjoy it? Why be greedy and have to drive right on it? One of the main purposes of national parks is to protect ecosystems and wildlife. Yes, it is for people to enjoy also, but not at the expense of endangered species. People can enjoy the Cape Hatteras National Seashore without driving on it. Please protect sea turtles and shore birds and do not give in to special interests lobbying for off road vehicle access. Thank you for reading my comment.

Sincerely,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 706 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 10:59:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 707 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please put animals, birds, and turtles and their nesting sites over AT Vehicles.

Correspondence ID: 708 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am fortunate enough to be a senior citizen who frequented the beaches of southern California and learned as a youth enjoy and appreciate silence. My personal opinion is that the seashore is a place that motorized vehicles have no place. Beaches are for listening to the sounds of nature. However, I recognize that times have changed, and request only that you please, please, please make sure that regulations on seashore ORV access be restrictive enough to make the beaches habitable by the birds and wildlife that need them.

Correspondence ID: 709 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife. I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

Correspondence ID: 710 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 11:07:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: While recreational use of Cape Hatteras is important, I feel strongly that no plan for the convenience of ORV drivers should be implemented if it is incompatible with the preservation of the flora and fauna of the Seashore. I am very concerned that many of the proposed changes outlined in the EIS would reduce protections for nesting wildlife.

Protections for birds and turtles are reduced by allowing beach driving during courtship and nesting periods, and by opening beaches to driving before the areas are thoroughly checked for sea turtle nests. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14 in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize populations of oystercatchers, Least Terns, and other priority species.

Before beaches open to ORV use in the morning, they must be thoroughly checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks. ORV routes should not be extended on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Our national seashores belong to all Americans, not just the folks who desire to drive on the beach. Over the past several years, as the National Park Service tested temporary protections for wildlife, safety for pedestrians, and reasonable and responsible beach driving, both wildlife and tourism have flourished. Since 2008, Cape Hatteras' wildlife has rebounded from the brink, with sea turtles and several rare bird species nesting in record numbers. Seashore visitation has increased during the peak of beach-driving restrictions, and the local tourism board reported growing revenues, despite the nationwide recession.

America deserves a fair plan which would balance the needs of wildlife with the desires of ORV users. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

Correspondence ID: 711 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 11:07:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-

road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 712 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.10,2016 11:09:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 713 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Protections for birds and turtles are reduced by allowing driving during courtship and nesting periods, and opening beaches to driving before the areas are thoroughly checked for sea turtle nests. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14 in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize populations of oystercatchers, Least Terns, and other priority species.

The National Park Service is accepting public comments on this misguided rule through March 18. Comments are being accepted at the NPS planning website. Sample comments are below; we encourage you to personalize them with your own words:

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 714 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear National Park Service:

I am writing to express my concern for changes being considered by the NPS for off-road vehicle (ORV) access at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. These changes would allow much more access for ORV during extended seasons, during courtship and nesting periods, etc. I believe this is an extremely misguided idea, instigated by a small group of special interest ORV enthusiasts.

I have never been to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I have seen pictures of it, though - and it is truly beautiful. I would love to go there one day, and I don't want to see ORVs all over the place when I do. I would hate to see the Seashore, and all the beautiful creatures that call it home, endangered and more than likely destroyed, as it would be by this proposal. The ORV group already have access, and there is no doubt in my mind their negative impact would increase if this proposal is passed. Enough!

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 715 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge you to protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

Beaches should be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach. Moreover, at any time of the year, ORV traffic should be allowed only in areas that do not affect wildlife. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; rather, vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

Seasonal driving restrictions must be put in place to protect wildlife. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

Finally, beaches overrun with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Scientific research has shown that North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need restrictions on beach-driving to survive.

Please cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore unless there is substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 716 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect the birds and sea turtles!

Please consider:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 717 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: National Park Service must protect all living in this area.

Correspondence ID: 718 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have reviewed the letter to Superintendent Hallac dated March 8, 2016 submitted by the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance. I embrace and support the Modifications to the Final Rule for ORV Management suggested therein. These proposed Modifications to the Final Rule will provide increased visitor recreational opportunities and enjoyment without harm to wildlife. After all, should that not be the goal of NPS in a federally mandated Recreation Area? Common sense tells me in a Recreation Area recreation must be the primary mission while in a Wildlife Refuge wildlife protection is primary. It is that simple!
Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 719 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 720 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 11:29:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 721 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 11:40:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 722 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 11:50:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat. People have lost respect for wildlife in this country and we need to get it back.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 723 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Our shores must be safe breeding grounds for birds and sea turtles. Courtship, laying, brooding, hatching and rearing all require quiet, open and vehicle free beaches. Please, make plans for scouring beaches for species propagation behavior, and provisions for closing areas when such behavior is observed.

Every species counts. Human fun cannot be allowed to drive others to extinction. Thank you [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 724 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 11:56:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 725 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,10,2016 12:14:13

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 726 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,10,2016 12:15:37

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to we the people for whom you work. We all love our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 727 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for what makes Cape Hatteras National Seashore so special. Your action is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 728 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I am writing to speak up for the thousands of voiceless birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves against the onslaught of humans. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are and I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

All of our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive. Too many species have already been lost due to human activity and lack of concern for the welfare of other species.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

We all can live together and it is up to US to leave a legacy of protection for all of them

Thank you very much for receiving my input.

██████████

Correspondence ID: 729 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Act to preserve wildlife and natural features.

Correspondence ID: 730 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.
- * Historically, areas open to vehicular traffic are more prone to see a negative impact on wildlife; whether it's sage grouse in the West, desert tortoises in the Southwest, or spotted owls in the Northwest.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 731 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My husband and I took a vacation to Cape Hatteras the year after we were married. Loved the area and went bird watching on the shore. If this area is not protected for all wildlife there will be a reduction in tourists which love the condition of nature there and the birds and other wildlife. This area needs the government protection from all the greedy corporations trying to short-term their use of the land for their greedy profits. States are NOT even responsible enough to protect these areas from the likes of the vicious Koch bros and their empire. Please protect this area for the next seven generations.

Correspondence ID: 732 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 12:34:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 733 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 12:35:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize

nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 734 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: If humanity does not speak for the animals, who will? We MUST NOT destroy their habitat, MUST NOT impinge on their right to exist and perform their daily functions, including eating, breeding and being able to lead an existence that is not affected by humanity's lack of respect!

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 735 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 12:49:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 736 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Friends,

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Thank you, [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 737 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please protect our wildlife from OFF ROAD VEHICLES!! I live near the coast and love watching our wildlife on our beaches. Protect them!!

Correspondence ID: 738 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please don't change the rules about off road vehicles. We need to protect our wildlife. Humans have destroyed too many animals in the name of "recreation".

Correspondence ID: 739 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: In reviewing the 3 alternate plans for revising recreational use of the Cape Hatteras Seashore I am in agreement with CHAPA's recommendations to revise the existing 3 alternatives. The closure of areas between Cape Point and ramp 49 and also Cape Hatteras spit to ORV use significantly degrades the ability to utilize our park and access areas of interest. As a father of young children I've looked forward to showing my children the beauty of these areas, instilling the values of care for our natural resources and allowing them to enjoy the relatively protected waters that these areas offer. They are however too young to hike into these areas and quite frankly since the new rules were put in place I am the only person I have yet seen in them. It has also contributed to overcrowding in the areas that are open to ORV use in a manner that never before existed thereby increasing the concentration of human impact rather than dispersing it. In the total 200 days that I have spend vacationing in this park I have never once seen a single incident of anyone doing anything to harm the natural environment. I would urge you to trust the people of this country and more specifically the local population as they are the true caretakers of this natural resource and allow the park to be utilized as it was originally intended and promised to its citizens.

Correspondence ID: 740 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: PLEASE do not weaken regulating of OUR National Parks, in fact strengthen protections for the birds etc. that can NOT go elsewhere to propagate and escape extinction.

Correspondence ID: 741 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As an environmental educator and field biologist, a parent, and a citizen who cares deeply about conservation and preserving biodiversity, I urge you to protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before off-road vehicle (ORV) traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship I expect from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience I expect when I visit a National Seashore, and are a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

As if the hazards of ORVs were not enough of a problem on their own, climate change has been placing great stress on a variety of organisms and ecosystems. It has introduced uncertainty into basic natural systems, such as weather patterns, which in turn influence the availability of food sources and the timing and routes of migration. This is a time when humans should be doing everything possible to protect wildlife, not threaten them further. We have been doing enough damage via climate change, which will take decades to mitigate - if we're lucky. Restricting ORVs is something effective that can be accomplished in the short term. There are many places where humans can use ORVs, but there are few nesting habitats for shorebirds and sea turtles. We need to protect them.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 742 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: CLEARLY OFF ROAD VEHICLES DO NOT BELONG ANYWHERE ON THE BEACH ALONG THE HATTERAS COAST WHERE WE ARE TRYING TO PRESEVE NATURAL LIFE HABITAT UNLESS THEY ARE USED FOR REQUIRED MAINTENANCE UNDER STRICT GOVERNMENT SUPERVISION.

Correspondence ID: 743 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please reject the proposed changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) regulations at Cape Hatteras National Seashore that would fail to adequately protect birds and turtles. As I understand them from an alert I received from the National Audubon Society, the changes include morning opening of beaches, extending the length of fall and spring seasonal ORV routes, and modifying the size and location of vehicle-free areas. These changes are inconsistent with efforts to protect nesting birds and turtles in the National Seashore and I urge you to reject them.

Correspondence ID: 744 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 13:40:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation. I support the following positions on the proposed changes:
Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
Seasonal ORV routes:
I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
Vehicle-free areas:
I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
Access Improvements:
Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.
By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.
Sincerely

Correspondence ID: 745 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 13:43:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 746 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 13:46:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our Cape Hatteras National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our fellow creatures deserve these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls the seashore their home. Please cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 747 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am concerned for all wildlife on our coasts and hope that this action which is clearly hazardous is never implemented.

Correspondence ID: 748 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I personally know people who want nothing more than to get back on the beach and tear it up, wildlife and anyone who enjoys the peace and quiet and love to see the variety of wildlife be damned.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 749 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 13:59:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 750 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect NC beaches and wildlife!

Correspondence ID: 751 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to comment on your proposed rule for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Once again I think the park service is responding to a few loud voices of bullies and not to the general wishes of the majority of the citizens of the United States. I don't think our national seashore should be a raceway for ORVs. I believe that people should enjoy the seashore as a slower and quieter pace. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

ORVs and walkers don't mix, nor do ORVs and our native wildlife.

In particular, I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. Active nesting should limit any ORV access. Sea turtle populations have declined at a staggering rate and we must protect nesting sites if they are to have any chance at recovery.

Also, please ensure that no ORV route is extended into the the spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Seasonal ORV routes should not be left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 752 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I AM WRITING TO REQUEST YOU PLEASE STOP THIS NONSENSE WITH ALLOWING MORE ORV'S ON THE SANDS OF CAPE HATTERAS, THROUGH LONGER TIMES/LARGER AREAS AND NO SUPERVISION.

THE SANDS ARE BEING ERODED ON AN HOURLY BASIS BY MOTHER NATURE. THIS STUPID/WASTEFUL/DESTRUCTIVE RULE OF ALLOWING ORV'S TO DRIVE AROUND SCARING OFF THE SHORE BIRDS / DESTROYING THE SEA TURTLES TRYING TO LAY THEIR EGGS - DESTROYING THE HABITAT THE BABY SEA TURTLES NEED - STINKING UP THE PLACE WITH THEIR GASOLINE AND DIESEL SMELLS - DESTROYING THE FULL MEANING OF THE SEASHORE, IS JUST NOT ACCEPTABLE.

THIS IS STUPID AND UNNECESSARY. PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING AND GET THE DAMN THINGS OFF THE BEACHES - THEY DO NOT DESERVE A LARGER AREA AND LONGER HOURS TO DESTROY THE BEACHES.

Correspondence ID: 753 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Proposed rules insufficient.

Correspondence ID: 754 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Be it known that I speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves, asking you to please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife. I want to see beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. Limit any extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

Vehicle-free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, Oystercatchers, and other shorebirds. The current plan is working, and any rule changes

should be supported by PEER-REVIEWED SCIENCE AS THE LAW STATES, NOT JUST CONVENIENCE OR COMMUNITY PRESSURE. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of Oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife. Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Correspondence ID: 755 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 14:31:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 756 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife. I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach. Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 757 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 14:35:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 758 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 14:36:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 759 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing regarding the National Park Service consideration of changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) regulations at Cape Hatteras National Seashore that would fail to adequately protect our birds. The changes include morning opening of beaches, extending the length of fall and spring seasonal ORV routes, and modifying the size and location of vehicle-free areas.

Protections for birds and turtles are reduced by allowing driving during courtship and nesting periods, and opening beaches to driving before the areas are thoroughly checked for sea turtle nests. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14 in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize populations of oystercatchers, Least Terns, and other priority species.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 760 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please don't close off the areas between ramp 43 and 49. My family has enjoyed the freedom of this area for a long time. Many of our friends are award of this special area and its great fishing, and the kids love searching for shells. To block usage would be a travesty.

Correspondence ID: 761 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 14:49:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 762 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 14:51:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Thank You!

Correspondence ID: 763 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Don't we have enough government in our lives. Please allow us the freedom of our beaches. We travel to this area to visit friends every summer and the special part of being there is the open beaches. Can't we have just a few things that remain the same for our kids? Closing off the beaches will do nothing to enhance our desire to come down there.

Correspondence ID: 764 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 14:57:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife.

My concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 765 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 15:18:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Sincerely,


Correspondence ID: 766 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 15:37:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 767 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 15:39:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a North Carolina resident I am writing to express my concerns about ORV management and impacts on wildlife.

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 768 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 15:41:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 769 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I visit my sister who lives in North Carolina yearly. Several years ago I went to the Outer Banks, but because of the abundance of ORV's I did not stay long, nor have I returned. Now I understand that the rules for Off Road Vehicles are to be modified in a manner harmful to birds and sea turtles. If the original intent of our National Parks as a refuge from the stress of our daily lives is to be maintained, I strongly urge these modifications not be approved.

Correspondence ID: 770 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support full protection of our National Seashore for all wildlife. The National Seashore represents critical habitat for many members of the ecosystem, especially for birds and sea turtles.

First and foremost, please do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any beach areas that affect sea turtles or birds. The extended

closures should only apply to areas that do not affect wildlife. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from NPS.

I'd also like to see beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. Ideally beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed.

Third, vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of all seashore wildlife, and on behalf everyone who enjoys an unspoiled beach and can share it with God's fellow creation.

Correspondence ID: 771 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect the seashore for the birds and turtles!

Correspondence ID: 772 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 16:22:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 773 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 16:23:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 774 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 16:33:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 775 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 16:46:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 776 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 16:47:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 777 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We need to move forward, not backward, to protect our birds and other wildlife. Any modifications should be designed to INCREASE protections for vulnerable species. We can live just fine with a few less places to mindlessly roar around on ATVs, a few less places where we are nothing but bulls in the china shop. Imagine how you would feel if you were tucking your children in at night and some clueless idiot giant stepped on your house.

Correspondence ID: 778 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 17:08:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 779 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 17:09:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 780 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: protect ALL animals, all the time

Correspondence ID: 781 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 17:22:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Sample Comments

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 782 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 17:25:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

I am a native of Carteret County and care about our beaches as well as tourism.

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,


Correspondence ID: 783 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 17:37:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Dave Hallac Cape Hatteras, Superintendentand

Please support the No Action Alternative, which is supported by years of science and public input and protects the park's wildlife and beachgoers.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the nation's first national seashore, is home to a wide variety of plants and animals, including shorebirds and endangered sea turtles. They nest in the park's beaches and provide visitors with an unforgettable experience. For these reasons, park officials put a plan in place in 2012 to limit off-road vehicles (ORVs) in certain areas of the park. Lets keep this area wild and quiet as much as possible.

Thank you very much. [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 784 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Correspondence ID: 785 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 17:58:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 786 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please consider extending free-vehicle areas to protect our seashore wildlife, and to give a chance to the chicks and turtles who deserve our protection. It was their land long before humans expanded use of vehicles and their selfish behavior over the safety of wildlife and people who enjoy the beaches and calming water is no place for the noise and destruction the vehicles create. Thank you!

Correspondence ID: 787 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 18:33:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hello National Park Service,

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures

only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your time.

Correspondence ID:	788	Project:	59571	Document:	70928
Received:	Mar.10,2016 00:00:00				
Correspondence Type:	Web Form				
Correspondence:					

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore. Whenever I am on a beach with vehicles there always seems to be more trash, more plastic which can be deadly to birds.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Correspondence ID:	789	Project:	59571	Document:	70928
Received:	Mar.10,2016 19:04:09				
Correspondence Type:	Web Form				
Correspondence:	I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!				

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 790 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please do the right thing to protect wildlife at our national seashore. Thanks!

Correspondence ID: 791 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 19:12:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 792 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am a professional biologist with a long career invested in conservation, much of it on the Outer Banks - - about which I co-authored the popular book Ribbon of Sand (UNC Press).

Correspondence ID: 793 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 19:30:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 794 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Habitat destruction is the biggest threat to wildlife. Off road use is not compatible to nesting/sensitive areas. There are plenty of places to drive...like on roads.

Correspondence ID: 795 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 19:40:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 796 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 19:46:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've been vacationing to Hatteras for over 25 years. One of the highlights has been fishing on the point with my father and family. The crashing of the waves together can not be seen anywhere else. I have not been able to visit because of the closure. We need the vehicle free area (VFA Area) to be opened at the hook because even with the reduced area around the birds, due to the erosion we still can't get out onto the beach. Please remove vehicle free area at ramp 45!

Correspondence ID: 797 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 19:47:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 798 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 19:58:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I recently traveled to Hatteras Island for the first time. I was taken to an area known as "the point" I enjoyed the shell hunting as well as the fishing, not to mention the beauty. From what I understand this area is closed off during certain times of year. Please reopen the vehicle free area at ramp 45. Thank you!

Correspondence ID: 799 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Excuse me, but my first thought is "Tell the ORV's to get the hell out!" There must be another place that they can create destruction on the beach that is not absolutely necessary for the health of the birds!! If there is not, surely it is not too much to ask to leave the parameters where they are, currently, instead of making it easier for the ORV's and much more difficult for the birds to survive! After all, the birds were there first, and the hand of man is what is destroying nature in all its forms. Birds have a purpose, ORV's do not; they are just for the pleasure of human desire for speed and fun, thus being allowed to take dominance over every aspect of the natural world. WHY is the NPS protecting the "rights" of the joy seekers rather than the life of the birds??

Correspondence ID: 800 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 20:34:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 801 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Thank you for considering my comments. The best part of a visit to the seashore is enjoying the wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 802 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: This is comment to ask the National Park Service to protect the National Seashore for all wildlife!

I am very concerned that the beaches are checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning- and ask that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

I am very concerned the ORV routes are not extended so the extended closures are only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am very concerned that allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

I am very concerned that any rule changes are supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

I believe our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please take public input into account. We love our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 803 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 21:03:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

* The beaches must be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. Beaches must be cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

Please protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 804 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

I would like to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections. Scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 805 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 21:11:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 806 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 807 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect the birds and other wildlife that use the OBX beaches to regenerate. Admittedly, I have enjoyed driving the beaches looking for likely places to fish in the past. However, it is time to fully restrict this privilege (not a right).

I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Correspondence ID: 808 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I want to see greater protection for shorebirds and other wildlife. Areas that are vehicle-free should be expanded. Nesting activities must be protected.

Correspondence ID: 809 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 22:56:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 810 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: All life - human and non-human - on this precious planet is a gift. While humans are more adaptable, nature's animals and birds need protection during critical seasons in order for new born to have a chance to survive. I urge the National Park Service to maintain the current limitations on human activity, especially that of driving ORV's, in such sensitive areas as the Cape Hatteras coastal areas, to protect these creatures of nature.

Correspondence ID: 811 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:14:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 812 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
Proposed rule for Cape Hatteras National Seashore fails to adequately protect birds
The National Park Service is considering changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) regulations at Cape Hatteras National Seashore that would fail to adequately protect our birds. The changes include morning opening of beaches, extending the length of fall and spring seasonal ORV routes, and modifying the size and location of vehicle-free areas.

Protections for birds and turtles are reduced by allowing driving during courtship and nesting periods, and opening beaches to driving before the areas are thoroughly checked for sea turtle nests. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14 in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize populations of oystercatchers, Least Terns, and other priority species.

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 813 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support CHAPA proposal only...Why limit A national treasure to be enjoyed safely and respectful of all wildlife

Correspondence ID: 814 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 03:43:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 815 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 04:19:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 816 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 05:15:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 817 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please continue to protect nesting birds and turtles and do not allow vehicles on the beach until an area is known to be free of nests. Protecting wildlife should be a major priority and any rule changes involving vehicles should be made with science/fact based decisions.

My family travels and our vacations always include National Park and National Seashore sites. We do not favor our vacation being spoiled by vehicles on the beach. We come to enjoy the seashore and the animals that inhabit it. If we wanted to contend with beach vehicles we would go to Florida during spring break.

Folks who want to fish can always drive their vehicles to a parking lot and walk in.

Correspondence ID: 818 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Given Cape Hatteras' increased use in all areas, the greatest effort possible should be used to preserve everything preservable.

Correspondence ID: 819 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 06:23:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 820 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.11.2016 06:48:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: 1. cape point should be open year round to vehicles and pedestrians.
2. area below cape point (the hook) should be opened up year round to vehicles. i am a retired Marine & have had 3 reconstructive knee surgeries, involving both knees. walking in is not a viable option and they haven't come up with a 4wd hover-round yet.

Correspondence ID: 821 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.11.2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac:

Representatives of the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance (CHAPA) (Outer Banks Preservation Association, North Carolina Beach Buggy Association, Cape Hatteras Anglers Club and representatives of the Hatteras Island business community) have reviewed the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for ORV Management Environmental Assessment (EA) published by the National Park Service (NPS) in February, 2016. In response to the NPS request for public comments, we have prepared this document and attachment for your consideration.

Since the 1977 presidential order and before the formal adoption of the REG-NEG process in 2007, CHAPA has worked with NPS to establish an ORV Rule that would both insure resource protection and allow maximum access for both pedestrians and ORVs. The ORV Rule making process was turned into a resource plan that insured failure of the intended ORV Plan. We have repeatedly compromised our positions in an effort to resolve differences with other groups and NPS. Vehicle access has been reduced from 67 miles to 28 miles plus seasonal routes of 13 miles all of which are subject to closure during nesting seasons which for the most part occur during the prime tourist seasons. Additionally, the number of access ramps has been reduced from 27 to 20.

CHAPA recognizes elements in action alternatives 1, 2 and 3 will positively impact the visitor experience at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore; but, no alternative fully adopts the suggestions for changes to the Final ORV rule submitted in August, 2015 during the public scoping process conducted by NPS. Several modifications must be made to the ultimately chosen alternative to achieve the objectives of the legislation which led to this process.

The attached "Comparison of Alternatives Table" provides information to explain CHAPA's positions. It is a copy of "Table 1. Alternatives Summary" (EA page 51) modified to include a column which documents for comparison the CHAPA suggestions submitted in the 2015 scoping process. CHAPA believes those suggestions submitted in 2015 remain appropriate today.

The five areas of the Final Rule considered for modifications in the EA are discussed below.

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(1) Morning Beach Openings -

EA Alternative 3 proposal for priority beaches to be opened daily at 6:00 a.m. is the same as the CHAPA recommendation made in 2015. Our goal was to provide access to high priority ORV routes as soon after sunrise as possible, recognizing that the daily turtle patrol required at least ambient light to complete its inspection before the ramp could be opened to ORVs.

EA Alternative 2 is an acceptable variation to our recommendation and would achieve CHAPA's goal. It provides morning access at the same relative time to sunrise throughout the summer as days grow shorter. This alternative would continue to provide a window of ambient light for turtle patrol to complete its daily inspection.

All EA alternatives designate ramps 2, 4, 25, 27, 43, 44, 48, 49, 70, and 72 as priority routes. NPS added ramps 25, 27 and 70 to those requested for designation by CHAPA. CHAPA supports these additions as improvements to the visitor experience.

CHAPA also recommended that night closures of beaches to ORVs not occur until 10:00 pm. We understand the staffing challenges to rake sand in front of nest within the hatch window to maintain daytime ORV access. We recommend that NPS further study data within the planned science workshops to determine opportunities to mitigate these risks to provide evening access until 10:00 p.m.

Conclusion: CHAPA supports alternative 3 but find NPS Preferred Alternative 2 acceptable for morning beach openings, with 10:00 p.m. closings until additional scientific study is conducted.

(2) Seasonal Off-Road Vehicle Routes -

The EA alternative 3 proposal to extend seasonal routes four weeks in the spring and fall in front of villages (Oct 1 - Apr 30) is the same as the CHAPA recommendation. CHAPA further recommended that seasonal routes not in front of villages be extended to run from September 1 through April 30.

The EA preferred alternative 2 proposes extending seasonal use two weeks in the spring and fall in front of villages and Ocracoke campground (Oct 15 - Apr 14).

Neither EA alternative proposed changes to the dates for seasonal routes not in front of villages (Bodie Island Spit, Spur Road, South Point Trail) would continue to be open from Sep 15 - Mar 14).

CHAPA continues to propose that seasonal ORV routes be opened by October 1 in the fall. As a point of reference, seasonal ORV access on Nags Head beaches (with higher pedestrian counts and more visitors than the Seashore) begins on October 1. As explained in the suggestions submitted in 2015, the visitor experience will benefit from the extension of seasonal routes in the fall with no increased risk to wildlife since avian nesting season will have ended by that time.

Conclusion: CHAPA supports Alternative 3.

(3) Vehicle Free Areas -

CHAPA believes that Vehicle Free Areas (VFAs) as currently instituted within the seashore severely limit the visitor experience. The EA proposes minimal changes to Vehicle Free Areas (VFA) at four locations.

The alternatives proposed within the EA will only provide minimal improvements to the visitor experience. CHAPA proposed changes to twelve seashore locations during the 2015 scoping process. These changes were described in detail in the documents submitted at that time. CHAPA believes integration of these proposals into whichever alternative is chosen is appropriate and necessary. The following table compares the impact of alternatives 2 and 3 and CHAPA's recommendations to VFAs and ORV routes currently in effect.

[Table comparing the impact of alternatives 2 and 3 and CHAPA's recommendations to VFAs and ORV routes currently in effect.]

The CHAPA proposals are intended to improve the visitor experience to the seashore without impairing resource protection. The proposed re-designation of 1.5 miles of VFAs to year-round access has specifically been identified for locations that are not typically used by nesting birds. Conversely, the proposed 6.0 miles of VFAs proposed for re-designation to seasonal access were not proposed for year-round access in recognition of their importance during the nesting season.

Having lost 40 miles of ORV access routes since the Presidential order of 1977, the NPS's proposal to reopen 3.0 miles (1.0 year-round, 2.0 seasonal) is in no way an indication of their willingness to recognize the importance of recreation as intended in the founding documents and recent legislation.

Observations over the past four years indicate VFAs are seldom used even during the busiest months of the year. CHAPA recommends that NPS initiate a continuing study of actual monthly visitor counts and uses within each VFA to validate that these areas are being used to an extent that justifies the level of year-round closures in place.

The following table compares CHAPA recommendations to the current state and to EA alternatives 2 and 3.

[Table comparing CHAPA recommendations to the current state and to EA alternatives 2 and 3.]

CHAPA recommends seven VFAs to be re-designated as seasonal and three to be re-designated as year-round. One seasonal route is proposed to be re-designated year-round. One VFA is proposed to be re-designated as VFA with Special Circumstances.

⌘ CHAPA recommends that Ramp 45 E (left) (1.2 mi) be re-designated a VFA with Special Circumstances with a provision that would allow the superintendent, using recommended adaptive management principles, to temporarily designate an ORV corridor to provide access to Cape Point when circumstances prevent ORV access via Ramp 44 S (right).

The single most important ORV access route at the Seashore is the area that encompasses Cape Point. The Final Rule designates only one ORV route, Ramp 44 S (right) for access to the Point.

Prior to the Final Rule, Ramp 45 E (left) provided a secondary route to Cape Point. The designation of 4 miles of beach between Cape Point and ramp 48 as a Vehicle Free Area (VFA) in the Final Rule removed this secondary route permanently. Should flooding or erosion occur unabated on the route from Ramp 44, future ORV access to Cape Point would be prohibited until a multi-year revised rule making process is completed.

Notwithstanding closures due to wildlife protection buffers during avian breeding season, Cape Point access via this one remaining designated route is closed periodically due to the effects of weather events such as nor'easters, extreme flooding, temporary (or possibly permanent) erosion problems, and turtle nests within the hatch window in the fall. Events during the fall and winter of 2015 are prime examples of the dynamic environment that can change dramatically in a matter of hours.

The VFA with Special Circumstances designation for Ramp 45 E (left) will recognize that the Superintendent has the authority to adaptively and positively manage access as conditions change at the Seashore just as he has the authority to adaptively manage resource protection measures as conditions change. The superintendent should use this authority to provide an ORV corridor through the VFA on a temporary basis to ensure access to the Point is not prevented when access via Ramp 44 is not feasible. The temporary ORV corridor would be subject to the same resource management guidelines used to establish buffers and corridors in seasonal and year round ORV routes throughout the Seashore.

⌘ Ramp 1 - South (right): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) VFA to Seasonal access

This area abuts the South Nags head beach which is seasonally open to ORVs. This access would provide added convenience for visitors who stay in Nags Head / Kitty Hawk / Kill Devil Hills during the fall and winter months.

⌘ Ramp 2 - South (right): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) VFA to Year Round ORV access

Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 include this proposal. This change will help alleviate ORV crowding at Ramp 4 and will obviate the need for building a new ramp

south of the existing ramp.

Ramp 2 is located at the southern end of the parking lot. Reopening Ramp 2 will also facilitate "park and ride" which many visitors use as a means to take family groups into the ORV areas.

This proposal assumes Ramp 4 will remain open thereby providing a north and south egress to the year round ORV area. When construction of the new Oregon Inlet Bridge occurs, NPS may be required to make additional changes to the configuration or replacement of Ramp 4 to insure adequate access.

â€ Ramp 4 - South (right) at Spit: Change 1,200 meters (.75 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access

This is an extremely popular location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to the spit after the summer nesting season has completed.

â€ Ramp 23 - North (left): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) Seasonal Access to Year Round Access

This change will provide more convenient summer ORV access to residents and visitors in the Rodanthe/Waves/Salvo area. The area is seldom used now and its closure contributes to crowding at Ramps 25 and 27.

â€

â€ Ramp 23 - South (right): Change 2,250 meters (1.4 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access

Alternatives 2 and 3 include this proposal. This location is extremely popular for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed.

â€ Ramp 32 - South (right): Change 1,550 meters (1.0 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access

Alternative 3 includes this proposal. This location is extremely popular for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed.

â€ Ramp 34 - North (left): Change 1,550 meters (1.0 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access

Alternatives 2 and 3 include this proposal. This is an extremely popular location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed.

â€ Buxton - Ramp 43 (left)- North: Change 1,000 meters (.6 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access

This change will help alleviate the crowded conditions that occur on Ramps 43 and 44 during the summer as resource closures occur. This is an extremely popular location for summer and fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras and which cannot be easily accessed without ORV. The area currently used as the lifeguard protected swimming beach will remain VFA and not be affected by this change.

â€ Ramp 45 - West (right): Change 2,050 meters (1.30 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access

This is an extremely popular location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed. The proposal to change this area to Seasonal Access rather than to Year Round Access recognizes that the area is on the fringe of high density nesting activity which may spill over. Seasonal designation will ease the difficulties of managing the resources while still allowing visitor access during the fall fishing season.

â€ Ramp 48 - East (left): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) at eastern boundary of Ramp 48 from VFA to Year Round Access

This change will increase the size of the year round access area east of Ramp 48 by .5 miles. The Ramp 48/49 route is one of the most popular ORV destinations during the summer for visitors who do not have direct ocean access at their rental homes or motels. It is frequently overcrowded. The additional access proposed will help alleviate the overcrowding which occurs here. The area proposed is also removed from the high density nesting area further to the east, reducing the likelihood of temporary resource protection closures.

â€ Ramp 59 - East (left): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) VFA to Year Round ORV access

Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 include this proposal. This change will increase public access at a very popular area and will obviate the need for building a new ramp south of the existing ramp.

Conclusion: The modifications proposed in Alternatives 2 and 3 are not adequate to accomplish the objectives of the legislation which required the examination of the VFAs designated in the Final Rule. Additional VFAs should be re-designated as seasonal ORV routes. Ramp 45 should be re-designated a VFA with Special Circumstances.

(4) ORV Permits -

CHAPA supports Alternative 2. We believe that changing the annual permit from a calendar year to a year from date of issue will be a significant improvement to the process for visitors.

We believe replacing the 7 day permit with a 10 day permit will be viewed favorably by visitors. Other terms, such as three day or two week permits should be evaluated by NPS to determine if they would add value to the visitor experience.

Conclusion: CHAPA supports NPS Preferred Alternative 2. Alternatives 1 or 3 would also accomplish the goal to improve the visitor experience. NPS should adopt the alternative that can be most efficiently implemented and enforced.

(5) Access Improvements -

Access improvements proposed in NPS preferred Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 are similar to some of the recommendations made by CHAPA in 2015 and will add value to the visitor/ORV experience.

Modifications to the Ramp 44 S (right) bypass route to fully extend from where the dune line begins at Ramp 44 on the north end to where it ends on the south end will provide visitor access to Cape Point during times of extreme high tide and erosion which this area seems to experience more and more frequently every year.

Road improvements and construction of parking areas at Bitter Wash Creek and Devil Shoals Road will add much needed soundside access on Ocracoke Island.

Re-designation of Ramp 45 as a park road and construction of a parking area at its terminus will improve pedestrian access to the hook to the west of Cape Point.

Several additional access improvement projects were recommended by CHAPA in 2015. These projects should be added to the recommended alternative.

☞ Soundside Access - Bodie Island

No sound side access, pedestrian or ORV, is available on Bodie Island. Several locations are present that could easily accommodate such access. This proposal, made by several commenters, received no discussion either pro or con and deserves the attention of NPS to accommodate the many visitors from the villages north of the Seashore boundaries. CHAPA proposes that a project be added to provide soundside access on Bodie Island.

☞ Two Way Ramps - Oceanside and Soundside

All ramps within the seashore should be built to accommodate two-way traffic to improve visitor safety.

Conclusion: CHAPA supports NPS Preferred Alternative 2 and suggests it be expanded to provide soundside access on Bodie Island.

CHAPA believes the proposals made in this document are consistent with the language and intent of the legislation. We believe these proposals will not impair resource protection efforts. We believe these proposals can be implemented with minimal impact to NPS resources. And most importantly, we believe these proposals will significantly improve the visitor experience through greater access as intended by Congress.

We are available to discuss these proposals at your convenience.

Correspondence ID: 822 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 07:34:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 823 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 08:31:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 824 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect this habitat for the shore birds, turtles, etc.

Correspondence ID: 825 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 09:12:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have been going/coming to the Outer Banks since 1970. I have surf fished from Kitty Hawk to Ocracoke. Most recently, since 1980 to the present, a group of 4 of us have been going to Avon, NC in the fall to surf fish from there north and south to the Point. I request that the closing of the area in front of the Villages be shorter in duration. I request that more access be provided to the Point since it was closed for 6 months last year. I request that the 7 day permit be changed to a 10 day permit.

Correspondence ID: 826 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Some of my concerns include that beaches are checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning preferably when beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach. Which brings me to my next concern. Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds, and please limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife. Our wildlife deserves protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive. Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Correspondence ID: 827 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 09:38:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation. I support the following positions on the proposed changes:
Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
Seasonal ORV routes:
I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
Vehicle-free areas:
I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
Access Improvements:
Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.
By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.
Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 828 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

I attended Guilford College in North Carolina, and I was always amazed at the beautiful beaches there. I hate to think of the beautiful wildlife there being hurt. Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 829 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: NPS proposed changes to ORV regulations at Cape Hatteras National Seashore fail to adequately protect birds by allowing morning opening of beaches, extending the length of fall and spring seasonal ORV routes, and modifying the size and location of vehicle-free areas. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. Scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Protections for birds and turtles are reduced by allowing driving during courtship and nesting periods, and opening beaches to driving before the areas are thoroughly checked for sea turtle nests. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14 in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize populations of oystercatchers, Least Terns, and other priority species.

ORV routes must not be extended to any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles, or birds or other wildlife. There should be no driving on beaches in the morning until they have been checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks, and vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 830 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 10:16:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 831 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 10:20:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: KEEP IT OPEN!!! Open the entire area between Ramp 49 and Ramp 43 We come to the region often for fishing, shelling, etc. We are considering buying home there and keeping the area open is important to us!

Correspondence ID: 832 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am in favor of any measures taken by the NPS to modify the 2012 regulations (including all outlined in the EA, and more...) in order to responsibly increase ORV access to the public who overwhelmingly treat the environment with great care and naturally coexist with the wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 833 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 10:51:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 834 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

ps: would we build a new bridge and then not have access to our beach resource?
And if I am wrong in my use of this natural resources , please advise me

Correspondence ID: 835 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Don't do it.

Correspondence ID: 836 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service.

Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. Please cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 837 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 12:26:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 838 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The Cape Hatteras Seashore Plan fails to protect wildlife and seashore ambiance and beauty. Isn't the job of the NPS to encourage environmental stewardship and appreciation of our natural treasures? There are too many species impacted negatively. People understand that recreation has to be limited during courtship, nesting and fledging of birds and other wildlife. Families with children enjoy these beaches. People also understand that noise, pollution, traffic and danger from ORVs on seashores is something that should be prudently controlled and limited.

Beaches need to be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before beaches open in the morning. Beaches should be cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on beaches. Vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, Oystercatchers, Plovers and other shorebirds. Don't extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on beach areas that affect sea turtles or birds. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of wildlife.

Your rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts are not the experience folks expect when they visit a National Seashore. ORC use is a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being run over. Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home.

Please, Please cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Thanks for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 839 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My name is [REDACTED] I have been visiting Hatteras Island since before the Bonner Bridge was built; first with my parents, then with my wife and children and now with our children and grand children. I have seen the dramatic changes over the years, many of which I do not welcome.

My degree is in Biology with emphasis on environmental biology, including a summer marine biology institute. I was responsible for environmental compliance including permitting processes for the manufacturing company for which I worked. I am proud to say that in my 33 years we never received any citations.

I am writing in support of the CHAPA proposals. I have never driven a vehicle on the beach and I do not find the presence of vehicles on the beach to be a highlight of my time on Hatteras. I am not writing in self interest, but in the interest of common sense.

It has been said that animals are people, too. That is a biologically unsupportable and sentimental notion. It is true from a biological perspective that people are animals, too. It seems that in this matter, the "rights" of the non-human animals are given preeminence over the "rights" of humans. In all ecological systems there is interaction and conflict between species and some of the effects are negative. I do believe that we should accommodate the other species that use the seashore, not because they have special "rights", but as a matter of stewardship and respect. A perspective only manifested in humans.

Stewardship and respect are not a part of the picture when considering "natural" systems. Death and extinction are as much a part of the "natural" order as life and birth, and stewardship and respect are sentimental notions. As biologists we determine what is "natural" by observing behavior. Whatever a species is observed to do is determined to be natural behavior. If that process is applied to the human species and if we are seeking to preserve the "natural" order then there should be no restriction on their behavior on the beaches. We are just doing what we naturally do.

I do believe that we have a stewardship obligation to respect and manage our impact on the world in which we live. I do not believe that it is an artificial construct that is a product of the sentimental notions of those who believe in the purity, innocence and pristine quality of "nature" (considered apart from human beings). I believe that our stewardship responsibility comes from God and is an "obligation" for which we are accountable to him. History and everyday life shows us that for better or for worse, that is what we do. We manage things. The issue is balance. In this situation I believe that the balance has tipped too far in favor of protection of animals and restriction of human activity. Frankly, it appears that no accommodation on the part of the concerned species is tolerated and any accommodation on the part of the human species is not too much.

I believe that the proposals of CHAPA are very reasonable. We humans are paying you humans to manage this affair on our behalf. Please restore the balance.

Correspondence ID: 840 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hello

I will be brief. Extending more time to ATV's near shore bird nesting / raising young and turtle nests is not a sensible decision. Migratory birds, nesting birds have lost so much safe nesting spots and habitat.

MORE PROTECTION NOT LESS is a better idea. Please speak up for future generations of birds and turtles, give them a safe, interference free place to nest and rest.

The beach is big enough for everyone, let our wildlife have their own area.

I do so enjoy our National Parks, making peaceful connections with Nature.

THank You

[REDACTED]
NPCA and Legacy Member since 2002

Correspondence ID: 841 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 13:33:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 842 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 14:13:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, I think the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment majorly favor off-road vehicle use. This is at the expense of wildlife protection, and the visitor experience, for the majority of park-goers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 843 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 14:41:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am interested in showing my support for Alternative #4 Which is the Frank Folb Alternative. As a sport fisherman this clearly is the most reasonable Alternative.

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 844 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The use of off-road vehicles destroys plant and animal life, because they're typically used in a reckless manner, to show-off one's "skills".

Please - do *not* allow the unfettered use of off-road vehicles in Cape Hatteras and other wild areas!

Correspondence ID: 845 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 14:44:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 846 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 14:54:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My support goes to Alternative #4.(The Frank Folb Alternative) As a sport fisherman, the less restrictions on access the better. The sport fisherman brings an economic influx to the economy of the area, and it is reasonable to make access easier for this purpose instead of more restrictive. Lets keep sport fishing alive and well.

Correspondence ID: 847 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 14:59:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please implement Alternative 3 outlined in the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for Off-Road Vehicle Management Environmental Assessment.

Correspondence ID: 848 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a member of the Island Turtle Team for Isle of Palms, SC, and am very active in the Center for Birds of Prey in Awendaw SC, which provides medical care to shorebirds as well as birds of prey. I am distressed to learn that your proposed regulation for the NC coast are moving backwards from when I first read about them, with less protection of birds and turtles and more increased hours for vehicles on the beaches. SC does not permit recreational vehicles on our beaches, and the public is very supportive of our beach protections. I sincerely hope you will move your regulations to the side increased protection, rather than decreased. Do not harm wildlife by allowing increased driving on the beaches when there are so many other places for recreational driving that are not so destructive.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 849 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 15:17:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 850 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please take into consideration the birds that inhabit the Cape Hatteras Wildlife/Shore Area. These birds bring untold beauty to the area and Off Road Vehicles destroy habitat. As humans, "IT IS OUR DUTY TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE"! Thank you!

Correspondence ID: 851 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 17:56:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 852 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: In my view, ORV's should not be allowed on Cape Hatteras beaches. The threat to birds, turtles and other wildlife posed by these vehicles is not consistent with the mission of the National Park Service. visitors should be able to enjoy the beauty and peace of the seashore without disturbance from ORV's noise and tearing up the sand. Please protect this national treasure for the benefit of all citizens.

Correspondence ID: 853 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 18:30:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 854 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Ples drain the swamp by the campground. Can you give us more acces to the point. There is enough room for birds and fishermen. Please drain all the water on the road by the fish table. I hope you act in our intrest. Thank you [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 855 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 18:50:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 856 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I am asking you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Correspondence ID: 857 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Net save the turtles. As it is they have a very hard time surviving to adulthood even when the beach is off limits to vehicles

Correspondence ID: 858 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Our shorelines are precious natural resources. National parks on the oceans are susceptible to dangerous and hazardous chemicals. We need to preserve and protect these sacred spaces.

Correspondence ID: 859 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,11,2016 20:50:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have been going to the OuterBanks for over 20 years. I would like to open the point to ORV (Ramp 43 to 49) and remove VFAs. The ORV period should go from April to October. There can be balance between nature and humans and right now it is overly restrictive. People have been diving to and fishing on the point since cars could navigate the beach and all flora and fauna have flourished.

The people who fish the point are also nature lovers and naturalists and they too, respect the beach and habitats of birds and turtles.

Thank you for reading my comment.



Correspondence ID: 860 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please make sure adequate care is taken to preserve the wildlife of the sea shores and dunes areas.

May animals and plants breed in these areas. Indigenous plants may exist nowhere else. Birds, mammals, sea turtles, and other reptiles use these areas to breed and they should be preserved as best possible.

I hope adequate space, and time, are reserved for breeding.

Correspondence ID: 861 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Having visited this area many times it is sad to see that vehicles are ruining the area. This should be at least banned during the breeding season for all birds and animals.

Correspondence ID: 862 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the limit to extend the ORV routes at Cape Hatteras National Seashore until a science-based review is done, meaning that any extending these routes won't harm any section of beach that has nesting birds or sea turtle eggs present. The NPS shouldn't bow to public comment that repudates these science based reviews...the benefits from the protection of these shorebirds and sea turtles far out ways unlimited extension of these routes. Daily review of these areas should be done to make sure no harm is done to these creatures during this time in their nesting seasons. I strongly support Audubon's views on this subject. Thank you for allowing public comment.

Correspondence ID: 863 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I regret that I was not available to attend the public comment meetings in person, and I appreciate the opportunity to express my comments electronically. I have carefully followed this issue for years as a multiple homeowner on Hatteras Island. I own a home in Avon semi-oceanfront and one in Frisco, soundfront. My family has used and enjoyed the beaches for 30 years and find the ORV access particularly appealing. We are sympathetic to the co-existence of wildlife with beach traffic and feel that a reasonable balance is the answer. We have close friends who volunteer to monitor turtle nests and close friends who are incensed at the lack of access to Cape Point. We appreciate both viewpoints on the issue.

We wholly support the Alternatives as supported by CHAPA and have read their letter in explanation of their choices. They are reasonable and "spot on" in accordance with our own personal observations. (We are not members of the organizations represented). We also actively supported the legislation which brought us to this point. Hatteras Island's beach access is unique in the world and the regulations that have been changing that access for the past many years has been coldhearted and bureaucratic.

Adopt the CHAPA supported alternatives.

Correspondence ID: 864 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Nothing worse than serene hike ruined by loud/polluting off-road vehicles. Leave nature/wildlife alone. Humans are DESTROYING this beautiful planet!!!!

Correspondence ID: 865 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: National Parks and seashores were not created for vehicles. Please protect the wildlife and human visitors from danger, pollution, noise, and destruction.

Correspondence ID: 866 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
CHAPAS has a good plan.

Too bad we need any of this.

Listen to them!!!

Listen to us.

Correspondence ID: 867 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Need to keep beaches open for recreation. That was the original promise when national seashore was created

Correspondence ID: 868 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I'm here to say I support the new rule in modifying the orv plan human and wildlife has been interacting for hundreds of yrs so why can't we interact now it's because of some multi million dollar groups that sue to get there way stand up to them and say there are ways to protect and have routes for us citizens that enjoy the beaches of hatteras.

Correspondence ID: 869 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 07:00:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a local resident who enjoys beach fishing I wholeheartedly support broadening access to the beaches by virtue of a modification to the Off Road Vehicle Management Plan with the National Park Service. The current rules prohibit free and easy access to the National Park Service Beaches and they should be modified to make access available to people who have limited resources to purchase the right to use the beach.

Correspondence ID: 870 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It's a shame that outsiders of our state have more impute than we,my dad has long been a member of different groups that fish summer and generally vacation on obx. He tough all of us the importance of the sea and sand working together. Although my family doesn't get there as much anymore, we still love the obx and the various opportunities to see nature and people coexist. My father tough to me how to fish, read a beach and leave it cleaner than I found it. And the thought of not being able to pass down the enjoyment and love of what the obx is known for is offensive and just ridiculous. I'm asking people to wake up and respect the beach. Not take it away.

Correspondence ID: 871 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As an active user of Cape Hatteras Seashore unlike many of the folks submitting the obviously pre-formatted comments from out of the area; I urge you to adopt regulations similar to that proposed by the NCBBA. Of particular importance to me are opening the ramps earlier when possible, consider re-opening South Beach to vehicle traffic during the off-season and supporting use of alternate routes to the Point whenever possible. I am also a supporter of birds and turtles, but these out of state commenters in almost every instance no nothing of the actual relationship between beach users and wildlife on Hatteras. There is a local culture of reasonable protection but also use, enjoyment and respect for the seashore. The cultural ties to South Beach and the Point run deep as community centers - as odd as that may sound to someone from LA. We have appreciated visiting with Supt Hallock on several occasions and hope that the sensible approach, balance and respect that he shows will continue. Thank you for all NPS does to protect the seashore, but also to ensure access.

Correspondence ID: 872 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I vacation yearly at the OBX and would very much like to see the rules relaxed. For people on vacation just looking to fish it would make for a much more enjoyable time. With very little if any difference made to any poor turtles, ridiculous. Good luck! Love the OBX!!

Correspondence ID: 873 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 07:40:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 874 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 07:41:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 875 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 07:43:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 876 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My family and I visit the outer banks every year and we would love to see the access to the beaches increased. Not only would it be great for us as fisherman and beach lovers, but it would greatly benefit the local economy. All the businesses that depend on the beaches and tourism for income would certainly benefit from less restricted access.

Correspondence ID: 877 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: AS A NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENT, I support REDUCING RESTRICTIONS and CLOSINGS and PERMIT COST for ORV ACCESS to all of CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL PARK. I feel that i have been denied use of this area by the high cost of a permit and the out of state special interest groups which have plenty of money to limit my access to advance their interest in this area.

Correspondence ID: 878 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support expanded pedestrian and ORV access.

Correspondence ID: 879 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Allowing off-road vehicles on to our beaches at any time is disgusting to me but nesting and feeding birds and nesting turtles must, at the very least, be protected from the noise and disturbance of motorized vehicles!

I believe that only beaches that do not provide nesting for wildlife should be used and please!! do not extend the hours of vehicle use!

Correspondence ID: 880 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,12,2016 08:16:45

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving

restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 881 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 08:26:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Access to the point from the south side around the man made salt pond (which shouldn't be allowed to stay flooded) must go forward to allow access to this national treasure. We have recreated here for more than 25 years and holds many great memories, and as a village of Frisco land owner with Grand children, it is my intention to share this natural resource and wildlife with them so they can become to cherish this environment.

Thank you
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 882 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been visiting and vacationing on the Outer Banks for the last 39 years. The best part of my visits to the Outer Banks was the access we had to the best surf fishing grounds on the east coast. In recent years the restrictions have been very excessive limiting the areas for the best fishing. For the first 30 years or so, there were no issues about wildlife being damaged in any way. This did not start until the environmental groups, who don't even live or come to the Outer Banks, started the lawsuits, in my opinion, to make money! I agree there should be some protection for wildlife but not to the extent of shutting get down the beach for the best part of the vacation season. This also affects greatly the livelihood of the businesses who have been on the Outer Banks for many years. Motels, tackle shops, realty companies, restaurants and grocery stores to name a few. It makes it harder and harder for those businesses, many who are family owned, to make a good living. I feel the restrictions should be relaxed or adjusted to allow the vacationers more access to the areas that they came to enjoy. The Cape Hatteras National Recreational Seashore was created as just that, Recreational. Many promises that were made have been ignored. It time we start reviewing and start honoring those promises. I believe that the right adjustments will greatly improve many aspects of life and on the Outer Banks. Thank you for listening to my concerns. Now "get er done"

Correspondence ID: 883 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 08:41:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I write in favor of the National Park Service's preferred alternative for Modifications to the Final Rule for Off-Road Vehicle Management Environmental Assessment on Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

My family and I visit the seashore several times a year, both during summer and in the off-season. Our children swim and fish the waters in front of our extended family's home in Salvo. When they are big enough, they will learn to surf Hatteras with their grandfather. My wife grew up visiting Hatteras as a child and I have come to love the island over my past 15 years of visits.

We make frequent use of both VFAs and ORV accessible areas on the seashore, during both summer and winter. We have an annual ORV permit for one of our vehicles.

I believe that the National Park Service's preferred alternative (alternative 2) strikes a balance between users of the seashore resource. In particular, I am in favor of extending seasonal ORV access south of ramp 23, to make a continuous ORV route linking the tri-village area with ramps 25 and 27. This provides access for anglers, surfers, and other off-season resource users, while maintaining in-season VFA for both wildlife and park users seeking quiet solitude on the national seashore.

I am not in favor of three-day ORV permits, as contemplated in alternative 3. I worry that inexpensive, short-term permits will lead to overcrowding on established ORV routes, particularly during summer weekends. Those holding three-day permits will have incentives to "cram" all ORV access into a short 72-hour period, unlike those who currently hold a week-long or annual permit. This will increase impacts on the island, wildlife, and park users. I recognize that ORV dollars help to support Park Service activities, but worry that short-term permits (and the crowding they bring) will actually decrease revenue due to overcrowding.

Finally, I thank the Park Service for the opportunity to comment on the modifications to the ORV plan. I understand that several national groups have encouraged their members to submit cookie-cutter comments to the Park Service. I hope that the voices of actual park users are not drowned out by those who have never visited the seashore.

Thank you for your stewardship of Hatteras.

Correspondence ID: 884 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge you to relax the restrictions on access to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore RECREATIONAL AREA. From 1978 until 2010, I visited the Outer Banks an average of four times a year. Two of those trips each year were with groups of at least four couples. The primary reasons for our visits were to surf fish and enjoy the tranquility of being able to drive to an uncrowded spot and enjoy the day. I haven't returned since 2010 and no intentions of returning as long as the current restrictions are in place. Our favorite places to fish were south of ramp 23, north of ramp 34 and "The Hook". All of those places are now off limits to vehicles for some reason which I simply cannot understand. They are not known nesting areas and they are very removed from the villages making pedestrian traffic almost non existent. There is no reason other than to punish the fishermen for closing those areas.

I know that you will receive thousands of comments from members of Audubon and DOW from around the country. Ninety percent of those people couldn't find Cape Hatteras on a map, much less ever visit it. I beg you to listen to the people who have supported the Seashore since day one and before. I am retired now and have more time to fish than ever. It's a real shame the place I love dearly and want to be has been taken away. Please give it back!

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 885 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 09:07:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please relax the rules for access to the beaches. I enjoy vacationing in the outer banks and fishing for red drum. I understand that most of your comments in opposition are a form letter from an environmental group who will probably never vacation and spend their money in the obx. Please give more weight to resident's comments first,followed by people who actually visit the obx.

Correspondence ID: 886 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please keep the more stringent rules in place in order to protect the biodiversity that needs beaches as breeding habitat.

Correspondence ID: 887 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: For those of us who like scenery, quiet and wildlife keeping this national treasure intact is of prime importance. ORV drivers can be quite heedless of the environment, besides the noise their vehicles make, which is most disturbing.

Correspondence ID: 888 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am in favor of opening up more of the beach to ORV access.

Correspondence ID: 889 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 15:43:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: After reviewing the options, I strongly support Alternative #3. My family has been going to the cape Hatteras National Seashore since 1986 and my children have grown up playing at the point. The recent restrictions severely degraded the experience by closing off some of the best fishing and swimming areas for most of the year.

I'm opposed to the current restrictive environment at the park and strongly oppose any restrictions on beach going and beach driving. If there was an option to go back to the status prior to the restrictions I would support it. As it is, Alternative #3 seems to be the closest to achieving that.

Correspondence ID: 890 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on EA for the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for Off Road Vehicle Management. We have been at this for a long time- -at least three life times as measured by Cape Hatteras Recreational Seashore superintendent tenures. At each opportunity, we the locals, have compromised our freedoms and rights originally granted by the US government in the attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution. We stay in place and are the ones impacted for the results of these discussions and regs while most of the other participants move on and their replacements do not have the history or previously commitment/understandings.

I am in favor or reg changes that provide increased beach access especially by vehicles, access for longer periods during the day, and regs that are based on facts and true peer reviewed studies. In particular I support the comments recently sent to you by the North Carolina Beach Buggy Association and Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Association which I include by reference, so do not have to repeat them and can shorten this comment.

Submitted by:
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 891 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 16:06:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 892 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,12,2016 16:06:26

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The proposed modifications for ORV management are over due and reflect an effort to bring balance to the multi use philosophy the the Cape Hatteras National Seashore was founded on. This Park, like many others, are surrounded by communities that are economically tied them. The very restrictive rules that are now in place have had serious economic impacts on Ocracoke's tourism. Many of the tourist that used to come during the early summer and and fall have stopped because of restricted access to the points and other popular fishing areas. I strongly support the proposed modifications and hope that the Park Service will implement them soon. I also strongly encourage the Park service to recognize forms letters for what they are and give more credence to letters written from citizens who live within and around the Cape Hatteras Seashore. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 893 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Am a former resident of Frisco, NC. I lived on Cape Hatteras for almost 4 years. I worked at [REDACTED] that whole time. Before then, I spent 12 1/2 years in Th US Marine Corps, Honorable discharged for medical reasons. I am now a disabled American Vet. So when I left the Marine Corps I used my severance, and savings to relocate to a place that I fell in love with in 1980, and where I wanted to live my civilian life. That was in 2004. By 2006 there were so many beach closures that people quit vacationing at Cape Hatteras, and the local economy began to plummet. By 2007 [REDACTED], owner of [REDACTED], my employer, was forced to make a decision that hurt himself emotionally. For the first time in his life in Buxton, he had to fire 2 employees due to the lack of income. My ex-wife and I were the ones he had to let go. We could not find jobs on the island, because all businesses were letting people go due to the lack of income. That lack of income is DIRECTLY caused by excessive restrictions to the beach. No body wants to visit the beach, if your not allowed on it. There are many in my situation, who are disabled. We can't walk miles of beach with a backpack to visit and enjoy what we once were able to. Excessive restrictions are now, in my eyes, preventing disabled Americans the ability to enjoy something that we once enjoyed. I am absolutely for the preservation of endangered species, and everyone I know is for the preservation as well. But there is a middle ground that can be reached, if done so to oblige both sides of the line. I hope that the NPS will balance restrictions and closures nessisary, but do everything they can do to provide the best access in return. The restrictions in the past of everything closed period hurts every aspect of that island I was proud to call home. I hope to one day be able to bring my children back to Cape Hatteras, and enjoy the beauty we once enjoyed. I had to leave the place I loving called home, I had to spend the last of what I had to restart my life, again, all because a special interest group didn't care about a single person who lived on that island. Please make Cape Hatteras great again, please use common sense to balance wildlife protection and human visitors. Thank you for your time.

Correspondence ID: 894 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,12,2016 17:32:52

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I think the morning opening time should be changed to 4:00 AM.

The seasonal ORV routes should be opened on October 1st of each year.

I support alternative #2 for the ORV permits.

Correspondence ID: 895 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a frequent visitor to Hatteras Island and plan to retire there. I fully support expanded vehicle and pedestrian access so the public can enjoy fishing, water sports and beach going in more places and for more of the year.

Correspondence ID: 896 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have enjoyed coming to the OBX ever since I was a child, the fishing and the wildlife,the views and the experience is second to none. I have brought my kids once and with all of the beach closures the experience was tainted. My kids have been unable to see the beauty of a sunset at the point! They have been robbed of the one of a kind experience and I am ashamed to say that without some comments sense leadership my kids will never get to see the numerous shooting stars with the lighthouse shining in the background. I have never seen anyone harm any kind of wildlife and if these rules are not reversed the common family will stop coming to this island. I cannot justify spending my vacation at a place that once held a special place in my family's heart but is now so restricted that we are unable to enjoy it. Please use sound science and common sense and the voices of the people who have actually been to this strip of sand and knows what is actually going on, not a special interest group who spreads mis truths.

A concerned North Carolinian,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 897 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,12,2016 18:29:09

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please continue to protect seabirds and other wildlife including turtles .Please protect the birds during nesting and other seasons when they need it.. Please do not extend the times and days that orv can be on the beaches and areas where the birds are nesting and Breeding . Please protect the birds and other wildlife. Thank you

Correspondence ID: 898 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,12,2016 18:32:01

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 899 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 18:37:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: 1. Example of the reason for my comment. Today I went to the beach via Ramp 49. Had to drive through water on the ramp to get to the beach. I drove on to Ramp 48 heading towards Cape Point. Could not get on Ramp 45 because of year round closure.could not get to ramp 44 via Ramp 48 because of dunial road was flooded. Decided to go threw the Cape Point Campground but it was also flooded.(while trying to get around the flooded areas I was wondering if the trees in Cape Point were going to make it this season soaking in salt water). The only choice I had was to return to Ramp 49 to exit threw the water. Why did NPS build ramp 48 ? To go where ?
2. Why can't NPS clear the vegetation around the salt pond at Ramp 44 giving the birds a feeding and nesting area,open Ramp 45 to walkers and ORV's. Opening this area to walkers and ORVs would deter the predators,giving a chance for fledging chicks,since there hasn't been much success. 3. Why do we need more ORV Free Beaches. In the summer months we have enough ORV Free Beaches. Pea Island is ORV Free
In front of Rodanthe Villiage is ORV Free
In front of Salvo Villiage is ORV Free
In front of Avon Village is ORV Free
In front of Frisco Village is ORV Free
Ramp 27 ORV Free
Ramp 38 North ORV Free
Haul Over to North of Ramp 43 ORV Free
RAmp 45 ORV Free
Frisco Pier south to Ramp 55 ORV Free
Why do we need to spend money for ORV Free Ramps like Ramp 25 parking lots. NPS needs to do a survey. For Example: On any given summer day Ramp 38 is over loading with park cars that have been park there not for walk overs but for people parking there meeting a friend or family member that has a ORV to caring them to the beach.
90% o the vacationers come to Hatteras Island to drive the beaches.

Correspondence ID: 900 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Hoping for the most access. M0ved here 6 years ago. Wished we would not have. Everything was closed after we moved. Retired to where we loved to be and then got the shock of no access. The people never did anything to foil those birds from reproducing and existing. I saw a bird dying today and spoke a prayer. Its out of line what you are doing to the beaches. All those signs to make a pen that is washed away most of the time. The enviromentalists have no clue what is going on here and fed so many lies.

Correspondence ID: 901 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Hello I truly hope someone reads the real publics' response and not the computer generated email blast from the special interest groups that don't have the beauty of the lighthouses in their backyard. Raised in NC, I fell in love with Hatteras Island as a young girl and now I am an adult and get to appreciate the beauty that surrounds this island. I go to the beach every day, and I don't say that because it's cool or because I live here, but I go every day of the week, just ask anyone. I embrace the wildlife that explodes out of these ribbons of sand that move in the Atlantic. It is so diverse and always changing with the seasons. Our home here is unusually rough at times and then breathtakingly beautiful the next and a sound side sunset never gets old.

I am a beachcomer, and very good at it, and use to walk to the point from the campground but I actually try to forget the place even exist. The closures have been so ridiculous. I felt like America lost some secret war and we were being punished by not being able to walk the beach. I understand having rules for driving on the beach but to actually prohibit an American citizen from walking on an American shoreline for protection of birds is absurd.

I won't go into the many details about what i dont like about the closure but i will mention a few things that puzzle me. First, is anyone aware of the environmental impact from the litter that comes from the items used to make these bird closures? Second are there any beach clean up? I never see anyone cleaning up. what's the point of protecting birds if they are going to die from eating plastic. Laatly, whats the purpose of demolitoning the birds habitat to make more ORV access? If restricting access is suppose to help the listed species, then why destroy it?

I can't believe so much human effort would go into the protection of an animal over the livelihood of other humans. I love all animals and i am actually an avid bird watcher but what has happened to our little island is not right. Our island's economy has been damaged severely by the extremist in this situation. I feel like we need more education, more public awareness and less restrictions and less prohibition.

Correspondence ID: 902 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 18:54:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I Think there should be a 2nd ramp for access to Cape Point to be used in the summer months. Cape Point is a vital point for the economy of Hatteras Islands business.This is like shutting down the Hover Dam when visiting Vegas,or shutting down Disney World when visiting Orlando. If of any ramp should always stay open year round ,it should be ramp 44 Cape Point.

Correspondence ID: 903 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a resident on Hatteras Island year around. I work in emergency services and also have a BS in Biology with a focus on ecology. I use my access to the beach via vehicle almost every day I have off. I understand the significance of protecting all components of this ecosystem, however, with some of the regulations imposed it seems as though politics as taken over for common sense. Protecting the flora and fauna of our local ecosystem needs to be done but not so that it destroys the culture of the local people. Nevertheless, preserving a way of life should not take presidents over preserving the ecosystem. People who live on Hatteras Island want to protect the species native to its shores but know that current regulations are unnecessarily extreme. The proposed modifications make more sense to me than what's currently being implemented but that doesn't mean it should be set in stone. What is most important is that local people work with local governments in insuring that the way of life of islanders is not destroyed and that our ecosystem is sensibly preserved (as it has been done for years). The voices of those who are not directly involved with the local region should be ignored because those individuals are out of touch with the reality of Hatteras Island. They do not know the way of life or respect it. Thanks

Correspondence ID: 904 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 19:02:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: After reviewing the 3 options, alternative 2 or 3 would be the only two I would endorse. I have been coming to the Outer Banks for almost 10 years. I usually spend between 4-6 weeks a year renting a house for my stay. I use the Outer Banks for fishing, relaxing, shelling, and just enjoying time with family and friends.

Currently the Cape Point is closed most of the year to ORV driving. Cape Point needs to be open to vehicles year round as this is THE BEST fishing location on the East Coast. The financial surge of having Cape Point open to driving is huge. People drive 12 plus hours to come enjoy the Cape Point, as there is no place like it. With the Cape Point closed to driving, people are not frequenting the Outer Banks like they used to. Driving on the beach is why people come to the Outer Banks, and closing Cape Point down during the height of the season makes no financial sense, and makes people take their money elsewhere. Even with bird and turtle nests present, there needs to be a way for people to be able to drive out to Cape Point any time of the year.

This would be the changes to propose:

1. We want to open the point to ORV (Ramp 43 to 49) - remove VFA (Vehicle Free Area)
2. We want to open as ORV the area north of Avon (Ramp 34 to Ramp 30) - remove VFA
3. We'd like the seasonal ORV period to be Oct 1 - Apr30

I have been coming to the Outer Banks for many years. With the increased beach driving restrictions, it just makes people resent the NPS more and more. The people want NPS to use common sense and allow access to one of the most wild places on the ocean to enjoy, Cape Point.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.



Correspondence ID: 905 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am submitting my support of the proposed new rules relaxing access and permitting responsible ORV used of the cape Hatteras National seashore. These new modifications are sensible. Responsible changes in the best interest of both the environment and responsible access for both local businesses and visitors.

Correspondence ID: 906 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,12,2016 21:31:09

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Correspondence ID: 907 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,12,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: While I now live in New Mexico, I have enjoyed the beaches of the Outer Banks from my childhood as a navy brat in Norfolk to 2006. Please maintain the beaches in their wild and natural state, and do not allow the proposed motorized access. Wild, free beaches are unique. Keep them for the wildlife and walkers.

Correspondence ID: 908 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,13,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: [https://parkplanning.nps.gov/showFile.cfm?projectID=59571&MIMETType=application/pdf&filename=Alts summary table.pdf&sfid=234882](https://parkplanning.nps.gov/showFile.cfm?projectID=59571&MIMETType=application/pdf&filename=Alts%20summary%20table.pdf&sfid=234882)

I would ask that you please consider alternative 4

Correspondence ID: 909 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,13,2016 06:19:44

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support alternative 3 but would like to have less VFA between ramps 45 and 49.

Correspondence ID: 910 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,13,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like the current restrictions retained or strengthened. I have a summer home on the Outer Banks and driving on the beach only contributes to further beach erosion which is already a serious concern. Let's try to retain the beach and not ruin the beach.

Correspondence ID: 911 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,13,2016 07:50:48

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 912 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a long time fisherman on the outer banks I have been dismayed at the increasing restrictions in recent years. before the restrictions I would come the obx to fish 12 times a year. Since the restrictions I might come once. I go elsewhere. We no longer rent houses, spend money etc as we once did. There is no point when the beaches are closed and we cant fish.

Ive driven on and fished beaches from cape cod to the core banks. What has happened on the OBX is a damn shame. a few organizations are trying to end public access to public lands. Far more restrictive than anywhere else on the east coast. they have been ineffective other than closing out people, which I suspect was the goal all along.

I support open beaches with a responsible access plan. one were all sides are heard and an honest effort is made to see the issues from all sides. In recent years its all been about the birds, turtles etc. I love nature but there is more to the equation than just those things, there are rights of the public to use public lands. there is the economic impacts on the residents of the obx.

Correspondence ID: 913 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: All habitats are important to maintain the integrity of the world as a whole, and the beaches are no exception. The birds and sea turtles the breed on your beaches affect life in other parts of this great planet, and any upset in their numbers can drastically alter life elsewhere. It is our responsibility as the "thinking" species to protect all ecosystems to allow the diversity within them to survive and prosper. Willful destruction of any habitat by not restricting harmful human activity is writing a death sentence for affected species. Please do all that is within your power as a governing agency to protect this unique area. Thank you for your continued concern on this important matter.

Correspondence ID: 914 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 08:57:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We favor alternative#2, an alternative access to the point from the South, and plans for draining of access ramps. It is hard to imagine that one of the most popular National Parks, for the people, along the East Coast cannot be accessed by the people.

Correspondence ID: 915 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 09:03:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am in favor of alternative #2 and alternative access to the point. To the point from the South, and plans for draining of access ramps. As a relatively new surf fisherman, I am amazed that the most popular National Park on the East Coast , that was given to the people...is not accessible to the people.

Correspondence ID: 916 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 09:28:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 917 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect our national seashores for all wildlife!

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 918 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 10:17:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am in favor of Option 2 or 3, but with more accesses for ORVs.

Correspondence ID: 919 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 10:25:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have been going to the Outer Banks and Hatteras area every year for over 30 years. In order to effectively enjoy the beach area we suggest the following:

1. Open the point to ORV (Ramp 43 to 49) - remove VFA
2. Open as ORV the area north of Avon (Ramp 34 to Ramp 30) - remove VFA
3. We'd like the seasonal ORV period to be Oct 1 - Apr30

Correspondence ID: 920 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 10:29:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am a frequent tourist to the Hatteras and Outer Banks area and very much enjoy off road vehicle access to the beaches for fishing, shelling, etc. I am in favor of the following:

1. I would like to see the NPS open the point to ORV (Ramp 43 to 49) - remove VFA
2. I would like to see the NPS open as ORV the area north of Avon (Ramp 34 to Ramp 30) - remove VFA
3. Please allow the seasonal ORV period to be Oct 1 - Apr30

Correspondence ID: 921 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Allowing changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) regulations at Cape Hatteras National Seashore would fail to adequately protect our birds. Changes which include morning opening of beaches, extending the length of fall and spring seasonal ORV routes, and modifying the size and location of vehicle-free areas would be detrimental to our birds.

Protections for birds and turtles are reduced by allowing driving during courtship and nesting periods, and opening beaches to driving before the areas are thoroughly checked for sea turtle nests. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14 in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize populations of oystercatchers, Least Terns, and other priority species.

Please don't make these changes.

Correspondence ID: 922 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please consider the affect on the environment where marine life needs nesting sites in an ever shrinking habitat due to human encroachment. We have created more than enough challenges for wildlife with our pollutants. Let's start giving back by allowing them to reproduce and flourish. We will all win in the end.

Correspondence ID: 923 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 10:39:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The existing bypass to the Point should also be extended South as far as possible toward the Point. Wildlife activity or active nest(s) just South of the current bypass South end can easily close the Point to ORVs.

A provision in the rule should be provided for a temporary ORV route from the West to the Point thru that VFA, only made active if the East beach and bypass are not usable to ORVs. The provision should include both the use of Salt Pond Rd or Ramp 45 as appropriate. For example if a resource closure on the beach between Salt Pond Rd and Ramp 45 would prevent use of Ramp 45, then Salt Pond Rd could be used. Correspondingly, if a resource closure prevented use of Salt Pond Rd, then Ramp 45 could be used.

The corridor on the beach thru the VFA should not be firmly located but be flexible as to location so it could even "snake" over to the Point, sometimes using the foreshore, then the backshore, then the foreshore, etc etc to get around resource closures.

Yes I know the current wildlife situation in that area is likely to prohibit near term use, but the new buffers at least give it a better chance for use.

The provision should also include that if the route is active, it would be a priority route for morning opening.

And finally if the provision for such a temporary ORV route is provided in the rule now and down the road it can be used, we don't have to go thru the several year process of a rule change.

Correspondence ID: 924 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Cape Hatteras was designated a recreational area not a wildlife refuge. It appears NPS has forgotten this and is severely restricting recreational access. Access to the point should be made available from the South (hook area). There is plenty room for a corridor and would leave enough area for nesting birds. Two or three nest do not need much room.

The flooding that has recently and continually occurs is due NPS being unwilling to take action to remedy problem. The flooding is killing the environment in this area, vegetation and wildlife alike.

Listen to the people that use this resource and not some groups from across the country that have never stepped a foot on the outer banks of NC.

Correspondence ID: 925 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 11:12:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a resident of Hatteras Island, I support no change to the existing rule. I would also prefer no ORV access in front of any village year round. It had become increasingly dangerous, especially since virtually every ORV driver exceeds the speed limit with disdain for the current law. Please remember the majority of visitors and residents rarely or never drive on the beach, yet ORV drivers are the squeaky wheels that demand so much of the beach. Allowing greater access for ORV use is proportionally wrong and a negative park experience for every other user group. Please remember who actually visits our parks rather than the outspoken few.

Correspondence ID: 926 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a long time visitor to the Outer Banks I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the environmental assessment for consideration of modifications to the off road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large areas of the park for recreation. I support the following positions on the proposed changes.

Morning beach openings: The seashore opening at 6am on primary routes throughout the year as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by 4weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed 2 weeks.

Vehicle free areas: I would like to see more areas restored for vehicular access, alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I would also like to see providing a temporary route to access cape point when conditions permit.

Permits: The suggested permit modifications are positive and appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input.

Correspondence ID: 927 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 11:30:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!

Correspondence ID: 928 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

I realize the NPS must balance recreational activities with wildlife and habitat protection at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. However, it appears that the proposed alternatives in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment prioritize off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of park visitors at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

For this reason, I fully support the NO ACTION Alternative to keep the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras which would ensure the continuing preservation and balancing of the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this issue which is very important to me and so many others who treasure our beautiful and varied national parks and their wondrous diversity of wildlife and landscapes.

Correspondence ID: 929 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am an Outer Banks resident who favors stronger restrictions on off road driving on our beaches.

We have enough highways. We need more room for natural peace and quiet ... room for wildlife to roam ... in order to protect what is special about our home and protect our tourist economy.

Correspondence ID: 930 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 12:10:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect Cape Hatteras National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves the beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 931 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 12:11:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Being a resident of the Outer Banks since September 2002 it concerns me that ORV access to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore has been greatly restricted by the NPS. I am all in favor of the less stringent ORV regulations particularly Alternative 3.

Correspondence ID: 932 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Understanding protection of wildlife and beachfront, why take so much of the area ?? Can't we share the shores of the Outer Banks ?? We are not asking for it all . You have imposed so many limitations on the shore . The shore line is the draw for The outer banks !! Last face it , it has nothing else to offer.. Your year round residents will also suffer from lack of income .. I have been coming to Avon now for ten years . I have enjoyed many of a day on the beach . With allowing vehicle access , friends and family have had amazing times. There is plenty of the shore line , that is not as populated as others . Use these areas for a migrating area .

Correspondence ID: 933 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am opposed to any changes to ORV access, and barring that keeping as much beach accessible by vehicle as possible. Although we don't visit as often as we like, it's a highlight of the trip for our family.

Correspondence ID: 934 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 15:30:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hello. My wife and I have been vacationing on Hatteras Island each year for close to 20 consecutive years. We would strongly like the entire area between Ramp 49 and Ramp 43 and the Point opened. We are aware how important the revenue for fishing at the Point is for the local economy and have fished there frequently ourselves. Keeping it opened would also provide access for disabled fisherman that I have seen fishing there. Thank you.



Correspondence ID: 935 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Without wildlife and wild places, humans are factory farmed, just like the food we buy in the grocery store. Think ahead, not for short term gain! Is anyone really sorry we created the National Parks and wildlife refuges? Very few, but lots of people are sorry about lost habitat and endangered species.

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 936 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 16:47:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 937 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please carefully consider the impact of increased Off Road Vehicle usage in the park. Consider restricting areas in order to reduce the impact to other visitors, plants and animals. Off Road Vehicles can create very costly damage that takes years to repair and disturb the wildlife many other visitors have come to view.

Correspondence ID: 938 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 18:15:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly support Alternative #3. My family has been going to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore for 21 years. Our fondest memories of my children are of them playing at the point. The recent restrictions severely degraded the experience by closing off some of the best fishing and swimming areas for most of the year.

I'm opposed to the current restrictive environment at the park and strongly oppose any restrictions on beach going and beach driving. If there was an option to go back to the status prior to the restrictions I would support it. As it is, Alternative #3 seems to be the closest to achieving reasonable access.

Correspondence ID: 939 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 18:24:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

As an Ohioan who visits North Carolina, please protect this beautiful wildlife.

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Thank you for all of your work on our behalf.

Correspondence ID: 940 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 18:34:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 941 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 19:27:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Let me start by saying I love coming to the Outer Banks. Last year we were able to make the trip six times. Sadly "the Point" was closed all but one of those times.
The ORV is essential for my visiting due to health limitations. Having everything I need in my truck makes the experience of the beach a good one with

less stress. I can pack my truck one time and know I haven't forgotten anything. I just leave everything I need in there. It also enables me to rest as needed out of the sun which is a must during the day. I also believe the following would be helpful and should be taken into serious consideration:

- 1) We want to open the point to ORV (Ramp 43 to 49) - remove VFA
- 2) We want to open as ORV the area north of Avon (Ramp 34 to Ramp 30) - remove VFA
- 3) We'd like the seasonal ORV period to be Oct 1 - Apr 30

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 942 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.13,2016 19:47:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have traveled from Michigan to Hatteras Island twice a year (April and Oct/Nov) for over 20 years for windsurfing, kiteboarding, and fishing. Now I primarily come for kiteboarding in the ocean along areas that the Park Service has declared Vehicle Free Areas. I was and am still concerned for safety reasons that all beach areas should be open to vehicle use. In the event that something happens while I (or one of my friends) am kiteboarding, I want to be able to have someone in a vehicle watching me.

I realize that it is unlikely that the entire beach section from Rodanthe to Ocracoke will ever be completely open again, but I would especially like to see the following:

- 1) Keep Cape Point access open for ORV access from Ramp 43 to 49
- 2) Keep Ramp 34 to Ramp 30 open for ORV access
- 3) Extend the seasonal ORV period so that it runs from Oct 1 to April 30th.
- 4) Have the park rangers clean up the accesses and beach area so as to remove debris that contains nails and metal objects that can rust thereby reducing the risk to pedestrians and vehicle travelers while improving and maintaining the beauty of our beaches. This can easily be accomplished while they are driving around policing the beaches. Just take a second, stop, pick up the debris, put it in the back of their truck and proceed.

By keeping access open on two adjacent ramps or more greatly reduces the amount of vehicle traffic. For instance, in the past few years when I enter at ramp 43 and drive to the tip of the point, I often then drive back to ramp 43 and get back on Highway 12 and drive down to Frisco and enter at ramp 49 and then drive toward the tip of the point from that direction. In doing so, I am driving twice as much on the beach as necessary because I have to drive in and out of the same access ramp. Whereas, I could save on beach traffic and wear, save on gas, and save time by simply driving one time from Ramp 43 to Ramp 49 on the beach and then taking Highway 12 back from Frisco to Buxton.

Correspondence ID: 943 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.13,2016 19:59:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I visit Hatteras Island on a regular basis - usually twice a year. I live in Michigan and enjoy walking the beach and shelling in Hatteras and Ocracoke islands. As I am getting older, I want to be able to drive to different areas of the island and then walk from the safety of my vehicle.

I would like to see the following:

Keep the "Point" accessible for ORV access from Ramp 43 to 49; Keep Ramp 34 to 30 open for Vehicle access; Lengthen the seasonal ORV period from Oct 1 to April 30th; Have the park service clean up the debris on the beaches

Correspondence ID: 944 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.13,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 945 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar.13,2016 21:06:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: the subject of four wheel driving is dear to my heart. I love to surf fish with family and friends. We spend up to three to four weeks a year. I help put on one of the most successful surf fishing tournaments in Cape Hatteras. WE GIVE back TO local charity in need.

my preference would be to open all section of the park to full access all of the time 24/7/365. but one must take into consideration the conservation of this issue.

In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing alternative #3 but

if not achievable then #2 would be acceptable.

thanks for the opportunity

to express my feelings

Correspondence ID: 946 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please keep the beaches open for orv. Need more access longer hours less no orv areas less bird resting areas
I asked a lady ranger several years ago when asked about a plan for the islands that if her boyfriend and her wanted to get on the beach to make out and there were people fishing were they went would they just not make out or find another place. She replied find another place. I asked her what makes you think a bird would not do the same thing. I understand protecting nest but there seems to be less hatchlings now with all the nonsense. It is a shame to keep the access closed to so many people so storms can destroy so many nest. Please move the nest to a place where they can hatch and live

Correspondence ID: 947 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 22:38:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 948 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,13,2016 23:25:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 949 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a resident and self employed business owner on Ocracoke. My business depends on tourism. I support the proposed changes to the ORV plan. It is all about access to the beach and tourist want it. The proposed changes will keep the conservation goal intact but allow for more flexibility to manage the beach usage. Our community relies on the Park Service to mangle the beaches with a multi use management plan that allows Ocracoke's visitors to use the beach throughout the year. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 950 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please make preservation of wildlife a first and foremost priority. I tire of hearing of small groups of motorized folks wanting access to areas of wildlife. Please just say no. The wild creatures come first.

Thanks

Correspondence ID: 951 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support expanded pedestrian and vehicle access. I am a frequent visitor to the area and enjoy the access.

Correspondence ID: 952 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,14,2016 06:40:02

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thanks for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 953 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It's an absolute shame it has come to this. Cape Hatteras National Seashore belongs to the people 24 hours a day not the government OR SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS. It should not be a tool to waste tax payer revenues so that the special interest groups and government can continue to create and secure jobs positions to protect an area from birds that are backed by botched data. When a group of people have to create false preservation of an animal to manipulate the public, it is called job security not protecting. More of a communism act in my book.

These closures have had a detrimental economic affect to the entire Outer Banks and Ocracoke! Take a minimum of a third of your paycheck and throw it away. This is exactly what has happened here!

My husband and I operate an offshore fishing business out of Oregon Inlet. The spring and fall bookings came from visitors who were here fishing and enjoying the Hatteras Island beaches which are world renowned for its fishing resource. When you take that away, you take everything that goes along with it.

An area that depends on the very act of having FULL ACCESS to our natural resource is not a store that you open and close at specific times of day. Completely absurd!

You won't find any other community that respects and loves their beaches more than the locals and visitors that come to enjoy what it offers.

WE WANT FULL ACCESS TO OUR BEACHES - GIVE IT BACK!

Correspondence ID: 954 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been enjoying the beaches of hatteras for 43 years, I am now 43 years old. Yes , my entire life. These beaches were set aside for free and open access. These ridiculous closures have hurt many families and enough is enough. Several years ago the plover closed down beaches, was said that the beach was their only nesting grounds, that year there were more nest on top of the food lion in Avon than on any beach. Bottom line the beach is ours, for our access, and we, the off road and beach access folks are respectful and want no harm to come to the beach and all that use them, human and animals alike. Stop the madness.

Correspondence ID: 955 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The beaches of Cape Hatteras National seashore are a public resource and should be accessible for everyone not just birds or special interest groups. Denying ORV access to all areas of this resource effectively discriminates against handicap or elderly people that aren't able to walk miles to enjoy what is their resource. The whole reason the government was given the land was to always provide access for RECREATION for the people of this country. It is for everyone in this country not just some special interest environmental groups that claim they are protecting birds. A birds life is no

more important than the people of this country or the racoons, opossums, cats, foxes and every other animal that is trapped and killed to protect these birds. Keep ORV access to all parts of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Correspondence ID: 956 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please keep access available

Correspondence ID: 957 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 07:40:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I SUPPORT FREE AND OPEN BEACHES FOR EVERYONE!

At an absolute minimum, please consider the following changes to the ORV Rule:

1. MORNING BEACH OPENINGS

Open beach segments each morning on a rolling basis as daily management reviews are completed.

Priority Beaches: Ramps 2/4; Ramps 43/44; Ramp 45; Ramp 49; Ramp 72; Open by 6:00 AM Close at 10:00PM.

All Other Beaches: Open at 7:00am, Close at 10:00 PM.

These hours will allow visitors to access the beaches at sunrise and in the cool of the evening. Photographers and fishermen both will benefit greatly from having greater access during these earlier and later hours of low light conditions. Families will be able to enjoy the beaches at first light and picnic late in the evening. Wildlife watchers will have a greater opportunity to see more birds and mammals.

2. SEASONAL ORV ROUTES:

Extend seasonal off road vehicle routes for additional periods in the spring and fall if off road vehicle use will not create resource management problems at the National Seashore.

Seasonal ORV Routes in front of the Villages: These beaches should remain open in the spring until April 30 and re-open on October 1.

Seasonal ORV Routes not in front of the Villages should be closed on March 31 and reopen on September 1.

3. VEHICLE FREE AREAS:

Potential areas for modification:

Ramp 1:

Reopen as a year round ORV Route to the north to allow access to seasonal beach in Nags Head (permit required) and to the South to Coquina Beach. The ORV Route would end north of the lifeguarded beach. This is one of the original ramps and receives little use as a VFA. Opening this will reduce congestion on beaches at Ramps 2 & 4 and enhance the visitor's experience. Rest room facilities would be available at Coquina Beach.

Ramp 2 South:

Reopen as a year round ORV route. This will allow 2 means of ingress and egress to the beach between Ramps 2&4. This is a public safety concern. This also will allow ORV users to have access to the restrooms at Coquina and eliminate the need for the hard to maintain porta-john at Ramp 4 which is entirely inadequate. It also eliminates the need to construct proposed Ramp 2.5.

Some of that money could be used to put in another pedestrian boardwalk to the beach in the area where the permit office is located. Signs should be placed to encourage pedestrians to go to that access and Coquina Beach to minimize conflicts between pedestrians and ORV use if the Ramp is clearly "VEHICLE USE ONLY".

Bodie Island Spit:

Change from VFA to Seasonal ORV. This is an extremely popular fishing location and this change will open it after the summer nesting season.

Ramp 23 North and South:

Change from Seasonal to Year Round Access. This will enhance the visitor's experience by relieving crowding at Ramps 25 and 27. It will make summer access to ORV users more convenient to visitors staying in Rodanthe/Waves/Salvo.

Ramp 34 North:

Change from VFA to Seasonal ORV. This is an extremely good fishing area and will allow fall use after the summer visitors have left and the nesting season is over.

Ramp 43 North:

Change from VFA to Seasonal ORV Route. This will enhance the visitors experience by reducing the crowded conditions that occur on Ramps 43 and 44 during the summer as resource closures occur. The lifeguard protected beach would remain a VFA and would not be affected by this change.

Ramp 45 East:

Change from from VFA to a Seasonal ORV Route. The areas of Ramps 43-44 are subject to erosion and the Superintendent should have the option of opening an alternate route to the Point.

This would allow for adaptive management with proper resource management practices to ensure the option of having another means of ingress and egress in this area. Resource protection would limit the use of this, but the option should exist as a matter of public safety.

Ramp 45 West:

Change 1.30 miles of VFA to a Seasonal ORV Route. This will allow ORV access by ORV Visitors to a popular fishing area. Change .5 miles at the western boundary from VFA to Year Round Access. This will increase the size of the year round access east of Ramp 49 by .5 miles. This is one of the most popular ORV destinations during the summer for visitors who do not have direct access from their rental homes or motels. This change will ease crowding and enhance the visitor's experience.

VFA Hatteras Island Spit:

Consideration should be given to making this a Year Round ORV Route. Much of the former spit is under water at the present time but that will change with time as proved at the Bodie Island Spit. It wasn't long ago that Bodie Island Spit went out to the bridge pilings. A storm a couple of years ago made it an island. It is now smaller in size but no longer an island. To get to the spit one must ride in an ORV along the beach or on the Pole Road to a small parking lot. Since this is not a nesting site it should be designated as an ORV Route in the event of the spit growing in size and being able to accommodate recreational fishermen.

Ramp 59:

Change from VFA to a Year Round ORV Route. There have been no plover fledging in this area. Amoy and CWB can be protected by buffers and ORV corridors.

VFA Ocracoke South Point:

Change to a Year Round ORV Route. ORV use can be controlled by buffers and ORV corridors.

4. ORV PERMITS:

ORV permits should be issued for 14 days to allow for visitors to enjoy long holiday weekends. This would also allow anglers wanting to fish two of the fall tournaments to participate in both on one permit.

12 month Permits should be issued instead of the current annual permit. This can be accomplished by using a windshield permit like the state inspection sticker used in Virginia. The month and year can be easily determined. Please see attachment.

Consideration should be given to a 3 day permit to allow the one weekend a year visitor an opportunity to drive on the beach.

Many National Parks allow Golden Passport holders a discount on camping permits. Consideration should be given to allowing a discount for holders of these on ORV permits.

Changes should be made to the administrative procedures involving the issuance of permits to reduce the administrative cost and to make them available on line on short notice. There should be a printed receipt that is available at time of online purchase good for a limited number of days on 12 month permits to be used until the regular permit is mailed to the individual. Short term permits should be issued on line with info printed large enough to be viewed at a reasonable distance.

5. ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS;

Coquina Beach: A boardwalk should be constructed at the site of the current Permit Office that would provide easy pedestrian access to the beach at that location.

Ramp 2 should be posted as ORV access only and pedestrian traffic prohibited. Signs should direct pedestrians to the existing beach access boardwalk and the new boardwalk. This will address a public safety issue.

Many have expressed additional sound side access especially on Ocracoke Island, and Bodie Island. Consideration should be given to this.

Recently we discussed the need to improve and make available safer access to Pea Island. I have agreed to contact the Refuge Manager and see if it will be possible to do this since the legislation establishing CHNS calls for cooperation between the two agencies regarding recreational use of the Pea Island beaches. If this comes to fruition this will allow visitors to safely access 13 miles of VFA only a short drive from the towns north of the Refuge.

The 13 miles of Pea Island Beach should be included as VFA miles for statistical reporting and consideration should be given to including bird populations as well. This area represents a large portion of the seashore and shouldn't be treated like a "red headed stepchild".

Correspondence ID: 958 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As both a surf fisherman and a fellow federal worker I understand the need to find balance between fulfilling the needs for resource protection with keeping the resource open for public use. I know that these closures are a result of lobbyist groups with money suing the upper echelon of the NPS. However, I believe it is in best interest of the park service to open more of the resource up to the public and surf fishermen. It would be the first step to heal the wounds that have been caused between the locals of Hatteras Island and the NPS. The repeated closures have been a failed policy as regards to increasing the hatching rates of the birds of the seashore for years now. If it takes more seasonal workers, so be it. It is the NPS duty to listen to those that actually visit and recreate at the seashore instead of members of these lobbyist groups that live on the other side of the continent and have never set foot on the Outer Banks. The people who are truly on the receiving end of these changes whether the changes be in favor of opening up more beach or closing more off are going to be the business owners. I hope and pray that the NPS follows the route of healing and shows that they are willing to change when policies in place are clearly not working. God Bless [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 959 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please don't close our beaches. Beach access is an intricate part of our livelihood in Dare Cnty, and on the Outer Banks.

Correspondence ID: 960 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a long-time surfcaster and as someone who has driven over-sand on the Cape Cod National Seashore and other beaches along the east coast, I'd like to weigh in on the proposal to adjust the final rule for ORV management.

Although I love surfcasting (I learned on Marthas Vinyard in 1988, and have fished along the east coast almost every year since) and standing along the lip of the sea, I am asking that the NPS NOT loosen any of the regulations governing use of ORV's in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The park belongs to all Americans, and is also the home to sea turtles and rare shorebirds like the Piping Plover. Management must balance all of these values. On a day where I catch no fish, I enjoy watching wildlife. ORVs are a serious threat to wildlife, and thus, should be stringently regulated.

Although I am a avid surfcaster, I also enjoy taking long walks on beaches with my spinning rod and/or fly rod. Opportunities for solitude and quiet recreation should remain available in the park. ORVs are the primary threat to this experience.

Yes, I plan to come to the Outer Banks this October for the fall run, and may seek a permit. I don't see this as an entitlement. I see it as an opportunity and a privilege. Lets manage ORVs in a manner that balances the visitor experience and keeps this seashore unimpaired for future generations of Americans.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 961 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Don't close the beach!

Correspondence ID: 962 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 08:17:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
Dear Superintendent Hallac:

First, on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation and the more than 200 member of its Outer Banks Chapter, I'd like to thank you and the National Park Service for revisiting the Cape Hatteras ORV plan and looking for ways to provide more access while still protecting the environment. As we've stated before, the only way humans will continue to fight for the area's precious resources is if they an continue to appreciate them. So, to see some flexibility return to the ORV plan that allows for increased appreciation and makes arrangements to keep the environmental impacts minimal is a welcome change.

Of the three alternatives offered, we believe the best solution is a combination of Alternative 2 and Alternative 3. Specifically, we propose implementing Alternative 2's rules regarding opening hours for priority ramps (the sliding scale seems a good comprise for increasing morning access with the least chance of impacting turtle nesting); however, we propose including Alternative 3's additional ramps - and extending the ORV season by a month on each side - in order to increase the amount of surfable area and time to enjoy them. Also, Alternative 3's permit plan seems most suited to surfers and other wave-riding enthusiasts. While matching the 10-day permit option makes sense for visiting anglers who purchase short-term fishing licenses, many surfers travel to the Outer Banks to enjoy a single swell, making a 3-day ORV permit a welcome choice. And, of course, making every permit valid for a full-year from time of purchase makes perfect sense. Once more, thanks to the NPS for revisiting these rules. Do not hesitate to reach out for surfing input at any time.

Sincerely,


Surfrider Foundation, Outer Banks Chapter


Correspondence ID: 963 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 08:17:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 964 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please keep beach access open to the public on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands. I have enjoyed fishing from the beaches for most of my life. Do not rob people of this activity. Do not rob residents who make a living from the tourists that come to enjoy the beautiful beaches and excellent fishing. Thank you for listening.

Correspondence ID: 965 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: To Whom it May Concern:

I want to recommend the CHAPA option for beach access on the Outer Banks. I have enjoyed being able to drive on and use the beaches for many outdoor activities with my family including: camping, fishing and the pure enjoyment of free and unfettered use of the beaches. Please keep the beaches open to vehicles so that future generations can continue to use the beaches as my family, friends and I have for so many years.

We hope that the NPS will take this in to consideration and allow as much public vehicle access as possible and preserve what makes the Outer Banks known as a special place to visit throughout the eastern U.S.

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 966 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Closing any of the Dare County beaches will tremendously hurt our economy. Tourists come here for so many reasons but having free and open beaches is the main reason we are doing so well as a seasonal community. Closing the beaches hurts the locals just as bad, for us who grew up here fishing on the point and off the beaches have fallen in love with this great place a little more. There are some reasons for temporary closure for birds or turtles or other wildlife that call this place home also but the day that our southern beaches are closed is going to be a day that our tourism will decrease greatly. The entire community will be affected in a negative way.

Correspondence ID: 967 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 08:41:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 968 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support expanded pedestrian and vehicle access!

Correspondence ID: 969 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support expanded pedestrian and vehicle access!

Correspondence ID: 970 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 08:48:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My first visit to CHRSLRA was with the family in 1957. I have been recreating continuously t CHNSRA in an ORV since 1974. I have spent a minimum of 3 weeks a year since mid 1980's. I hd planned to visit more after my retirement in April of 2014 but resource closures in areas I fish have put a stop to long weekend spring trips.

I am not one of the hundreds or thousands who have sent in comments based with encouragement from highly organized NGOs on who have never been to the Seashore and may never set foot on the Seashore. I have an experience 5 ½ decades of Seashore visitation and hope to have a couple of more and would hope suggestions from myself and other actual Seashore visitors would count for more than a cut-and-paste email from California.

In general, I support Alternate 3 and in particular adjusting the seasonal closures to Oct 1 to Apr 30 and earlier opening of the beach.

The drainage system west of Cape Point need to be re-established. I have watched a maritime forest reduced to stagnant water for months, frequent standing water on the approach to Ramps 43-45 and ramp closures and closure of the campground. Drawing the water table down to normal levels after major rain events is drastically needed.

Improvement and upgrades to existing ramps should be prioritized over new ramp and, in particular, prioritized over improved pedestrian access funded by ORV permit fees. Ramp 49 needs to be elevated and have marle base course put down to prevent the all-to-frequent closures. Even when open this fall, ORV visitors had to negotiate deep ponds in the road to the ramp. Given the \$719 thousand dollars in ORV permit fees used to create Ramp 25 and 32 along with parking lots and boardwalks for pedestrians, certainly there is money for improvement and maintenance of a frequently used ramp by those visitors buying the permits.

Cape Point is one of the two defining features on Hatteras Island, yet access has been impossible for all but the fittest pedestrians for close to 6 months of the year. Priority must be given providing access around resource and weather related closure so Seashore visitors can experience Cape Point and the beginning of Diamond Shoals.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Correspondence ID: 971 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To Whom it May Concern:

I want to recommend the CHAPA option for beach access on the Outer Banks. I have enjoyed being able to drive on and use the beaches for many outdoor activities with my family including: camping, fishing and the pure enjoyment of free and unfettered use of the beaches. Please keep the beaches open to vehicles so that future generations can continue to use the beaches as my family, friends and I have for so many years.

We hope that the NPS will take this in to consideration and allow as much public vehicle access as possible and preserve what makes the Outer Banks known as a special place to visit throughout the eastern U.S.

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 972 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My fiance and I travel to Hatteras Island once a month and one activity that we love to participate in is driving on the beach. That is one of the biggest reason ww will decide to travel down so frequently.

Correspondence ID: 973 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 09:09:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have been fishing the Outer Banks of North Caroline including most of the National Seashore since 1962. I have watched access to the National Seashore for ORVs decrease drastically since then. I believe access should be provided from the south to cape point. This would be through the area known as "the Hook" area. With this access more options would be provided to cape point with out disturbing any nests around the north access to cape point. You would have to convince me that the NPS is not making a conscious effort to restrict the public from the entire shore. What a shame!

Correspondence ID: 974 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 09:20:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To whom it may concern, I would ask you to consider alternative 3. As a fisherman who has visited the Cape hatteras recreational park for many years, I would like to see a plan where as much access to the best fishing spot in the world is restored. In the past years, since the current plan had been in use, access had been limited. Usually when the best fishing takes place. I understand that buffers are put into place to protect shore birds and turtles, but these buffers need to be more reasonable to allow access by vehicle. Fisherman are nature lovers and are not out to hurt birds or turtles. Again, please consider alternative 3. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 975 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 09:20:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To whom it may concern, I would ask you to consider alternative 3. As a fisherman who has visited the Cape hatteras recreational park for many years, I would like to see a plan where as much access to the best fishing spot in the world is restored. In the past years, since the current plan had been in use, access had been limited. Usually when the best fishing takes place. I understand that buffers are put into place to protect shore birds and turtles, but these buffers need to be more reasonable to allow access by vehicle. Fisherman are nature lovers and are not out to hurt birds or turtles. Again, please consider alternative 3. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 976 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 09:21:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To whom it may concern, I would ask you to consider alternative 3. As a fisherman who has visited the Cape hatteras recreational park for many years, I would like to see a plan where as much access to the best fishing spot in the world is restored. In the past years, since the current plan had been in use, access had been limited. Usually when the best fishing takes place. I understand that buffers are put into place to protect shore birds and turtles, but these buffers need to be more reasonable to allow access by vehicle. Fisherman are nature lovers and are not out to hurt birds or turtles. Again, please consider alternative 3. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 977 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,14,2016 09:22:35

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Opening of beaches on a priority basis is fine but I think 25 and 32 should be priority rather than 25 and 27. This would have a beach near to Avon open early.

I would like to see listed the peer reviewed science that shows the time of sea turtle nesting events here at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. If there is no science than this should be an ORV permit funded study. Peer reviewed science could justify not keeping beaches open until at least 10:00. Your own historical false crawl figures show that night driving does not increase false crawls.

Correspondence ID: 978 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It is a shame that so much has changed at Hatteras over the past few decades- overbuilding, beach erosion, declines in fishing, and lack of beach access being the major contributors to the diminished attraction of this once wonderful place. My children, in the 80's and early 90's, spent many a summer and fall day enjoying the freedom and seclusion of the mostly unrestricted and sparsely populated beaches, both north and south of Buxton. The drive along the south beach from Frisco to Buxton, at sunset, after an enjoyable day of swimming and fishing is still a most pleasant memory. I see no reason why the Park Service has permanently closed off sections of this beach and deprives current generations the ability to experience this remote grandeur.

Correspondence ID: 979 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,14,2016 09:36:58

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My name is [REDACTED] I have been a science teacher for over 15 years. I love the outdoors and all wildlife. I am a frequent visitor to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore - at least once a week - to fish, shell collect, and photograph wildlife.

It saddens me that our access to the seashore is getting so restricted. At first I was all for some closures here and there to protect birds, turtles, and other wildlife. I also supported the purchase of ORV passes, and I have purchased one every year. I believed this would be a good thing for the park in the long term. I attempted to convince other ORV drivers that these restrictions would be a good thing. But now I believe we have gone way too far in our efforts. And because we have gone too far we have created a culture in which the Park Service is seen in a negative way by so many locals and visitors alike.

ORV drivers should be able to access the beaches from 6AM to 10PM.

Seasonal routes need to be extended by 4 weeks.

ORV drivers need better access to Cape Point. I walked out there last week. It was shameful. But at least I can walk. Many of my friends cannot.

Consider re-opening Ramp 23.

Thank you for your time and consideration

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 980 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,14,2016 09:42:04

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am very concerned that the modifications to the rules for ORVs you are suggesting for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore are grossly inadequate to protect wildlife. ORVs are destructive to nesting birds and turtles, and should be limited to areas that do not affect wildlife at all. Allowing greater access is not the stewardship I expect to see from the National Park Service. At the very least, beaches should be checked for the presence of nests and wildlife before ORVs are allowed on them; and there should be no seasonal extension of ORV access.

Seashore visitors also dislike the presence of ORVs, which leave tire tracks, dig up the sand, make noise and release gasoline odors, and are a hazard for young children - - people do not want these dangers at National Seashores. ORV owners are a very small percentage of the seashore-visiting population: they should not be given more access our beautiful beaches, especially as they threaten the pristine beauty of national seashores and the wildlife that most of us go to appreciate.

The current plan should remain in place, and any proposed changes should have to be supported by peer-reviewed science, as the law requires. Caving in to community pressure is no excuse for the lapse of judgment that the proposed changes represent. Please cease further potentially destructive actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them. Our wildlife deserves our protection.

Correspondence ID: 981 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,14,2016 09:59:28

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 982 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a 77 year old retiree who vacations in the Frisco area from five to six weeks a year. I drive an off road vehicle for surf fishing. The Frisco ramp (49) is closest to my rental houses and if I drive to the southern end, family members can easily join me by walking along the beach from the Runboat Circle area in Frisco where we usually rent our cottages. Last year our access to this ramp was hindered by long stretches where the ramp road was deeply flooded. I'm not certain of the total time this ramp was out of service, but it was deeply flooded for a long/long time. Even when this ramp is open, it is hindered by very deep ruts. Every year I purchase an off-road driving permit and I feel some of the money should be allocated for ways to keep this ramp open and fairly smooth. When this ramp is closed the adjacent ramps in Hatteras and Buxton become very crowded at times. The new northern ramps near Rodanthe are inconvenient for people like me staying in Frisco. I haven't seen much in the way of ramp improvements south of Avon. PS: I am a bird lover with a dozen bird houses on my Raleigh property and I spend hundreds of dollars on sunflower seed for my numerous bird feeders. However, that being said, I feel that the Audobon Society and other extremists have too much influence on determining the closure rules for the Outer Banks beaches.

Correspondence ID: 983 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 10:09:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Keep the beaches open! Closing the beaches has a huge negative impact on the local ecommunity forcing many local businesses to close. The beach need rules, but should still be free to access by Off Road Vehicles. The point gets closed off every year to ORVs as soon as fishing gets good. Rather than close off such a large stretch of beach NPS could easily add a driving path to allow ORV access to the point.

Correspondence ID: 984 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 10:14:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I supported Alternative 3. This would open the seasonal closures in front of the villages Oct 1 (should revert back to Sept 15 IMO). FYI, over \$700,000 of ORV permit money have been spent on new ramps including parking lots and boardwalks for pedestrians while Ramps 43,44 and 49 re frequently closed due to standing rain water.

Correspondence ID: 985 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 10:28:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation. I support the following positions on the proposed changes:
Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
Seasonal ORV routes:
I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
Vehicle-free areas:
I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
Access Improvements:
Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.
By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 986 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The access roads for access to Nags Head and the inlet were cover with water over Thanksgiving as have many of the ramps in Hatteras 43, 44 and 49. You are doing only half the job.

The wildlife lady that stood up and said she had lots of money to keep us off the beach means I can't fish. I am 85 and I can walk but get tired easily. I do not wish to stop my activities because she has money. Our Wounded Warriors could use some of her money. I can still cast a fair distance and I do enjoy surf fishing.

Correspondence ID: 987 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 10:41:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I retired in July 2014 and one of my goals in retirement has been to resume my desire for surf fishing at CHNS. In my early days of surf fishing that began in the late 70's, I enjoyed the easy access and well maintained ORV ramps. Sadly, when I returned in the fall of 2015, I discovered closed ramps and poorly maintained ramps. My favorite Ramp 49 was closed for an extended period due to standing water. With the airport and

campground at this location, I would think Ramp 49 would be on a priority list to maintain and keep open for all CHNS visitors.

From my reading of the proposed alternatives, I support Alternative 3. I further support appropriating funds from the ORV permit fees (user fees) to provide necessary equipment, materials, etc. to NPS personnel so that they can maintain and keep open Ramp 49 and other frequently closed Ramps.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Correspondence ID: 988 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We need to keep these beaches open it will bring more money, jobs the the obx

Correspondence ID: 989 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 11:20:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Of the listed alternatives, #3 is my preference.

NPS should do more to grant ORV access to Cape Point such as a back road to the Old Bone road and out the south beach.

There are also too much VFAs that are not even used by pedestrians. Pedestrians should be charged an entry fee to the VFAs.

Correspondence ID: 990 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 11:25:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of park-goers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 991 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 11:25:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The following are my choice Alternatives for the Final Rule for Off Road Vehicle Management for Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area.

Morning Beach Openings: Alternative 3. Priority routes listed in Alternative 1, open at 6:00 am. All Non-priority routes open at 7:00 am.

Seasonal ORV routes: Alternative 3.

VFA: Alternative 3, VFA should be little as possible to enhance the visitors experience of enjoying the beaches without interfering with protection of wildlife. The only areas that should be closed are areas actively involved in pre nesting, nesting and fledging of endangered species. Once the activities are over, the beaches should be open to vehicular access.

Access Improvements: The three alternatives listed are not enough. In addition to Alternative 3, improve Ramp 2 and open southward to vehicular access, do not spend the money on a completely new Ramp 2 1/2. Return Ramp 34 back to vehicular access.

Permits: Alternative 2. Annual from date of issue. 10 day permit. Alternative 3 would be much too confusing.

Total VFA and ORV route mileage. Alternative 3 is a start, but still not enough. Reevaluation the VFA. Too many miles were originally closed without actual data to support closing permanently.

Correspondence ID: 992 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 11:27:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I feel that ramps should open at 6:00 AM throughout the year and remain open until 10:00 PM. Other routes should open at 7:00 AM. These hours would extend the ability of all users to enjoy sunrise and sunset times as well as evening picnics.
- The spring and fall ORV routes should open October 1 and remain open until May 1. This would allow maximum access to the most desirable areas for the greatest period of time including the best fishing on the Atlantic coast.
- While the Alternative 3 makes some progress in opening more areas to ORV access, it ignores Bodie Island Spit, Hatteras Island Spit, the North end of Ocracoke and Ocracoke Island Spit. These are very popular areas for swimming, shelling and fishing throughout the year. It is very difficult to access these areas without an ORV so why close the areas and cause a logjam at the parking to access these inlets. In addition, while the alternatives make modest progress they ignore the 13 miles of Pea Island which is totally vehicle free as is nearly 100% othe sound side of Bodie Island, Hatteras Island and Ocracoke Island. This amounts to nearly 75 miles of additional vehicle free areas within CHNSRA. The National Park Service has merely paid lip service to the intent of legislation that was passed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2015 (in 2014).

- The permit improvements are a welcome change with particular ability to purchase permits via the Internet. We trust these fees will be used for ORV access improvements and not used for other purposes.

Off road access enables the elderly, disabled, and families with young children to gain access to the ocean and enjoy more of the park. I've seen families parked near the safer pond areas near the point where the ting kids are safe from rip tides and sharks. The park belongs to all.

Correspondence ID: 993 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 12:13:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To Whom it may concern,

As I review the options, I recommend Option 3 but non of the options solve access issues to Cape Point during active wildlife periods!
As a recommendation, the existing bypass to the Point should also be extended South as far as possible toward the Point. Wildlife activity or active nest(s) just South of the current bypass South end can easily close the Point to ORVs.
A provision in the rule should be provided for a temporary ORV route from the West to the Point thru that VFA, only made active if the East beach and bypass are not usable to ORVs. The provision should include both the use of Salt Pond Rd or Ramp 45 as appropriate. For example if a resource closure on the beach between Salt Pond Rd and Ramp 45 would prevent use of Ramp 45, then Salt Pond Rd could be used. Correspondingly, if a resource closure prevented use of Salt Pond Rd, then Ramp 45 could be used.
The corridor on the beach thru the VFA should not be firmly located but be flexible as to location so it could even "snake" over to the Point, sometimes using the foreshore, then the backshore, then the foreshore, etc etc to get around resource closures.

The provision should also include that if the route is active, it would be a priority route for morning opening.

And finally if the provision for such a temporary ORV route is provided in the rule now and down the road it can be used, we don't have to go thru the several year process of a rule change.

██████████
Avid fisherman and supporter of the businesses on Hatteras Island

Correspondence ID: 994 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support free and open public beach access on Hatteras and ocracoke islands. I oppose beach closures for birds, turtles, or anything else.

Correspondence ID: 995 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 12:15:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My family and I have been visiting the Cape Hatteras area for 20 years. We enjoy fishing, kayaking, swimming, shelling and walking along the beautiful beaches. We hope someday to be a homeowner. We truly love the area!

I am in favor of opening the point to ORV (Off Road Vehicle) (ramps 43-49) and the area north of Avon (ramps 34-30) and remove VFA (Vehicle Free Area) in both areas. I would like the seasonal ORV period to be October 1 - April 30th.

What makes Cape Hatteras so special is the natural beaches and wildlife in the area. I don't know why the beaches can not be opened to both people and wildlife at the same time. People who visit the area are respectful and do not disrupt the wildlife. According to the EA (Environment Assessment) opening the VFAs to ORV would not negatively impact the Piping Plovers. If need be, the 17 miles of VFA beaches on Pea Island would be a better alternative to restrict access and allow the fisherman, the elderly the disabled and families to drive on the beach at the point.

Please consider opening ramps 43-49 and ramps 34-30 to Off Road Vehicles. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 996 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 12:55:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area:

I have been vacationing on the Outer Banks of North Carolina for over 35 years. I have been driving an ORV on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area for over 25 years. After the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015, I was very hopeful the National Park Service would take a thoughtful and researched position on the ORV Rule for Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area. I have to say I am very disappointed in the current alternatives the NPS has proposed particularly given the meetings that I attended last summer and the tone of the legislation that was passed.

I strongly support Alternative 3 as minor step to pay lip service to the recently passed legislation. The seasonal extensions are particularly important to many who enjoy the beaches in the "shoulder seasons".

The NPS has continued to ignore the desirability of opening the Bodie Island Spit, the Hatteras Island Spit and the south Ocracoke Island Spit. The NPS has admitted they have done no research to determine the usage of these Vehicle Free Areas. These areas are highly desirable areas for shelling, swimming, picnicking and fishing. Virtually the only access to these areas is via ORV. There is no reason to have these areas be VFAs. They should be open to year round access to ORVs.

The access to Cape Point should be expanded to provide an ORV route from ramp 45 to Cape Point particularly since it is evident ramp 45 and its associated "park road" are being paid for by ORV permit funds. The so called "park road" looks very much like the Pole Road which requires an ORV

permit but the "park road" to ramp 45 which will require a higher cost of construction and maintenance than most normal ramps requires no permit charge. The ORV route from ramp 44 to ramps 48 and 49 is redundant to the access via highway 12 and should be eliminated and funds for it redirected to maintaining access to ramps 49 and 48 as well as the Pole Road.

I believe the NPS has been disingenuous in its characterization of these alternatives as being responsive to current legislation. The addition of .5 mile to year round ORV access and 3.5 miles to seasonal ORV routes. Yet there are new or improved "park roads" and parking areas for Bitter Wash Creek, Devil Shoals Road and a "park road" to ramp 45 which are all VFAs. No mention is made by NPS as to the length of these. Could it be there is more VFA access than ORV access in this proposal? Nor is there any mention of the fact that there are almost no ORV routes providing access along the sound side of the islands that make up the CHNSRA. This makes all of the sound side a 50 mile continuous VFA! You count none of this in your reporting.

It is very disappointing that the NPS has taken what was intended to be an opportunity to solve serious concerns with the ORV access to CHNSRA and offered alternatives with the bare minimum impact. In 2015 there were over 35,000 ORV permits sold by the NPS, up significantly from prior years. Yet this increasing demand for ORV routes seems to be ignored by NPS who gladly takes these users money.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

cc: Senator Richard Burr, Senator Thom Tillis, Congressman George Holding, Congressman Walter Jones

Correspondence ID: 997 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been recreating at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore for over 3 decades. It seems ORV access has suffered tremendously in the last several years. I do not understand how tax paying citizens can be denied FULL access to one of N.C.s and the United States great treasures (legally). With that said I support access ORV , foot etc to Cape Point 365 days a year. It is every tax paying citizens right and is against the laws of our country to deny. All the money collected for ORV permits should be used with some common sense , like access to south of the Cape, drainage control around campground , improving & maintaining ramps that already exist. For the love of God I hope these comments make it to someone with COMMON sense and the ability to do something about it.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this issue

Correspondence ID: 998 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: While I was enjoying the beach last summer. I watched many vehicles from the park service, rangers, a number of atv's, to Dare County Fire and Rescue vehicles behind the closer on a daily basis. I watched park service and grad students walk around the salt pond and in the dunes all with spotting scopes and binoculars looking south. With this much activity out in the closer and all the activity to the south of the point there could have been a pedestrian corridor opened up. It tells me that there were no birds at the point or on North beach at the time.

The number of Plover chicks that fledged last year at the point which was ONE. The American Oystercatcher only fledged SEVEN on all of Hatteras Island. The Oystercatcher according to Audubon and I quote "Despite disturbance in beach habitat, the species currently is doing fairly fine" These closures their size and extended length are not necessary.

I truly get the felling that the park service is using the birds as an excuse to keep the beaches closed. They started down the wrong road with the closures and are unwilling to do the correct thing. Bight the bullet and admit you were incorrect and correct the problem. OPEN UP THE BEACHES. I understand closures will be necessary, just do it in a manner that will benefit the park service, visitors and the birds.

Thanks [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 999 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 13:36:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Mr. David Hallac
Superintendent, Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Subject: EA for the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for ORV Management

Dear Superintendent Hallac:

In response to the NPS request for public comments, I am submitting the following:

Morning Beach Openings:

Comment: I support EA alternative 3

Seasonal Off-Road Vehicle Routes:

Comment: I support EA alternative 3

Vehicle Free Areas:

Comment: I would prefer the designation of the ramps as listed below to allow access to the general public. Proposals should be intended to improve the

visitor experience to the seashore without impairing resource protection.

- Ramp 1 S .5 mi (right) - Seasonal
- Ramp 2 S .5 mi (right) Year-round
- Ramp 4 S .75 mi (right) Seasonal
- Ramp 23 N .5 mi (left) Year-round
- Ramp 23 S 1.5 mi (right) Seasonal
- Ramp 32 S 1.0 mi (right) Seasonal
- Ramp 34 N 1.0 mi (left) Seasonal
- Ramp 43 N .6 mi (left) Seasonal
- Ramp 45 E 1.2 mi (left) Seasonal
- Ramp 45 W 1.3 mi (right) Seasonal
- Ramp 48 E .5 mi (left) Year-round
- Ramp 59 E .5 mi (left) Year-round

ORV Permits:

Comment: I support EA alternative 2

Access Improvements:

Comment: I support EA alternative 2

Correspondence ID: 1000 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 13:39:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been following the progress of the comments and am dismayed about the "electronically generated" form letters asking for stricter measures regarding access to the beaches at the Outer Banks. These environmental groups do not care about the people who live and vacation at the Cape Hatteras Seashore. Of all the places me and my family, for 4 generations, have vacationed, Outer Banks is number one on our list. Spending as many as 4 weeks a year there has been no other place we enjoy more. The highlight and main reason for vacationing at the Outer Banks has been it's beaches. As I get older it gets more difficult to walk out to Cape Point then when I was a teenager. In my teens my family would stay at the campground at Cape Point and walk, Daily, out to The Point. It was like a caravan across the desert with my parents and siblings carrying fishing gear, chairs and an ice chest. In 1977 my father purchased his first 4X4. A brand new Ford 4 wheel drive pickup truck. We also started to rent cottages that summer. No more ruffing it in a tent. So for the past almost 40 years we have driven out onto the beaches to enjoy the fishing and the surf. We have never disturbed any of the wildlife or abused the environment. I think the new rules for beach access are still TOO restrictive and you need to reconsider allowing greater access to the shoreline, mainly The Point. One question that I have asked, every time I have been there is "why is the section of beach south of The Point always blocked for access. You cannot drive south from The Point to Frisco along the shoreline. I would love to see that section of the beach open again to driving. I am a member of the Outer Banks Preservation Association and the North Carolina Beach Buggy Association. I support the efforts of both origination and follow their progress. I hope that you will take in consideration the many people like me and my family who vacation at the Outer Banks when you review these comments. We are not "tree huggers" who with a few clicks of a mouse generate hundreds of email asking you to close the beaches. These people have never been to the area or enjoyed the beaches like my family has. I have been vacationing at the Outer Banks, almost yearly. for close to 55 years. Shouldn't my opinion hold greater weight than some TREE HUGGER from California? Let them concern themselves with the west coast and leave those of us who love the Outer Banks alone!

Correspondence ID: 1001 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 13:45:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1002 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 13:47:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

March 14, 2016

Mr. David Hallac
Superintendent, Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Reference: Considerations for the modification to the Final Rule for ORV Management

Dear Superintendent Hallac,

It is my feeling that the birds, turtles and other fauna and flora have received good protection under the existing rules and it has come at an excessive cost to those who wish to recreate on the beaches of CHNS. Be it visitors who wish to use ORVs to reach a beach destination, due to age, infirmity or simply to exercise the privilege that was the onetime traditional right to drive on the beach, the restrictions that have been placed on access have created a situation where it is frequently very difficult, near impossible or prohibited to access many areas of various beaches at CHNS. In many situations the closures impair pedestrians as well as ORV users. My position statement is not to cast doubts on the science that was used to support the closures rather to include an appeal to continue the research and data evaluation to further assess the actual benefits to those species of concern and possibly put some sensitive closure areas into perspective while considering vast areas of adjacent beaches and islands that are set aside as refuges for as much as 5-6 months a year. My response to the Consideration of Modifications will focus on the specific options set forth and my recommendations regarding those options.

My further concern is for a group that is currently threatened and suffering diminishing numbers due to the current beach access restrictions. Although I feel strongly that access should be available for all who wish to visit the beach, by ORV or on foot, my personal experience revolves around family, friends, acquaintances and strangers who wish to visit CHNS for the primary purpose of surf fishing. I do not know what percentage of those annual ORV permit sales are to fishermen but I do know what feedback I am getting from members of NCBBA and others who are struggling to justify a Hatteras visit in consideration of access restrictions. I am in the fortunate situation of being within easy striking distance of our beaches. This proximity enables me to have more opportunities to make the trip and enjoy some optimum fishing time. Some of our friends are not as fortunate and while in pursuit of the prize drum fish are currently denied ORV access for over 40% on any given day because of night time driving restrictions. These restrictions often occur during prime fishing cycles and eliminate the ability for many folks to pursue that red drum through the night when their bite is typically the best. I understand that the number of these devout fishermen may be statistically small but knowing some who have given up their previous dream vacation on the beach makes these people a special sector to me. They are from various backgrounds and many are not letter writers or active protesters but when I hear the discouragement in their voice or read their pleas for help it is easy to determine that they feel like an unheard minority. Because I have come to know a number of these folks and their families I can assure you that anything that can be accomplished to enable them possible access for longer seasons, longer hours and longer ranges will be appreciated by these sportsmen and, possibly, may bring some of them back to our beaches. Between seasonal closures, VFAs, habitat closures and reduced access hours the ORV community has lost 50% of what was once available and is asking for help to assure that their privileges are not further diminished.

In order of considerations of alternatives following are my comments:

Morning beach openings -

I prefer alternative 3 with additional considerations for a later nighttime closure of 10:00 PM.

Seasonal ORV routes -

I prefer alternative 3 with the additional extension of seasonal routes beyond the villages. Extending the seasonal routes in the fall can be done without increased risk to wildlife so there is actually no reason not to enable this additional access.

Vehicle free areas -

I prefer alternative 3 plus the 1.5 mile VFA area south of ramp 23 being designated as a seasonal ORV route. This is the particular area of beach with which I was most familiar and I feel strongly that opening that area as a seasonal ORV route will have no negative impact upon habitat while enabling closer access to those visiting the tri-village area. Reopening that area north of 23 as a year around route would provide access to a great, albeit small, fishing area that, again, is in easy striking distance to those in the tri-villages area and would ease the vehicle density at ramp 25.

Personal observation of the VFAs, admittedly primarily between September and May, has indicated to me that those areas are used lightly to rarely and hopefully data can be obtained that may show that many VFA areas have been indicated thus as a result of compromise and not a sound basis of need or usage.

Access improvements -

I prefer alternative 2 of the recommended alternatives with recognition of the additional need to enhance access to Cape Point in any fashion possible. Cape Point is the focal point of many visitors (some of the fishermen that I know will not visit Hatteras if the Point is not accessible) and, while being the most dynamic area, is also the one specific area that is the most important to the greatest number of visitors as well as local residents for whom it has historically been a community meeting and socializing place. Extended access behind the dune line or from the parking area at ramp 45 would provide alternatives to the most sought after piece of beach on the Island.

Permits -

Alternative 2 would be a great improvement and enable the 10 day issue to coincide with the 10 day fishing license. The changes that begin on March 16 have been lauded by many people and are appreciated as an effort by the NPS to make the permitting process easier and more reasonable.

Total VFA and ORV route mileage -

I prefer alternative 3 until such time as more studies can be made to allow additional ORV mileage without negative impact on habitat and while utilizing some of the VFA areas that are either greatly underutilized or almost never utilized.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on possible modifications to the final rule for ORV management. I understand that there are those who would prefer the complete closure of our beaches to ORVs and pedestrians and hope that you lend more weight to those of us who actually use the resource while, at the same time respecting and protecting a place that means so much to many people.

My comments come as an individual who lives in eastern North Carolina, has owned a cottage in Salvo for 30 years and has looked upon Hatteras Island in a revered fashion since first visiting it in 1959. This special venue is a great part of the life of my family as well as many friends and associates. The people we have met who share the appreciation of Hatteras are among the finest one would wish to encounter. Among those people are many who need or prefer an ORV to access much of the area that otherwise would not be available to them. Some are folks who have simply taken the great American love of the vehicle to the ORV level and, as a result, discovered many of the spectacular areas of our islands that would unlikely be enjoyed without that vehicle.

Your considerations on behalf of this particular American minority are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1003 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 14:23:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a recreational fisherman who has been coming to Hatteras Island for over 40 years. My wife and I now own a home in Avon and we purchased a permit to allow beach driving every year. I believe fishermen spend real dollars to support fish populations. I support all your proposals which extend or expand ORV routes. I strongly disagree with any more pedestrian only areas, especially where there is a long walk to the beach or near Cape Point. From Rodanthe north to Oregon Inlet NO beach driving is currently allowed.

It is especially important to improve those access ramps which flood by raising the road beds or taking other measures period. This includes ramps 43, 44, and 49. I also believe alternate ramp access should be provided to Cape Point when birds or turtle nests close access from ramp 44.

I have reviewed the comments of ██████████ owner of ██████████ and I support all of his specific recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1004 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: You need to do what this law was intended to do. But you (NPS) are just giving this law lip service. The National Park Service at one time was one the best things to happen in the great outdoors. This will probably not matter, but do the right thing and open up the beaches. NPS does not care about people any more and that's the sad part. Thanks ██████████

Correspondence ID: 1005 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I agree and support all comments made by my husband ██████████ owner of ██████████ in Avon, NC.

Correspondence ID: 1006 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Good afternoon,

I enjoy trips to the Outer Banks and access the beaches for camping, fishing activities and drives along the beach. These are best served by beach access via private vehicles.

I prefer the CHAPA view for beach access on the Outer Banks. Please keep the beaches open to vehicles so my family and friends can enjoy them as we have for many years.

We hope that the NPS will take this in to consideration and allow as much public vehicle access as possible and preserve what makes the Outer Banks known as a special place to visit throughout the eastern U.S.

Sincerely,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1007 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 14:31:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to say I support lowering restrictions on ORV's at CHNS. Alternative 3 looks to be the best of the alternatives offered, though I admit I would rather have areas in front of villages open 10/15 not 10/1.

With the restrictions that are in effect now, many of the beaches are closed to vehicles, causing crowding, especially in the favored spots. It has also hurt tourism, and the benefit to animals is debatable. While there are always exceptions to every rule, almost everyone who drives on the beach loves animals and would not do anything to harm them. And most of the animosity towards the birds is due to the overbearing rules now in place. I know many people who have stopped visiting Hatteras due to this.

Also, the fees for ORV's are too high. \$50 for a 1 week permit to drive on the beach is cost prohibitive, and prices many people out of doing a cherished activity. Fore \$80 one can obtain an ANNUAL pass to ALL the national parks in the US, but \$50 to drive on the beach for 1 week? I often go down for a long weekend every spring, but I have cut that back as I cannot justify paying \$50 to drive on the beach 1 or 2 days. Even when I go for a week in the fall I look at the weather before I buy a permit. This past year I could not justify the expense as in poured rain all but 2 days for my fall week.

It dismays me to see that much of the opposition to lessening restrictions are not by people who visit CHNS, but by people who send in form letters prepared by wealthy lobby groups intent on fundraising. These people not only don't read through the data provided by NPS, and have never been here, so they just go by the biased emotional info spoon fed by the lobby group. Of course they are for heavy restrictions, they will never visit here, so it is not an inconvenience for them, not does it hurt their pocketbook, as it does the many people who have jobs and investments on the island.

Correspondence ID: 1008 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please keep ORV access open on our beaches.
All my life from a kid and going surf fishing with my dad til now going with family and friends, surf fishing has been a part of my life.
OBX Is one of the few places left to do this. Many of our beaches now hardly allow access by foot, unless you are staying at an ocean front place that I can't afford.

Correspondence ID: 1009 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 14:38:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have spent my entire life (58 years) visiting the outer banks throughout the year. It is getting harder and harder to enjoy this wonderful asset of ours because of all the interference and laws. We the taxpayers pay your salary and would like the NPS to recognize the concerns of the LOCAL citizens not the special interest groups that have no idea of what this area means to us on the east coast.

Correspondence ID: 1010 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Why can't you find some way to drain the ramps at Buxton? There needs to be more access to us "human beings". Please, instead of taking away our beaches, give us more access not less.

Correspondence ID: 1011 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: For 40 years I have been coming down to the outer banks the park service always had the turtle nest blocked off and we would drive by. Now they block the whole damn beach off so we can't drive by also it's not the fisherman that mess up the dunes it s the bird watchers trying to take a better picture I think people wise up to the fact that the outer banks is a vacation spot and they are losing millions of dollars so get with it

Correspondence ID: 1012 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 14:57:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
As a full time resident of Buxton and a frequent guest of Cape Hatteras Seashore park and Ocracoke Island for over 30 years, I would like to make comments on the Modifications to the Final Rule for ORV Management. Based on the Alternatives presented I would support Alternative 3.

I would like to comment on Morning Beach Openings I feel Cape Point should be the first Priority Beach and be opened by 6 AM. The Alternative 3 proposal with the 6 am opening would provide access as close to sunrise as possible. I would also like to see the closing of the beaches pushed back to 10 PM. Sometimes in the summer, it is just getting dark and we have to leave the beach.

My next comment is on the Seasonal Off Road Routs. I support alternative 3 to extend the ORV routes behind the Villages from October 1 through April 30. This would provide a greater visitor experience for those visiting during the shoulder seasons.

My third comment on Vehicle free areas I really do not see the need for so many vehicle free areas and especially in the off season. As a full time resident on Hatteras Island, it is a shame that South Beach which is located between the Point and Frisco Beach is closed to ORV's. South Beach is one of my favorite beaches for fishing, shelling and spending time with friend and neighbors. It was a very sad day for our community to have this area taking away. Out of the choice presented I would have to pick alternative 3 but I feel more should be done to give the community access to this area. At least consider opening this area in the off season as you do the areas behind the villages. The vehicle free areas are presently under used and older or people with physical handicaps are unable to use them. Please reconsider your position and open these areas to ORV at least on a seasonal basis.

My fourth comment is on the ORV permits. I support alternative 3 as it provides the greater choice to the visitors of the park. The more options that are available the better it is for the visitor and will enhance their visitor experience.

My fifth comment is on Access Improvements. I support alternative 3 out of the three alternatives but I feel NPS could modify and extend ramp 44 with a bypass route along the dune line to South Beach AKA the hook, So during times of extreme tides there could be access to the Point I believe there should be a corridor ramp 45 along the dune line to the Point that NPS could open when other routes to the Point are closed. To keep the locals happy and the visitors happy keep access to Cape Point. The Point is very important to our community on so many levels. It has been a very trying time to have this area closed for the summer and to have it closed due to high water. Let's work together to keep as much access to this beloved area.

Respectfully submitted,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1013 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We've been vacationing on Hatteras Island and driving on the beaches since the 80s and would like access to return to what it was back then. But since that's not going to happen, we would like to be able to drive on the beaches at night again or at least until 10 p.m. And we'd like to be able to be out before sunrise, too. We used to take some coffee and biscuits and sit in the back of the truck while watching the sun rise. We have no interest in vehicle-free areas or additional parking areas since we'd prefer to park on the beach. My mom's 88 now and in a wheelchair, and her favorite place in the world is the Point at Cape Hatteras. We don't mind paying for access, but we would like to be able to drive her out onto the Point as much as possible, even access is only to the south side of the Point. Thanks much for your time. Cooperatively yours, ██████████

Correspondence ID: 1014 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,14,2016 15:05:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1015 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 15:09:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am recommending that Alternative Three be Implemented in this Project.

I thank you ! [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1016 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am in support free an open beaches for ORV as it is rooted in history and any action to limit such is against the will of the people whom inhabit it's borders and granted the Govt oversight of it's lands.

Correspondence ID: 1017 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 15:27:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
Morning Openings for the primary / preferred routes should open at 6:00 AM throughout the year and remain open until 10:00 PM. Other routes should open at 7:00 AM. These hours would extend the ability of all users to enjoy sunrise and sunset times as well as evening picnics.

The spring and fall ORV routes should open October 1 and remain open until May 1. This would allow maximum access to the most desirable areas for the greatest period of time including the best fishing on the Atlantic coast.

While the Alternative 3 makes some progress in opening more areas to ORV access, it ignores Bodie Island Spit, Hatteras Island Spit, the North end of Ocracoke and Ocracoke Island Spit. These are very popular areas for swimming, shelling and fishing throughout the year. It is very difficult to access these areas without an ORV so why close the areas and cause a logjam at the parking to access these inlets? In addition, while the alternatives make modest progress they ignore the 13 miles of Pea Island which is totally vehicle free as is nearly 100% o the sound side of Bodie Island, Hatteras Island and Ocracoke Island. This amounts to nearly 75 miles of additional vehicle free areas within CHNSRA.

The National Park Service should step up and follow the intent of legislation that passed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2015 (in 2014). The intent was to significantly increase ORV access to provide for all including families with young children, the aged and disabled citizens.

The permit improvements are a welcome change in particular the ability to purchase permits via the Internet. As a property owner and rental property owner on Hatteras island, I would like the ability to purchase an annual permit for my rental property for use by my weekly renters. Also the permit fees should be used for ORV access improvements only and not used for other purposes.

Correspondence ID: 1018 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have been coming to Hatteras for over 20 years to surf fish. I want to be able to introduce all 3 of my kids to the sport and having a balanced access plan which recognizes the interests of all stakeholders is critical to making that a reality. Unlimited access is a bad thing. No access is a bad thing. Strike an appropriate balance and keep the beaches open for all to use and enjoy.

Correspondence ID: 1019 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Keep Hatteras Island beaches open to the public, including beach driving. This is a NATIONAL SEASHORE, meaning it was set aside for the use of the public. USE OF THE PUBLIC, not controlled by special interest groups with deep pockets!

Correspondence ID: 1020 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It is appalling that alternate access to Cape Point was not even mentioned in the EA let alone addressed as to why it was not done in some fashion. This is the crux of the entire situation between the NPS and most of the user groups trying to enjoy this PARK. The Point itself, by its nature, has no value for bird or turtle nesting, yet we are constantly prevented from enjoying this spectacular element of the PARK. The EA should establish permanent access to this area from the south or inshore of the dune line on the East beach.

The direction from Congress was that the NPS provide improved access to this PARK. In 2015 that did not happen. The Point was open about the same number of days as in 2014. Building numerous access points between Avon and Salvo is nice, but it does nothing to resolve the issues at ramps 43, 44, 49.

The progress that was made in this area was negated by the NPS's refusal to manage the drainage situation in this part of the PARK. The lack of drainage negatively impacts access to this part of the PARK. Management of this issue should be included in the EA.

In 2014 access to the Point was blocked for MONTHS by one late turtle nest. NPS already moves a percentage of turtle nests for various reasons. This EA should specifically address the handling of a turtle nest that blocks the only access to an area, particularly during the Fall for late nests. These nests should be moved and this should be defined in the EA.

I have been fishing in this PARK for over thirty years. My family and I, and anyone we bring on the beach, does our part to preserve the beach, to leave it better than we found it. This includes all the wildlife, both on the beach and in the water. Looking forward to more enjoyable days on the Point, hopefully soon with reasonable access during the summer.

Correspondence ID: 1021 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It seems to me that we all share the common objective of preserving our beaches and wild life for the generations that follow us. Sometimes in our effort to make a point, we fail to see the forest for the trees and take things too far. The position of the NCBBA and CHAPA in my view strike a compromise that takes all positions into consideration, protects the environment and wildlife, and at the same time allows the public to enjoy what we try so hard to protect AND PAY FOR. While no plan is always perfect, one in which we ALL work together can achieve milestones, and pave the way for the future and generations yet to come.

Correspondence ID: 1022 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As I spend most of my time driving the beaches I find It down right disgusting that j have to pay a permit fee To be able to enjoy something that was guaranteed to us. I also do not like the lack of care that had been provided to maintaining access due to flooding on most ramps over the past several months. With every report I read I find that less birds are recorded throughout the years so I don't understand why there is so many and so large of closures. We can't even enjoy ourselves any longer by driving to areas such as the point! It is constantly closed due to a single bird. There has to be some sort of understanding to the needs of human beings also. Closing these beaches to ORV use is not only wrong but devastating to local business that lives off of tourism money. Less and less people are visiting our area due to the extra cost and lack of beach accessible. Families are losing their livelihoods because of this. This seashore was promised to be free!!

Correspondence ID: 1023 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not let this happen. Such a beautiful place. My family has been going there for generations.

Correspondence ID: 1024 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The NPS does a wonderful job of protecting government lands for everyone,not just a few groups with a special interest. If it wasn't for the NPS the Outer Banks would be one long strip mall or overpriced rental property not fit for man or beast. It is a delicate balance and some folks don't like to share. I go to Hatteres for several months out of the year and I think the limiting of beach access by vehicles could be restricted more than it is...one does not need a humongous truck to enjoy the beach. Maybe more foot access but definitely not more time for trucks.

Correspondence ID: 1025 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 16:29:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support Alternative 3. I enjoy being able to drive out onto the beach at all times throughout the year.

Correspondence ID: 1026 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 16:31:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize

nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 1027 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Off Road IS Hatteras Island. It ranges from our "ancestors' road" to part of our everyday life. There may be reasons to remove or restrict some of those who use the area with complete disrespect but not to take the use away because of them. Most people 'take more out than you brought in' as far as trash is concerned. Many others spend time trying to aid and maintain healthy animal populations, such as our dedicated "Nest Sitters" who give up free time and nights of sleep to aid hatchlings. The numbers of visitors who wait all year for their trip to our lovely, open beaches will surely diminish if more restrictions are added or more access is denied. That, unfortunately, is not an assumption. Business owners have seen this first hand and hear, more and more, that people won't travel the distances involved if the areas have less to offer than more convenient destinations.

Correspondence ID: 1028 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To whom it may concern,
As a yearly visitor to Hatteras Island, I feel we have the right to enjoy the National Seashore as it was meant to be. Our family has been visiting Hatteras Island for 40 years. My family enjoys fishing, swimming, and taking walks on the beach. Please, don't take our beach away from us...

Correspondence ID: 1029 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 16:47:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have driven on and enjoyed the Hatteras Island beaches since the mid 1960's. I would like for my children and grandchildren to have the same experiences I had growing up. I would like for you to consider alternative 1. Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1030 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Restricting beach access on Hatteras island is destroying the economy. It has caused anger, hatred, resentment, and a general dislike of the NPS along with other agencies. The point in Buxton is extremely valuable to the economy and supports many livelihoods on this island and to take it away is irresponsible. Instead of taking the point and inlets from us why not use the beaches between Avon and Salvo. They are used far less and will have less of an impact to the island. Stop building ramps that no one wants! Stop charging the people money for something they don't want or need! If your going to charge money then I expect to receive a service from it like trash cleanup or BEACH NOURISHMENT! Please stop pillaging our little island, you're making the locals resent the wildlife we have fought so hard to protect for generations. Your changing the entire mentality of this island toward nature and overall you have has a massively negative effect on this wonderful place that has sheltered my family for the past 9 generations. This island is beautiful because we the people that live here took care of it, not because of the brutal money seeking sanctions you have unfairly placed on good hard working, nature loving people.

Correspondence ID: 1031 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I wasn't much of a fan of NC beaches when I first moved here. I found them crowded and devoid of anything other than humans basting themselves and playing music too loudly. But then I went to Capr Hatteras National Seashore and found the peace I didn't know existed. I have been an avid border since I was thirteen. I am in my mid forties now and have birdied the NC coast for 20 years. The unsurpassed serenity I find in the beaches there, and the plethora of birds that call them home, draw me back year after year. Please don't sully our beaches with traffic. Please don't be as short-sighted as to think this won't have a huge impact on the ecosystem there for generations to come. Please do not rule to change off-road access. We humans have already destroyed enough. Thank you for your time.

Correspondence ID: 1032 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please keep our beaches open to vehicles. We have a long tradition of driving on the beach and we would like North Carolina to keep the beaches of the Outer Banks open to fisherman and other beach goers.

Correspondence ID: 1033 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We love coming to the outer banks for the fact we can drive out on the beach and spend the whole day there with our family, fishing and swimming. If we have to walk from the park spots on the ramps we will go elsewhere. Love the beach and the no crowdedness.

Correspondence ID: 1034 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 17:49:04

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support alternative 3.

Correspondence ID: 1035 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 18:01:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I frequent the cape hatteras national park and surrounding beaches/ ramps at least three times per year. I am an avid surf fisherman - and naturalist. I find the restrictions of the vfa areas cumbersome and over stated. As for nesting birds, I have yet to see any nest in the vast expanse of cordoned off area north and south of the point. Ramp area 43-49 specifically. Secondly I like to explore for shells and other flotsam along the northern ramps 30-34, however they should be open to orv on a more regular basis. Finally, I frequent the area as many others do pre and post tourist season so extending orv from Oct 1 to April 30 makes more sense.

Correspondence ID: 1036 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hatteras Island's beaches must remain open to people who enjoy its beauty, wildlife, and recreational opportunities. I agree with protecting nesting turtles but not birds who are not native to the area. Any regulations regarding the usage of the beach must consider to the needs of human beings who live there.

Correspondence ID: 1037 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Thank you. [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1038 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hatteras Island has been a favorite fishing area for many generations. Please allow my kids and grandkids the right to continue to enjoy this area. Please relinquish the stringent rules and open the area for all to enjoy.

Correspondence ID: 1039 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 18:26:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1040 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The current compromise proposal does not do enough to accommodate ORV access. Given the cost of yearly permits more beach should be accessible to those who purchase permits.

Correspondence ID: 1041 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: When I was 7 my dad took me to Salvo to fish on the beach. Now my kids are 7 and 9 (girls) we still love to ride on the beach and fish. Please keep the beaches open so when my kids have kids they can take their granddad fishing. I'm in the obx about 5 weeks a year for fishing tournaments and fellowship. Please don't take that away

Correspondence ID: 1042 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: To whom it may concern:

My wife and I have enjoyed the Outer Banks of North Carolina for the last 25 years and have come to realize that the regulations that were put in place in 2012 have put a damper on our enjoyment of the beaches since they were put in place. We always come after labor day because the amount of people on the beaches are not as numerous as the summer months, however the access to the beaches has been hampered by the regulations that have been put in place. I have not even bought the permit the last few years because I felt that it was not worth the money charged with the limited access to quite a few of our favorite areas of the Outer Banks. Please consider that we spend a lot of money to enjoy the beaches and love the Outer Banks but we are considering other areas of the east coast that are not as regulated. We have no desire to go to other states to enjoy the beaches so please consider easing of the regulations so that we can continue to enjoy the Beautiful beaches of the North Carolina coast.

Correspondence ID: 1043 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 18:45:03

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Correspondence ID: 1044 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Outer Banks beaches were promised to remain free and open to the American people when they were taken over by the federal government

Correspondence ID: 1045 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We need more off road access not less. The beaches get very crowded in summer. The pedestrian only area between Ramp 45 and 48 is usually deserted except for a few people walking at the tide line just like they do in vehicle areas. It's not a wildlife refuge, it's a vacation area. Let us spread out and enjoy the park. Living in Buxton, I'm driving on the beach 3 to 5 days every week unlike some of the commenters who have probably never been here. Thank You

Correspondence ID: 1046 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My name is [REDACTED] and I support the alternate proposal by CHAPA. Vehicle access to the beach is one of the things that makes the Outer banks and its beautiful beaches one of my favorite vacation spots for the last 21 years. My first time visiting I was 16 years old and have been returning every chance I get. Vehicle access to the beach allows everyone to responsibly enjoy the many miles of coastline. Fishermen, Surfers, Skim boarders as well as families flying kites, Swimming and having picnics to all enjoy the beach. It's not just recreation it's a valued way of life that has been passed from generation to generation.

Correspondence ID: 1047 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 19:03:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please institute Alternative 3.

Please consider the location of the comments as some are from across the country and probably will never visit this piece of heaven. Don't punish the people on the eastern USA who vacation and live in the OBX.

99% o ORV take care of the beach. It is like everything else in life, don't punish everyone for the incidents of a few.

Correspondence ID: 1048 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Not only are our senior citizens, both residents and visitors, having no opportunity to visit our beaches but so are our young people. Figure out a way that will open our land to all individuals. Enough to with the signs and regulations. Come visit our beaches and observe how beautiful it is. It's for people to enjoy.

Correspondence ID: 1049 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 19:18:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Alternative 3 is my preferred option but the NPS has still failed to provide an alternate access to Cape Point. Most of the vehicle free areas are essentially unused and the few pedestrians that do use them use the parking lots paid for by ORV permits. Is it not time to also charge pedestrians a permit fee also to help cover costs of providing access? I am in support of providing more ORV access while protecting the wonderful, natural resource of the Outer Banks. Specific driving corridors, speed limits and fence closures just around active nest sites can protect the resource.

Correspondence ID: 1050 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: To whom It may concern. I would like to voice my support for changes for beach access and driving, plenty of room for the public to enjoy beach driving and still be environmentally responsible. Thank you for the opportunity to coment.

Correspondence ID: 1051 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the least restrictive rule possible. These beaches need to be open to ALL people, including beach drivers, with as little restrictions possible. The current restrictions have no scientific justification, and it is a disgrace to have to pay to drive on our beaches.

Correspondence ID: 1052 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 19:40:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a NC native and have lived in NC all my life. My first visit to the Cape Hatteras Seashore was with my parents in the early 1960. I been back numerous times and my husband is a visitor several times a year. We look forward to taking our granddaughters there in the very near future and will depend on ORV access to get to the beach will all the stuff to keep two active children occupied as well as introduce them to surf fishing.

I support Alternative 3 and strongly urge that funds received from the ORV permits be used initially to repair and maintain the existing, historical ramps and then, and only then, begin construction on new ramps and access points.

Thanks for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1053 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 19:54:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My family and I enjoy our time in Hatteras every time we go. I am writing because of the proposed changes for access on the beaches. We enjoy having OSV use to fish and be able to drive our vehicle on the beach. It would be great to be able to go earlier to get an early morning bite and even stay all day and overnight. I understand that wildlife such as turtles are on the beaches as well, but if we stayed in one spot overnight it would not harm any wildlife. I am sure many others would agree. I am in favor of changing the buffer zone to allow more access for vehicles and ways around the beaches. Alternative number 3 would be a step in the right direction.

Correspondence ID: 1054 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a relatively new resident of Dare County, but have been a long time fisherman in the area. When the rules changed re ORV restrictions, as a result of the Consent Decree, it greatly impacted my ability to enjoy the Outer Banks as in years past. I, for one, would greatly appreciate the easing of driving restrictions (i. e. opening up more areas to drive on and less closures throughout the year - particularly during the summer months) on the beaches of the Outer Banks.

Since we are on the subject of beach driving, I believe then fee imposed on us to drive on the beaches, is excessive and somewhat punitive toward ORV drivers.

Bottom line - EASE DRIVING RESTICTIONS!

Correspondence ID: 1055 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 20:57:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1056 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a 40 year visitor to Hatteras Island, I have seen our access change dramatically over recent years. The most frequented areas have been cut off from the public for whom the National Park was created. Specifically, the area commonly known as Cape Point. For several months each year, this unique and beautiful area is completely shutoff to human activity. There are many different avenues to allow people access without impacting the many protected resources. There needs to be alternate ways to allow the public to get to the point in times of resource closures. There are have been some efforts but more needs to be done. The VFA's are rarely if ever used, and if some of these unused areas were able to be used in times of resource closures, it would provide access to the point throughout the year, particularly in the summer months when vacationers are most apt to be there.

Also, the buffers allotted for birds and turtles needs to be reevaluated. Many times many miles of the beach are cutoff for users, where if the buffers were more reasonable access could be had.

Correspondence ID: 1057 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,14,2016 21:45:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: as an avid fisherman and annual beach permit holder I feel alternative number 3 would be best suited. I also feel like there needs to be some much needed maintenance work for some of the ramps where the soft heavy sand makes it near impossible to get out onto the beaches without extensive work. myself along with many many other people pay our fees for our beach permits along with paying our federal taxes which are supposed to be budgeted to NPS and its ridiculous that we have to face closures and other hardships for stuff that we have already paid to use.

Correspondence ID: 1058 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please uphold the reasonable, rational and balanced off-road vehicle regulation implemented in 2012. The 2012 regulation was developed with extensive input from diverse stakeholders and the public, and it is one that was showing great promise restoring sea turtles and birds while still allowing driving on the vast majority of the seashore's beaches. The record numbers of sea turtles, increase in nesting birds, and return of species once extirpated from the Seashore are no coincidence.

The 2012 regulation also set aside areas of beach where families could let their kids run safely and where visitors who prefer beaches without deep tire ruts or speeding vehicles could enjoy beaches that are worthy of being called a National Seashore.

Please keep these regulations in tact to better protect our resources and environment.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1059 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: PROTECT ALL OUR WILDLIFE.

Correspondence ID: 1060 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: There are a few changes that I think would improve the seashore without damaging natural resources. The first is to allow ORV access to the area known as "The Hook," thereby providing access to the Point from the southern side as well. The new behind the dunes road does very little if it isn't connected into the appropriate beach areas. Second, I would like to see the rules change for when daytime driving is allowed. Seven AM in the summertime is 1.5 hours after true sunrise and by that time, some of the best fishing opportunities have passed. Obviously, I'd also like to see some common sense employed when designing buffers for nesting birds that allows access while protecting wildlife. This would include making an area closure a last resort, rather than a preferred management option.

For context, I am a fisheries biologist by trade. I fully understand the need to weigh the needs of access with wildlife preservation. However, in this case, it seems that the management process has been hijacked by special interest groups that are singularly focused on their species' of concern with little interest in pragmatism. The incredible history of Hatteras as the greatest surf fishing location on the East Coast, along with the plethora of wildlife viewing options make the seashore unique. If the tradition of surf fishing is litigated out of existence, the entire region will have lost a part of their cultural identity.

Correspondence ID: 1061 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly believe that a better balance can be reached between beach access and wildlife preservation. CHNSRA was established for the people to have recreational access to the unique area that is the outer banks. Shutting down large sections of access for nesting birds is unreasonable. I request the NPS establish more reasonable buffers, and allow less restrictive access to our beach, which we pay for with our tax dollars.

v/r
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1062 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We visit the OBX at least 4 to 5 times a year. In the past we have bought weekly passes to drive on the beach due to not knowing exactly how many weeks we were going to be able to come down ..but this year we are just going to buy a yearly pass..we love to drive down to the point and we also love ramp 4 both of which were closed last time we were down last October. Ramp 4 opened up the last 3 days I think we were there..my point is we pd full price for a week long pass and maybe drove on the beach a total of 3 or 4 days..we love the obx and one day want to make it our home..we,love driving on the beach but really wish that either when some of the ramps are down so is the price to get a pass..we work hard to enjoy vacation and it's sad when we feel we are wasting our money

Correspondence ID: 1063 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 06:30:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation. I support the following positions on the proposed changes:
Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
Seasonal ORV routes:
I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
Vehicle-free areas:
I am disappoointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
Access Improvements:
Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.
By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.
Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 1064 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Its about time for all the silly rules and regulations to stop the obx are not the only place that the so called endangered spicies of animal and birds live and mate. There is no reason to close down 1-3 miles of beach for 2-4 birds or a nest of sea turtle eggs. These closures have had a major effect on the lives of the main residents and buisnesses on the Island and it has affected the tourism also, so please open all the beaches to all orv's and lets make the obx as great as it was 30 years ago.

Correspondence ID: 1065 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 07:46:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: dear sir. i support alt. 3 because i don't see enough proof that orv traffic is that detrimental to nesting shore birds. however i do think that is helpful with nesting turtles

Correspondence ID: 1066 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 07:50:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the NPS Preferred Alternative (Alt #2), except that I oppose changing/reducing the seasonal closure in front of the villages. Please leave the seasonal ORV route in front of the villages at Nov 1 - March 31, but otherwise expand access as proposed in Alt 2.

Thank you for your hard work and efforts!

Correspondence ID: 1067 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 07:55:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the National Park Service must balance the experience for all its visitors with wildlife and habitat protection. Unfortunately, the proposed alternatives presented in the Modifications to the Final Rule for the ORV Management Environmental Assessment favor off-road vehicle use over wildlife protection and the visitor experience for the majority of parkgoers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Therefore, I support the No Action Alternative, which maintains the current 2012 Final Rule for ORV management policies at Cape Hatteras and protects the visitor experience, the park's shorebirds, and endangered sea turtle habitat.

Thank you,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1068 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 08:08:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: After reviewing the proposed changes to ORV access, I would like to voice my support for Alternative Plan #3.

As an avid fisherman and surfer that lives in the Outer Banks, I feel very strongly that we need more access to our beaches. I've held an annual beach pass for the last 3 years and have been driving to the Point to fish (and all over the south beaches) whenever possible. Sometimes its not possible though, due to beach conditions, nesting closures, standing water, etc. I realize sometimes mother nature just will not allow access to the beach and I understand that. However there are definitely things we can do to counteract some of issues that prevent us access to beach. There has been standing water at Ramp 43 and 44 for months now, which could probably be fixed by a drainage ditch. Above all else I would really like to see better access to the Point, perhaps an alternative route through the hook when Ramp 43 or 44 is underwater or closed for bird nesting.

Please do not take away any more access to our beaches!!

A very concerned Outer Banks resident,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1069 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 08:11:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for

families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 1070 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 08:32:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I respectfully request the NPS to approve modifications to the EA that would:

- 1) Increase the amount of beach available for ORV use during all seasons of the year, keeping seasonal closings to a minimum.
- 2) Allow for the beaches to be opened for ORV use as early in the morning as possible and keep them open as late at night as possible. Sunrise to 10PM would be acceptable.
- 3) Keep seasonal closings to the absolute minimum.
- 4) Open beaches to ORV and pedestrian traffic as quickly as possible in the event of a closure.
- 5) Provide an alternative route to prime tourist / fishing locations such as Cape Point so that they are NOT closed to ORV use at anytime during the year.
- 6) Most importantly - Operate CHNRS on a "KEEP OPEN" plan rather than a "KEEP CLOSED" plan.

Correspondence ID: 1071 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 1072 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hello, and thank you for allowing the opportunity to share comment on such a controversial topic.

Even as a "tourist" or visitor myself, a lot of what I read hit home. I am 26 and out of those 26 years have been visiting Hatteras for 12. That is no time at all compared to the locals on the island and old salt that come to visit. I hold memories from those 12 years in very high regard and look at the island as a second home. It is unbelievable to me the troves of new restrictions and formalities put in place each successive year. In that short amount of time I witnessed a somewhat slow paced island pick up speed and develop into an oasis for locals and tourists alike. This has slowed drastically in the last 3-4 years. I believe it is easy to recognize that this slow down is attributed to the restrictive regulations put in place during the aforementioned time frame.

I love the ocean, wildlife, and natural landscape of the Outer Banks. Yes, this has become threatened by ORV traffic but there are obviously other factors at play here as well. The ignorance of visitors to the island is more harmful than the vehicles they drive. This is being combated by forcing people to sit through a video entailing different do's and don'ts for beach driving. This type of video does not get people to care more or less about the environment which we have been so graciously able to use since the late 70's.

For the first time there is a fee to access the beach. I have no qualm paying \$120 for an annual pass. My living in Virginia Beach encourages making several trips a year so it is easily worth it.

This problem is simple. And so should be the solution.

I believe the introduction of the ORV permit will curtail the number of people on the beach. Fewer people on the beach will be easier to regulate by Rangers. More rangers funded by the ORV permits employs more people and increases the area able to be patrolled. More area able to be patrolled means less ORV restrictions. Sensitive areas should be closed on a circumstantial basis. These sites will be monitored more regularly by Rangers to ensure the safety and sustainability of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

As I said in the beginning, I am 26. I would love for my children and their children to be able to use these grounds for decades to come. Obviously this will require a huge effort into preservation. But what is the point of preserving something that can no longer be appreciated.

Thank you for your time, and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1073 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 09:52:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed my comments regarding the EA ORV rule changes.

1) Morning Beach Openings- I feel a 6:00am time would be better for a visitor experience for several reasons, it allows for sun sensitive persons whether prescription medicines or past skin cancer persons a time to fish and swim before the sun gets overhead. A 10:00pm closing would be better than 9:00pm, but the opening is more important.

2) Seasonal ORV Routes- I feel alternative #3 would be the option best suited for the seashore

3) Vehicle Free Areas- Because of the complexity of these proposals, I support the CHAPA recommendation.

4) ORV Permits- This segment is pretty much a no-brainer. A 12 month permit from the date of issuance would not only be better for the consumer, but ease the work load on the NPS staff.

5) Access Improvements- Here again, I support the CHAPA recommendation. I would like to add that the Bodie Island sound side access is an area that is heavily used by families with small children because of the calmness of the ocean allows for swimming at the shallow flats. Good shelling, clamming, and crabbing makes this along with all spits a versatile area for recreation. All the spits have nearby spoil islands for bird solitude as well. WIN WIN

I appreciate your time,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1074 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a life long Cape Hatteras (50 yrs) recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access larger portions of the park for recreation, typical with the last 40 years past history.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 12pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by six weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted in keeping with the current legislation.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest reopening a permanent corridor from the behind dune road access Cape Point.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore to meet the current legislation requirements. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1075 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 10:41:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Open the ramps and all beaches.

Input should be weighted by distance. The odds of me using a west coast beach are slim to none and my input should be weighted as such for west coast beaches. The same should apply to west coasters input on east coast beaches!

Correspondence ID: 1076 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a full time resident of Hatteras Island, living in Buxton. I have experienced and seen first hand the effect the beach closures under the current Plan have had on the residents and the merchants of this island, as well as our visitors.

Morning Beach Openings:

I support the proposal outlined in Alternative 3 but also support the additional proposal from the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance that night closings be moved to 10:00 PM, until additional necessary study is done to support closing at any earlier hour. A 10:00 closure would greatly enhance the visitor experience, especially during those periods when sunset is late in the evening.

Seasonal Off-Road Vehicle Routes -

I support the proposal in Alternative 3, allowing seasonal routes to be opened four weeks earlier in the spring and remain open four weeks longer in the fall. The visitor experience to the Park will definitely be enhanced by the adoption of this proposal.

Vehicle Free Areas:

Though I support the proposal under Alternative 3 for the expansion of some existing Vehicle Free Areas, I feel the NPS should go further. Vehicle Free Areas should be controlled on a seasonal basis and should be opened from the late fall until early spring. The NPS cannot support any numbers regarding pedestrian usage of these areas and living here on the island, I have observed first hand, the little these areas are used. Opening the areas on a seasonal basis would still allow adequate resource protection, safe pedestrian usage during the busiest months and active use during the period from late fall until early spring.

I agree with the proposal outlined under both Alternatives 2 and 3 to designate Ramp 45 as a Park Service Road and the installation of a parking area near Ramp 45. I would like the NPS to take a step further and develop a corridor from the parking area at Ramp 45 to Cape Point. This corridor would only be used when normal access to the Point was not available from Ramp 43 or Ramp 44. Building the corridor would allow the possibility of access to the Point at least 9 months of the year, if access along the northern beach was not available. This would most definitely have a positive effect on the visitor experience. The closure of Cape Point leads directly to a decrease in visitation as many will not come to Hatteras Island unless they have access to the Point.

Permits:

I support the proposal under Alternative 2 allowing for annual permits and 10 day permits to be issued for year from date of purchase. This is a major improvement over the current system. In combination with the online accessibility, this is a significant enhancement to the visitor experience.

Access Improvement:

I support the proposals outlined under Alternatives 2 and 3. I also feel the NPS should go further and provide soundside access on Bodie Island. Access to the sound in that area would be a definite positive for the visitor experience in that area.

I appreciate the effort of the NPS to provide viable improvements to visitor access to the beaches of Hatteras Island. Alternative 3 provides the greatest improvement and I support Alternative 3, along with the additional proposals I have outlined in this response.

Correspondence ID: 1077 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,15,2016 10:45:42

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: RE: EA for the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for ORV Management.

I have reviewed the alternatives under consideration and I support the "Alternative 3" This alternative will provide a better experience for the visitors to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the residents here on the island.

Morning Beach openings: the "alternative 3" is better option than the NPS Preferred Option due to the simple language that the certain beaches will open at 6:00am. If you add all the different dates ect.. it will be seen as another rule that will make it way to complicated to visit the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I would prefer if all the beaches opened at 6:00am!!! The Park Service should solicit help from the local organizations that have been stewards of the wildlife for decades to help with opening all the beaches at 6:00am.

The Access Improvements: I agree with NPS alternative, but there should be an additions to the access plan which would address the horrible flooding in the cape point area and the ramp 49 where any improvement that have been done have just created giant ponds that do not drain and make the improvements useless.

Permits: with the online permit system the alternative 3 should be adopted to give the visitors more options to visit their Park.

Correspondence ID: 1078 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Keep beaches OPEN

Correspondence ID: 1079 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 11:21:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My first comment is that I am for full Open and unrestricted access to all our beaches for everyone's use! After looking at all options and understanding that a few restrictions are necessary to maintain balance, I fully agree with Chapa's Proposal. I think it is the best plan for everyone involved!

Correspondence ID: 1080 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thanks for letting me comment on this important issue. As you can see I am a bird lover and I also am an avid OHV rider but I am going to side with the bird lovers on this issue. I am writing to speak up FOR the birds, sea turtles and other wildlife that cant speak for themselves. I want to see this beautiful seashore protected for all wildlife, I think the off roaders are going to have to understand that nature has to take its course and that is what is happening here. Specifically, my concerns are:

I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests as well as eggs and chicks before you all open the beaches in the morning. I would like to see beaches checked and cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on

Do NOT extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on ANY area of the beaches that affect sea turtles and birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife

Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship I count on from the NPS; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shore birds. I dont believe in motorized recreation in Nat'l Parks. When I ride I go on BLM or other agency land and there are plenty of areas to ride, there is NO shortage of riding areas.

Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience I expect when I visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle

Im asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them. I am ashamed that my fellow off-roaders are taking this issue very unprofessionally, there is a balance between our ORV's and wildlife and if the wildlife want to make this area there home then we as responsible ORV'ers must move on. I always let nature take its course and I think that is what is happening here.

Correspondence ID: 1081 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 11:46:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am a 76-year old surf fisherman - been at it 72 of those 76 years. I have been first a student (age 10), then a steward and always a lover of nature and the environment. My first visit to the Outer Banks was in the fall of 1962. I've been hooked on the place ever since - literally and figuratively. For the past twenty years, I've been fortunate enough to spend about three to four weeks each year enjoying the splendor of the Outer Banks from north of Corolla to the south end of Ocracoke Island.

I attended the March 3, 2016 public meeting in Raleigh. Simply stated, it was NOT a positive experience for me. The public statements made by opponents of ORV beach access made it crystal clear that any mutually agreeable changes to the current ORV plan were not an option as far as they were concerned. Their position was summed up with the this (approximate) quote - we support Option 1, no changes to the existing plan and recommend that our membership (millions strong) support this position in their input to this process. The term 'tyranny of the majority' came to mind. A majority of whom have never set foot on Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

I would like to see Option 3 implemented.

I would like to see the permit fees applied to improving existing infrastructure such as raising the road beds leading to Ramps 44, 49, and 55. Building new ramps, paved parking lots, etc. should be put off until the existing infrastructure is restored.

I don't envy the task facing NPS. Reviewing all of public comments from the millions makes me wonder if this will ever get read.

Let me give two examples of National Park Service actions that I really appreciate. I would like to see more like these.

May 8-10, 2014 - Beach parking between ramp 44 and the point. This enabled my son and I to walk to the point in about 20 minutes carrying minimal tackle and catch and release old drum. Walking from the nearest parking area (cleaning tables) was not a viable option. To me, this is as good solution for all but the disabled.

Permanent - Parking area at the end of Pole Road, Ramp 55. This enables access to Hatteras Inlet within moderate walking distance. This is another great

old drum spot. Again, this a good compromise solution for all but the disabled.

I would like to see working relationship between the surf fishing community and the National Park Service expanded. I know that the vast majority of serious surf fishermen are stewards of the land. Expand the involvement of fishing clubs around the state of North Carolina and neighboring states to serve as focal points to marshal these men and women for assistance in a variety of ways, e.g.- enforcement, beach cleanup, etc. The annual permit roster provides an excellent contact list of potential volunteers.

Let's see if together we can't heal some of the wounds. We don't need an adversary relationship between the NPS and surf fishermen. For the first 50 years after I discovered Cape Hatteras, we had a great relationship with the Park Rangers. I'd like to see that restored. Wave back once in a while when I wave at you.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate.

Correspondence ID: 1082 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 11:48:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Seasonal ORV dates:
Open from October 15 thru April 14 is OK for village beaches but should be opened on non village beaches September 15 to April 14 as there is no longer any bird nesting or sea turtle nesting taking place.

Correspondence ID: 1083 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I totally support all of the CHAPA recommendations regarding the Final Rule for the ORV Management. Their recommendations are the most reasonable for making sure the beaches at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore remain available to all and to be used as they were intended, for recreation, not bird sanctuaries. Environmental groups have deep pockets and politicians tend to listen when they rattle their change, but for once, please do what is fair for the people. ORV beach access is a tradition, a major attraction, and fundamental to the economy. The rights and freedoms of the American people are tied up in bureaucratic red tape and slowly being chipped away. To even consider adopting the alternatives in the EA without adding the CHAPA recommendations would be a tragedy for all.

Correspondence ID: 1084 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To whom it may concern,
I am for less restrictions on the beach. I believe you can find a balance between nature and 4wds. Please open more of the beaches especially inside the hook. If there are no birds nesting then the beach should be open. By changing the driving rules Nps is taking away what makes hatteras island unique. You are not allowing driving discourages people from coming down. The rules now hurt us in the shoulder seasons when the fisherman come. You give us less accessibility more people crammed into driving areas. There is little to no parking at most accesses especially Frisco. New roads and ramps to beaches that historically have not been driven in people driving where people never have. Pedestrian beaches that are impossible to get to. This was one of the few handicapped accessible places people who can't walk out to the beach could always be driven.

I am just a resident who loves the beach. I am not part of a large lobby group that could have this letter copied and sent to you over and over. But I do represent what locals really want which is free and open beaches. You may ask why locals don't voice their feelings or write, their comments quite honestly we are tired of fighting on all fronts the beach access, the bridge, the road, the inlet issues and taxes fighting against large environmental groups who know nothing of real life on the island. Protecting a way of life my family has made for themselves. Sunday's are family days in the summer we would spend the whole day on the beach with the family this is how we would reconnect sadly now not everyone wants to pay the fees to drive out or can't afford it. Thank you for your time.

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1085 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 12:35:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have been visiting the OBX for 37 years, sometimes twice a year. One of the big reasons we come is ORV use to access beach areas to surf fish and stargaze away from the lights of the houses. As my group is older now (60's) ORV access is becoming more and more important. I was in favor of the NPS choice during the last comment period, and favor most of Alternative 2 this time as well. I would like to see the ORV Permits issued for 3, 7 and 14 days, as well as the yearly Permit good for 12 months from the date of purchase. I would also like to see more beach open East of Ramp 49 to Ramp 45 and continuing on to the Point. This was our favorite stargazing site and has been unavailable recently. The beach West of Ramp 49 used to be closed and seemed to be a good vehicle free area at night as well as a good place for turtle nests due to the lack of traffic and disorienting lights at night for the hatchlings. I would like to see that section closed again, but access East of Ramp 45 opened. The interdunal road behind Ramp 45 is a good idea as well.

Thanks you for the opportunity to comment,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1086 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have been a homeowner of one or two houses in Avon, NC since 1992. My husband and I were attracted to the area because of the ease of access to the Ocean and the Sound. The severe restrictions have significantly and negatively changed my view of the area.

We are avid windsurfers and kiteboarders. The restrictions have lessened our enjoyment of Hatteras Island. It has seriously effected all local businesses, but especially those in the fishing industry, wind sports, and surf shops. The local people were told at the time they agreed to become part of the national seashore, that ORV access would remain as it was. Since that is no longer possible, I am in support of the CHAPA recommendations (8/15, confirmed 3/16) which would allow us greater ORV access in April and October when we are in Avon working on our house, windsurfing, and kiteboarding. Access to Cape Point is very important to the local economy as well for fishing, surfing, wind sports, and ocean lovers. The rental housing market has also been negatively impacted in addition to lowering real estate values.

The alternative needs to be fair to those who support ORV access and I support the longest off season possible and the most access via ORV.

I would also like to see the NPS use the money that we are now paying for permits (another issue since it used to be free) to maintain all access to both the Ocean and the Sound. Sound access is particularly problematic with huge holes and puddles.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1087 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,15,2016 13:38:45

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please consider extending your week-long passes one extra day so that it becomes an 8-day pass that runs with the housing rentals. I come down to the Outer Banks with my family at least a couple times each year and enjoy being able to drive on the beach to find a quiet place to play in the water without many people around. Since we need to leave the beach rental house early on Saturday, we often spend several hours on that last day at the beach to avoid traffic. Last year we were sitting on the beach with no one in sight for at least 200 yards in either direction when one of your NPS staff stopped us and told us that our pass had expired so we had to leave the beach. We had no idea this was the case, since we had assumed the week-long ORV pass ran with the house rental and it had not even crossed our minds that this was technically the 8th day of our stay in the Outer Banks. We were embarrassed to realize we were trespassing on the beach and were also quite upset to learn we could be in trouble and could have been fined for this mistake that we did not even realize we had made.

We were also very disappointed to learn that this policy of kicking people off the beach for an often unknown infraction is frequently enforced and hope that you re-consider this issue and create an 8-day ORV pass so that tourists can enjoy driving on the beach for the full length of their stay.

Thank you for your consideration!



Correspondence ID: 1088 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,15,2016 14:39:44

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I do not understand why there is no mention of an alternate access to the Buxton Point from the south side by going through the old salt pond road. Every time I asked Park Officials they were mentioning an alternate access. There is no reason why this route could not be constructed. It would take care of several issues....Turtle nestbird nests.....this would give the Northern side of the point to ramp 45 access for the birds during nesting. Also when high tide closes the access to the point from 45 this road could be used. I feel by purchasing ORV permits....that there is not enough being done for the ORV's. Yes you are creating pedestrian areas (parking/beach access/ORV closure areas for pedestrians) But very little for ORV'S

I pay \$120 for an ORV permit...what does a pedestrian pay? This is a national seashore not a bird sanctuary. We can all work together but it seems that the NPS along with lobbyist to close the beaches, do not participate in team play.

Also when purchasing a yearly permit it should be good for 365 days.....or prorated to date purchased. A Weekly permit should match the number of days a weekly fishing license is dated.

These are issues that can be easily changed and work with the users of the beach.

Time that we all work together and become a great TEAM!

You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar.....

Correspondence ID: 1089 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,15,2016 14:44:58

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 1090 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am very concerned with opening up areas that are closed to or have restricted times to ORV. Protecting endangered and declining wildlife should come before roaming the beaches and other habitats with ORV. A good portion of those using these vehicles do not care about the destruction to animals and habitat. If the beaches are secured at times and open to ORV when it is safer for the wildlife, then sharing the environment is already happening. Please do not stop protecting the wild life. I am disabled and ride a handicapped scooter on trails where I can. I love being out in God's nature, but I have always complied with restrictions of nesting habitat even when I was walking and not scooting around. I would never want to be riding around in a way that destroys even when it means I may miss out on viewing something I wanted to see. I feel ORV riders should learn to respect the environment and learn to have their fun without destroying the fun of others and the lives of wild things

Correspondence ID: 1091 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am a life long conservationist and outdoorsman. I believe that it is important to strike a balance between public access to natural habitats and protection of those habitats. The outer banks of North Carolina, in general, and Cape Point, in particular, contribute to the conservation of nature mainly by exposing large numbers of the general public to the beauty and biological diversity of barrier island environments. Therefore, I favor maximizing public access, except when some species are clearly at risk of extinction without the preservation of the specific lands under scrutiny (which is not the case for OBX). It is far more important to create a million nature lovers, who will be inclined to support environmental issues with their tax dollars, than to alienate these same people for a marginal environmental benefit. We need to be pragmatic and forward-looking. We need to consider the big picture, which is increasingly dark because of the erosion of public support. Another seldom discussed issue is the preservation of cultural diversity in the U.S. Many families that live on Hatteras Island have been there for 100 - 200 years. Cape Point is part of their culture in the same way that some fishing and hunting traditions are part of the cultural heritage of Native Americans. These cultural values should be respected and valued.

I should note that although I am the Vice President of the [REDACTED] Homeowners Association, and suspect that most members share my views, I am writing to express my personal opinions only.

Correspondence ID: 1092 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Historic uses of public lands should carry heavy weight and not be set aside lightly, based upon demands of special interest groups. Knee jerk reactions not backed up by evidence or science are never a good thing. My understanding is protected species fared better before vehicle access was restricted.

Correspondence ID: 1093 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 16:31:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: In a general sense, we support the position taken by the OBPA, CHAPA and the NCBBA. The plan should change to reflect their positions.

We believe something needs to change to improve both areas accessible to ORVs and the access times. Specifically ramp 34 in Avon should be open at least seasonally north of the ramp to its connection with ramp 32. We bought our house before the closure because it was within a half mile or so from this ramp. Our extended family enjoyed the beach north of ramp 34 before the current plan closed it permanently. Ramp 34 should be open seasonally in both directions.

In addition, the seasonal ORV routes should open October 1st each year and close May 1st. Pedestrian populations are light in October and April. This extended opening will pose no threat to pedestrians.

Also - Cape Point should have an internal access to avoid high tide closure in winter.

Correspondence ID: 1094 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,15,2016 16:37:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

* Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 1095 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,15,2016 16:43:37

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a frequent traveler to OBX, I enjoy my beach time, just like the thousands of others who visit for the week. But nobody likes the traffic jams, which coincide with beach house rentals. In order to avoid that Saturday traffic nightmare, I often head to the beach and Hatteras National Park. On my Saturday arrival, I purchase my weekly off-rode driving pass, but that pass offers no help on check-out Saturday, when I could spend some additional time enjoying the National Park instead of sitting in dangerous traffic jams. Fewer drivers means fewer accidents. I propose that the 7-day weekly pass change to an 8-day pass, allowing drivers to avoid the traffic and providing the NPS the chance to facilitate a safer ride home.

Correspondence ID: 1096 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,15,2016 18:08:12

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: (1)Morning Beach Openings:All beaches & ramps open at 6 am & remain open until 10 pm
(2)Seasonal ORV Routes: Extend seasonal ORV routes in spring & fall in front of Villages/Ocracoke campgroundSept.1-April 30.
(3)Vehicle-free Areas: NO Vehicle Free Areas!! Sportsmen and Sportswomen respect all lands, roads, environments in which they enjoy their sport-no matter where or when!
(4)Access Improvements: All National Parks are paid for by all citizens. NPS needs to keep all access areas clean and easily accessible for all- - whether walking &/or driving on the property. The drains of the Cape Point Areas have been neglected by the NPS for years. They used to be kept and our land was free of death by suffocation of trees and wildlife. The trees that are now dead because of lack of drainage used to hold the land to keep it for years of future use. You have destroyed our land and say you protect it! HA Do something about it!
(5)Permits: Annual by date of issue. 7 day permit and 14 day permits available. A reasonable fee discount for residents of all land involved with NPS.
(6)Total VFA and ORV route mileage: 30 miles of year round Oceanfront ORV routes. 25 miles of seasonal ORV routes 19 miles of VFA's

Correspondence ID: 1097 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Short and sweet.

#1-Drain the swamp

#2 new exas road to the point.

Thank You [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1098 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,15,2016 18:36:06

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank You for giving us the chance to speak freely on-line. I feel very strongly about conserving the beauty and animals we have to enjoy, so many are already endangered.

In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing, Alternative #2 or #3. Consider our environment please!

Thank You again!
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1099 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

sirs,
having viewed the comments made by [REDACTED] and my wife are in total agreement with him . we are property owners in hatteras n.c and have been for the last 12 years . we feel thr n.p.s are not working in our best interests pushed pulled and unhappy
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] cape hatteras n.c.

Correspondence ID: 1100 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: This is an outrage are you trying to regulate the locals out of their homes. The people that live here depend one way or the other on tourism to put food on their plates. You take away the beaches you take away the tourists. What use to be small fishing villages now due to so many regulations can no longer make ends meet solely off the water. How do you expect the family's to survive when you take all of the ways that they can possibly make a living away from them. I do not understand how you can sleep at night knowing how negatively these regulations will impact some many families.

Correspondence ID: 1101 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,15,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My Family and I love the outer banks and we spend a lot of time and money sometimes up to three rental properties. We used to come down some times 3 to 4 weeks during the summer months. But now due to excessive beach closers and restrictions on access times during the summer months we don't come down as often during the summer and only about 1 week. I hope that the NPS can make some changes that benefit every one.

Correspondence ID: 1102 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 04:43:52

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Greetings,

As a native coastal citizen, i want to thank the NPS for the chance to submit comments concerning the ORV issues at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

Please consider changes to the current plan.

1. Please consider more early morning opening times to driving on the beach. One of life's simple pleasures is to watch the sunrise over the water. Driving the beach at this time allows for some of the best moments at this National Park.
2. The plans in alternative 2 makes the most sense for improving access to the Park areas.
3. Please open ramp 34. We all know the real reason why it has been closed for over a year now. It is time for civil minds to address the ORV access issue.
4. Access to Cape Point should not be limited. Mother Nature is by far the biggest threat to nesting birds at Cape Point.
5. The changes to the permit process is very good. After all, the Parks are there to enjoy by all creatures including mankind.

Thank you again for allowing the comments to be submitted. The staff working for the NPS currently in the Cape Point area are great. I spend many hours enjoying this National Park and the interaction with the current staff is a most welcomed improvement from the past. We may disagree and have different opinions on access but we all should treat each other with respect. That has not been the case in the past.

Correspondence ID: 1103 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We love this special place, please ease up on the restrictions for ORVs so we can enjoy the beaches. Our kids and grandkids deserve to experience what we did as kids, as much as possible. I suggest that the beach south of the point be opened to ORV's since the point is so inaccessible so much of the summer. It is rare to see that lovely area being used. Thank-you!!

Correspondence ID: 1104 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 05:34:43

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The section of Beach directly south of the point that is currently and proposed to remain as a VFA area needs to be changed to "seasonal" closure.

This is essential to allow an alternate route to and from the point during times of high water at ramp 44.

This is a very popular area for tourists and local fishing.

Correspondence ID: 1105 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 05:56:18

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Vehicle free areas should be reduced. They are hardly being utilized by the public and no one is tracking the usage. Ramps like 25 that are too narrow for vehicles should be made vehicle free. They are fine for walking. The pond at the point should be drained. It will make ramps accessible and create more habitat for nesting birds.

Correspondence ID: 1106 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 07:34:40

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: For Morning Beach Opening times:

I believe that 06:00 AM beach opening times would best allow the fishing community access to early surf fishing (before bathers arrive) and there is nothing as beautiful as seeing the Sunrise on the beach in the morning for us non fishermen. Keep the Priority routes open until 10:00 pm to allow for the evening surf fishing.

ORV Beach Access:

I am an ORV (Jeep driver) and I enjoy taking my grandkids to the outer banks beaches. Having vehicle access makes that more fun and easier for me. Please extend seasonal ORV use weeks in spring and fall in front of Ocracoke campground and the Villages to (Sept 1-Apr 30).

Permits:

Please make the permits 12 months from date of issue as opposed to calendar year, also 10 day permits are a good short term option.

Beach Access improvements:

Please choose to make needed Road improvements and parking areas at Bitter Wash Creek and Devil Shoals Road sites. Please create a route for an occasionally needed temporary ORV corridor from Ramp 45 to Cape Point when conditions access from the east beach is unavailable and when risk to wildlife not present:

Overall ORV and Vehicle free areas:

Please work to create and manage 26.7 miles of year round of year round Oceanfront

ORV routes with at least 19 miles of seasonal ORV routes.

Please limit the Vehicle free areas to 18 miles.

Correspondence ID: 1107 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to support the recreational fisherman. I have camped at Cape Hatteras as a boy in the 1960s with my family before the Bonner bridge was completed. I have fished for over 50 years on the Hatteras Island beaches and have always appreciated the 24 hour vehicle access for fishing, surfing and recreational activities. The ability to drive and fish on the beach is the reason why I own property in Hatteras. It is obvious to those of us who have been around awhile, that the purpose of the Nat'l Park Service has shifted from providing recreational habitat for humans, taxpayers, and American families to restricting recreational enjoyment to those activities supported by Audubon and the Sierra Club. I believe the Nat'l Park Service has chosen sides and has worked hard to discourage beach access for fishing vehicles. I hope the DOI has started to realize the injustice and corrects the past few decades of unfair treatment of Americans who enjoy the vehicle access for fishing all day and night. There is no reason to close a beach at night.

Correspondence ID: 1108 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not lessen the protections currently in place at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore by allowing greater access for ORVs.

Some of my concerns are:

I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Lessening the use of vehicles on our beaches might encourage people to walk, a much healthier alternative.

Correspondence ID: 1109 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please keep the beaches open to driving, I am disabled and cannot walk with all my gear to fish.

Thank you .

Correspondence ID: 1110 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:26:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I really hope you find a way to keep our beautiful beaches from being closed so much, especially Cape Point. When my wife and family started to come to this area we did not have to pay to fish the ocean and did not have to pay to drive on the beach. Now we have to pay for both and they close the beaches on us. I am 70 years old and worked hard my whole life. I served my country in Vietnam and now would like to enjoy the years that I have left. It simply makes no sense to close the beaches the way they do. There is plenty of park land for birds to thrive and the beach closures do little to nothing to help birds or the beaches. The goo people that live in this area are suffering for no good reason. I am not going to get into all the specifics on this issue but the bottom line is this is suppose to be a park and recreation area not simply a bird sanctuary.

As far as these comments go I do not feel it makes any sense to listen to any one who does not live or work in this area or who has not even visited here.

Please keep the people that live and visit this area in mind and keep our beaches open so we can enjoy them. I am sure you have heard many good reason why it makes little or no sense to close them so do what is best and do what is right and not what a small group of radical thinking people think is best. The birds have plenty places to nest and live in this area. The human race has just as much of a right to be here as the animals do.

Correspondence ID: 1111 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:27:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1112 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:27:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

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Correspondence ID: 1113 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:27:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1114 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The off road vehicle management on Hatteras seems to have had a positive effect. It is time to reexamine this rule and make suitable offsets to accommodate those that pay to use the resource with due respect for any impacts they may cause.

Correspondence ID: 1115 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:29:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1116 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 08:29:46

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1117 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 08:30:06

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1118 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 08:30:14

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1119 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:30:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 1120 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:32:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
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By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1121 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 08:35:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 1122 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area are lacking what appeals to me and other recreational fisherman. The proposed changes are meaningful improvements in several ways, but I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

- Morning beach openings: Many fisherman like to fish the sunrise. While the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open just before sunrise and remain open until just after sunset.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
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Correspondence ID: 1123 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:36:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 1124 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:37:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

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Correspondence ID: 1125 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:38:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1126 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:39:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at

6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1127 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:39:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1128 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:40:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Sir: Thank you for this opportunity. I have fished the outer banks since the early 50s and observed many changes, the majority of which are positive however, some changes, at first blush, seem excessive. I understand the need to protect the turtles and begrudging except the sea bird restrictions since if they feel stress they will relocate perhaps to the dredge islands or maybe New Mexico.

Alternative 2 is a comprise I could live with but a little tweaking could be done. First extend the night driving to 10 PM and Second open ramp 1 and ramp 2 to ORV access from November to May which would allow fishing from South Nags Head to the Inlet. The months I have mentioned are similar to beach driving in South Nags head and the beach goers are all but non existent during this period.

Again, thank you for this opportunity.



Correspondence ID: 1129 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:41:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Best Regards,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1130 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:42:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

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- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1131 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Most times the folks who want things have NO idea of what they are doing to the people who pay the bills by buying fishing gear, boats, motors and all the related products. I think you should have a license to fish before you make any remarks. Thanks ██████████

Correspondence ID: 1132 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:45:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the

preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1133 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I'm in favor of modifying the current laws governing the ORV access to cape Hatteras National Seashore. As a child and young adult I spent a lot of quality time fishing the area with my now deceased father. I have many great memories of our times together fishing The Point and other areas along Hatteras Island. Unfortunately, my son and his son are unable to have memories such as mine to hold forever due to the stringent regulations that have been in place in recent years. If the figures are correct, restricting access has not helped the Piping Plover's numbers rebound in any way. I'm guessing being on the outskirts of their breeding area might have something to do with that not ORV traffic.

Correspondence ID: 1134 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:55:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would prefer the seashore beaches open at sunrise.

The tourist activity drops off a lot by the end of August. I would like to see the off-road vehicle seasonal access available October 1st through April 1st.

Designated parking areas for the sound would be helpful.

I would prefer a study performed to verify the current vehicle free areas are adequate or could be reduced.

Correspondence ID: 1135 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 08:56:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The proposed changes under the EA fails to adequately address the most significant flaw in the current management plan by not acknowledging and addressing the unnecessarily severe impact that plan has had on user access to Cape Point. It is a fact that the plan can be revised to allow significantly increased access to Cape Point without reducing the ability of NPS to fulfill all its resource management and protection duties. There are many other areas where access could be improved, but conditions at Cape Point are critical, so my comments will focus there.

While the situation may have improved somewhat under the current park administration, NPS none-the-less continues to fail to understand the significance of Cape Point to a large contingent of park users. Cape Point is not just an historically popular recreational attraction, although it is indeed that. As arguably the most popular, and best, recreational fishing locale on the east coast, for many people it is also part of an important heritage. Unfortunately, it has now also become an important symbol of the division between groups who otherwise share interests that are dependent on sound conservation principles. That division threatens the long-term viability of conservation efforts across the country, because it decreases support for conservation efforts by groups such as fisherman, as they are more and more locked out of areas that for which they otherwise would be willing to fight. Penthouse environmentalists may sign form letters and petitions in large numbers, but at the end of the day, have little real investment in the issue and will eventually move on to the next cause du jour. Meanwhile, NPS will never be able to regain the significant loss of support from fisherman and families that desire more access, and will thus be forever weakened in its ability to fulfill its missions.

A start to remedying this problem is to eliminate the vehicle free area southeast of Cape Point. This is critical. The fact is fisherman and family access to Cape Point during the important late-spring to early-summer fishing and recreational period will never return due to the reality of resource closure requirements. NPS knows that heritage is gone forever. Therefore, it is imperative that NPS do all in its power to provide the best access to Cape Point as possible during the late-summer to fall season. The vehicle free zone southeast of Cape Point effectively and unnecessarily prevents this. Access to Cape Point from the north has historically been periodically interrupted by a combination of natural and man-made conditions, but those interruptions have become more and more problematic during recent years. There always have been times when the only viable access to Cape Point has been from the southeast, and the frequency and duration of those times has increased. The vehicle-free zone of which I speak must be eliminated to allow access to Cape Point. Eliminating that vehicle-free area would not harm resource protection, because all resource protection protocols would remain in place. The area would remain closed, when necessary, during nesting seasons, but would be available for access at other times.

This is not just a fishing issue. The south beach area which is now permanently closed was historically a very popular family-use area due to its unique orientation and setting. During times of high surf and winds from the northeast, the south beach provided a sheltered area where families with children could enjoy the seashore in a safer and more user-friendly environment. That use cannot be replicated or replaced by any other stretch of beach on the seashore, even those in the Frisco area. Families that enjoyed the area for generations have lost that legacy, and the primary reason was not resource protection, but was because of the zeal of anti-vehicle groups to drive a nail in the heart of vehicular access. Support of that goal should not be part of the NPS mission.

There also was the misguided notion that it would provide a quieter area for significant numbers of people who desired such a place, but the fact is, the area receives very little use, and only serves as a symbol of the divide between NPS and past users of the area. I visit the park yearly in the fall of year and have carefully observed the use this vehicle free area receives. Where are the people from across the country who sign the form letters provided to them by the groups who sued NPS to reduce vehicle access? You will not find them on the South Beach.

If for some reason NPS is unwilling to eliminate the vehicle-free area east of Cape Point at this time, it must at least be willing to provide a vehicle access corridor through it, to allow access to Cape Point, especially during times when access from the north is not possible. There really is no good justification for doing otherwise.

Finally, I think it is relevant to mention that I worked for thirty-two years as an environmental regulator in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I am a strong supporter of environmental regulation and resource protection, but I have also seen first hand the damage that over regulation and unnecessary restrictions has done to public acceptance of conservation efforts. You must find ways to protect the resources assigned to you without further alienating seashore users. Doing all you possibly can to provide increased access to Cape Point must be at the top of that list.

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 1136 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 09:04:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1137 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 09:05:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

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- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1138 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To whom it may concern,

I am a lifelong citizen of the state of NC, and a recreational fisherman and camping enthusiast. I have been traveling to the NC coast since I was very young, and have fond memories of visiting Cape Hatteras National RECREATIONAL seashore. However, in 2012 all that changed with the NPS cowering to the demands of out of state interests and lobbyists in the form of various 'conservation' groups such as Audubon, SELC, and other pseudo-conservation groups. These organizations, who through their mandate of "SUE AND SETTLE" ie: forcing long-permitted uses of Cape Hatteras, have systematically dismantled Coastal NCs economy and prevented citizens of NC such as myself from enjoying the very coastline that rightfully belongs to the people who donated it as RECREATIONAL property as well as their guests managed by the NPS. This is unacceptable, and has set a bad precedent for the NPS.

Therefore, I respectfully request that this RECREATIONAL seashore be restored in every way to the access and uses that were deemed appropriate during the ORIGINAL charter, which includes fishing, complete beach access in various forms, et al. Shorebirds who are nesting in sand dunes (already protected in NC via various laws) should not be a concern for regular access regardless of whether they are on the often-erroneous Endangered and Concerned species list. These same birds are killed by natural predators much more often than man's activity. The same is true of sea turtles. They are however a

convenient straw-man argument to those who would limit access to ALL of Coastal NC.

Also, as a taxpaying citizen of the US, I also request that these same environmental lobbyists are prevented from their well-known and well-worn process of "SUE AND SETTLE" whereas the NPS is concerned. If this cannot or will not be accomplished, I request that control be turned back over to the State of NC, the NC wildlife resource commission, and the original owners and their heirs.

Regards,



Correspondence ID: 1139 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 09:17:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four to six weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Re-open Ramp 34 permanently. It is the safest and widest beach and ramp on Hatteras Island. Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1140 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 09:19:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access, particularly the area known as the Hook. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

Correspondence ID: 1141 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: National Parks Service,

Please accept the CHAPA option, for beach access on the Outer Banks. I have utilized the National Seashore beaches for off highway driving to access beaches many times growing up. We have explored, fished, and just enjoyed a quiet almost private beach countless times.

My wife and I are looking forward to sharing the experience with our own children, and one day their children. Closing the beach to ORV access would remove those opportunities to our family. Please, keep the vehicle access to the beaches open.

We expect that the NPS will listen to the many families and sportsmen utilize the beaches and patronize the local establishments. Please, take this in to consideration and allow as much public vehicle access as possible. Preserve what makes the Outer Banks known as a special place to visit throughout the eastern U.S.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 1142 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 09:21:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I live in Massachusetts and have been visiting Hatteras Island and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Park for more than 50 years. I first started coming to Hatteras Island when I grew up in Virginia. It was place where nature rules and is a special locale different than the rest of the US; a place where you can access the ocean and all the raw beauty it creates. The increasing restrictions in Hatteras are destroying much of what many of us have lived with and enjoyed for years. This is a plea for you to be reasonable and allow people who live in Hatteras and visit to be able to enjoy the full experience on Hatteras.

I own two houses in Hatteras and a number of lots. I now spend about four months a year on the island and love Hatteras for what it offers: open skies and waterfront; nature at its rawest and most fun; living on the ocean's edge.

I am concerned that the restrictions being considered reduce the appeal and safety of the beaches. Part of Hatteras Island, the National Seashore Park, is intended, by statute, to be a place for people to go and to enjoy nature. Excessive regulation can prevent the Park from providing the enjoyment of nature promised by statute. There are many places on the island where if you cannot drive on the beach, the area is essentially off limits. As an older person with number of handicaps, I could not access much the island beaches without access by vehicles. This feels to me as discrimination against persons who have limits on what they can do physically.

Moreover, the exclusion of cars from parts of the beach creates dangers to individuals since they cannot easily be reached by others in times of emergency, and there are plenty of those on the Hatteras beaches.

I strongly prefer that the Park Service fence off nests (at a reasonable distance) and not close so much of the beach. Ideally all of the beach (except in front of oceanfront houses) should be open to walking and driving. I think is important to allow vehicle access to those parts of the beach that are hard to reach by foot, especially for those who have restricted mobility. I would especially like to see the following:

1. Keep Cape Point access open for ORV access from Ramp 43 to 49; this is a key feature of the Park and excluding driving there will eliminate its use by most people (and it is very popular);
2. Keep Ramp 34 to Ramp 30 open for ORV access - may people use this area for fishing, surfing, windsurfing, etc.;
3. Maximize the amount of beach accessible (i.e. allow driving where there is no immediate access from the highway);
4. Ask the Park Rangers clean up the accesses and beach area and debris that contains nails and metal objects thereby reducing the risk to pedestrians and vehicle travelers while improving and maintaining the beauty of our beaches. Keeping access open on two adjacent ramps or more greatly reduces the amount of vehicle traffic; i.e. more access points allow for reduced beach driving.

Many of the restrictions now in place are, at least supposedly, to protect birds. More and more evidence suggests that birds are protected by the presence of people: the presence of people keeps away other predators, which the Park Service now tries to kill. More and more evidence supports this view. Thus, allowing people on the beach is more consistent with protecting birds than is keeping people away. I understand the need to make sure drivers on the beach do not run over nests, etc., but I believe this can best be accomplished by setting up driving lanes as has in some places been done.

I notice many of the comments, especially those seeking greater reduction of beach access, come from people who appear to not live on HI or visit it. These comments should be given less weight than those who live on Hatteras Island or use the beach and therefor understand what is good for it. America was formed because the citizens did not want governance at a distance. That principle should govern the creation of regulations that limit use of the Park.

Please open the beaches as much as possible.

Thank you.



Correspondence ID: 1143 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I fully support increased vehicle access to the Cape Hatteras Seashore.

Correspondence ID: 1144 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would hope that The National Sea Shore and Recreational area shall remain OPEN to OSV use as that is what it was intended for! Public use! I know we have to weigh the impact of that use but to close this area down during the best fishing time of the season is just plain wrong. Seems to me you are only looking at one side of this story.

Correspondence ID: 1145 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 09:41:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hello,

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

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- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when

conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

All the best,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1146 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 09:46:17

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As both a recreational fisherman and a licensed fishing guide I understand the need to balance resources conservation and access better than most members of the public. And i dare say even better than some professional caretakers.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

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- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1147 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a Hatteras Village property owner and frequent user of the NC Outer Banks I wish to support the comments as submitted by Darr Barshis and the CHAPA organization of Hatteras Island. Beach vehicle access is an important part of Outer Banks culture and it enhances recreational opportunities and tourism for our community.

Correspondence ID: 1148 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Stop bending the rules to please the Eco-Nazis (Audobon, Dow, etc.). Your closing acres & acres of beach for non-threatened birds. Then closing beach down for turtle nests, when only needs to be done at hatch time.

This land was donated to the park service as a 'Recreation Area'; and was so named in the original name. (CHNSRA) The Eco-Crazies wants a bird & turtle sanctuary; all humans off the islands.

Almost all fishermen are true nature lovers, and would never intentionally try to harm the environment. Why do you think they like to get out on the beach to fish??? BECAUSE THEY LOVE IT!!!!

When a pair of these birds nest, rope off a sensible space around this nest, and the fishermen will leave the birds alone. When a turtle comes ashore and lays some eggs, mark it, and the fishermen will leave them alone, and when they are due to hatch, I am sure you could find plenty of volunteers to see that the babies find it to the water.

Think about it.

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1149 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: This land was given to the FED. to prevent complete development and to insure access to all.WHAT HAPPENED????

Correspondence ID: 1150 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am one of a party of 8 recreational fisherman who come to the Hatteras area for a week of surf fishing each October. We believe in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

Please consider the following modifications to the proposed changes:

- Access hours- 6am to 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1151 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 09:56:14

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: To the National Parks Service,

Surf Fishing, Observing Wildlife, surf and beach recreation on the beaches of the Outer Banks is part of our National Heritage. Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Access to these remote beaches provide the only reasonable and cost effective means by which the average person can access to arguably some of the best surf fishing and beach recreation spots in the world.

I have fished these beaches well before Pea Island became a refuge and all ORV access was curtailed to establish a Wildlife Refuge. IN that action the NPS absorbed many miles of beach into a no ORV zone. Many great fishing spots are no longer available to anyone who is not able to hike hundreds of yards or even miles on the beach by foot. I understand opening the refuge up to ORV's is not a viable solution. However reconsidering the strict and in my opinion over reaching restrictions currently in effect on On Cape Hatteras would protect this heritage and many businesses from extinction.

During many fishing trips to these beaches with my uncles, I was taught how to be a man. My Uncles shared with me the need to be hones, obey the law, take care of the beach, respect wildlife, take only what you intend to eat, how to take care of my gear, respect others on the beach and many other life lessons that apply universally in business and everyday living. In a day where video games and an entire generation of spoiled,entitled youths are maturing from adolescents into dysfunctional adults (in age only), encouraging more people to take their children fishing and using that sport to teach life lessons seems better than allowing an X-BOX to babysit and continued fostering of entitled lifestyles. Allowing responsible ORV access to the beaches of Hatteras helps those of us how want to pass those values of respect and consideration on to our children and grand children access the beach that we love and pass on those values to the next generations.

I have seen the alternatives tables that have been discussed in the open meetings. I support the tenants of alternative 3 with the following additions/changes:

1. No night closures. If you are worried about the headlights impairing turtle nests, use some of our access fees to raise the black material a foot or 2 higher on the stakes and provide some reflective markers around the perimeter of the nesting sites
2. Re-open ramp 34 from its traditional closure point on the village side of the ramp south to at least 1 mile north.
3. Open access to the beaches behind the villages from October 15 - May 15 (or April 30 at minimum).
4. Reopen ramp 23 for at least a mile to allow local access from the villages on the north end.

I also encourage the NPS to provide at least 2 bath facilities on the beaches. One located centrally on the northern beaches at ramp 30 and another located at ramp 44. This should have the look and feel of the facilities on Ocracoke with dressing rooms, showers (outdoor not heated) and restrooms.

I am a member of both OBPA and the North Carolina Beach Buggy Association. I support both of these groups inputs and the science they have referred to in their responses.

Also, Thank you for adding the ability to obtain driving permits online. I support reasonable fees with a reasonable means of obtaining them as long as the fees support access to the beach and provides facilities such as the bath facilities mentioned above, ramp maintenance, law enforcement, trash pick up, turtle closure materials and safety measures.

WE are active visitors to the Outer Banks. Its a shame that people who have never been there have so much influence

Please help us to save our beach access heritage

Correspondence ID: 1152 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: Dear Dave,

Please do not take the following as a personal insult. My disdain for NPS from the idiot Jarvis down and through the lowest street sweeper in the mall is readily apparent. Tell Jarvis nice book and I hope he made a bunch of money on my time.

One of the really great things about this process is that it just does not make any difference. NEPA, Enabling Legislation, good sense, nor simple honesty will make any difference in this decision process. While I sincerely appreciate the professionalism you have brought to our community, it still makes no difference. Those above you have broken the law, still break the law, and will do so again in the changes to the plan.

Now:

It is quite transparent to all that there are few in NPS who understand the dynamics of this recreational area. Today as I type you cannot get to Cape Point at high tide. There is a bypass through the dune line on the east side of the point and if this were connected to the end of the vegetation (100 yards) folks could bypass the narrow spot that is over washed at high tide. The fact that this has not been done already simply shows the bias of NPS against our community. Why not connect the bypass to the end of the road at Cape Point? There is not a reason in this world except the desire of NPS to limit fishermen and keep folks away from the number one reason this place was ever deemed a national recreational area. OPEN UP the bypass to the end of Cape Point!

The vehicle free area on the south beach which was illegal in the first place should be decreased in area enough so that alternate access promised by your predecessor and then recognized as necessary by yourself could be utilized. Over and over you state how many people appreciate that big old 3 plus mile closure but guess what? I don't believe it. I am sure that the chosen few resource people repeat over and over how much they like shell hunting in the closure but besides those few there are never any people in this VFA. What a great waste of a national park this is. I want alternate access around the salt pond and out to Cape Point.

Nighttime turtle restrictions should begin May 15 and end on August 15. There are no nest ever laid before May 15 and nothing after August 15 survives.

The beach should open at 6 am. I am sorry that your employees cannot hook up a utility trailer the afternoon before and that they can't seem to safely get a 4 wheeler off the same trailer in the dark. Maybe you should hire some folks who are not afraid of a little work. Forever and all time your employees would mark a nest and then come back to it and put the signs to it but now your folks have to have an excuse to keep the beach closed. It makes them feel important.

Here it is March 9 and already your most gifted beach closure professionals are finding scratches, no birds, but something making scratches and hence I am sure we get closed. Give a polygraph test once in a while and let's really see if they didn't make the scratches themselves.

Priority ramps versus non priority ramps simply make it more confusing. Open one at this time and next at another time is sort of silly.

I am well tired of paying for the environmentalist parking lots. If you are going to park on ramps which I paid for then you should have to buy a permit to walk on the beach. If you don't like it, park like they do in Pea Island (anywhere they want as long as they have a great big camera) but no parking lots.

For six months our ramps and campgrounds have been flooded. Three more months to hurricane season and maybe by then evaporation will have worked. Good luck with that. I am sure that there must be a logical reason; let's see, plovers nest underwater. Mosquitoes are not going to be here this year. You really don't want to be bothered with Cape Point campground. Nah, there must be something I am missing.

I get really tired of hearing that the environmental terrorist groups generated so many form letters and this has some kind of impact about what Congress wanted. Next time around Congress will tell NPS how to manage and not suggest.

There are a great many in my community who will cross their T's and dot their I's about changing the way it is through this process but I am not going to bother with it because it just does not count. This is a travesty in resource management being done by those who are not here for the resource but here because they think they are God appointed to keep the American public away from public owned beaches. Always remember, tracks left in the sand are not there the next day.

One Piping Plover chick fledged!!!! Turtles up in number of nest but their percentage are the same for the state of North Carolina as it was the year before; all of this closure done for turtles and still nothing to be bragged about except for keeping us away from our beach.

Maybe some time you can tell me about beach fires and how you personally can ban them and cost me another \$10,000 in sales and yet you can't do anything to make our fishermen get to the point a little easier. Our traditions are not relevant and don't make any sense at all to NPS.

Last but not least, why not hire someone who can get something done? Rangers upon rangers, resource people coming out our butts, and more signs than the White House has saying Don't, No, Keep Off, and on and on. It is a National Seashore put here for recreation but the attitude is one of simply stay away and keep the- - - out! This is the National Park Service and we don't want you!!!

My best to you and if I can be of assistance don't hesitate to call.

Correspondence ID: 1153 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 10:03:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Growing up on the Outer Banks and as a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1154 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: The Coastal Conservation Association North Carolina and its thousands of members and volunteers wish to make the following comments on the potential changes to the Off Road Vehicle Rule:

Morning Openings for the primary / preferred routes should open at 6:00 AM throughout the year and remain open until 10:00 PM. Other routes should open at 7:00 AM. These hours would extend the ability of all users to enjoy sunrise and sunset times as well as evening picnics.

The spring and fall ORV routes should open October 1 and remain open until May 1. This would allow maximum access to the most desirable areas for the greatest period of time including the best fishing on the Atlantic coast.

While the Alternative 3 makes some progress in opening more areas to ORV access, it ignores Bodie Island Spit, Hatteras Island Spit, the North end of Ocracoke and Ocracoke Island Spit. These are very popular areas for swimming, shelling and fishing throughout the year. It is very difficult to access these areas without an ORV so why close the areas and cause a logjam at the parking to access these inlets. In addition, while the alternatives make modest progress they ignore the 13 miles of Pea Island which is totally vehicle free as is nearly 100% of the sound side of Bodie Island, Hatteras Island and Ocracoke Island. This amounts to nearly 75 miles of additional vehicle free areas within CHNSRA. The National Park Service has merely paid lip service to the intent of legislation that was passed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2015 (in 2014). The intent was to significantly increase ORV access to provide for all including families with young children, the aged and disabled citizens.

The permit improvements are a welcome change with particular ability to purchase permits via the Internet. We trust these fees will be used for ORV access improvements and not used for other purposes. CCA NC thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the ORV Rules at CI-INSRA.

Correspondence ID: 1155 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 10:10:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1156 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 10:13:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1157 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: SAVE THE CAPE

Correspondence ID: 1158 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 10:25:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1159 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 10:34:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Gentlemen:

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1160 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form

Correspondence: In previous letters to NPS, I've avoided biography considering it irrelevant to a discussion about the best use of the Seashore. However, in the most recent public comment meeting at CHHS, I realized anyone might make comment whether they had ever or intended ever to visit CHNS. This is as it should be, however, I do question how much weight should be accorded absentee comment, especially on issues of human access in areas where laws and peer science deem such access acceptable.

I spent my youth in Southern Connecticut where the Housatonic River enters Long Island Sound - no surprise that fishing, birding and diving became favorite activities. Spending my work life in New Haven, Ct, I continued fishing and birding, extending my range to the seashores of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and to CHNS in the mid 70's. CHNS was unique as a place that anyone could visit without huge expense and could enjoy access to the shore. I often reflect on the wisdom of our country's leadership in setting aside a beautiful area where citizens could be refreshed and, hopefully, educated by a visit. So much of this coast is restricted in one way or another. My "retirement party" occurred April 1, 2008 and on April 2 I moved into my home in Buxton. Before long, the "consent decree" became the law on the beach. What seemed like excessive protection for selected species seemed to engender the feeling of a police state on the beach; made worse by no two NPS employees giving the same answer to a legitimate question.

I welcomed the legislation that made access to CHNS one of the mandates for its management and commend you on those instances where your attention to that mandate is apparent. Alternatives 2 and 3 show a better direction and some creative thinking (the lot at Ramp 45).

I would love to see CHNS restored to some of its earlier ease of access and to an environment attractive to wildlife. Both existed simultaneously in my experience. Though I worry about what extremists would use it to promote. I have long thought a test of restoring nesting habitat at the dredge pond (Ramp 44) might increase fledging success for piping plover and look forward to seeing that happen.

Alt 2+3 - Beach openings - extend beach opening in the evening. e.g. till 10 pm; May, June, July; 930pm Aug., Sept.

VFAs - open a path above high water mark from Ramp 45 to the Point. The current VFA in that area is large enough that allowing vehicles that access strip would leave that vast majority of that area undriven.

Adopt a system of sticks, string and signage around nesting buffers by following the contour of the high water line. This has been done between Ramps 43 and 44 and, if continued to the Point and toward Frisco, would do a lot for access while not discouraging nesting.

Priority should be given to construction projects that improve ORV access when funds from permit sales are to be used.

Communications - visible, explicit signage on the beach is very important - there's enough on the Ramps and many of the people I see walking into nesting areas don't drive on the beach so many not see Ramp signage. Law enforcement staff are NPS employees most encountered on the beach and their interaction with visitors is a major factor in determining what people think of NPS. Are they willing to talk? Are they informed?

Correspondence ID: 1161 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 1162 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 11:01:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1163 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a recreational fisherman with strong interests in balancing conservation with public access. This is my comment on the 'Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule' currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. The preferred alternative provides improvements in a few areas. There is a large population segment of citizen sportsmen that is ignored by the preferred alternative and I urge you to make additional modifications that accommodate all park visitors able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: more areas should be restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3, makes some progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but provision for temporary corridor access to Cape Point should be allowed when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

Congress clearly intends that meaningful improvements be made to the 'Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule' based on public suggestions submitted during the review process. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that significantly lack accommodation for the public. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1164 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please open the beach back up to the fishermen. For the last several years Cape Hatteras has been Governed by environmental groups that have no clue what is really going on. They blame the fishermen and their orv's for the lack of birds and turtles when nothing could be farther from the truth.

New ramps going to closed beaches are a joke. Park service allowing flooding of the roads and beaches should not be allowed and what use is it to buy a beach permit when most of the good fishing spots are closed by the time the drum and cobia show up.

NPS use to be a great group, now it is nothing but an environmental joke.

Do the right thing and open the beaches back up to the people that actually use them.

Correspondence ID: 1165 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Mr. David Hallac, Superintendent

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, NC 27954

Dear Mr. Hallac,

As a long time resident and local businessman, I am writing you in support of the suggestions submitted by the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance, Cape Hatteras Angler's Club and North Carolina Beach Buggy Association. In addition, I would like to add my comments for the record.

I have lived in the tri-villages of Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo since 1976 and now have 4 generations of family living within the seashore boundaries. We all depend on tourism for our lively hood and want to protect our beaches.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore was named #5 Best Beach USA 2015 (by Dr. Beach Report) and is the largest seashore of it's kind on the east coast of USA with millions of visitors annually coming here to enjoy our beaches. I am also familiar with the other National Seashores and have traveled extensively over 50 years to Cape Cod and Assateague Island, Chincoteague Island, Portsmouth Island and Cape Lookout Island; as well as, Island Beach State Park in New Jersey and Nantucket Island In Massachusetts and Montauk in Long Island, NY while vacationing and surf fishing with my family. I am probably one of the most frequent users and most versed private individual on all these beaches.

Each seashore area has it's own set of rules and regulations concerning public access. I am in favor of ORV permits (user permits) which educate our visitors about the seashore and the rules and regulations about driving on the beach and protecting wildlife. We need to provide both pedestrian only and ORV access for the public.

Please provide more ADA access and trash receptacles at all ramps and parking lots. Public education is our best source of protecting our resources.

Please feel free to contact me for further discussion.

Correspondence ID: 1166 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 11:19:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Allow access from 5am- to 10pm and open more areas and less bird nesting areas blocked for such large distances.

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

Correspondence ID: 1167 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am a resident of Nags Head, NC and a member of the Outer Banks Beach Buggy Association, although I do not personally beach drive. I belong because I support restoring driving, walking, and fishing access to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

I want to start by saying I am very pleased with the change in attitude and with the progress since Superintendent David Hallac has come on board and I view this proposed modification to the final rule for ORV Management to be part of that progress. It is truly night and day.

That said, I would like to endorse, rather than just repeat, the 10-page letter plus attachment sent on 8 March 2016 to Superintendent Hallac by the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance (CHAPA). CHAPA is comprised of several organizations characterized best as responsible users of the shore, who have a great amount of knowledge about the shore and the best ways to fairly increase access while still protecting and preserving the seashore, the birds, etc. After all, without the shore, without the birds, without the fish, there would be no reason to be there. The incidents that seemingly kicked off this whole struggle were not caused by the majority, but by a very small minority and have been blown way out of proportion.

That said, CHAPA members have a great amount of experience and usage - - their comments of 8 March 2016 should be given considerable weight during this review. Their letter reflects a careful consideration of both sides of the issues.

Thank you - and again, thank you to Superintendent Hallac and thje NPS for initiating this and for their efforts on our behalf, as reflected in the draft placed out for comment.

Correspondence ID: 1168 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: I thought I'd drop a line or two to let you know good "Old Grumpy" is still kicking. Though not at Hatteras. I still remain very active and stay in touch with many people who use our Beaches. Before I bring up a few issues. I will tell you that the vast majority of those I speak to have a high regard and respect for you and we all know that your hands are somewhat tied. Thank you for being up front and for dealing with some of us face to face and man to man.

One "Grumpy Study" I did was regarding those who we handicapped and not allowed pellicular access to Cape Point. I found that most preferred calmer waters to the north or south regardless of the time of year. I also found that many senior citizens also preferred to fish off Ramps 43, 49, or further north.

I did not speak with one person who objected to parking past the Narrows and walking to the Point. It was a short walk, good exercise, and we were all

good Anglers fishing in uncrowded waters. I said once "give us the Point and 95% of your problems will end". If we aren't allowed to drive to the Point during restricted times, then allow us to be able to park by the Narrows and at least be able to walk to and from. I'm 71 and have no problems with walking.

One of my worst days at Hatteras took place last spring when I was fishing for and catching Spanish mackerel off Ramp 44. I was approached by a Ranger and told the Beach was close and I had to leave. The little resource guy we named "Billy Bob Red Beard" was directing him to tell us to leave. A few days later, you and I had a private discussion regarding what I thought about your Resource people. I still feel that it's all about keeping us off the Beaches and has very little to do with protecting wildlife. Who in their right mind would encourage any one of God's Creatures to nest lay on near the waters of Cape Point.

I left to be close to VA medical facilities to have piece of steel removed which were donated courtesy of the North Vietnamese Army many years ago. Good Lord willing I'll be able to fish at Hatteras by the time you and yours are on the Beach wearing shorts. Perhaps we can stand together and fish. I hope this letter finds you well and best to you and your Family.

It's all about the Point. You know it, we know it, and they know it.

Correspondence ID: 1169 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 12:09:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman from Virginia who frequents the Cape Hatteras Seashore for its world class surf fishing I have a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1170 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I started coming to Hatteras Island in June 1962 and we have been coming every year since then. The last several years my wife and I spend 4 weeks on the Island two in the summer and two in the fall. We are both 63 years old and my wife has had two complete knee replacements. Without the ability to use our 4X4 to get us to the beach with our Surf fishing gear, chairs umbrella, etc we would be unable to enjoy the beach any more. I have driven a 4X4 along Hatteras Island Beaches since the mid- seventies and have never injured any wildlife or damage the beaches in any way.

Correspondence ID: 1171 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: A. REQUEST: I request an extension to the public comment period of 30 days after the Seashore publishes the 2015 annual resource reports. Perhaps these reports will show a miracle and disprove Einstein's theory that repetition of the same experiment looking for a different answer qualifies as insanity. Perhaps the plovers had a successful fledge at the inlet spits or along the 26 miles of beach front VFA's . On the other hand if the Seashore is willing to stipulate that 2015 was similar to their previous record wherein plovers fledge rates failed to recover or even sustain plover species and the Seashore lost a catastrophic 40% of the sea turtle nests; then the following comments are still pertinent.

B. REVIEW OF THE E.A.:

1) Cape point was first closed to the people in 2005 to protect piping plovers under the premise that human interaction was detrimental to plover survival. For over 10 years the Seashore has meticulously gathered data on the wildlife that frequents Cape Hatteras. The recent NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) required the Seashore to use peer reviewed science and improve public access to the beaches. The Seashore has lamented the lack of peer reviewed science and has resorted to a body of information that they referred to as the best available science. I submit that the best available science is the data and observations that are developed from the Seashore beaches by their own personnel. From this wealth of information the E.A. would be expected to overflow with factual words like: does, did, found, experienced or witnessed. Instead we still find words of conjecture used like: can, may, could or would. Perhaps the truth is not convenient to the Seashore's agenda.

2) The E.A. contains 160 pages of prose and graphs to support their proposed compliance with the NOAA. The length of this publication is intimidating to most of the public. The Seashore's interpretation is far too narrow and pays only lip service to the law. By now the Seashore administration should be able

to justify the creation and continued maintenance of all the VFA's with the best available science of their own data. The E.A. does not do so. The NPS should be reporting actual pedestrian and vehicle counts on the beaches. Vehicle counts of vehicles in the ramp parking lots would be beneficial and easy to obtain. Parking lot Analysis should differentiate between two wheel and four wheel drives capable of over sand travel. We have observed that half the vehicles in those lots are ORV's without permits and their occupants carpool with friends to avoid the permit fees. Public observations are that the VFA's are seldom frequented by pedestrians. These beach resources are not used adequately to justify their continued designation. The VFA between Ramp 45 and 47 is a perfect example. While hundreds of vehicles may be crammed into the Ramp 49 area the VFA is vacant. The few pedestrians in the VFA came from ORV's parked at the Ramp 47 barricade so as to search for shells or fish the forbidden sloughs.

3) The Seashore concern is not justified that a date of September 15 for seasonal ORV opening will interfere with bird and turtle nesting. There are no birds nesting in September and the latest sea turtle nest of record was September 11, 2013. Turtle nests laid after mid-August do not hatch on our beaches. They must be moved to an incubator for survival.

4) The Seashore administration should commit to provide ORV access to Cape Point! The proposed northward extension of the safety by-pass to Ramp 44 is a good move but it should also extend southward to the Point and be designated as a park road and not subject to bird buffers. A physical barrier such as a sand berm may help separate from plover foraging. During Noreaster storms it would be beneficial to allow ORV access from Ramp 45 or Salt Pond Road to the Point.

5) Analysis of plover fledge rates to compare success of reproduction in VFAs versus Cape Point pond areas is very revealing and illustrates the futility of VFAs for bird protection. Each year we witness how the VFAs of the inlet spits lure plovers to nest in sites of poor reproduction. This Seashore policy is helping drive the piping plover to extinction in violation of the ESA. Recreational activity should be returned to these spits.

6) It is interesting that the Park Service utilizes an internal document (2006 Management Policies) as authority for beach closures of non-ESA birds while flouting the very law that created this national seashore. The NPS contends that those birds have poor reproduction rates here because they have not been provided with large undisturbed areas. I must submit that the acres and acres of VFA and Cape Point closures were sufficient to test that hypothesis. This theory has proven false and must be discarded. The VFAs should be eliminated completely instead of the slight changes proposed in this E.A.

7) The Seashore Operation and Management section of the E.A. mentions a concern with personnel safety during early morning operation of heavy equipment. Does the park service intend to use bulldozers, road graders, steam shovels or 18 wheel tractor trailers for resource monitoring?

8) The E.A. takes note that the Red Knot is now on the federal ESA threatened list and must be provided for. I hope the NPS does not intend to close long sections of beach to protect the Red Knot as it migrates in spring and fall. We should recognize that vehicles can drive 10 yards away from resting or foraging Knots without disturbance. Pedestrians are perceived as threats. If certain portions of beach prove to have frequent congregations of Red Knots, signage could be erected to warn vehicles to stay 10 yards away and visitors remain in the vehicles for observation or photographs. A 50 yard recreational buffer should be adequate to protect this migration.

2. TESTS: SEA TURTLES: This park service has adhered to a policy of limited turtle nest relocation with minimal human intervention. Nests are forced to remain where laid unless rigorous conditions can be met that show a clear threat to success. Even relocation is restricted to within a mile of the original site. The past administration hid behind a state handbook to shirk responsibility. How has this worked?

Hatteras loses 35%-40% of their turtle nests every year. A loss of 20% is considered catastrophic. The more turtles that nest here, the quicker that species marches to extinction. No one should be proud of increased nesting in Hatteras.

Compare this dismal record with our sister National Seashore in Padre Island Texas where 90% of their eggs hatch to scamper into the Gulf waters. Hatchling releases are proudly handled as public events to boost environmental awareness and good P.R. Because of this P.R. Padre is able to recruit 100 volunteers that drive the beaches all day in search of nesting turtles. Their turtles are mostly Kemp Rيدleys which are day nesters. Since Padre provides 24/7 ORV operation along their 70 miles of beach they capture and relocate every nest to corrals or their incubation laboratory at park headquarters.

The south beach of Padre is 63 miles long. Turtle nests are routinely transported by ORV in insulated coolers nestled in shock absorbing cradles. Nests from other Texas coastal beaches are also transported to the Padre incubator.

Contrast this with the one mile Hatteras restriction which shows poorer results. This is another example of theory versus reality. Our Seashore policy can determine how many eggs hatched but we have no idea how many hatchlings actually reached the ocean past the predation of sea gulls and voracious ghost crabs. Padre knows and records that success. Clearly changes need to be made in our turtle program.

3. VFA RAMP 45 to 47 AND RED KNOTS: This section is known as South Beach to the residents and is a very popular family recreational area. It has a shallow sloping beach much safer for children than most other beaches. During NEG-REG Walker Golder, of National Audubon, argued that south Beach should be free of vehicles because Red Knots frequented there during their migration. This is an inadequate reason to continue this VFA. Red Knots and people can co-habit our beach during migration.

During one of our spring breaks at Padre Island we were driving down the beach when a Ranger stopped us with a caution of a Red Knot experiment immediately ahead of us. We observed 2 men hiding behind 2 vans parked near the water. Three people were spread at the base of the primary dunes and walking slowly to herd a flock of Red Knots toward the vans. When the flock approached the vans, the two hidden men exploded a net into the air to snare the flock. Captured birds were stuffed into cages then carefully examined for health and measured then blood samples collected before the birds were released unharmed.

We had previously noted that our ORV could travel within 5 yards without flushing resting or foraging Red Knots. Close photographs could be taken only by remaining inside the truck.

The conclusions are that South Beach need not be closed to protect Red Knots but vehicles should be cautioned to leave a 10 yard clearance and public recreation should be restricted to 50 yards away as practiced in our Gulf States.

4. TESTS: PEDESTRIANS: During the Buxton meeting many voices were raised in protest that pedestrians were not using the VFAs. These voices confirm our own observations on the beaches. Pedestrian need is a mirage perpetrated by the SELC to close our beaches. Theory fails and facts of our best available science should prevail.

D. COMMENTARIES: A common theme in the Buxton meeting was the disparity in volume of comments on ORV /EA proposals. Large well funded environmental organizations e.g. National Audubon and Defenders Of Wildlife are capable to foment huge numbers of comments in support of beach closures. The islanders and other visitors can neither compete with them in money nor number. The result has been that the beaches have been hijacked from the recreational public. We believe that more credence should be placed upon comments made by the people who actually use the Hatteras beaches. This group that includes the natives has a personal knowledge of the beach conditions and is directly impacted by park service regulations. Several of our natives are indeed Natives and are descendents of the Croatoan/European ancestors who continue to have a passion for human presence on the lands of the National Seashore.

E. CONCLUSIONS: The theories upon which VFAs were based have proven wrong. It is time that the NPS admit this mistake. NOAA offers them an opportunity to make a correction. As we have seen, the VFAs can't be supported on the basis of either pedestrian use or bird protection. They should honor their responsibility by deletion of VFAs from the ORV/EA RULE .

Correspondence ID: 1172 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 12:33:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable!
I use it every year!!!

Correspondence ID: 1173 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 12:41:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I agree with the CHAPA recommendations. I've placed them below although I'm sure you have them already. Here is my personal commentary: I grew up offroading on secluded trails and beaches with family members and close family friends and many of my best memories with those family members were on these trails. Today I have a 6 month old daughter that I want to experience the beauty of nature and bonding with my wife and I as we enjoy being just our little family.

Morning beach openings - Same as Alternative 3 (ramps 25, 27, 70 were not requested as priority). Also recommended routes remain open until 10:00 pm.

Seasonal ORV routes - Same as Alternative 3, plus extend seasonal routes not at villages to Sep 1 - Apr 30.

Vehicle-free areas - Same as Alternative 3, plus: Redesignate VFAs at ramp 1 south(.5 mi), Bodie Island spit (.75 mi), ramp 43 north (.6 mi), ramp 45 west (1.3 mi) as seasonal ORV routes; ramp 48 east (.5 miles) as year round. Redesignate ramp 23 north (.5 mi currently designated as seasonal) as year round route.

Access improvements - Same as Alternative 2,(parking area at ramp 45 was not requested) plus: Provisions for temporary ORV corridor from Ramp 45 to Cape Point when conditions prevent access from the east beach and when risk to wildlife not present; Soundside access on Bodie Island.

Permits - Same as Alternative 2

Total VFA and ORV route mileage - 26.7 miles of year round of year round Oceanfront
ORV routes, 19 miles of seasonal ORV routes, 18.5 mi of VFAs. (NPS year round routes include 2.8 miles which are not Oceanfront access)

Correspondence ID: 1174 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area has been a popular destination for American families seeking affordable, family oriented beach vacation. Under the Final Rule access to some of the most popular areas is no longer available. This has restricted access for many, including the disabled and elderly, and caused financial harm to the communities surrounding the seashore. One of the premier surf fishing locations in the country, Cape Hatteras attracts two million visitors each year who rely on ORV access to the park for surf fishing opportunities from the beaches as well as for general recreational activities. Unfortunately undue closures implemented for ORVs to culturally significant and recreationally important areas have negatively impacted the local economy which depends upon recreation and tourism. With over 40 miles of one of kind beaches, during the summer month's vehicle accessibility is limited to about 25 miles. The only people who have full access to the entire shore line is the NPS and we as Carolinians who care deeply for our beaches not only for ecological reasons but for economic ones also, demand to the opportunity to enjoy all aspects of the Cape Hatteras beaches by ORV's

Correspondence ID: 1175 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable! I hope that we can come to an reasonable agreement for each side. Thank you for your time and consideration into this matter. I look forward to making more memories in Hatteras.

Correspondence ID: 1176 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 13:00:52

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1177 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 13:04:39

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It seems OUR beach access is too dependent on when the birds and turtles show up. I love those creatures as much as the next person but I do resent them having jurisdiction over me and all the other beach/ocean/sand/shells/fishing (and more) loving humans. We visit Cape Hatteras National Seashore often during all seasons and every time, since these rules went into place, we cannot get to many of our favorite spots. If it's not a bird or turtle egg which has them closed, it's the unbelievable amount of water that has been standing for weeks and has no where to go!!! Something has got to be done with allowing drains to be opened when necessary. But back to the birds. We see many plovers and other NC coastal wildlife while recreating on OUR coast. I honestly think they do better with human activity around. I've NEVER seen any ORV user or anyone for that matter, try and do harm to any creature on the beach. Now the NPS is a different story!

It would be great if the ORV annual permits would be good for a year from the date issued. That makes the most sense! I really don't like having to buy a permit AT ALL now and haven't seen much accomplished with the \$\$\$ that is generated from permits. Also, I think other options should be available for those not purchasing yearly permits. 1 day, 3 days, 7 days, 10 days, and 14 days. Surely it wouldn't be that hard to set this up. All in all, we just want our beach access back! These 2 beautiful islands (Hatteras and Ocracoke) shouldn't be just for the birds in certain areas. I'm sure they'd love to share.

Correspondence ID: 1178 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

Correspondence ID: 1179 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 13:15:50

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the

preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1180 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 13:26:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hello,

I would like to recommend either The option provided by CHAPA or Option 3 both of which will continue to allow the use off road vehicles to access to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

AS an outdoor enthusiast/conservationist I recognize the need for access to natural areas such as Cape Hatteras. I enjoy camping and fishing from the shore and without the use of an off road vehicle many of these places will remain inaccessible to those to enjoy. Especially to handicapped individuals such as myself. In 2014 I survived a major stroke. As a result, my mobility has been compromised. without the use of an off road vehicle I cannot access many of the places I once frequented. Please take into consideration not just those who enjoy the use of off road vehicles but those who require them to enjoy such pristine places like Cape Hatteras.

Respectfully,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1181 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Please keep ramp 34 OPEN. it is the safest ramp with a walking boardwalk access. Ramp 38 is a nightmare for walkers and drivers. Some one is going to get killed on 38. Every time we drive over ramp 38 someone is walking right in the middle where you need to drive.
- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
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Correspondence ID: 1182 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please please please protect our wildlife, for our children, for our planet

Correspondence ID: 1183 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It is a crying shame what has been done to limit fishing access at Cape Hatteras and other parts of the outer banks! Surf fishing has been a main stay to the economy for decades and is threaten by folks who have never been to the outer banks but have a cause to take part in. Let's be reasonable, people come a head of birds and animals!!! The Federal and State parks service are custodians of the property, not owners!!! The tax paying citizens are the owners! Let's start acting as if the tax payers are the owners!!!

Correspondence ID: 1184 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 14:02:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 1185 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 14:06:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 1186 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 14:11:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Ramp one should be opened and closed the same dates as Nags Head to make it's opening and closing the same for visitors

Correspondence ID: 1187 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: At 57 years of age I have many fond memories of the Outer Banks. I grew up as a child in the Outer Banks staying at my great uncle's cottage in the Avalon area. All of my life I have spent nearly ever opportunity camping and fishing from Okracoke Island to the state park campground at Oregon Inlet until recent years. With the attacks against public access to public lands by many who've never even visited the Outer Banks those rich resources have been made unavailable during the most logical time frames. The fact that I'm restricted to the resources during peak fishing seasons and kept from camping/fishing on the beach through the night has curtailed my visits to the Outer Banks considerably. I would love to have the open access that used to prevail. The wildlife has not been hampered through the decades because of beach access.

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1188 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: "I support the comments as submitted by [REDACTED] and the CHAPA organization of Hatteras Island".

Correspondence ID: 1189 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 14:33:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1190 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 14:36:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
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- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1191 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 14:37:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman and surfer with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access at the place I have enjoyed recreating for the past 41 years, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

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- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

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Correspondence ID: 1192 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Open the beaches up! No restrictions!
Input from west of the Mississippi should not be considered at all.

Correspondence ID: 1193 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 14:40:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Morning openings for the primary / preferred routes should open at 6:00 AM throughout the year and remain open until 10:00 PM. Other routes should open at 7:00 AM. These hours would extend the ability of all users to enjoy sunrise and sunset times as well as evening picnics. The spring and fall ORV routes should open October 1 and remain open until May 1. This would allow maximum access to the most desirable areas for the greatest period of time including the best fishing on the Atlantic coast. While the Alternative 3 makes some progress in opening more areas to ORV access, it ignores Bodie Island Spit, Hatteras Island Spit, the North end of Ocracoke and Ocracoke Island Spit. These are very popular areas for swimming, shelling and fishing throughout the year. It is very difficult to access these areas without an ORV so why close the areas and cause a logjam at the parking to access these inlets? In addition, while the alternatives make modest progress they ignore the 13 miles of Pea Island which is totally vehicle free as is nearly 100% of the sound side of Bodie Island, Hatteras Island and Ocracoke Island. This amounts to nearly 75 miles of additional vehicle free areas within CHNSRA. The National Park Service has merely paid lip service to the intent of legislation that was passed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2015 (in 2014). The intent was to significantly increase ORV access to provide for all including families with young children, the aged and disabled citizens. The permit improvements are a welcome change with particular ability to purchase permits via the Internet. We trust these fees will be used for ORV access improvements and not used for other purposes.

Correspondence ID: 1194 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 14:40:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Gentleman;

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
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- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Cordially,

[Redacted]
Surf fisherman.

Correspondence ID: 1195 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

[Redacted]

Correspondence ID: 1196 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 14:59:41

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: New Jersey Beach Buggy Association

[Redacted]

March 14,2016

Mr. David Hallac, Superintendent

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Subject: EA for the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for ORV Management

Dear Superintendent Hallac:

This letter is being submitted on behalf of the membership (over 5000members) of the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association.

We support the proposals as stated by CHAPA in the letters dated March 3, 2016 (Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for ORV Management).

In addition we wish you to consider 24 hour access to South Point or a one hour earlier than sunrise and closing by 1:00AM, the reason for this line of thought is the draw of the fishing public to this point of interest. In the state of New Jersey, we have 24 hour access on the beaches of Island Beach State Park and the City of Brigantine. Other towns allow access 1 hour before sunrise or 6AM (whichever comes first) and off the beaches by 11PM and 1AM depending upon beach location to residential homes.

For the beach access that are closed during the summer months between Memorial Day and Labor Day, please consider the dates of two weeks before Memorial Day and two weeks after Labor Day for either shrinking the closed areas or completely opening the areas depending upon actual pedestrian usage. This especially should apply to the unguarded beaches as this allows for extra eyes to watch bathers. This time period is important (Fall, Winter, and Summer) is important to local businesses; the fishing public tend to favor this time period to escape the heavier summer crowds.

Pertaining to the turtle nesting, a program should be established to hatch nests that are in precarious nature by artificial means. To allow for the turtles to the same general nesting area, this program should be established at the Hatteras Light area as this would establish another tourist attraction for this area.

Also, to allow for better access to areas that normally flood after a storm, especially the areas that allow for access to Ramps 43, 44, and 45, applications for the needed NC State permits should be filed and work started as soon as possible after receiving them.

On behalf of the NJBBA, thank you for your time and consideration in these matters.

A copy of the OBPA letter concerning the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for ORV Management Environmental Assessment is attached for reference of our stance.

Respectfully,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted text]

Correspondence ID: 1197 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 15:00:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the ORV rules at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area. While my legal residence is in Texas, I own property on Ocracoke Island and spend as many weeks per year as I can on the island.

Both offered options 2 and 3 are an improvement over the current situation. Both could still be improved upon further. In the off season, I see no need for VFAs. The population using the beach simply does not support the need. I'd also like to see smaller VFAs during the season. I routinely see more people enjoying the ORV areas of the beach, whether getting there in an ORV or on foot, than I do some of the VFAs. I think more study of the actual use of the VFAs is in called for in order to better balance the public's desire for ORV and non-ORV access.

The ORV tag options presented are a significant improvement over the current situation. I like the annual tag being offered for a full year as opposed to the current calendar year. A 10 day tag also better aligns with the time frame during which most of our visitors come to the Seashore. An improvement on the 10 day tag would be to allow users to purchase additional incremental days at some set dollar value per day when the purchase the tag. Currently, expiration dates of these tags vary based upon the day purchased and the expiration date has to be written on the tag. I don't see any negative impact to allowing users to purchase extra days.

The ability to access the sound side on Ocracoke without an ORV permit is a significant improvement that I fully support. Thank you.

My final comment regards access to Cape Point on Hatteras Island. This is the most desirable spot on the island and routinely the hardest to access for much of the year. Additional access needs to be provided from the south by, at minimum, an ORV corridor. We need a minimum of two access paths to Cape Point to maximize accessibility that is often impacted by weather and wildlife.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1198 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Make Hatteras accessible for fishermen

Correspondence ID: 1199 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the comments as submitted by [REDACTED] and the CHAPA organization of Hatteras Island

Correspondence ID: 1200 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
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- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

Correspondence ID: 1201 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 15:51:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 1202 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. The Cape Hatteras National Seashore was developed with the intention of providing recreational opportunities for all of us and that included maintaining access for surf fishing, which has a long and rich history on the Outer Banks. As you must know, Cape Point is "The Mecca" for surf anglers. For the past decade we have been denied access to this jewel for large chunks of prime fishing time. Please ensure consistent ORV access to Cape Point. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 1203 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 16:19:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: March 16, 2016

Superintendent David Hallac
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, NC 27954.

Re: Revised ORV Plan

Dear Mr. Hallac,

I am a long time and frequent visitor to the Outer Banks and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I sincerely believe that the ORV management has been

seriously flawed for a number of years. Though the Park Service has made some improvements during your tenure, there are considerable steps that must be taken to make sure that access to the beaches for recreation purposes is maintained.

I fully support the recommendations made by the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Association in their letter you on March 8, 2016.

With respect to the alternatives that you have proposed on page 51 of the EA document, I would like to make the following comments.

Morning Beach Openings: I am an avid angler and sunrise is one of the prime times of the day that fish feed. Wildlife and birds are also active in the early morning hours. Fishermen and bird watchers would both benefit from opening the priority routes earlier. I prefer EA Alternative #3 since it is a simpler plan (one time change instead of two).

Vehicle Free Areas: Frankly some of the current VFA's make no sense. Some like ramp 45 have no parking within a reasonable walk from the beach. To me it makes sense to make pedestrian friendly areas into VFA's during the peak tourist season and to make the less pedestrian friendly areas into ORV areas. The CHAPA proposal is well thought out and addresses both the needs of the ORV and pedestrian beach user groups. One area that especially needs to be addressed is access to Cape Point. The road from Ramp 44 to the point needs a "bypass" to be built away from the erosion zone. Plus a second alternative access needs to be built from Ramp 45 (left). Both ramp 44 and 45 are both very pedestrian "unfriendly" because of a lack of parking and the walking distance involved with walking to the beach.

ORV Permits: It never made sense to me that the original permitting process steered people away from the most cost effective delivery system (internet) and to the most expensive option (manned offices). I really like the changes that have been made to the ORV permitting recently. I believe that the new system will result in lower administrative costs (primarily by reducing the number of personnel needed to man the permit offices) and a better user experience. This will bring more visitors to the park and more net revenue for the many projects that are needed. Expanding the 7 day pass to 10 days is a good idea as is transitioning to a twelve month pass from a calendar year pass. I believe these are the same proposals as Alternative #2.

Access Improvements: I agree with the NPS Alternative #2, especially like the ramp 44 "bypass" and re-designating 45 as a park road. I look forward to better soundside access. The soundside of the island is an underutilized area because of access problems. Though not addressed in any of the proposals, I would like to see launch areas for kayaks added to the ramps. The soundside of Ocracoke would be an excellent area to promote kayak touring and fishing. Building launch spots with parking would allow people to paddle up or down the island (depending on the wind) or from point to point. Having regularly spaced sound side access would increase safety as well. Sometimes it is impossible to paddle into the wind. Any experienced paddler will attest that having a nearby and downwind access point could be a lifesaver should a storm come up.

Sincerely,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1204 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I oppose the proposed changes to the rule for public use of Cape Hatteras National Seashore. As a longtime visitor to Hatteras, I am well aware of its value as a habitat for birds and turtles, many of which are endangered or threatened species. The proposed changes would significantly extend hours and times of year when off-road vehicles could be driven on the beach, where their presence puts birds, turtles, and their nests in grave danger. In particular, allowing ORV access in the morning before the beach has been checked for nests, eggs, and chicks would ensure needless damage and death. Many of these bird populations are already in decline from other environmental pressures. They should not be subjected to the additional dangers of ORV traffic running roughshod through their nesting, mating, and feeding habitat.

Correspondence ID: 1205 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: March 16, 2016

Superintendent David Hallac
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, NC 27954.

Re: Revised ORV Plan

Dear Mr. Hallac,

I am a long time and frequent visitor to the Outer Banks and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I sincerely believe that the ORV management has been seriously flawed for a number of years. Though the Park Service has made some improvements during your tenure, there are considerable steps that must be taken to make sure that access to the beaches for recreation purposes is maintained.

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areas. The CHAPA proposal is well thought out and addresses both the needs of the ORV and pedestrian beach user groups. One area that especially needs to be addressed is access to Cape Point. The road from Ramp 44 to the point needs a "bypass" to be built away from the erosion zone. Plus a second alternative access needs to be built from Ramp 45 (left). Both ramp 44 and 45 are both very pedestrian "unfriendly" because of a lack of parking and the walking distance involved with walking to the beach.

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Sincerely,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1206 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 16:30:16

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 1207 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have visited Hatteras Island annually since 1980. I am a homeowner as well since 1996. I strongly support open beach access for all public beaches on Hatteras Island, especially the National Park Service beaches. Off road, 4 wheel drive on Hatteras Island is a tradition which has existed since cars first visited the island. It's an intricate part of past and current Hatteras Island history and economy. It was also part of the NPS promise of open beach access to the people of Hatteras Island when their land was donated to establish the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

I have witnessed the decline in the economy on Hatteras Island due to the driving restrictions, especially at Cape Point. It's sad when birds become more valued than people. Looking at the facts, the piping plover population has actually DECREASED due to the lack of human presence, which has allowed an increase in wild and feral mammals being killed.

I also find it highly ironic that the majority of people who object to open beach access have never visited Hatteras Island. Please listen to the voices of the people who live, work, and visit Hatteras Island and increase off road direct beach access.

I support the CHAPA Recommendations. Please increase direct 4 wheel drive beach access to all parts of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Please value people over policy.

Correspondence ID: 1208 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I agree with and support the comments provided by ██████████ regarding this issue. I strongly believe that this area should offer more public access than you are proposing. Thankyou for this opportunity to comment on your proposal.

Correspondence ID: 1209 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Keep public access open.

Correspondence ID: 1210 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have witnessed a green sea turtle come ashore under a star-studded sky, dig her nest, and lay her eggs. It is an experience that stirred my soul. Accordingly, I'm writing to ask you to protect the turtles- -and the birds- -on Cape Hatteras National Seashore from ORV traffic.

I have visited the National Seashore and would not have been nearly as impressed if it were loud with ORV traffic, smelly with ORV exhaust, and criss-crossed with tire ruts. That would have made me tell people thinking of visiting to go somewhere else- -somewhere quieter, cleaner, and more solicitous of its wildlife.

Frankly, I'm astonished that the National Park Service is even considering allowing more ORV access. Aren't ORVs already allowed on lots of beaches outside the National Seashore? What is the scientific basis for this expansion of ORV access? Who benefits from it? Certainly not birds and sea turtles. Certainly not families wanting to enjoy a quiet and safe day at the beach.

If more ORV traffic must be allowed here, I believe that:

• Beaches should be checked for nests, eggs, and chicks daily- -and BEFORE the ORVs can ride on them.

• ORVs should only be permitted in areas where they do not affect wildlife, including oystercatchers, least terns, red knots, and sea turtles, or interfere with their nesting periods.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to people, North Carolinians and visitors from elsewhere, who love the beaches and the wildlife that depends on beaches. Please cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them. Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1211 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 17:49:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1212 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 18:20:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1213 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 18:24:35

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1214 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My wife and I live in Charlottesville Va and own a rental property in Frisco.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

With thanks,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1215 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,16,2016 18:43:17

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a resident of Avon and I was surprised when I went to the public hearing and learned all opinions are equally weighted. I believe the homeowners on this island should have a greater say in what happens here rather than people who occasionally visit and more importantly, those who are submitting comments based on an email campaign from the Audubon Society or the other organizations that have been fighting to close the beaches to ORV use.

My family did not live on Hatteras for decades and they did not donate their land so that it could be used for recreation for generations to come. But having

lived here now for a few years I have learned much about the very hardy souls who chose this island for home. These people and the ones that live or vacation on Hatteras are drawn here because of the overwhelming beauty of the beaches by swimming, fishing, kite boarding, surfing, shelling etc. We are all environmentalists. We love nature. We are happy we do not have high rise hotels. We want to teach future generations to respect our environment. We cant do that if we cant get on the beach. Our neighbors depend on the revenue from fishing, kite boarding etc. but if the people cant get on the beach that dies as well.

It breaks my heart to hear a long time elderly resident tell me they cant get to the point to fish anymore because they cant lug all their equipment that far. It seems so strange that the hook is open to a concept of 'hiking on the beach. I have never seen anyone do that. A true hiker would prefer the 15 miles of VFA on Pea Island where they can hike for miles on end. They would not be drawn to a small patch of land that is pretty hard to get to.

At that meeting I also learned about the pond area of the point where the birds used to nest which is now overgrown and flooding the roadway. A speaker at the meeting pointed out something but Im not sure if it was logged so Ill log it here. The NPS could release that tidal water and clean up the vegetation to make it more hospitable to the birds. This would be a win-win and possibly increase fledging since they would be in a more protected area and not subject to over wash.

I have read the alternatives and Im aware that the NPS prefers Alterative 2. That option provides some relief but I would like to see the following changes to that proposal. Ill call it Alternative 2B.

1. Remove VFA between Ramp 48 and 45 so the hook is open to ORV. (Not mentioned in park service alternatives but the most important option to locals)
2. Remove VFA from Ramp 34 to Ramp 32 and open it to ORV (Alternative 3)
3. Extend seasonal ORV use by four weeks in spring and fall to Oct 1st - April 30th (Alternative 3)

Thanks for all you have done to date. We appreciate your efforts.

Correspondence ID: 1216 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 18:43:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1217 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 18:50:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The existing bypass to the Point should be extended south as far as possible toward the Point. The current bypass is insufficient for long term consistent use. Bird and turtle activity or active nest(s) just south of the current bypass South end can easily close the Point to ORVs. Adding a provision to the rule will negate having to go through a multi year process to completely change the rule, and in turn limit the costs associated.

A provision in the rule should be provided for a temporary ORV route from the West to the Point thru that VFA, only made active if the East beach and bypass are not usable to ORVs. There are several options that allow for redundancy and open access. The provision could include both the use of Salt Pond Rd or Ramp 45 as appropriate. For example if a resource closure on the beach between Salt Pond Rd and Ramp 45 would prevent use of Ramp 45, then Salt Pond Rd could be used. Correspondingly, if a resource closure prevented use of Salt Pond Rd, then Ramp 45 could be used.

The corridor on the beach thru the VFA should not be a fixed location, but an area designated with tolerances to allow for Mother Nature and the ever changing landscape. The pathway could even wind its way along the beach to navigate around active nests and areas of closure. The current wildlife situation in that area is likely to prohibit near term use, but the new buffers at least give it a better chance for use.

Correspondence ID: 1218 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To Superintendent David Hallac:

As a Hatteras Island resident I wish to provide my comments concerning the Modifications to the Final Rule for ORV Management.

Vehicle access areas at the beaches are becoming harder and harder to find, particularly in the summer. We have fished in areas near Ramp 43 that only have had space for about 10 vehicles with the rest of the beach closed for bird nesting, and for possible bird nesting in case the birds would decide to use a spot of the beach. This was in July when the open beach area was terribly crowded.

I think this level of protection and the large closures are "overkill." Sure, there should be restrictions, but the Park Service is going overboard with them. Many residents and visitors need a vehicle to access the beach; it's just too far to walk to the water through deep, loose sand. I'm a senior citizen and now, and just not as capable of doing the strenuous walking required to get to the fishing areas.

We need more corridors around bird and turtle nesting areas, not parking areas for pedestrians. The vehicle-free areas are under utilized as it is.

It's good that the NPS now will issue yearly beach driving permits as of the date of issue instead of the arbitrary Dec. 31 end date. But, there needs to be a discount for senior citizens and for local residents. The \$120 a year is a very steep cost. There is documentation that local residents were promised free access to the beaches forever when the Cape Hatteras National Seashore was first set up. Surely, the Park Service can at the very least provide a discount to local residents on the ORV permit. This would go a long way to smooth the waters.

Thank you for your consideration,


Buxton Resident

Correspondence ID: 1219 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: While I realize that NPS has to try to obtain a reasonable balance between ORV access and resource protection, I have been dismayed that the pendulum has swung significantly to limiting access.

Points of concern:

1. Buffer zones have been arbitrarily set too wide. I have never seen any scientific basis that justifies these restrictions.
2. Hours of access need to be adjusted to correspond to longer days in summer. The present 0700 access time may no sense.
3. Access to the "point" should be given top priority. The closure of the point during prime tourist season goes against the intent of the park system...to maximize the recreational experience of the users of our national park system.



Correspondence ID: 1220 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 19:01:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

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- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1221 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We need access to the Outer Banks reopened to allow tourists and fishermen enjoy privileges that have been taken away. The economies of the coastal areas are dying because less people are coming to the coast of NC. The fisheries have been in decline and access to our beaches have been greatly reduced. Please reopen access to the outer banks' beaches to help restore the tourism and economies of our outer bank communities.

Correspondence ID: 1222 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am coming to this very late in the game after receiving an email from my realty company on the Outer Banks. As a longtime property owner and lover of OBX I have been disturbed by the huge changes in the way of lif on the island due to many of the environmental "concerns" and projects. I support the comments made by Mr. [REDACTED] and the CHAPA organization on Harteras Island. I would like to have more time to read they all the information when open for comments and to offer my input. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1223 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support free and open access to Cape Hatteras National Seashore Beaches.

Correspondence ID: 1224 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your time and attention to this very serious environmental issue that could help our state, country, and the world.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1225 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 20:04:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a resident of Hatteras Island since 2012 but have been enjoying the beaches here since the 1990's. I'm an avid fisherman and in the past have enjoyed fishing up and down the Hatteras beaches. One of my greatest pleasures was the accessibility of the beaches using ORVs. Now that I'm a senior citizen with several handicaps the use of my ORV is more important than ever. Unfortunately, the prime fishing locations have been severely restricted over the last few years. Although the perimeters around the birds and turtles have been reduced the number of beaches is still limited. I would like to see the number and size of VFAs reduced especially in the areas most popular for fishing and other recreation activities.

My observation is due to the reduction of ORV areas the beaches are now more crowded with fisherman and families while VFAs are vastly underutilized. When the point is open we are all crammed into a very small area while the hook is vacant. The only walkers I've seen there are people who walk from the ORV areas.

The Anglers Club used to have fishing clinics for young and old. These well attended clinics were opportunities for the seasoned fishermen to pass on skills to those new to fishing. With the changes to access the "Old Salty's" could not get to the beach with their fishing equipment so the clinics no longer exist. Sadly, many young boys and girls will never have that memory of the old man who taught them how to bait a hook and cast. This is a lost treasure for the community and visitors.

I'd like the NPS to consider the experience and knowledge of the families who have lived on Hatteras many for generations, some for 300 years, when implementing changes at the beaches. Many have simple, reasonable solutions to beach access and protection of park's natural resources. Their comments should carry the most weight. Unfortunately, many have been worn out by the lack of response by the NPS in the past. Community outreach by the NPS to the locals could provide cost effective alternatives.

I would like to echo another resident who mentioned at the public hearing that the area around the pond at the point is now overgrown which is pushing the nesting birds onto the beach forcing the closures. Clearing up this area could provide a better environment for the birds and may result in more successful hatching and open the beach for recreation.

Another concern is the flooding at Ramp 43, 44 and 45. This area was fresh water and is now contaminated with salt which means key vegetation will soon die making conditions even harsher for nesting birds. The NPS needs to make it a priority to implement an ongoing flood plan for that area.

I support many aspects of Alternative 2 but would like to suggest a combination of 2 and 3 with the addition of opening the hook area of the point to ORVs.

1. Eliminate the VFA at the Hook (between Ramp 48 and 45). This will vastly improve access to the prime fishing area on the entire island.
2. Expand ORV from Ramp 34 to Ramp 32. This will provide better options for families staying in Avon since the water is not as rough as it is at Ramp 38 which is the only close option presently available.
3. Extend seasonal ORV from Oct 1st - April 30th. This makes sense since by this time the water is too cold to swim and children are in school but it is when sport fishermen come to town. This will reduce crowding and improve fishing opportunities thus generating more revenue for the community.

I appreciate the efforts and patience of the new NPS team. I am hopeful that we can continue to work together to develop practical and sensible solutions for all. In the perfect world it shouldn't take a Final Rule and Act of Congress to solve these problems when the answers are right here on Hatteras Island.

Correspondence ID: 1226 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have enjoyed vehicle access to the Park beaches and hope that the Park remains open to vehicle access.

Correspondence ID: 1227 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 20:27:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1228 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 20:35:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Sincerely,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1229 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 20:37:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Correspondence ID: 1230 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 20:37:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 1231 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 21:11:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: please consider the 6:00 am open of the beaches.

Correspondence ID: 1232 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 21:42:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1233 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 23:30:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

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- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1234 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Everything you have done for the birds and sea turtles has not improved their population at the park. Less birds and survival rate for turtles has gotten worse over the past five years. NPS needs to go back to the open beaches where the park was and start over. Human interaction with nature seems to be working better. OPEN the PARK back up. GOD knows better than us.

Correspondence ID: 1235 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 04:02:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important subject under consideration. Naturally loving to fish and hunt in the area of Hatteras Island this matter is extremely important to myself and many other sportsmen. My preference naturally would be to have all areas of the park open for full access at all times. But one must take into consideration the conservation side of this issue also. In my opinion a good balance can be achieved by choosing Alternative #3 but if not achievable then Alternative #2 would be acceptable.

Correspondence ID: 1236 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Help us keep our beaches open for the future for our children. Let us protect the beaches with you and protect the birds and turtles. The people that live near the beaches, this is their everyday work. For food, gas, bait, motels, and so on. PROTECT THE PEOPLE TOO thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1237 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear National Park Service,

I have many happy memories of Hatteras National Seashore ORV access as a young soldier stationed at Fort Bragg, NC with my family.

While none of the proposed alternatives fully restore ORV access to the beaches that have been lost over the years, I support the alternative recommended by the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance (CHAPA). CHAPA speaks for me. I ask that you please give full consideration to this alternative including maximizing total route mileage and dates/hours of access available to ORVers.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1238 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 05:26:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

March 17, 2016

Mr. David Hallac
Superintendent, Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, NC 27954

Subject: EA for the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for ORV Management

Dear Superintendent Hallac,

I have prepared this document and attachments for your consideration. It is an extension of my public comments made at Cape Hatteras Secondary School in Buxton on March 1, 2016.

The main points of my comments are these:

- 1) Surrounding the 67-mile-long Cape Hatteras National Seashore are the 8 villages of Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo, Avon, Buxton, Frisco, Hatteras, and Ocracoke. The entire population of these communities totals approximately 5,600 people. This population pales in comparison to the members/donors of special interest organizations fighting to restrict access. These organizations are clearly identified as National Audubon, and their legal affiliates, Defenders of Wildlife and Southern Environmental Law Center. As such, decisions regarding changes to beach access should not be based solely upon numerical response comparisons.
- 2) Director Jarvis opened the door for review of more extensive scientific research. There is little peer reviewed science available on the subjects of closure size and access buffers, and their effects on wildlife. More time will be required to compile comprehensive data of best available science for submission in brief form. An extension of 1 year to the public comment period, in order to prepare a brief of best available science, is requested.
- 3) Funding, to elicit responses from actual visitors to Cape Hatteras National Seashore, and to prepare the above mentioned scientific brief, is requested. Although a dollar number has not been researched for these actions, an approximate amount to pay for time, postage, and expert opinions, is estimated at \$360,000 - \$400,000. If Secretary Jewell deems it appropriate, we request that funding to facilitate the above mentioned items be provided.

In December 2015, when Director Jarvis submitted his report to Congress, it became clear the direction of the NDAA mandate had been overtaken by special interest groups& again.

National Audubon, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Southern Environmental Law Center, all 501c3 not for profit organizations, have intruded upon this

process to the detriment of this community.

These are the same organizations that steered the original rule making process - the rules this legislation was enacted to change. They filed law suit after law suit, depleting resources of the volunteer organizations of Hatteras Island to fight back. They also broke down the negotiated rule making process.

Their involvement this round is ever so clear in Director Jarviss letter where he refers to the 9,300 comments he received. The majority of which, he says supported the no action alternative.

THAT NUMBER OF RESPONSES IS ALMOST 2 TIMES THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF THE AREA UNDER REVIEW. And, I can assure you, is not the prevailing opinion of this community.

In the process, after the May 2015 EA was released, there were 5 public meetings, 4 in North Carolina, and 1 in Hampton, VA. Effort should be made to determine, of the 9,300 comments received, what percentage were from North Carolina and Virginia.

At the public comment session I attended in Buxton, NC, you told the crowd you received 1800 written comments from the scoping process. Of those comments, you said, only 40% were from VA and NC residents.

It is surprising, that with hundreds of thousands of members, and hundreds of millions of dollars, these non-profits generated such a small percentage of responses.

The following illustrates the size and power of these organizations:

National Audubon: 2015 financial statements show \$33,482,773 in cash and cash equivalents, \$231,977,976 in investments, revenue of \$95,143,330. Spending of \$323,541 in direct contact with legislators, their staffs, government officials, or a legislative body, and, another \$105,100 in grants to other organizations for lobbying purposes. They list total assets as \$471,019,435. National Audubon reported to me they have approximately 400,000 to 500,000 member/contributors.

Defenders of Wildlife: 2015 contributions and grants total \$29,358,805. Lobbying expense to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying) was \$183,194. Defenders of Wildlife reported to me, through their Audubon Connect; Member Services, their cumulative donor list, through 2011, was approximately 900,000.

Southern Environmental Law Center: 2015 contributions and grants of \$38,106,261. A whopping 65% increase in contributions and grants from the prior year. Their lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying) were \$242,914. This organization more than doubled resources committed to program activities in North Carolina this year from \$4,279,315 in 2014 to \$9,697,643 in 2015. Southern Environmental Law Center did not respond to me regarding a request for numbers of member/donors.

And why not increase program activities funds in North Carolina? This community is easy pickings for these national organizations. We have little resources, and a small population to protect our values.

These same special interest groups have held up construction of a new Bonner Bridge for years. That bridge is more than 20 years past its original design life, and the only access to the Island from the north.

Good argument can be made these environmental law firms have gone beyond the limit of not for profit organizations. They spend hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to influence legislation. The resulting Acts are thousands of pages long with numerous loopholes and grey areas. They then turn and sue the federal government for failure to comply. No, they don't receive damages, but they do self-enrich themselves by getting significant legal fees rewarded. And that is the point. This is a for profit enterprise. Profit to self-sustain and do it over and over.

So, to base beach access decisions solely on the numbers, is a losing battle for this community.

In a Country where we work so hard to protect religious and cultural freedoms and identities, why let special interest, whose size and resources are much more powerful than those of the community, dictate policy that steals culture and freedom? More on this later.

How can a community of so few people hold on to the values and culture they hold dear to their hearts, with these numbers and resources stacked against them?

More concerning in the financial statements of these organizations are the monies received from government. National Audubon received \$8,684,231 in government grants last year.

Those resources are being used against the objectives of this community.

As such, of the comments submitted, all effort should be made to identify them as a resident, a visitor who has actually been here in the past few years, or as someone who simply followed directions from mass mailings and email sweeps to boost numbers. I believe separating the results into these categories will paint a different picture, and be much more informative to Congress and the Secretary.

Comments from these member organizations with no skin in the game should be counted as one comment, or excluded entirely.

Our small community cannot compete against this. Our voices are drowned out. Its no wonder most residents here throw up their arms saying government does here what they want.

Community organizations here are small. Their volunteers are overworked. Their financial resources have been stressed dramatically from hiring attorneys, fighting for access rights. There are those whose health has been adversely affected from working so hard on these issues.

If a representative response to the objectives of this legislation is desired, from those who actually use this beach, I propose to facilitate the following: Organize a program to obtain comments from residents, owners, and visitors to Hatteras Island. To implement, I will contact the 6 largest real estate firms on the Island and coordinate with them. A short questionnaire will be prepared. Part of that questionnaire will ask if respondent is a resident, owner, or visitor to the area. I would appreciate input from NPS regarding additional questions asked. These questionnaires would be mailed, and emailed to visitors who have rented property here for the past 3 years. As post office boxes are used for residents, the questionnaire can be distributed in all boxes of each Village.

Prior to Director Jarviss report of December 15, 2015, we in the community were under the impression only peer reviewed science would be considered. Director Jarvis opened the door to consideration of best available science. He did not though, specify what science was considered, and what was not, in his

report. We in the community would like the opportunity, and time required, to prepare a comprehensive brief of best available science on topics of this mandate.

There are many areas in the United States, both public and private, where wildlife management occurs. My objective would be to hire experts in the field to research best available science. They would be charged with preparing a brief, for submission to you and to Secretary Jewell, outlining this data.

In this brief, I would also look into clarification of the perceived responsibility of NPS in managing our beach resources. If federal agencies are required to adhere to the Endangered Species Act, the Act calls for agencies to work toward conserving a species. In the definition of conserve, the Act refers to recovery. Recovery, I believe, implies proliferation, not simply protection. Relating to this, the piping plover has been the main avian species NPS at Cape Hatteras National Seashore has worked to conserve.

I am told that to recover this species, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it takes a fledge rate of 1.5 chicks per pair. To simply sustain the species, it takes a fledge rate of 1.25 chicks per pair. I am told for the past 10 years the fledge rate at Cape Hatteras National Seashore has been 0.63 chicks per pair. This year, 2015, there were 11 nests with a total of 1 fledged chick. That will serve to reduce the overall 11 year fledge rate.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore is outside the normal range of the piping plover. The environment here can be very harsh - especially at the oceanfront. If these facts and statistics are correct, should we be trying to attract the piping plover to nest here? If these facts and statistics are correct, should we be spending millions of dollars, taking up valuable time of our Congressmen passing legislation, and causing uproar in the community over buffer sizes? One chick?

I am not an expert. I would like to hire one or more experts to look into these questions and more.

Subjects like the success rates of parks that actually remove turtle eggs from the nest, incubate the eggs, and return the hatchlings to the beach; Relocating turtle nests to safer, more environmentally friendly areas; I understand some avian species nests have been successfully relocated in some parks, to protect the birds from dangerous predators or environmental hazards.

Research of these issues, and more, may not give us answers, but will certainly give us more information to work from. We all want more successful avian fledge rates, more successful turtle hatchlings, protection for our seals, whales, even the porpoise and fish. We will not be able to do it all in this report, but I will seek to get as much information on as many pertinent subjects as possible. Then, without bias, we can hopefully formulate some reasonable proposals.

Understand, all beach residents are environmentalists. We all want to further the proliferation of all species at the beach. Reasonableness should, and can, rule. If for some reason access must be denied due to a turtle nest hatch, or fledging birds, no one here has a problem with that. In fact, we encourage it. Assembling this information will take time - as it should. I believe a 1-year extension of the public comment period should be adequate to complete this task.

As a side note, I would like to point out an incident which occurred this past spring, around May. Tourist season was just gearing up. In Ocracoke, at ramp 59 west - at the end of the point, there was a sand dollar breeding colony. Live sand dollars were all over the beach and in the water. The area was a few hundred yards long. All were alive, but as we know, they don't move very fast. As such, tourists were picking them up and putting them in buckets to take home. Vehicles were running over them. This condition existed over a time frame of a few weeks. I don't know if sand dollars are on any protection list, but I am opposed to seeing any species, knowingly or unknowingly, killed. I am not sure if something like this requires the extreme measure of a regular beach closure, but it is certainly an educational opportunity. Signage, informing tourists the animals are alive, and not to take them away, should be a minimum. An interpreter, be it a volunteer from the community, or an NPS employee, would be a bonus for both the Park and the visitor experience. A temporary closure to vehicles would be in order. As the animals don't stray too far from the water, it would not need to be a full beach closure. This is reasonable management and helping to conserve a species.

Unfortunately, but maybe justly, those tourists will find it hard to get the smell out of whatever they stored those sand dollars in after they got home.

Funding. It seems that when something is important, it usually costs a lot of money. As mentioned, the financial resources of this community have been stretched thin. There simply isn't enough time or money to both fight the unrelenting legal barrage from the aforementioned special interest groups, and to focus on what should be focused upon, obtaining the information needed to present a reasonable viewpoint from the community. As said before, if this is simply a numbers game, this community, and the people who come here, don't stand a chance of getting their points across. But, if the points I made, and the offer to organize I presented, is important to NPS and Secretary Jewell, then monetary help is needed.

My estimate to fund the required information is developed as follows:

Mailings to approximately 500,000 households (3 years of visitors) && \$150,000
Payment to 2 experts for research and preparation of brief&&&&&&&... \$150,000
Real Estate Co. time and effort in sending emails, mailings, etc. &.. \$ 60,000
Something minimal for my time would be appreciated, but not required.

A grant or budget of up to \$400,000 is requested.

Please indulge me one more time for some personal comments.

I am on the beach most every day from September through June. I have been fortunate to be able to do this for many years now. Most of my time is spent surf fishing between Avon, and the village of Hatteras. Some of my time is spent at Cape Point in Buxton - not near as much as before the current resource management plan.

I have lost a piece of my heart. I know a lot of Villagers have too.

Cape Point, or The Point, as it is most commonly referred to here, is not what I, or others in this community, once knew.

This management plan has destroyed, for many years now, what used to be a large fraternity of like-minded, nature loving people.

Most of us were older adults, but we always loved to see the young people, and gave all a helping hand.

We were from all walks of life. There were many locals, but also many regular faces from different states, different economic situations, with different political views, and different physical abilities.

Some were fishermen, some shell collectors, photographers, sun worshipers, and some just liked to sit there and enjoy the view.

We all shared the love of The Point. The beauty, the surprise, and the constant change.

Many came from the north beaches; many came from the south beach. We were on the beach all day long. No one had to drive off one beach to get to another.

You usually remembered a first name, but there were very few last names known. You almost always remembered the faces, or sometimes the vehicle.

Everyone always wore a smile.

Over the years the faces would change. Some would die, or move away.

The Point is where we remembered those gone. That was THE place to gather. Access was easy from both directions on the beach.

Some of the most vivid memories my brain can still remember are from that once special place.

I'll never forget the termite hatch. I believe it was an October evening. There were anchovies and glass minnows in the calm pool formed on the north side of the point. Spanish mackerel, bar jacks, and bluefish would rush in periodically to attack. When they did, 30-foot diameter schools of this bait would jump out of the water with a silvery flash. Fishermen were wild with excitement. Most, including me, had literally caught their fill and were just watching others enjoy. And the termites - oh the termites. At least that is what I was told they were. Small inch long ant-like creatures with large white wings. The air was filled with them. They were all over your clothing and vehicle. But they didn't bite, they didn't suffocate you. They added a surrealistic beauty. One of those magic moments of nature.

Then there is the picture in my mind of the gannets. A flock of thousands and thousands of gannets, all tightly hovering over a school of baitfish just off Cape Point. There was one small area in the center of the flock they all wanted to dive. As the birds tucked and dove, a visual V in the center of the flock was formed. I wondered how all those birds could possibly fit in that one small spot in the water. Magic moments. Moments I hope future generations can enjoy the same as I did.

Many an evening, driving the south beach back to Hatteras at sunset, I was brought to my knees in prayers of thanks for the beauty in front of me.

I called The Point a once special place. You may think having to drive off the beach to get to another spot on the beach is OK. We still have access to the place we want to go, right? Well, I can tell you it's nothing like the same.

Think of this as having an intimate moment with your partner, and your two 6 year olds walk into the room. Really, having to go out to the road, or even around a closure on an interdunal road, removes you from the moment, your relationship with nature.

That is what we enjoyed so much here. It was part of the culture. An uninterrupted relationship with nature. Access to all areas of the beach and our friends. Especially at The Point. That is the feeling I hear so many locals talking about not being able to pass on to the next generation. I'm sure you will find reference to this in many of the comments received by residents.

Understand in my saying this, it's not that we don't want to give nature what it needs to proliferate. Seasonal closures may well be deemed necessary to accomplish this. Even during the seasons when we do not have avian nesting or turtle nests, I don't think most of us are opposed to vehicle free areas behind an access corridor (of say 30 feet beyond the high tide line). There has most always been a wide beach south of The Point. As long as there is a corridor to drive, and room to park, why can't we all enjoy together. No area at the shoreline needs to be vehicle free year round.

Times are different now. Most of those who enjoyed that fraternity have stopped coming to Hatteras Island. I'm sure some have passed away. When you do see some of the old timers from out of town, they tell you things aren't the same. Some saying they probably won't be back again.

Of those who are on the beach each day, things are different too. It's not like people are mean to each other or anything. Those I communicate with are happy people who enjoy their time on the beach. But, we share information about fishing, then go our separate ways - out to the road, then to a different location. Then, out to the road again, and maybe home, or maybe a different location. When there was access on the beach to reach all parts of the beach, you saw each other and shared throughout the day. Believe me, it's different. It was part of the culture here. It's been taken away.

I had the distinct pleasure to meet [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on the beach a few days ago. [REDACTED] is an American artist, and author of over 100 romance novels. A more Hatteras name you will not find. After what looked to be about a 1 mile walk on the beach, [REDACTED] stopped beside me to ask about the fishing. She seemed proud to tell me that in her 85 years she most cherished her time there on the beach. She told me her grandmother was the last person to walk across land from Hatteras to Ocracoke, before Hatteras Inlet was cut and formed in the 1800s. She reminisced about the freedoms we once had on the beach. She too expressed her disappointment about the loss of culture for future generations due to closures.

I would like to make one more comment regarding the response you will receive from Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance (CHAPA). I am a member of one of the sister organizations to this group. I favor all aspects of their response except one. CHAPA explains The single most important ORV access route at the Seashore is the area that encompasses Cape Point. Their comments call for VFA with Special Circumstances for the area at ramp 45 E (left)(1.2 mi). I disagree wholeheartedly - unless the science shows different. This area should be designated a Seasonal ORV route, along with the remaining 1.3 mi. stretch they recommend. Again, this is an area with a very wide sand beach. Keeping the majority of that area vehicle free, behind an access/parking corridor at the shoreline, I believe is a solution to satisfy all parties. Basically, after the science brief is completed, if deemed necessary, a new alternative should be proposed.

Lastly, I believe NPS is potentially threatening its existence on Hatteras Island. I believe good argument can be made NPS has not operated to the benefit of this community in implementation of this management plan, and has not satisfied the promises it made here when it obtained the land on our beaches. The community and culture is being usurped by special interest, and its residents and businesses are suffering.

Respectfully Submitted,

[REDACTED]

Attachments:

I am including my comments from the May, 2010 public comment opportunity regarding the Draft Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), for additional facts and figures.

In those comments the population of the village of Frisco was mistakenly omitted. That population (from citydata.com 2010 estimate) is 200 persons.

National Park Service
Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area
Hatteras, NC

May, 2010

To whom it may concern;

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

As was mentioned in my comments in the public meeting in Buxton 4/26/10, I believe cooperation among all the parties is paramount to achieving the

goals desired with these regulations. There is a delicate balance in providing reasonable access to the public for recreational purposes, and protecting resources in such a way to encourage proliferation of species, plants, and beach.

I would like to first make a few points about the overall DEIS assessment, then focus on areas where change may occur.

The issues on Hatteras Island are unique to any other National Park. Here, the beach is ever more important to all aspects of life. These southern village communities are surrounded by Federal lands and water. ALL activity revolves around the beaches. ALL economics depend upon an active tourist business, beach access, and a well managed beach.

To include the economic statistics of northern beach communities as part of the southern beach communities is similar to including the time of the pace horse at the Kentucky Derby as part of the overall race statistics. Our adjoining northern beach community neighbors, Southern Shores, Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills, and Nags Head are completely different economies. In fact, tourists (our main industry) must bypass these northern beach communities in order to get to the southern beaches. The extra half hour to hour and a half drive south makes these northern beaches more of a competitor than a companion to the southern village communities.

Full time population differences alone clearly reflect the dichotomy between the southern villages and northern towns. These northern beach towns include Southern Shores (population 2,587 (2008 Dare Co.)), Kitty Hawk (population 3,260 (2008 Dare Co.)), Kill Devil Hills (population 6,642 (2005 Dare Co.)) and Nags Head (population 3,016 (2008 Dare Co.)). The population of these northern beach communities totals 15,500 people spread across approximately 18 miles. In comparison, the southern beach villages include Rodanthe (population 203), Waves (population 49 or 50), Salvo (population 339), Avon (population 735), Buxton (population 1,848 (2008 Dare Co. estimate)), Hatteras Village (population 743), and Hyde County's Ocracoke Island (population 769). The population of these southern beach communities totals 5,456 spread across approximately 65 miles (all population statistics from most recent data and most reputable sources between 2000 census and 2008 Dare County records. Mileage does not include Pea Island Wildlife Refuge nor does it include any water area across Hatteras Inlet). When one compares revenues from the restaurant, hotel, rental cottage, and retail establishments, the economic dichotomy of these different communities becomes ever more clear.

My discussions with a local seafood business owner, two local tackle shop owners, a local campground owner, guests to my rental cottage, and fishermen on the beach, indicate beach closings are confounding (and in some cases aggravating) visitors. Many are deciding not to return until all this is figured out (their words). Business owners are telling me they believe business is down between 17% and 38% due solely to beach closings. Many guests have responded they love the isolation of the southern beaches. They say if we are forced to smaller, more crowded areas of the beach, why not stop at VA Beach or Nags Head? All visitors traveling from the north and northwest must find reason to bypass the larger beach communities of Virginia Beach and northern North Carolina to reach our southern beach communities. Small changes in visitor perceptions about beach access have significant economic impact on southern beach communities.

Generally I agree with the conclusions of the Coalition for Beach Access DEIS Assessment. There are many areas of concern discussed in this assessment, but I will comment on 2 points I believe to be paramount to implementation of successful regulation.

Pedestrian and ORV bypass corridors should be provided thru all SMAs throughout the year. When closures extend all the way to the waters edge, large areas of recreational beach are blocked from access. This forces the beach visitor to smaller and more densely populated areas of beach - as mentioned, something the visitor can find in VA Beach or Nags Head. Popular beach spots of Hatteras Inlet, Cape Point (Buxton), and Ocracoke Points, are areas where nesting should not take place to begin with. These popular East Coast fishing areas are most susceptible to flood. Storm flooding accounts for approximately 30% of nesting failures. These areas flood with simply a suitable moon phase, or the slightest properly directed wind. Additionally, bypass corridors will be beneficial in helping keep predators away from nesting birds. Predators account for over 50% of nest failures. Human presence is a deterrent to predator species.

Plover have not nested at Hatteras Inlet for years. Dredge Island, not included in any species management statistics, is a mere few hundred yards from Hatteras Inlet and home to many species of birds.

As mentioned in my comments at the Buxton public meeting on 4/26/10, most local residents know what to do for needy animals they come upon on the beach. If there is a dangerous situation, or something needing proper equipment, they know to call NPS biologist Michelle Bogardus. I mentioned I have personally called Michelle to help at least half a dozen stranded sea turtles in the past 3 years. I know many other residents have done the same. Without access around closures we are not in position to help. It is inevitable that NPS will at some point in the future be short on resources to monitor/manage the beach. Locals become ever more important in preserving nature and our natural resources at times like this.

Bypass corridors will go a LONG WAY in appeasing tension developed by local residents and visitors in this debate. No one will be completely happy with the resulting regulation. Both sides will have issues with whatever is in the final document. From the standpoint of local residents and visitors though, both will be more able to accept the consequences of regulation if access around closures is provided.

Suggestion: NPS personnel, or trained volunteers, could monitor corridors in closure areas where there are active endangered species nests. Volunteer programs have been very successful in the past. Programs can be established/expanded to monitor existing nests/hatchlings. This is an excellent opportunity for a public/private partnership. This is also an ideal educational opportunity. An education program designed to train NPS staff and volunteer monitors to train the public would serve the public need and protect species. I would note visitors are always inquisitive about what is going on. They and their children can learn valuable species management lessons with this opportunity. I believe local residents would be happy to develop an educational program together with NPS staff. I believe local residents would welcome the opportunity to staff volunteers and maintain an education program on the beach.

Buffer size is also an important aspect of the regulations currently under consideration. Our National Parks allow humans to experience the natural beauty of sensitive environments on a grand scale. Proper management practices help in preserving and encouraging sensitive species development within that environment. Protective buffers, as part of that management strategy, should be adequate to serve their intended purpose. The USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center developed an unbiased analysis specifically related to this issue. In that analysis adequate buffer sizes for protection of threatened and endangered species and species of special concern at Cape Hatteras National Seashore were established. The LARGEST recommended buffer size in that study was 200 meters. A smaller buffer size, supported by a Biological Opinion from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, details a 375 foot radius, or approximately 10 acres, as sufficient distance for protection from sight and noise disturbance for certain raptors. (USDI. 2004. Appendix 1 from: Biological opinion and letter of concurrence for effects to bald eagles, marbled murrelets, northern spotted owls, bull trout. Olympic National Forest. Lacey, Washington. August 2003, revised September 2004). Earlier scientific studies have been performed in a series of habitat suitability index (HIS) models published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a variety of wildlife species, including birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians (e.g., Raleigh, 1982; McMahon, 1983; Sousa and Farmer, 1983; Raleigh et al., 1984; Schroeder, 1984). These studies demonstrated a need for buffer widths UP TO 106.7 meters, depending on the particular resource needs of individual species.

I support the Coalition for Beach Access position of moving the buffer with the brood as it relocates toward reliable food sources.

In summary, buffers sizes up to 200 meters in width, with access corridors around these buffers, satisfies the objectives of National Park Service recreational access AND meets reasonable scientifically recommended MAXIMUM buffer size to protect species.

I believe reasonable regulation, containing corridor bypasses and 200 meter movable buffers, will go a long way in obtaining cooperation and participation from local residents. Although I believe these regulations cant help but decrease visitation to Cape Hatteras National Seashore, inclusion of bypass corridors and reasonable buffer size will have less of an effect on the local economy of the southern villages than more stringent regulation. I encourage the National Park Service to look hard at the SCIENCE, the statistics, and the effect of these actions on the local economy, in determining their final regulations.

As much as I would like to see cooperation of all the parties in this action, and as much as I believe cooperation is the best way to meet the objectives we all want to attain, it has been made apparent at the public hearings that no matter what the final regulations contain, National Audubon and Defenders of

Wildlife will challenge these regulations in court. The federal judge responsible for forcing this action to where it is today has tipped the scales of justice out of balance. Developing reasonable policy based upon science and long established objectives of the National Park Service will go a long way in substantiating the policy in any appeal of a court decision.

Thank You For This Opportunity To Comment,

Hatteras, NC Resident

Correspondence ID: 1239 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: A real balance must be maintained for access by all users.

Correspondence ID: 1240 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for taking comments!

I am an avid beach goer of more than 20 years to the Outer Banks enjoying all of the beaches north and south in the CHNS. I have really started to appreciate the vehicle free areas with my fishing friends and family, especially ramp 45. I have on many occasions observed fisherman and surfers who operate ORV's do so in the most obnoxious manner. This includes surfing on top of moving vehicles to inebriated fisherman driving near the dunes and steering towards any birds they see. I see this type of behavior more frequently now than ever before. Vehicle free areas are just as important to the environment and beach goers as access is to ORV users. Please keep at least one ramp near the point (ramp45) vehicle free so campers and pedestrians like myself can enjoy the beach without the fear of vehicles. More vehicle free areas would be ideal but I understand there needs to be compromise on this sensitive issue. Please do not bow to the pressure of the masses who write inflammatory comments about how the NPS is ruining the access of ORV's and the fishing lifestyle. We enjoy at least 6 trips to the OBX every year and I have caught and released more big drum in vehicle free areas than I have at the point. Thank you for all you guys do! God Bless.

Correspondence ID: 1241 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 06:59:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Congress instructed the NPS to increase access at the seashore. While the proposed alternatives take some steps toward improving access, they do not follow the instruction and intent of the law that was passed.

Buffer areas remain too large in all alternatives. Off road access to Cape Point and Ocracoke's South Point should be maintained unless juvenile chicks are actively feeding on the shoreline in that exact location. Pedestrian access should be maintained 24 hours throughout the year in all areas of the seashore shoreline. People should be allowed to pick up seashells and fish along the shoreline year round.

Off road access from 6am to 10pm was considered overly restrictive after the consent decree. The seashore should be open to off road vehicles at a minimum of 6am to 10pm May 1 through September 15, and open to off road vehicles 24 hours the remainder of the year.

A 3 day off road vehicle pass, cheaper than a \$50 10 day pass, needs to be implemented. Weekend visitation has been severely curtailed by the current 7 day \$50 permit.

Turtle nests that hinder access to Cape Point and Ocracoke's South Point should be relocated. NPS has shown that relocating nests improves turtle hatch success. NPS states that NC Wildlife restricts relocation, but NPS doesn't always follow NC Wildlife recommendations. NPS chooses to accept NC Wildlife recommendations when it supports their preferences.

The Cape Hatteras Seashore was established as a recreational area, and now it is being managed by NPS guidelines of "preserve and protect". Congress passed a law directing NPS to allow more access. NPS needs to allow more access than proposed.

Correspondence ID: 1242 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 07:11:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Background: I own a house in Frisco (Hatteras) NC and have been enjoying the Cape Hatteras National Seashore since the 1960's. My family including son and his wife wish to continue this tradition.

Comment: Among the alternative proposals listed, I prefer Alternative 3. Basically, I am in favor of continuing ORV access to the largest degree possible. Some specific items include:

1. Morning opening of the beaches should begin as early as possible - the best fishing and the best time on the beach is at dawn;
2. Cape Point should remain open; alternative routes need to be found if the east route cannot be maintained including the use of vehicle corridors through closed areas and/or the possible use of a route/corridor using Ramp 45. This is a major issue since it is the premier surf fishing location on the East Coast.
3. There seems to be no good reason that there is no ORV access at ramp 34, except seasonally toward Avon Village. There should be some year round access at Ramp 34 to the north, even if it is only a relatively small area.
4. Similarly, there should be some year round ORV access at ramp 23.

5. Seasonal opening of the beaches in front of the villages should be expanded as proposed in Alternative 3; in fact I would prefer even more opening in front of the villages, basically, only excluding the summer months.
6. Vehicles corridors need to be actively pursued in all ORV areas to keep them open while still providing protection for wildlife.
7. Non-viable nests and nesting areas should be more actively and aggressively opened for public use. There is no net benefit from keeping areas closed when there is a statistically small chance of success - similar analysis to a "cost/benefit" analysis in which the "cost" in the form of lost public access compared to the chance of success would dictate opening areas that in the past have been kept closed.

Correspondence ID: 1243 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 07:22:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1244 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 07:23:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Alternative 2 sounds the best to me. However I would prefer NOT to see the seasonal ORV routes in front of the villages opened for the extra two weeks in the spring and fall. I DEFINITELY DON'T think four extra weeks of ORV use in front of the villages spring and fall is a good idea! There are more people here spring and fall than there used to be and I don't think we need to mix them in with beach traffic any more than we currently do.

Correspondence ID: 1245 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 07:23:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I enjoy fishing, surfing and the beach and have been visiting Cape Hatteras for over 40 years. I favor keeping the beaches open for ORV use to the maximum extent possible. Alternative 3 is the best among the proposals being considered in the current EA.

Correspondence ID: 1246 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 07:25:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: To whom it may concern:

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1247 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: This is a love story of sorts. It began for me when my parents and grandparents first brought me to Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands in 1967, when I was 4 years old. We visited frequently in the subsequent years, and it was always a new and magical experience each time. I remember riding on the beach in the back of a rented jeep as we scouted the shore break for signs of fish in the early AM. I remember once, my father taking me out in a Volkswagen Beetle. He taught me the practice of airing down so the tires wouldn't dig into the sand and leave ruts, or render the vehicle stuck. I remember holding Grandpa's hand as we waded out to the bars to cast. Sidenote; it makes me too nervous to wade out far these days, LOL!

In my late teen years and early twenties, I was too busy with school, work, etc. to visit on my own. That changed in 1988, when I brought my wife-to-be to Buxton for her very first time. We stayed at the Outer Banks Motel, as I always had with my family on earlier visits. She was immediately enchanted, and I rediscovered why I had always felt the islands to be such a special place. In 1992, I purchased my first 4 wheel drive vehicle, a brand new Bronco. We visited as often as we could. We have always held the beach and its residents in the highest respect, and we always stopped to pick up debris that others might have forgotten, or that washed up in the surf. Although we never came close to getting stuck, we helped many others, teaching them the art and skill of beach driving, always encouraging them leave a minimal impact. I can't tell you how many times we visited, but we were always excited to return, and sad to leave.

Fast forward to the mid 2000's, and I had started a new company that required much more attention than I had anticipated. We made the trip only once in 2002, then again in 2004, and made one more trip in 2006. We didn't have the opportunity to visit again until June of 2013. Once again, we both felt what we had missed, and vowed to make more time. We did just that, returning 6 times in 2013, 8 times in 2014, 9 times in 2105, and twice so far this year. We still stay at OBM when we can.

As I have the reference of decades to compare, I have noticed many changes. Some due to storms and natural occurrences, others due to human activity. Many of the beaches we used to frequent are now VFA's (many of which are now virtually unvisited), the campground at Cape Point is unused for the most part due to inadequate drainage, there are large scale closures due to animal life, some not even indigenous, Highway 12 is consistently over washed during even minimal storms, and the once vibrant economy has ground down to a fraction of what used to be.

In this day of over-regulation I don't expect things ever to return to what we once had, although we can always wish and hope. The islands and the beaches belong to all of us, and we are all stewards. Please remember that most of us (probably nearly all) still respect the beach and all of its inhabitants. A little common sense goes a long way. Please do consider a more relaxed attitude towards beach regulation and ORV access. As I've aged, and due to multiple injuries sustained, I can personally tell you that I don't get around as easily as I used to. I still love finding a secluded portion of beach however.

By the way, we've never injured or disturbed a nesting or fledging bird, nor a turtle or nest. I know there have been incidents (including NPS) over the years, but again, a little common sense goes a long way.

Correspondence ID: 1248 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 07:45:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I lived in North Carolina for two years, and still return for visits. Cape Hatteras was one of my absolute favorite places to visit, not only for its beautiful topography but also for the myriad of bird species and other wildlife that called this area home. Given this I have concerns about the Environmental Assessment.

Specifically:

You must use the best available science to protect both birds and turtles, including pre-nesting closures, adequate buffers, and ESPECIALLY no driving in front of chicks.

Open beaches during sea turtle nesting season only after beaches have been checked for nests and nests have been adequately protected from vehicle traffic.

Protection for migrating shorebirds MUST be addressed as well; in addition beaches should be checked for eggs and chicks before they are open to ORV traffic.

Vehicle free area should be expanded, as this would protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting.

In short, at the very least I want the current plan protected. Rule changes should be made based on science, not community pressure. I love visiting the beaches, but I want to see them as natural as possible, not covered with tire tracks and vehicles. These would disturb me, as well as the wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 1249 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 07:46:39

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: 1. I concur with the CCA NC in that the spring and fall ORV routes should open October 1 and remain open until May This would allow maximum access to the most desirable areas for the greatest period of time including the best fishing on the Atlantic coast.

2. Alternative 3 makes some progress in opening more areas to ORV access, but it ignores Bodie Island, Hatteras Island, and the North end of Ocracoke and Ocracoke Island Spit's. These are very popular areas for swimming, shelling and fishing throughout the year, and it's very difficult to access these areas without an ORV. Closing these areas not only make family access extremely hard, but causes major parking problems.

3. I understood that the intent of the "National Defense Authorization Act for 2015 (in 2014) was to significantly increase ORV access to provide for all including families with young children, the aged and disabled citizens, yet 13 miles of Pea Island which is totally vehicle free as is nearly 100% of the sound side of Bodie Island, Hatteras Is-land and Ocracoke Island. This amounts to nearly 75 miles of additional vehicle free areas within CHNSRA. There must be some of that 75 miles that could be open for the use of our citizens.

Thank you for your time
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1250 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I ask that you protect nesting birds and turtles by preventing motorized vehicles from driving on our beaches. When many species of our world are dwindling in numbers due to human behavior, we should change our behavior in favor of protection and respect for their environment.

Correspondence ID: 1251 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please protect our wildlife. Human's have taken over too much and the animals suffer at our hands! Enough is Enough.

Correspondence ID: 1252 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,17,2016 07:55:02

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Name

Correspondence ID: 1253 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do NOT allow these off road vehicles to ruin nesting sites for our outer banks birds.

Correspondence ID: 1254 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,17,2016 07:57:48

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would support option 2 with a few changes. All ramps should open at 6 am. The changes to the seasonal orv routes are good, but the closed section of beach from ramp 45 towards Frisco should be added. The seasonal closures should be May 1 to Sept 30. There needs to be alternate access to cape point from ramp 45 that could go around closures.

The vehicle free areas have little use. Cape Point is as much an icon as is the lighthouse. Fishermen need access earlier in the morning than they presently have.

Correspondence ID: 1255 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: we have to make an effort to protect the environment from ourselves. We should not allow off-road vehicles on some of the most beautiful beaches in the country here in NC in order to protect the ecosystems that are so fragile to such disturbance, not to mention the tranquility of these beautiful places.

Correspondence ID: 1256 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am opposed to driving on beaches due to damage to wildlife, as well as aesthetics.

Correspondence ID: 1257 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 08:26:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Following are my preferences for alternatives listed:
Morning Beach Openings - Alternative 3
Seasonal ORV Routes - Alternative 3
Vehicle Free Areas - Alternative 3
Access Improvements - Alternative 2
Permits - Greatly reduce fees associated with permits, but since that is not an alternative, prefer Alternative 3.
Total VFA and ORV Mileage - Alternative 3

Thank you for your consideration,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1258 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: This rule will not adequately protected seabirds, during courtship and nesting periods. This modification may jeopardize populations of oystercatchers, Least Terns and more priority species that arrive earlier and provide no protections for migrating and wintering shorebirds, including the endangered Red Knot.

Correspondence ID: 1259 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 09:16:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The following are my choices for the Alternatives open for comment.
On Morning Beach openings: I agree with Alternative 2.
On seasonal ORV Routes: I Prefer Alternative 3 but I can live with Alternative 2.
On Vehicle Free areas: Alternative 3 is my choice. I have been observing the number of pedestrians that utilize the VFA's and don't think they used enough to justify the closures. People tend to walk over where Vehicles enter the beach.I think that they think they can get help in case of an emergency there better than if they were in a VFA.
On Access improvements: Alternative 2 On Permits: Alternative 2

Correspondence ID: 1260 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 09:43:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Supt Hallac,

I am a long time and frequent visitor to the Outer Banks and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Though the Park Service has made some improvements to the ORV plan during your tenure, there are considerable steps that must be taken to make sure that access to the beaches for recreation purposes is maintained.

I have reviewed the NPS documents and those of several user groups. I fully support the recommendations made by the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Association in their letter you on March 8, 2016.

I would like to make the following comments on the alternatives that you have proposed on page 51 of the EA .

Morning Beach Openings: I prefer EA Alternative #3 since the beach opening times only change once. The earlier opening time allows birders, fishermen and shell gatherers the opportunity to enjoy sunrise.

Vehicle Free Areas: The CHAPA document addresses VFA's in a very reasonable and agreeable manner. If VFA's are supposed to be "pedestrian friendly", then they should be located close to parking areas. It also makes sense to monitor the use of VFA's during various times of the year to see if expanding Seasonal ORV use to include unused VFA areas would be viable.

ORV Permits: I really like the changes that have been made to the ORV permitting recently. I agree with EA Alternative #2 regarding pass changes.

Access Improvements: I agree with the NPS Alternative #2, especially like the ramp 44 "bypass" and re-designating 45 as a park road. I also look forward to better soundside access. The soundside of the island is an underutilized area primarily due to a lack of access. Though not addressed in any of the proposals, has any thought been given to spacing the access points along the soundside to promote point to point kayak touring?

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1261 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 10:02:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Even Alternative 3 ignores north side of Oregon Inlet, both sides of Hatteras Inlet and South Point on Ocracoke. These spots used to be only closed when used for nesting and should revert to that status as there is no other reason to keep them closed. Also ignored in the calculation of VFA's are the thirteen miles of Pea Island. I realize that Pea Island is not part of the Seashore but when evaluating space for migrating and resting birds it can not be ignored as during these times there is very little use of any kind on Pea Island and is actually a Wildlife Refuge. Alternative 3 needs to be expanded to include Ramp 1 open seasonally, open a full mile north of Ramp 43 as was intended when lifeguard service was moved from the current Ramp 43 to the current lifeguard beach, the bypass south of Ramp 44 needs to be extended both north to Ramp 44 and south another hundred yards to get to open beach, Ramp 45 needs to be opened to the Point when access to the Point is not available due to erosion on the east beach and when there are no bird closures on the south beach along that route, another half mile east of Ramp 48 should be changed to being open year around.

No way should Pole Road be included in the calculation of mileage open for ORV use as the common interpretation of this is beach mileage open for driving and not stretches like pole road and ramps (ocean and sound). Pole Road is actually part of the ramp system south or west of ramp 55 and not beach.

Correspondence ID: 1262 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: While I applaud the NPS for their commitment to preserving the natural and environmental integrity of the Outer Banks National Seashore, I do ask that the powers that be take a moment to stop and ponder the meaning of the word "park". The simple definition, according to Webster's, is " a piece of public land in or near a city that is kept free of houses and other buildings and can be used for pleasure and exercise". This should be the top priority of the NPS, protecting areas for public use. Yes we want to keep it environmentally pure and we want to protect the wildlife and vegetation that make it special, but there has to be some sort of consideration given to those for whose enjoyment the park is created.

Simply stated, access has to be a priority. The continued preservation of Cape Hatteras National Seashore is dependent upon the support of those who love it and revere it. They are the ones who will vote on the policymakers who will pull the purse strings of the NPS and decide the fate of our national parks. Without a point of reference...without access...they will have no reason to support or fund the protection of such a great treasure.

Correspondence ID: 1263 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Hello All,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for what you are doing to make and keep Cape Hatteras the wonderful place it is. To be expedient, I concur with the recommendations as stated in the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance letter dated March 8,2016 in it's entirety and specifically as summarized in the "Comparison of Alternatives Table" on page 10. I pray that the NPS and CHAPA continue to work as a team. The healing has begun, it has to continue.

In addition, I would ask that you look for opportunities to permit continuous beach travel from one ramp to another. I know that might be asking a lot but, it has many benefits, especially to those looking for fish, shelling or just sight seeing.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1264 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 10:18:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1265 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 10:41:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1266 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 10:42:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am an avid surf fisherman and was a frequent visitor to CHNS prior to institution of the ORV rules currently in effect. Since that happened, I have been back only once and it was a disappointing experience. I support the intent of legislation that was passed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2015 to significantly increase ORV access, while still providing for bird and turtle protection, as was reasonably provided for by the older ORV rules. It is well known that the most productive fishing places are at the capes (points) and at the inlets....and that the most productive (and pleasant) times of day for fishing are morning, evening and night. Therefore in keeping with the 2015 legislation, it is important to maximize recreational opportunities that afford those possibilities. I specifically request that the following be incorporated into the new rules:

- 1) Morning Openings for the primary / preferred routes: these should open at 6:00 AM throughout the year and remain open until 10:00 PM. Other routes should open at 7:00 AM. These hours would benefit the fishing experience and allow others to enjoy viewing sunrise and sunset.
- 2) The spring and fall ORV routes should open October 1 and remain open until May 1. This would allow maximum access to the most desirable areas for the greatest period of time, including some of the best surf fishing spots on the mid-Atlantic coast.
- 3) While the Alternative 3 makes some progress in opening more areas to ORV access, it ignores Bodie Island Spit, Hatteras Inlet Spit, the North end of Ocracoke and Ocracoke Island Spit. These need to be accessible since they are some of the very best fishing areas- and are very hard to get to without an ORV- especially for a senior like me.
- 4) Provisions to offer alternative access to prime fishing areas (like Cape Point and Hatteras Inlet Spit) need to be incorporated when weather/beach conditions or wildlife closures restrict use of the primary access routes.

I hope you will incorporate the input of us, the users of CHNS. If so I will come back to enjoy it again.

Correspondence ID: 1267 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I find it extremely disheartening that any consideration is being given to the selfish desire of people for ORV recreation at the expense of native wildlife. Wildlife is already facing extreme pressure on many different fronts because of humans, why add another hazard that will without a doubt further reduce the size of wildlife populations?

Off road vehicles should not be allowed on beaches where wildlife, especially beach-nesting birds, have historically nested, at any time during migration/the breeding season.

Correspondence ID: 1268 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 11:01:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Agree with NPS preferred alternative #2.

Correspondence ID: 1269 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 11:14:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1270 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect the nests of the plovers, etc.
Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1271 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To the National Park Service,
I understand how contentious this situation is, but I am asking you to do your job and uphold your mission, "...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." If the protections put in place for shorebirds and sea turtles over the last several years are dismantled, then the National Park Service will have failed its mission, so please consider the following:
• Beaches need to be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches are open to ORV traffic both before and during nesting season, and that adequate protection for migrating shorebirds is also addressed.
• Open beaches during sea turtle nesting only after beaches have been checked for nests and nests have been adequately protected from vehicle traffic, regardless of time of day.
• Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles and other wildlife. Please restrict ORV use on seasonal ORV routes to cease on March 31st.
• Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers and other shorebirds.
• Use the best available science to protect birds and turtles: pre-nesting closures, adequate buffers, no driving in front of chicks and enumerate specific triggers for closures based on bird behaviors.
• Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.
I am asking you to please do what is in the best interest of the natural resources of the park. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.
Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.
Thank you for considering my comments in your decision making process.

Correspondence ID: 1272 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have been coming to Hatteras since about 1950 (With my father). This was before 4x4's. We fished from 2 wheel drive vehicles with "balloon" tires. I have always fished the Hatteras Inlet area.

I would like the Night time restriction lifted (with the restrictions that overnight is not allowed, and maned fishing lines are required) Some of the best fishing is after sunset.

In the fall, after Turtles and birds, I would like ALL beach restrictions lifted to allow unlimited FISHING.

Correspondence ID: 1273 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I feel recreational fishing is great for family and friends

Correspondence ID: 1274 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the suggestions provided in writing by the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance and North Carolina Beach Buggy Association and Cape Hatteras Anglers Club.

Also please provide more ADA facilities at each ramp along with waste receptacles for trash.

Correspondence ID: 1275 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the written comments by the Cape Hatteras Anglers Club & North Carolina Beach Buggy Association and Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance.

Also, please provide trash containers at each ramp and more ADA friendly access for pedestrians.

Correspondence ID: 1276 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: It seems like I have been putting off writing this letter, maybe it's the high blood pressure and anger and many other people feel about the NPS and what they are doing to our beaches, community, businesses, and life as a whole. I have made my greatest memories here on Hatteras Island, as a young child on up through my young adult life. The beaches, the scenery, the fishing and most importantly the people have a very special place in my heart as I'm sure it does with many other people's. Slowly growing up I have seen our government and a group of people (environmentalist) ruining this beautiful place along with other parks around our great country. It hurts me every day to drive on our beaches to see all the closure signs and ORV access closing more and more every year. Simply do to the politics and money throwing enviros that act like they care more about the environment and wildlife more than good people and fisherman that cherish this place more than anybody. We as fisherman and conservationists do more for the environment and wildlife than any other person(s) there is. It pains me to hear about at the comments and letters coming from the other side of the fence, people who have most likely never been in our beautiful state, let alone visited our little strip of paradise here at Hatteras. These people know nothing of our island and what we really do to protect and enjoy its resources.

I am in support of Alternative 3. We need alternate access to cape point, this is why all of our visitors come from miles and miles away. It eats me up inside telling people all spring, summer, and sometimes parts of fall that they cannot access the most beautiful spot on the island, or in my opinion the whole east coast. It's not about the birds it's about NPS denying access simply because they do not want us out there. Having the point shut down all last summer (2015) for 1 pair of non-endangered oyster catchers really put it over the top for me. The pair of birds lost 3 chicks due to poor participation of the park and their employees. They need to encourage these birds to nest in the area south of the point down to Frisco where the eggs stand the best chance of surviving. The stretch of beach is ALWAYS closed so why not utilize the safest stretch of beach for our birds and turtles to safely nest. This would benefit both populations and have the best survival rate.

In all I am just concerned for our future generations for years to come to not be able to experience what I and other people have enjoyed in young and old age. We need more access to the beaches here, we need OUR beaches back. And most of all we need a working relationship between the park and the people. Hope this letter is viewed, and if it is thank you for your time.

Correspondence ID: 1277 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: My family, fishing friends and I are tremendous fans of the Cape Hatteras Seashore. I usually spend three weeks a year on Hatteras Island. As one of my friends once said, "It's a great place to go if we don't catch fish." I appreciate the opportunity to have input into possible changes with the ORV use rules and comment upon possible proposed changes.

With regard to morning openings of the beach, I would still be in favor of 24 hour access on a year round basis as it was for many years. My second preference would be for 6:00 a.m. openings through the May-September period and then 24 hour access for the remainder of the year. The NPS has done an excellent job of identifying active turtle nests in recent years. The vast majority of ORV beach users also appreciate the NPS making nest passage areas as the hatch window approaches.

In reference to Seasonal ORV Routes, I would be in favor of Alternative 3. The October time period is particularly important to most of us who fish those areas.

I would also be in favor of Alternative 3 in regards to Vehicle Free Areas with some minor adjustments. We are most keenly supportive of an alternative ORV route to Cape Point. If even temporary, a route perhaps behind the dunes or pond road is critical to most of us who fish the Point. Too many times either temporary beach conditions or turtle or bird closures prevent access to the most dynamic surf fishing area on the East coast.

Extensions of ORV routes to the sound sides of Hatteras Inlet on both Hatteras and Ocracoke islands would be useful and pose little conflict with non-ORV visitors. Extending the ORV route from Ramp 4 to the sound side would also help to spread out ORV traffic. We would also support more ORV route area available at Ramp 23.

We certainly appreciate the changes in the permitting process. This action should be more efficient for both users and NPS staff.

Correspondence ID: 1278 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: After a decade of planning efforts, the National Park Service has been tasked by Congress to consider changes to the ORV Management Plan/FE IS and the final rule as required by Section 3057A© of the National Defense Authorization Act of FY 2015. The Act directs the

Secretary of the Interior to undertake a public process once again to consider basically three elements of the existing ORV Management Plan for the National Seashore, while being consistent with management requirements that the National Park Service, as a federal land management agency, must comply with as per the National Park Service original founding document, the NPS Organic Act. Those three elements are:

- 1) Opening beaches of the National Seashore that are closed to night driving, by opening beach segments each morning on a rolling basis as daily management reviews are completed.
- 2) Extending seasonal off-road vehicle routes for additional periods of time in the fall and spring of the year where these extensions will not create resource management problems at the National Seashore.
- 3) Modify the size and location of vehicle free areas.

Extensive and thorough consideration of all three of these elements was given in the original analysis, assessment and creation of the 2010 Final ORV Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement which was then codified with the 2012 final rule to implement the plan/FEIS. Several key considerations for these elements were self-evident at that time and remain critical to the success of the newly established ORV Management Plan today. Two key considerations involve active management on the part of the National Park Service:

1) Do the proposed changes enhance or detract from the balance of the National Seashore as we know it today? The National Seashore has benefitted from four years of consistent management practice since the final rule was implemented in February of 2012. The American people, in general, submitted comments and the majority of those more than 20,000 comments clearly stated they wanted a more balanced National Seashore that provided a variety of opportunities for all forms of recreation and solitude seeking activities; not just catering to one special interest group whose recreational activity of off-road vehicle use of the beaches monopolized, for many years, the majority of the miles of the National Seashore.

2) The second critical key consideration is for the agency to decide whether it can assure the general park visitor and taxpayers of this national treasure, that future management of this issue, now resolved by a 10-year planning process following a 30-plus year period of noncompliance with two Presidential Orders, hire and retain enough qualified wildlife biologists staff and law enforcement staff to ensure compliance and active enforcement of the new ORV Management Plan for a balanced Seashore? This is critical to opening the beaches earlier, to the extension of seasonal off-road vehicle route dates in the shoulder seasons of the year and to ensure adequate signage is actively maintained so that the visiting public is aware of park regulations and where the various ORV routes vs vehicle free areas for pedestrians exist and to ensure that pets off-leash are prohibited and enforced.

Note: one dog running loose through a colonial waterbird colony of hundreds of birds can disrupt an entire season of shorebird breeding success for that particular area.

Note: how can someone be expected to know if they are on an ORV route or in a vehicle free area or in a protected wildlife area if there is not adequate signage?

My comments on the three areas of consideration are:

- 1) Opening beaches of the National Seashore that are closed to night driving, by opening beach segments each morning on a rolling basis as daily management reviews are completed.

Sounds easy enough but complicated when the reality of staffing is factored into this scenario. Limited numbers of staff are required to cover over 68 miles of Seashore beaches each morning to protect the breeding wildlife that come to the National Seashore each summer. The early morning surveys are critical to protection of wildlife species and the collection of necessary data in order to be consistent with management requirements of federally protected threatened and endangered shorebirds and nesting sea turtles. A limited number of biological staff increase the danger that sections of the National Seashore will not be adequately surveyed causing the park to be out of compliance with management requirements.

The original 7:00 a.m. opening was chosen to give staff proper time, during daylight hours, to haul heavy equipment, established protected areas where needed, and to adequately survey the ORV routes BEFORE users accessed the beaches in order to avoid conflict with the user group (ORV) and breeding wildlife. An extension of even 30 minutes may also possibly contribute to an increase in employee injury who must perform their work in the predawn darkness just to ensure that a gate is opened at 6:30 a.m. instead of 7:00 a.m. The National Park Service may be better served to choose two important areas, the two most frequently asked for areas to early morning ORV fishermen, such as Cape Point near Buxton and South Point on Ocracoke, and agree that those two areas will be a priority for opening no later than 6:30 am during periods of time that breeding bird and sea turtle populations are not conducting breeding activity along these routes. The remaining route opening times should remain at 7:00 a.m.

In the original planning efforts and negotiated rulemaking sessions for the FEIS and final rule, if the arguing factions had been able to compromise on more access to the two previously mentioned areas, the east side of Cape Point and the east side of South Point, the vast majority of the contentious and heated debates would have ceased almost immediately.

- 2) Extending seasonal off-road vehicle routes for additional periods of time in the fall and spring of the year where these extensions will not create resource management problems in the National Seashore.

The alternatives list a variety of options. My comment would be, for consistency sake, no change in the spring dates as National Park Service records seem to confirm that shorebirds begin to arrive and scope out nesting habitat by the middle of March, even though weather patterns and conditions vary annually. The extension of the fall date by a period of two weeks for the fall fishing season, the most popular and extensively used fishing season by anglers, should be given serious consideration. What few sea turtle nests remaining in the ground in fall can be monitored and protected while opening a route for ORV access.

The next 5 year review phase (in 2021) can then consider the merits of extending either spring and fall seasons again or leave them as stated in this EA. The 5 year review was established to incorporate scientific data necessary to inform then current managers, how the National Seashore is responding to this new, more balanced way of managing America's first National Seashore. (The initial 5-year review was scheduled for 2017 and since this date was bumped up by one year due to Congressional interference, the next 5 year review date should be reset to 2021 and some mention of the confirmed date of the next 5-year review for 2021 should be made in the final analysis of this environment assessment for consideration of changes to the final rule.)

- 3) Modify the size and location of vehicle free areas.

With a few exceptions, the modification of the size and location of vehicle free areas should not be altered. The National Seashore is more balanced now with equal distribution of areas for a variety of recreational opportunities; for the protection of breeding species of wildlife; for beachgoers who prefer to engage their senses in the natural world around them without having a motor vehicle suddenly approach them or threaten the safety of children playing on

the beach.

Ramp 2 - A slight adjustment allowing ORV access to begin at Ramp 2 south to connect with access from Ramp 4, is a financially responsible decision to avoid the necessity of building yet another costly ORV ramp. However, it is imperative that this area be a seasonal ORV route to keep conflicting park activities from happening. This area forms the boundary of the Coquina Day Use area; a heavily used, popular family beach in the summertime. A great deal of pedestrian traffic can be found in this area and conflicts with ORV traffic should be avoided, same as is seen at any of the other village beaches both in the Seashore and in townships of Nags Head, Kill Devil Hills, and Kitty Hawk. As with all areas of the National Seashore, adequate and consistent signage to separate conflicting beach use is of utmost importance to the success of the ORV Management Plan.

Ramp 45 - The proposal to reopen Ramp 45 and re-designate an old ORV route from Ramp 45 to the beach as a park road should not be given any consideration and no changes should occur in this section of the park. The Cape Point vehicle free area provides the best opportunity for park visitors to see the National Seashore as it has existed for decades wild and free! The plethora of breeding and resting wild life of all species that frequent this section of the Seashore would be adversely impacted by any human disturbance. This area has historically been an area that sees the highest concentration of piping plovers, American oystercatchers, peregrine falcons, Snowy owls, and thousands of resting oceanic bird species like the cormorants and gannets.

Proposing to build a parking area in this section is not financially sound as the interdunal area floods frequently and presents yet another expensive challenge for the National Park Service to maintain a huge infrastructure for vehicle access. Not every single section and mile of the National Seashore needs to be accessible by vehicle. Reopening vehicle access to the Ramp 45 area is troubling and a bad idea.

Ramp 59 - No changes to Ramp 59. The National Park Service is constructing a new Ramp 63 to provide ORV access to additional miles of beach, even though few Ocracoke residents expressed interest in building more ocean ramps. They did express a great deal of interest in additional soundside access for the island residents and visitors.

The north end of Ocracoke Island is undergoing extensive natural changes and massive expanses of sand flats are moving and shifting due to natural erosion and accretion. With each new ramp constructed, the National Park Service is providing yet another break in the existing duneline for the chance of ocean overwash and future problems in keeping Highway 12 stabilized.

Soundside Access on Ocracoke - This needs to be accomplished as soon as possible. These soundside access areas are on dirt or gravel roads and would/should require an ORV permit to access these areas, the same as in other areas of the National Seashore, that are off the paved highway.

ORV Permit Lengths/Costs - This issue is outside the scope of the review required in the Congressional Act and should not be given any consideration nor should any changes be made at this time.

Next Periodic Review - The Congressional Act forced the National Park Service to conduct the review earlier than planned by a year. The resulting changes to wildlife protection buffers and possible pending changes in the three elements addressed in this current EA will impact scientific data collection for the very breeding wildlife species that an ORV Management plan is designed to protect. Multiple changes in park management policies of a specific park permitted activity (such as ORV use) breeds confusion and misunderstandings with the people who frequent and visit the National Seashore. The 5-year periodic review "clock" should be reset and wait five years (2021) before considering further changes in the ORV plan or special regulation. The 5-year timeframe allows for new policy trends to be established, reversal of declining wildlife population recovery, and the collection of such data necessary to base sound and wise judgement decisions for the future of Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

In closing, an agency can have all the policies and rules that any number of people can write but unless the National Park Service has adequate staffing needed to consistently implement the elements of those policies, it will fail. Too many times in the past I have walked the beaches of Cape Hatteras National Seashore and personally observed numerous violations of park regulations, signs missing and boundaries unmarked, no patrol rangers in sight and dogs running loose scaring not only birds but people too, who may not find a large, excitable animal running headlong at them at breakneck speed such a wonderful park experience. We do not want to see a return of the lawless behavior observed in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Over the past decade, staff worked diligently with much thought and public input to bring the National Park Service into compliance with two Presidential Orders and numerous other management requirements regarding the management of off-road vehicles in park units. The ORV Management Plan for Cape Hatteras National Seashore is working; the beaches are more balanced and experience a more responsible use from a variety of park users. I am asking the current management of Cape Hatteras National Seashore to stand by your guiding principles and founding documents that makes the National Park Service and the landscapes under your preview, treasured landscapes for ALL American citizens and countless international visitors that come to our region annually. Stay the course!

Correspondence ID:	1279	Project:	59571	Document:	70928
Received:	Mar,16,2016 00:00:00				
Correspondence Type:	Letter				
Correspondence:	I know you are trying to do a good job but we need an alternative route to the Cape Point. The road to nowhere could be used as another way to the Point. The more vegetation out there is pushing the birds closer to the ocean to nest and doesn't give them a chance to have a successful hatching rate. The birds need to be pushed back and then we can go to Cape Point and everyone is happy.				

Permits

The time permits are issued should be a year from that time they are purchased. There should be day permits also. Not everyone that comes down is here for a week.

It is a shame my kids can't experience what I did going to the Cape Point every evening catching Spanish and Bluefish.

Please try and be fair for all of us.

Correspondence ID:	1280	Project:	59571	Document:	70928
Received:	Mar,16,2016 00:00:00				
Correspondence Type:	Letter				

Correspondence: I know you are trying to do a good job but we need an alternative route to the Cape Point. The road to nowhere could be used as another way to the Point. The more vegetation out there is pushing the birds closer to the ocean to nest and doesn't give them a chance to have a successful hatching rate. The birds need to be pushed back and then we can go to Cape Point and everyone is happy.

Permits

The time permits are issued should be a year from that time they are purchased. There should be day permits also. Not everyone that comes down is here for a week.

It is a shame my kids can't experience what I did going to the Cape Point every evening catching Spanish and Bluefish.

Please try and be fair for all of us.

Correspondence ID: 1281 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: It was good seeing you at the public meeting in Buxton. Did you ever have the environmental folks show up? None at our meeting and I figure it is the same everywhere.

I hope what our friend [REDACTED] said at the meeting made sense to you. For forever and all time, our families have fished; shell hunted, taught our kids to swim and just simply get together and hang out. Every Sunday afternoon, we would meet on the south side of the Cape Point down about 500 yards and enjoy an evening off. This has been stolen from us by the environmental - lobbyists who never seem to enjoy anything except making money off of NPS.

I am in support of Alternative 3 and having more access to the Cape Point area. Frankly, like everyone at the public meeting I do not understand why there is no alternative access to Cape Point. I can only guess that there are a great many in NPS who simply want to do as much harm to our community and to the reputation of NPS that this access is not even being considered. Our son [REDACTED] spoke at the last public meeting (March 3rd) feeling compelled and concerned about his future and access to these areas in the Park. His concern was being able to access areas reasonably for years to come. I'm not sure what to tell him in regards to recreational access.

Mostly I think about my son and what his future holds down here. It sure seems like besides paying money, he will never be able to fish and swim and do all of the things this recreational seashore was put here for. There is a great deal more to life than simply looking at birds. We, as people of this community, have done more for the birds as conservationists than any environmentalist throwing money around and threatening lawsuits. Our community has come to the table (in good faith) on many different topics of how to better solve these problems of the National Park. I cannot say that I see compromise or good solutions coming from the environmental side of things.

Our retirees and physically- challenged Seniors have a hard time understanding why we had most of these areas just blankly taken away. The historical and heritage factor that was significant to these areas of closed beaches has been disregarded. Please consider the comments from members of this community that actually use these areas. Please ensure that our recreational access to our Park is good for the future of our children and the resources and that it is not just closed without good science instead of being closed systematically just to deny access.

Correspondence ID: 1282 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 14:00:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Having reviewed the proposed modifications to the ORV plan, I support the changes put forth by the CHAPA. I feel that these changes incorporate the best of the possible alternatives. I support more flexibility in designating access corridors depending on the seasonal use, resource management, and physical configuration of the beach. I think our Park Superintendent needs the discretion to modify according to conditions at the time. I feel that the VFAs are misunderstood and underutilized as designed. The one east of the Frisco Airport ramp especially should be re-evaluated and opened in the off season. The new interdunal road is nice, but needs at least one more ramp to help get around the VFA. Making the permits annual from date of purchase will certainly take the sting out of having to have them at all. I support an additional option of a 2 week permit, also from date of issuance.

Correspondence ID: 1283 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 14:12:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

March 17, 2016

Superintendent
Outer Banks Group
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, NC 27954

Superintendent Hallac,

I strongly endorse the "no-action" alternative. None of my friends want to see any changes made to the final rule and I believe that the majority of CHNS visitors don't either. Congress instructed the NPS to "consider" implementing a change to the VFAs and seasonal openings adjacent to the village beaches. With that in mind I believe that the "no action" alternative is best choice.

Opening seasonally closed to ORV beaches behind the villages earlier than current regulations are now will put non-ORV users at risk, worse so in low light and high water conditions. The park does not have the LEO's to adequately patrol or protect these areas. Most resource infractions listed in the incident reports are unresolved. How can the Park keep pedestrians safe if they can't resolve the current infractions? In addition all the Park beaches are in a

highly eroded state where the ORV trail is the entire beach. I have witnessed, in a very short time frame (less than 24 hours) beaches in front of the villages become so narrow that at high water there is less than 20 feet between the dunes and tide line. This is not just a recreational conflict between two user groups but a safety issue as well. The fall tourist season is longer each year with increased visitation in the Park through the New Year. In particular Frisco and Hatteras village beaches have pedestrian accessing and recreating on these beaches the entire year. I am opposed to changing the seasonal opening and closing on any village beaches.

There is a common misconception that VFAs were established solely as pedestrian beaches. The VFAs were chosen on the basis of 3 main criteria, they are: 1. Resource areas that historically have been of high value to wildlife. 2. High use pedestrian beaches that had easy access and infrastructure that supported non ORV access. 3. Remote areas that preserved primitive wilderness beach habitat.

All the current VFAs are important for specific reasons and were decided in a painstaking compromise in the final 2012 ORV rule. It is unwise to reduce any VFAs particularly those beaches that constitute the best primitive wilderness the park has left to offer. The fact that some of these beaches are less frequented by visitors is not a valid reason for changing parts of them to ORV routes.

National parks all over the USA are gearing up for the auspicious 100-year anniversary of the NPS and receiving huge numbers of visitors. Many national parks have hard choices to make in regulating human traffic and preserving National Park values, which include solitude and natural vistas. The current CHNS VFAs were a compromise that insured ORV access to a considerable portion of this national seashore (which impacts those values) while protecting core NPS values in other areas of the Park. This compromise in CHNS included new ORV trails (the interdunal road between ramp 45 and ramp 49) and new ORV ramps to accommodate ORV interests. Many visitors are not happy with those changes but accepted them in the spirit of compromise for the final ORV rule.

I have lived here since 1973 and was a regular visitor to this park since the late 1950's. I distinctly remember what the "primitive wilderness" that was discussed in the Enabling Legislation looked like. For years I watched NPS procrastinate in implementing any significant policy that addressed the loss of "primitively wilderness". Then in 2012 the new ORV rule, that was years in the making, and had been fully vetted by NEPA was put into affect. It is disheartening that Congressman Jones and powerful local special interest groups (ORV users) have now circumvented this process and dictated new changes to the final ORV rule forcing the NPS to take a step back from the first comprehensive attempt to manage resources and values in CHNS.

I appreciate the chance to comment on these proposed changes and thank you for considering my input. I realize how hard park managers have worked on this. I know this is a difficult process and trust the NPS to not make change to the final ORV rule.

Respectfully ,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1284 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 14:49:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My name is [REDACTED] and I have resided in Buxton with my family since 1965. I went to Cape Hatteras School and graduated East Carolina University in 1974. After college, I returned to live full time and worked in our family business. Our business is the Red Drum Shopping Center located 100 yards from the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area entrance. I bought my family's business about 15 years ago. It is the only job I have ever worked! I have been a volunteer in the Buxton Volunteer Fire Dept for 25 years and have had the honor of being the President of the Outer Banks Preservation Association since 2000. I raised my family on the beaches of Cape Hatteras. My daughters learned to surf, fish, crab, catch shrimp and oysters, learned to drive on the beach and we learned to respect the flora and fauna and the beauty of the beach and sea!

My livelihood, as is everyone's is to provide for the visitor's experience. We sell the beach! I have, at my location, a Carquest Auto Parts store, an auto repair center, gas and food mart. We supply the visitors all of their daily needs while they are here, normally for 7-14 days. They love Cape Hatteras and return every year. Since the last 5 years, the visitors and residents have witnessed over protection of the resources by the NPS and environmentalists. We certainly agree to the protection of nesting birds, turtles, wildlife and plants trees etc. But what has occurred since the ORV rule is a governmental over-reach that punishes the local population that cares for the visitors!

I would like to respond to the EA modifications on the ORV Rule

1. ORV Permits

My suggestion is to modify the current ORV permit to a fiscal year and not a calendar year. Day of purchase, to the day of expiration of the next year. Model off the North Carolina Saltwater fishing license program and continue on-line registration! Extend the 7 day permit to a 10 day permit. This will simplify the ORV purchase for the residents and visitors. EA modifications to accept Alternative 2.

2. Morning beach openings

Open the beaches at 5:30 AM. Early bird gets the worm! Most fish are caught because the bait fish are in darkness and scattered and don't have the safety of schooling until dawn occurs! The predatory fish then can single out and feed on the fish until they school up for safety! Make ramps 2,4,25,43,44,49,70 and 72 priority considerations. NPS should consider housing personnel in the campground in mobile trailers to help facilitate the early opening times. All other ramps could open at 6:00 AM. NPS needs to keep these priority ramps open until 10 PM. NPS has little data on the risk of the birds and turtles being in mortal danger. 10:00 PM is about dark not 9:00 PM in the summertime. Fishermen need this 10:00 time to clear the beach. Remember dawn and dusk are the two best times to catch fish! Why not have civilian volunteer help to close when needed. NPS needs to think about providing all night Drum Fishing hours. Red Drum are the prize catch on Cape Hatteras! EA alternative 3 with 5:30 AM openings for priority ramps with 10:00 Pm closing works best.

3. Seasonal ORV Routes

Orv routes need to be readjusted to open by Oct 1st in the fall and to remain open to April 30th in the Spring. I believe Nags Head does this with little

problem! Visitors need this, both pedestrians and mobile fishermen. These times used to be Sept 15 with May 15th in the spring. EA modification to accept Alternative 3.

4. VFA's

These areas are not being used. These were a first time recommendation at Neg-Reg. No thought was given to this over reach proposal while consensus objected to this over-reach! Most of these VFA's should be readjusted to Seasonal Closures. I support OBPA's VFA recommendations which are realistic and will not impair resource protection.

5. Access Improvements

Cape point needs to be opened all year!!!!!! Consider extending bypass to the base of Ramp 44 and make a permanent corridor for access! How about designate ramp 45 as a route and construct a sizable parking lot for pedestrian access to the South Beach and the Hook. How about some sound side access to Bodie Island? This was widely discussed at Neg-Reg! Bodie Island doesn't have any safe "kids area" to swim in safety. NPS has done a good job on Ramps but let's require them to be two-way approved. Update the safety aspect.

Thank you for time! [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1285 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Open up "the point".

Correspondence ID: 1286 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I oppose the proposed changes to the rule for public use of Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Hatteras is important to me for its recreational value. My family has been vacationing there for many years. But I am ESPECIALLY interested in protecting it as a habitat for birds and turtles, many of which are endangered or threatened species. Extending the hours and times of year when off-road vehicles are allowed on the beach would put birds, turtles, and their nests in unnecessary danger. Allowing off-road vehicle access in the morning before the beach has been checked for nests, eggs and chicks would cause needless damage and death. Many of these bird populations are already in decline from other environmental pressures. They should not be subjected to orv traffic running carelessly through their nesting, mating & feeding habitat.

Correspondence ID: 1287 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

-Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open at night. There is no basis for nighttime closures as other Seashores do not do this.

-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by closing on April 15th and opening on September 15th to coincide with NCDOT highway speed changes, instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted. VFA are a disguised land grab by NPS that are vastly underused, because as in the case of South Beach you must hike a country mile to get to them.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit. Cape Point is the Old Faithful of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area and the American People deserve access.

-Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to

restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1288 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My husband and I can only hope that the beaches will stay open for pedestrian and vehicle traffic. We have enjoyed the beaches this way our entire lives and want our grandchildren and great grandchildren to have the same opportunity to enjoy them that we did.

We have lived in this area our entire lives and have seen what the closures do the the social and economic areas of our coast.

Please keep them open and free.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1289 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 17:30:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Name

Address: Street, City, State, Zip [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1290 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a beach lover and NC resident, I understand the attraction of people to beach access. But it seems common sense that recreation convenience for humans should take a back seat to life and death for animal species. Driving is a privilege, not a right, even on public highways. Restricting vehicle access is a no-brainer. On my home beach in Panhandle Florida, no one drives on the sand, ever. It's too soft! Surely, NC residents can find another form of transportation.

Correspondence ID: 1291 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am counting on the NPS to protect our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.

Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

Rules should include adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.

Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Correspondence ID: 1292 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We the undersigned concur in the CHNS proposed changes [Alternative 2] to the current ORV Rule with the following comments. [1] Sound access needs to increase along the Pole Road...access roads were damaged during Hurricane Isabel and were never rebuilt. At a minimum additional

parking areas need to be established along the road...the one parking area now along the road needs to be enlarged. 2] Most sound access roads along Highway 12 need to be widened so vehicles do not block the road and wide enough to allow for two way access and parking. 3] CHNS needs to re=assess the need for signs every 10 to 15 feet to inform people that vehicles are not allow beyond this point. The number of signs will not stop the idiots from driving beyond the signs. CHNS is a beautiful park and the number of signs take away from the beauty of this unique area of our country. 4] There needs to be an internal [sp] road from Ramp 44 to the "Point Area" for access and safety reasons during period of extreme high water. The existing short by[pass road in the "Narrows Area" is not accessible at times. 5] The highest priority should be placed on getting additional enforcement rangers authorized and filling the existing vacant positions. Many other areas of concern are currently being addressed by CHNS and the current leadership/administration of CHNS is applauded for these actions.

Respectfully, [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1293 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 18:49:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Alternative 3 is the choice that we stand behind and ask be adopted.

My family and I are avid supporters of the people and businesses of the areas that fall within the areas being decided upon. Our travels were at a high point (10 plus trips yearly) during the mid to late 90's and have fallen to a low during the 2010-2015 time frame (1 trip yearly). We supported local businesses through home rentals to food expense to money spent on recreation (fishing, shelling, wildlife watching).

Our trips were in many ways the highlight of our year. We had every intention to bring our children up knowing the joy that we experienced while visiting. Because our time on the beach and in the area was based on our ability to access the beaches via motor vehicle, especially with small children, we became more and more frustrated with the restrictions that seemed to become more and more the norm. This created frustration and at some times resentment for those that were creating what we saw as irresponsible decisions based on the pressures to do so that followed no sensible logic.

In spite of these frustrations and restriction, we continued to make our trips, though fewer and farther between. We followed the rules and did not violate the restrictions that were in place. This created a much less enjoyable experience due to the limited area open to vehicle traffic and the resulting congestion that could be eliminated with more open areas to spread traffic out in. We tried to make the best of the situation and enjoy what was left open to enjoy.

I strongly support fewer restrictions and encourage the adoption of sensible and responsible rules and guidelines. Of the options outlined above, Alternative 3 is the plan that would result in goodwill and increased park use by those like myself and my family who dearly love the seashore.

Correspondence ID: 1294 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Mr. Hallac,

I am a long time and frequent visitor to the Outer Banks and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. My children have grown up fishing and camping at Cape Hatteras. Many years of fun times with my family driving to the point, and various other areas along the beach. Now I want my grandchildren to have the same experiences. I have even considered retiring to the area.

I sincerely believe that the ORV management has been seriously flawed for a number of years. Though the Park Service has made some improvements during your tenure, there are considerable steps that must be taken to make sure that access to the beaches for recreation purposes is maintained.

I fully support the recommendations made by the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Association in their letter you on March 8, 2016.

With respect to the alternatives that you have proposed on page 51 of the EA document, I would like to make the following comments.

Morning Beach Openings: I am an avid angler and sunrise is one of the prime times of the day that fish feed. Wildlife and birds are also active in the early morning hours. Fishermen and bird watchers would both benefit from opening the priority routes earlier. I prefer EA Alternative #3 since it is a simpler plan (one time change instead of two).

Vehicle Free Areas: Frankly some of the current VFA's make no sense. Some like ramp 45 have no parking within a reasonable walk from the beach. To me it makes sense to make pedestrian friendly areas into VFA's during the peak tourist season and to make the less pedestrian friendly areas into ORV areas. The CHAPA proposal is well thought out and addresses both the needs of the ORV and pedestrian beach user groups. One area that especially needs to be addressed is access to Cape Point. The road from Ramp 44 to the point needs a "bypass" to be built away from the erosion zone. Plus a second alternative access needs to be built from Ramp 45 (left). Both ramp 44 and 45 are both very pedestrian "unfriendly" because of a lack of parking and the walking distance involved with walking to the beach.

ORV Permits: It never made sense to me that the original permitting process steered people away from the most cost effective delivery system (internet) and to the most expensive option (manned offices). I really like the changes that have been made to the ORV permitting recently. I believe that the new system will result in lower administrative costs (primarily by reducing the number of personnel needed to man the permit offices) and a better user experience. This will bring more visitors to the park and more net revenue for the many projects that are needed. Expanding the 7 day pass to 10 days is a good idea as is transitioning to a twelve month pass from a calendar year pass. I believe these are the same proposals as Alternative #2.

Access Improvements: I agree with the NPS Alternative #2, especially like the ramp 44 "bypass" and re-designating 45 as a park road. I look forward to better sound side access. The sound side of the island is an underutilized area because of access problems. Though not addressed in any of the proposals, I would like to see launch areas for kayaks added to the ramps. The sound side of Ocracoke would be an excellent area to promote kayak touring and fishing. Building launch spots with parking would allow people to paddle up or down the island (depending on the wind) or from point to point. Having regularly spaced sound side access would increase safety as well. Sometimes it is impossible to paddle into the wind. Any experienced paddler will attest that having a nearby and downwind access point could be a lifesaver should a storm come up.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1295 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My family and I have been coming to the Outer banks every year sometimes twice a year for over 30 years. We love the southern beaches, Frisco, Hatteras Village proper. We rent a house on the beach with our extended family. We swim, fish, shell and generally mess around on the beach. After the recent restrictions and limits on beach access our enjoyment of the park has diminished. While I appreciate the need to protect the wildlife habitat and nesting areas I feel the most recent closures and restrictions are almost punitive. It appears to me the underlying mission of the park service is to discourage fishermen and ORV traffic and eventually eliminate beach driving altogether. Personally I would like to see the pendulum swing back toward the middle between unfettered access and the current situation. I feel wildlife and beach plants could be protected while loosening some of the current restrictions. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
regards, [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1296 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As you can see from my memberships listed above I thoroughly enjoy surf fishing both in New Jersey & Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I began my surf fishing at Cape Hatteras in 1989. Since that time I have traveled every year from Pennsylvania to surf fish at this beautiful location. Since recently retiring from local government after 43 of service I have learned to appreciate both sides in most any situation. I also travel to the Outer Banks for two weeks every Autumn to fish & would love to see the ORV access rights expanded. I am well aware that both of the above mentioned membership groups have responded & I did feel it was necessary to respond in person & appreciate the ability to do so. Thank You, [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1297 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I feel that the vehicle free areas are already to large. I have witnessed many times how pedestrians park in the vehicle parking lots and walk to where all the people with vehicles are to enjoy the beach. Many, many times the vehicle free areas are empty or almost deserted. I believe that more area for vehicles on the beach should be reinstated. I also would like to make myself clear. I do not think that the vehicle free areas at the national seashore should be enlarged. These areas are wasted and not used by pedestrians most of the time. This is a national treasure . Special interest groups with deep pockets should not , under any circumstance , have influence on this decision . Thank you for your consideration,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1298 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 19:43:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Public feedback has weighed in support of the status quo concerning the present Vehicle Free Areas (VFA). I also support this No Action alternative. No changes are required since the NPS was asked to only "consider" making modifications. The current Final Rule is already a product of much compromise after it underwent the lengthy NEPA process. Year-round VFAs were established to allow visitors to safely experience park values different from those experienced on ORV beaches. Equally important, some VFA locations were also chosen to protect "primitive wilderness" as ruled by the Enabling Legislation. By their very nature, some of the more remote sites are less visited than others. This should not be a measure of their worth. No VFA should be eliminated or compromised by seasonal opening to ORVs.

Seasonal VFAs along developed village beachfronts provides pedestrians with a safer environment and less altered landscape than other options. Further restricting the dates of seasonal VFAs is not reasonable or responsible in light of their growing pedestrian use during the shoulder season.

I also prefer keeping the daily reopening of ORV beaches at 7 AM during the turtle nesting season. Earlier openings should only be considered if NPS could adequately survey beaches during daylight hours in a manner that would not compromise locating and protecting nests or put undue pressure on their limited resource management staff.

Correspondence ID: 1299 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 20:05:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Sent from my iPad

My family first came to the Outer Banks in 1977. We have been stewards of this beach always leaving it better than when we came. The Department of Interior, The NPS, Audubon, Defenders of Wildlife and the Southern Environmental Law Center have turned this paradise for all Americans into a nightmare accessible only by the government and special interest groups. The closures and regulations implemented are arbitrary and capricious. The science used is not peer reviewed and many decisions are made based upon opinion not facts.

I believe we need to protect our natural resources not restrict and shut down the beaches. The NPS closures are huge for animals not even on the endangered species list. The NPS has eradicated almost all predators from the island, one side effect of this, cottonmouths are everywhere. What happened to Nature? Even your own National Park Biologists say the closures do not work. Avian predation is the most aggressive factor affecting fledglings, are they going to start shooting the birds they deem unfit for the seashore?

The National Park Service has collected millions of dollars for off road permits, yet little of this money is used to support off road access. Millions has been spent building parking lots, bath facilities and boardwalks over the dunes. Why not start charging pedestrians for access and use that money for their facilities.

Recreational fishing is what drives the economy year round, yet regulations seem to be aimed at making this activity as unpleasant as possible. Who ever heard of beaches opening at 7 am? The bite is over then for many of the desired species. The NPS says they want to sleep in, well we bought the permit, we pay you get up. Much of the year you do not even see a park ranger at that time, but when they are there they enthusiastically write to tickets to anyone who goes on early. Beaches should open 24/7, at least open the beaches at Sunrise and close them as late as possible, night fishing has always been fun with a sky full of stars.

ORV travel should be allowed everywhere except in front of the villages. There are many areas that were temporarily closed when this all started and have never opened again, that is not temporary. Why is it the birds you set up these massive closures for are around my feet when I am fishing or sitting watching the waves. No one has ever taken into account that Cape Hatteras is the southern most point for northern breeding birds and northernmost point for southern breeding birds, some birds being protected were not seen on cape Hatteras for many years.

The Nation Park Service is also creating an environmental catastrophe by not opening the drains and spillways along lighthouse road. The do this so the road floods and limits beach access. They have killed many many acres of forest essentially drowning it. Then there is the issue of mesquitos which love the wet environment of standing water. The reason given, they do not want to pollute the ocean with the runoff.

All of your alternatives are not in the interest of those who want to use the beach. It is obvious you did not use people in favor of fair access to come up with these alternatives. Cape point should have a road behind the dunes all the way out, a corridor. This would also greatly improve public safety.

Congress passed legislation to review and improve access, the National Park Service is ignoring the directive set forth.

Correspondence ID: 1300 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I wish to thank everyone for their efforts to manage the ORV usage on the outer banks but I do not think your plan "option2" is in the best interest of all current and future users. Perhaps you have not witnessed the way families and friends fellowship on these beaches. Maximizing the available usage areas is in the best interest of all possible users and ensures that we are "having dominion over the earth" as specified by our LORD and CREATOR. I fully support the recommendations made by CHAPA and NCBBA. Thank you for your time and may GOD richly bless you.

Correspondence ID: 1301 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 20:13:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area (CHNSRA). Both Alternatives 2 and 3 offer meaningful and much needed improvements in several areas for visitors to CHNSRA and recreational fisherman. The document states the National Park Service (NPS) is in favor of Alternative 2. Conversely, I support Alternative 3, which offers extended ORV use in the spring and fall and opens more of the Vehicle Free Areas (VFA).

Despite the improvements offered, I respectfully urge NPS to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors and offer more access to larger portions CHNSRA for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

1. Morning beach openings: Alternatives 2 and 3 both open the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year. I believe the seashore should open at 6AM on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10PM.
2. Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall as offered in Alternative 3 instead of the proposed two weeks in the NPS preferred Alternative 2.
3. Vehicle-free areas: I am truly disappointed that more of the VFA's are not being restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted. The VFA's are too large and there is simply too much of CHNSRA closed for vehicular access. These closures are not being utilized by the public.
4. Access Improvements: Alternatives 2 and 3 offer the same important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point. There is simply no justification for Cape Point being closed as much as it has been. The VFA on the south side of Cape Point is too large and only accessible by ORV. This area provides ample space for a (temporary) corridor to reach Cape Point when the conditions warrant.
5. Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and appreciated. I can easily support the changes offered in either Alternative 2 or 3. Congress intended for meaningful access improvements to be made when they passed legislation requiring the current review process. From the Alternatives offered, Alternative 3 offers the greatest improvement. I support Alternative 3 and urge you to consider the additional suggestions offered above.

Respectfully,

Correspondence ID: 1302 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 20:16:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The existing bypass to the Point should also be extended South as far as possible toward the Point. Please do not let Wildlife activity or active nest(s) close access to the point Please add a provision in the rule should be provided for a temporary ORV route from the West to the Point thru that VFA, only made active if the East beach and bypass are not usable to ORVs. The provision should include both the use of Salt Pond Rd or Ramp 45 as appropriate.
The corridor on the beach thru the VFA should not be firmly located but be flexible as to location so it could even "snake" over to the Point, sometimes using the foreshore, then the backshore, then the foreshore, etc etc to get around resource closures.

Please reopen the "old road" at the turnoff between south Avon and the Haulover to be able to accommodate more than 4 cars.

Please rebuild the parking area north of Buxton that was destroyed during Hurricane Isabel.

Please sell beach passes so that they are good for 12 months from the time of purchase.

Correspondence ID: 1303 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: NPS has made some progress providing more access to the park and not having a permit for the calendar but a year from purchase is huge. Still, there is a lot of beach that remain VF area year around. I have been coming to the Outer Banks with my 4x4 truck since 1971 and I can see no logical reason why so much beach is closed north of 34 and between cape point and 49. Between the cape and 49 should only be closed during breeding season. North of 34, closed to vehicles only during the time nesting birds are observed. I think expanding seasonal closures a few weeks is fine but certainly a point can be made to open it up in the fall 4 weeks earlier. Breeding season is through and most of the village people are gone for the season.

Correspondence ID: 1304 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: When I have been to the seashore in Hatterss or Outer Banks, I do not care to see numerous cars or trucks in the sand where all types of birds, turtles and other animals that called the beaches home! For goodness sake, the people have plenty of places to drive and beaches to enjoy. Please, do not allow this to pass!! Encrignment on nature is rampant in this country!! And that's the easy way! Let's show the world that NC will not be the ones to let nature be killed just so that people can be entertained!! It's just not worth it!

Correspondence ID: 1305 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 21:32:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My family has been going to the outer banks area around Hatteras since the early 1960's when you could fish without a license, drive on the beach without a permit and just about all the beach was open to drive on. There were metal "bridges" over the dunes to get on and off the beach at certain points along the primitive highway 12. I realize those days are gone but why must more and more restrictions be placed on the owners of the national seashore by the NPS? We used to consider the NPS rangers our friends and would attend their park talks while camping at cape point and our kids learned so much.

I've known a lot of beach goers, fishermen, locals and others, none of which want to instinctually kill a bird, turtle, or any other native animal making their home on the outer banks. If these animals can survive the way the beaches were managed in the 1960's they surely can survive now with 1/2 of the restrictions placed on the beach goer today.

My youngest daughter recently got married and we wanted to take them to Buxton and she did not want to go with the present state of restricted beach driving now in place in the summer which restricts our favorite area, cape point. It's never open in the summer. So until this changes I guess we won't be back. As far as the alternatives go I would like to see option #2 adopted and allow there to be access to cape point by an alternative route if possible.

Correspondence ID: 1306 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am 64 years and have fished the outer banks my whole life. The great majority being surf fishing but also much inshore sport and commercial, some offshore sport fishing. For two years helped run a two beach dory seine net operation out of the old coast gaurd station in Kitty Hawk N.C. (now the black pelican resteraunt) Back in those days it was easy to have a close relationship with the history of the islands, live as one with the sea, and to know the natural joy of true beach life. After the commercialization of the upper banks my circle of fishing friends moved south father from the tourist norm and big box shopping malls. Fishing oregan inlet to Okracoke was just fine for many years. Then came the government restrictions on surf fishermen. No one seemed to mind paying for fishing license or beach permits. However it seemed that the good spirited payment to government programs of conservation (fish and bird protections) started to work against the very people that were paying in with good faith. Now you good people need to listen, the vast majority of beach fisherman are conservation minded naturalists. Go ahead and restrict beach driving permits to folks with proper gear, vehicles and experience. Open the beaches back up. It's our land, let the citizens have use of their own lands.

Correspondence ID: 1307 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 21:40:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed action.

I am in favor of Alternative 3.

Although I'm not a frequent visitor of Cape Point I believe an alternate ORV route to the Point should be provided thru either Salt Pond Rd or Ramp 45 with at least an ORV corridor thru the VFA there over to the Point. Cape Point and the hook are "one of a kind" ORV destinations due to their remoteness. It should be considered the "Old Faithful" of Cape Hatteras and it should be as widely accessible as we can imagine.

This is also true of all inlet spits as well. While being ephemeral to a degree, they will move with the sea, and people should be able experience these dynamics as easily as possible. That includes access via ORV.

Thank you for working to restore previously lost access. Please continue to restore the reasonable access that has been enjoyed and respected for many years and Hatteras.

I want to become a visitor again!

Correspondence ID: 1308 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received:
Correspondence Type:
Correspondence: March 17, 2016

Mar,17,2016 21:48:34
Web Form

Mr. David Hallac
Superintendent, Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Subject: EA for the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for ORV Management

Dear Superintendent Hallac:

To begin, I would like to thank you and your staff for taking the time to meet with our community in both public gatherings and answering questions one on one over the past month. Cape Hatteras is a special place since our villages are directly impacted by the decisions made by the National Park Service. Since we are surrounded by the Seashore we count on access to the beaches for our visitors to use so we can survive economically. This is not an easy place to live. We need you to work with us to make it. Cape Hatteras National Seashore is our habitat too.

My requests for changes to the Final Rule for ORV management are:

Morning Beach Openings-Alternative 3 Priority routes open at 6am. Non priority routes may open at 7am.

This is important to me as I have witnessed in my family business, Frisco Rod and Gun and Frisco Shopping Center, the drastic change in customer traffic when the Park Service changed to nighttime closures several years ago. We used to need a full staff on at 6am opening time for the store to keep up with the amount of people headed out to the beach for the first light fishing bite or the early morning walkers and seashell searchers. Now, it really does not get busy until 10 am. The attraction of being on the beach at sunrise for recreational reasons was not available to people so they hang out around the cottages or motel rooms until after breakfast and don't make a move to get to the beach until later. I want to see an early morning crowd back at the Rod and Gun!

Seasonal ORV routes-Alternative 3 (Oct 1-April 30) plus extend seasonal routes not in front of villages to Sept 1- April 30.

This change will still protect sunbathers during the busy beach season in front of houses but allow ORV access to areas that were traditionally open for them in the past after that time. This also gives alternative options to areas like Frisco beach where the Pier ramp is an alternate to the recently flood prone Ramp 49. If this time frame had been in place in 2015, the businesses in Frisco may not have lost so much money in the end of September, and all of October due to flooded access at Ramp 49. We very much appreciate that on Nov 1 we were able to use that Pier ramp. Thank you! But it would have been even better to have had that option on October 1st!

Vehicle Free Areas-Alternative 3 plus redesignate VFA's at Ramp 1 south, Bodie Island spit, ramp 43 North, Ramp 45 West as Seasonal ORV routes, Ramp 48 East as a year round route. Redesignate Ramp 23 north as year round route.

I feel that the Park Service should manage the areas as needed to suit the wildlife and user groups without locking themselves into a "forever closed" status on any section of the Seashore.

I also would like the Vehicle Free Area that is currently underwater at Hatteras Inlet to be redesignated as open to ORVs. Yes, I realize that sounds crazy, but due to the dynamic nature of the beaches one day it might be back and I would like to drive there again.

For people who want the Park experience that has no other user groups present....well, choosing a Park that is long and skinny with a Highway running through it and has been inhabited and developed since the 1700's seems like a poor planning choice on their part. I miss being able to go to the "Hook" with the families I grew up with and having a safer wave action option for the kids. Those calmer waters are where we spent our childhoods, every Sunday afternoon. We had cookouts on the beach, with the Dads surfing and the Moms wrangling us kids in the surf. And everyone worn out and happy at the end of the evening. It was a great place on the Seashore for families! I wish I could take my three boys there one day without having to hike a mile with all our stuff.

Access Improvements-Same as Alternative 2 plus provisions for a temporary ORV corridor from Ramp 45 to Cape Point when conditions prevent access from the east beach and risk to wildlife is not present. Also, please provide a soundside access at Bodie Island.

An access route to Cape Point would really heal a lot of wounds in this Seashore. Just a way to get there, please.

Permits-Alternative 2-Annual from date of issue and 10 day option available. I know the public would really like this! So much easier to plan and the locals would not be in a panic to get their permits in Jan so they can get a whole "year" in or won't get one since they didn't have a chance to go to the beach until the Fall.

Thank you for considering my opinions. Please contact me if you have any questions about them.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

Correspondence ID: 1309 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a current resident of the Outer Banks I feel strongly in the preservation of Cape Hatteras National Seashore. However, I feel just as strongly that everyone should have say in the management of Cape Hatteras. It is a National Seashore and therefore, every tax payer has right to visit and enjoy in a manner which pleases them within the regulations set by management. Locals should not receive any sort of extra vote or have their votes be more heavily weighted. The parks are for the people and that means from anywhere. I think the comment period is great and a wonderful way for the people to voice their opinion.

Cape Hatteras is ruled by ORVs. The VFAs are the few places to get away from them and to feel like you are actually in a National Seashore. I believe maintaining the current ones with no reductions would be best. However, I do understand the seasonal route as being an agreeable alternative. Please do not reduce the VFA at all. Compromise and just open a select few seasonally. Old Ramp 45 should never be open to ORVs it is the last major stretch of island and is beautiful without tire tracks. The amount of habitat out there is there for a reason and should not be altered due to ORVs. Increasing pedestrian access could be beneficial. However, I've seen a family with five kids all under the age of ten, walk from the current access to the ocean. I believe if they can do it then any family can as well.

Additionally, please don't open the beaches early than 6:30am and don't extend the season into April. Both of these seem like minor details to the ORVs but in reality they are very important to the park staff and the species they are trying to protect. An early start time means more pressure on the field staff to clear a beach and get the gate open on time. With additional pressure, there will be an increase in mistakes, small mistakes lead to bigger ones and eventually an injury will occur. Safety is one of the major goals of the NPS so this should be considered when selecting when the beaches will open. Also, having multiple opening times gets confusing, people need simple and consistent in order to understand the rules. The more flexibility and changes the more violations will occur, willing or not. The extension of two weeks into the Spring for ORVs is not a good idea. The birds will most likely be affected by an extension of two weeks into the spring. They need that time to establish themselves and their territories. Added disturbance can lead to them choosing a less desirable location and not being as productive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1310 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 22:02:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am here advocating for Alternative 3. Please do not utterly close off the beaches that God gave us to enjoy. Those of us who enjoy the beaches are the ones who are most willing to care for and protect them!

Correspondence ID: 1311 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge NPS officials to maintain ORV regulations that allow for adequate protection of beach nesting wildlife including shorebirds, waterbirds, and sea turtles. The regulations that have been in place for the past few years have resulted in detectable increases in populations of these organisms as well as increased beach use by recreationists. Only a minority of folks feel as though they need to drive on the beach, detracting from the visitor experience of many other people in addition to posing a threat to beach wildlife. Please make the best decision for the majority of people and wildlife and maintain the current regulations and policies on ORV use that are in place.

Correspondence ID: 1312 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I AM WRITING TO SPEAK UP FOR THE BIRDS & SEA TURTLES THAT CAN'T SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. PLEASE PROTECT OUR NATIONAL SEASHORE FOR ALL WILDLIFE!

Correspondence ID: 1313 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: In consideration of the proposal submitted by the NPS and CHAPA recommendations, I feel the total scenario speaks for itself. The CHAPA has willingly given over 58% of previously accessible beach area for environmental, animal and preservation reasons. No one can say it or it's affiliated associates have not been cooperative or unreasonable. It shares a love for this special place called the outer banks along with the environmentalist, preservationist, animal rights groups and the NPS.

I fully support and endorse the CHAPA recommendation from 8/2015. It continues to show cooperation with the NPS while still protecting the rights of citizens to access the beach for many recreational activities.

Correspondence ID: 1314 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 05:41:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Alternative 3 is clearly the best option. I appreciate the NPS efforts to re-open beaches for all to enjoy, and trust that the right decisions will be made in order to offer the most enjoyment for all visitors to Cape Hatteras. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1315 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: No changes

Correspondence ID: 1316 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 06:08:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

Please keep the beach driving rules exactly as they are. Let's save what we have left of this beautiful wild beach.
Thanks.
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1317 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 06:32:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: There are no grounds to make modifications to the current plan. It was not part of the open process from which the current plan was hammered out. We have a responsibility to care for the earth and all the creatures who reside here. We cannot permit selfish special interests to violate this responsibility. In the end, future generations will pay, even future generations of advocates for increasing ORV access.

Correspondence ID: 1318 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 06:58:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

It is my feeling that the birds, turtles and other fauna and flora have received good protection under the existing rules and it has come at an excessive cost to those who wish to recreate on the beaches of CHNS. Be it visitors who wish to use ORVs to reach a beach destination, due to age, infirmity or simply to exercise the privilege that was the onetime traditional right to drive on the beach, the restrictions that have been placed on access have created a situation where it is frequently very difficult, near impossible or prohibited to access many areas of various beaches at CHNS. In many situations the closures impair pedestrians as well as ORV users. My position statement is not to cast doubts on the science that was used to support the closures rather to include an appeal to continue the research and data evaluation to further assess the actual benefits to those species of concern and possibly put some sensitive closure areas into perspective while considering vast areas of adjacent beaches and islands that are set aside as refuges for as much as 5-6 months a year. My response to the Consideration of Modifications will focus on the specific options set forth and my recommendations regarding those options.

My further concern is for a group, including myself, that is currently threatened and suffering diminishing numbers due to the current beach access restrictions. Although I feel strongly that access should be available for all who wish to visit the beach, by ORV or on foot, my personal experience revolves around family, friends, acquaintances and strangers who wish to visit CHNS for the primary purpose of surf fishing. I do not know what percentage of those annual ORV permit sales are to fishermen but I do know what feedback I am getting from my fellow members of NCBBA and others who are struggling to justify a Hatteras visit in consideration of access restrictions. I am not as fortunate as some of my friends who live in close proximity to the beach so after driving for seven hours it is troubling that I am currently denied ORV access for over 40% of any given day because of night time driving restrictions. These restrictions often occur during prime fishing cycles and eliminate the ability for myself and other folks to pursue that red drum through the night when their bite is typically the best. I can assure you that anything that can be accomplished to enable us possible access for longer seasons, longer hours and longer ranges will be appreciated by my family and my friends making it easier for us to plan our treasured trips to the beaches with out the fear that access will be restricted when we arrive. Between seasonal closures, VFAs, habitat closures and reduced access hours the ORV community has lost 50% of what was once available and is asking for help to assure that their privileges are not further diminished.

In order of considerations of alternatives following are my comments:

Morning beach openings -

I prefer alternative 3 with additional considerations for a later nighttime closure of 10:00 PM.

Seasonal ORV routes -

I prefer alternative 3 with the additional extension of seasonal routes beyond the villages. Extending the seasonal routes in the fall can be done without increased risk to wildlife so there is actually no reason not to enable this additional access.

Vehicle free areas -

I prefer alternative 3 plus the 1.5 mile VFA area south of ramp 23 being designated as a seasonal ORV route. This is the particular area of beach with which I was most familiar and I feel strongly that opening that area as a seasonal ORV route will have no negative impact upon habitat while enabling closer access to those visiting the tri-village area. Reopening that area north of 23 as a year around route would provide access to a great, albeit small, fishing area that, again, is in easy striking distance to those in the tri-villages area and would ease the vehicle density at ramp 25.

Personal observation of the VFAs, admittedly primarily between September and May, has indicated to me that those areas are used lightly to rarely and hopefully data can be obtained that may show that many VFA areas have been indicated thus as a result of compromise and not a sound basis of need or usage.

Access improvements -

I prefer alternative 2 of the recommended alternatives with recognition of the additional need to enhance access to Cape Point in any fashion possible. Cape Point is the focal point of many visitors (some of the fishermen that I know will not visit Hatteras if the Point is not accessible) and, while being the most dynamic area, is also the one specific area that is the most important to the greatest number of visitors as well as local residents for whom it has historically been a community meeting and socializing place. Extended access behind the dune line or from the parking area at ramp 45 would provide alternatives to the most sought after piece of beach on the Island.

Permits -

Alternative 2 would be a great improvement and enable the 10 day issue to coincide with the 10 day fishing license. The changes that begin on March 16 have been lauded by many people and are appreciated as an effort by the NPS to make the permitting process easier and more reasonable.

Total VFA and ORV route mileage -

I prefer alternative 3 until such time as more studies can be made to allow additional ORV mileage without negative impact on habitat and while utilizing some of the VFA areas that are either greatly underutilized or almost never utilized.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on possible modifications to the final rule for ORV management. I understand that there are those who would prefer the complete closure of our beaches to ORVs and pedestrians and hope that you lend more weight to those of us who actually use the resource while, at the same time respecting and protecting a place that means so much to many people.

My comments come as an individual who lives southeastern Pennsylvania and has looked upon Hatteras Island in a revered fashion since first visiting it in the early 80's. This special venue is a great part of the life of my family as well as many of my friends. The people I have met who share the appreciation of Hatteras are among the finest one would wish to encounter. Among those people are many who need or prefer an ORV to access much of the area that otherwise would not be available to them. Some are folks who have simply taken the great American love of the vehicle to the ORV level and, as a result, discovered many of the spectacular areas of our islands that would unlikely be enjoyed without that vehicle.

Your considerations on behalf of this particular American minority are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1319 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 06:59:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: First of all I want to apologize for the last minute comment. As a business owner on the Outer Banks this very important to me. I have experienced first hand the decline in business on Hatteras island since the current ORV plan started. Off the Island business is getting better on the North end of Dare county because of less NPS influence to that area. Our representatives in Washington have spoken and want improvements to access on Hatteras Island. So I can't understand how the no action alternative or expansion could even be considered. My comments to the five areas are below. Thanks for your time and consideration.

1. Morning beach opening, All ramps open at 6:00am and close at 10:00 PM
2. Seasonal ORV routes, Extend seasonal ORV routes to Sept 1- April 30.
3. Vehicle-free Areas, Alternative 3 plus re-designate Vehicle free area at ramp 45 as a seasonal route Sept 1- April 30.
4. Access Improvements, Alternative 3 plus provision for temporary ORV corridor from ramp 45 to Cape Point when conditions on the east beach or risk to wild life prevent access.
5. Permits, Alternative 3
6. Total VFA and ORV route mileage, Alternative 3 plus addition of ramp 45 VFA added to seasonal ORV route.

Thanks!

Correspondence ID: 1320 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I now live in Durham but lived on Hatteras island for almost thirty years. I raised my children and ran a successful business (██████████) in Avon. The laws concerning the ORV'S that are now on the books are good ones. They take in consideration both the tourist and our natural flora and fauna. I have traveled extensively and have seen the damage that man has done both to the oceans and beaches. Many places on earth have lost populations of sea life and the only you can see on a beach is your fellow man. No birds, no reef, no fish.

Hatteras birds and marine life though threatened, still exist. Enough so that we still generate tourists who come to our beaches in awe of our life. If our wild life were to disappear so would the tourists. I think it is a short sighted to want to be able to take a vehicle anywhere or anytime of year. This is not a right, it is not freedom, it is entitlement gone amuck.

Correspondence ID: 1321 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a NC citizen and coastal resident, I want to see adequate buffers for turtles and birds, beaches designated for families to use with no driving, and for the NPS to model their mission statement to protect wildlife and habitat! My husband and I are long time members of the NC Beach Buggy Association but the beaches do not belong only to ORVs! Each citizen has a right to enjoy the beach and our wildlife has to have a voice for their survival and protection. Nesting sites must be buffered to protect chicks and hatching turtles. Reducing these buffers so much is ridiculous and not based on scientific research! The NC WRC has made recommendations that were not the ones originally submitted by their scientists. They are currently catering to recreational lobbyists and not scientific facts. There are endangered species that winter in Hatteras that also need protection. Opening stretches of beach for access because ramps are expensive is not environmentally appropriate. People need to be able to compromise with wildlife. Please revisit your mission statement before you make these crucial decisions! Thank you for all your hard work on behalf of our citizens and wildlife that only has your voice to protect them.

Correspondence ID: 1322 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open to ORV traffic both before and during nesting season, and that adequate protection for migrating shorebirds is also addressed.

Please work to protect our natural resources and wildlife, which makes our beaches so desirable and attracts many tourists and visitors to our state. People come to see the natural beauty of our beaches and it is our duty to protect the beaches, the birds, turtles and other wildlife that make our beaches their home.

Correspondence ID: 1323 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,18,2016 07:43:39

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.
- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.
- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.
- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.
- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1324 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Although I now live in Florida, I grew up on Long Island and saw what happens when the NPS comes to town. I must admit that there is good and bad with the change, but for a long time fisherman and beach driver, it is disturbing to have access cutoff in such an arbitrary way. On the Fire Island National Seashore, the birds were protected and the sportsman were still allowed access for their enjoyment. It was / is not perfect but it was a compromise. All of the sportsman that I have known do not want to see the natural wildlife get hurt and respect nature, that is why we enjoy the activity. So the reaction of most sportsman to being told that they cannot access an area because they are going to harm nature is an insult. Most people, like myself are average working folks and this is the only way to see and experience this type of area, and there are many examples of how it can be made available while still protecting fragile environments. I hope that you reconsider and make a change for a more balanced access policy.

For what it is worth, I do live in Florida now, but I also own a home on the Outer Banks.

Thanks for the consideration

Correspondence ID: 1325 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: ORVs are consistently dangerous, often fatal to our wildlife on our ocean shores. I go to the beach, specifically to the Outer Banks, to bird and to enjoy the natural beauty. These creatures, of course, have a greater right to the beach than we humans do. They are God's creatures, and deserve our protection; they do not deserve to be put into danger for our recreation. I ask that you guarantee that the wildlife on the beaches of Hatteras is safe from ORVs at all times.

Correspondence ID: 1326 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Friday, March 18, 2016

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, NC 27954

Subject: Strengthen protections of birds, sea turtles, and other wildlife for ORVs - - EA for the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for Off Road Vehicle Management

Dear Superintendent David Hallac,

I am very disappointed that the proposed rule for off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore fails to adequately protect birds, sea turtles, and other wildlife, as well as human visitors.

"It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."
-- Ansel Adams

Disappointingly, protections for birds and turtles are reduced by allowing driving during courtship and nesting periods, and opening beaches to driving before the areas are thoroughly checked for sea turtle nests. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14 in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize populations of oystercatchers, least terns, and other priority species. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS also needs to implement adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect red knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds. And, to better protect birds and other wildlife, the NPS should check beaches for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks, before the beaches open in the morning.

"Our duty to the whole, including to the unborn generations, bids us to restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method."
-- Theodore Roosevelt

ORVs also have a detrimental impact on seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and pose a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

"We should boldly ask ourselves whether we want the national parks to duplicate the...entertainments of other resorts, or whether we want them to stand for something distinct...in our national life."
-- Col. J.R. White, former Sequoia National Park Superintendent

Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just due to convenience and/or community pressure. Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive. Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. Please cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."
-- Aldo Leopold

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Correspondence ID: 1327 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We have lived at the above address full time since 2008 and before then used to come down about 4 times a year. Love this island! Went driving out on the beach 2 years ago and love the feeling of moving to any beach that we want provided that we adhere to the NPS recommendations. Enjoy The Point and don't wish to see that classified as a VFZ (Vehicle Free Zone) as we often park there and have not seen a pedestrian walking the beach! Also, the beach access point at entrance #34 is precious to us and don't wish to see that closed to beach access for ORV permanently. Think they close the beaches in front of the villages is OK, but don't want an extension to that period. Love driving on the beach, don't take it away!!

[Redacted Signature]

Correspondence ID: 1328 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 08:28:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

-Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

-Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 1329 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 08:45:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please take the NO ACTION alternative. My understanding is that public feedback supports keeping the Vehicle Free Areas in their present form. Though the National Park Service was asked to consider making modifications, the Final Rule we have now was arrived at after long hours of negotiation and already required much compromise.

The Vehicle Free Areas were established to provide Seashore visitors a safe and more natural alternative to ORV areas. Considering how much pedestrian use these areas will have as the weather warms and summer approaches, it is not responsible to further restrict the dates of seasonal Vehicle Free Areas. Some of these more remote areas also are protective of wildlife and beach ecosystems and should not be made smaller or eliminated.

Correspondence ID: 1330 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We are property owners for 22 years in Avon, North Carolina. The population of Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands is about 5600, plus about 950 vacation properties. It appears that organizations like the Defenders of the Wildlife, Audubon, Southern Law etc., are attempting to take control of the fate of the islands due to their vast membership.

We live in a beach town, Brick, New Jersey. We have experienced beach restrictions along the coast which include Sandy Hook, Cape May, Holgate, Sea Girt, and other areas. These closures are far less restrictive than those imposed here on Hatteras Island. These areas are protected with storm fencing and restrictions such as NO FRISBEES, NO BALL PLAYING, NO KITES, NO PETS. NEVER is there a complete closure of the beach. Thousands of people visit these beaches daily.

The most recent data in New Jersey was 130 nesting pair of Piping Plovers. The published data for Hatteras and Ocracoke was 19 pair. The fledged rates in NJ were 1.8 per pair and in Hatteras was less than 1.5. New Jersey has 120 plus miles of oceanfront and Hatteras has about 60. The main predators to Piping Plovers are seagulls, ospreys and other birds of prey, foxes and raccoons. NOT PEOPLE OR ORV'S.

Reasonable access should be throughout the year to the entire beachfront with reasonable closures for birds, turtles and those that need protection not the current method of complete closures such as The Point, South Beach and Hatteras Inlet. Cape Point is one of the premier surf fishing areas on the east coast. The loss of fishing opportunity for months on end is absolutely unreasonable. Additionally, the full year closure to the South Beach area not only takes away fishing but also takes away the availability to walk the beach, picnic and go shelling.

We have been fortunate enough to be here before these unreasonable restrictions have been put into place. Our children and grandchildren are missing out on one of nature's more beautiful places.

Correspondence ID: 1331 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Restore regulations to those in place before 2007 at the very least! Perhaps then I will return to the Outer Banks! These restrictions you have place on surf fishing are ridiculous and are the reason I have not been back for 6 years!

Correspondence ID: 1332 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 09:12:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please consider these thoughts as you finalize the management plan.
My husband and I have been visiting Hatteras Island for 30 years to fish, windsurf, kitesurf, paddle surf and surf. We come at least twice a year for extended stays and purchased property in 1993 so we could stay even longer and possibly live there in retirement.
My trips are mostly for kiteboarding now and we particularly enjoy the downwinders that require access to extended stretches of the ocean beaches, different stretches based upon the wind direction. It's nice to have easy access to a vehicle in the event of some kind of emergency, as well as for convenience.
PLEASE reopen 34 and keep access to both Ramp 30 and 38. Keep Cape Point open. Allow access from September 1 to May 31.

Correspondence ID: 1333 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 09:18:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: While I feel that this comment process is mostly ineffectual, I also feel that the reviewers need to hear from the citizens most knowledgeable and those most affected.

Many of the fisher people that use what is now controlled by the park service have been the sturats of those shores for many generations. Current environmental activism by organizations and individuals with little site specific experience are controlling the process. Weighting of comments should be given to those who have personal experience.

In my 50 years of fishing and enjoying CALO and CHNRA I have witnessed few, if any, instances of abuse to wildlife, dune structure nor other users. When those few transgressions did happen, another user was always quick to shame the offender or pick up the offender's trash. This even extended to helping enforce fisheries regulations and wildlife disturbance.

I understand that in a growing population rules, regulations and enforcement are all necessary and desirable but rather than be disabling, encouragement of citizens to do what they can to meet objectives, free of costs to government, should be encouraged by allowing non invasive free beach patrols by citizens who are motivated to report and correct abuses.

With that said, I believe that ALTERNATIVE 3, is the best option of those proposed.

Correspondence ID: 1334 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 09:49:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Alternative 3 is the only option that makes any sense here from an access standpoint that still keeps the environmental issues protected. It will also provide easier management from the NPS which we all know needs all the help they can get.

Correspondence ID: 1335 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 09:52:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am a retired biology and environmental teacher. I have been a NC Beach Buggy Association since the 70's. Being a member of the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, we had to rely on park biologists to help determine driving times on Ft. Fisher beach due to the courtship and nesting of shore birds and turtles. That's why I'm opposed to the preferred alternative plan because it's not based on scientific research of the courtship, nesting and hatching of birds and turtles. The NCWRC is listening to lobbyists and not their own scientists when making recommendations. Least terns arrive in early April. There's also no protection for migrating and wintering shorebirds which includes the endangered red knots. I love Red Drum and Striped Bass fishing. When I cant fish from the beach I go out in a boat. This is the way that I compromise with the birds and turtles versus my recreational pursuits. I encourage the NPS to closely adhere to their original mission statement to protect wildlife and habitat. The beach was never designed to be a highway . Families with young children deserve equal access to the beach without ORVs.

Correspondence ID: 1336 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 10:01:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to move forward with the No Action Alternative. Aside from the biological concerns, which are many and of which the park service is very aware, it is important to offer the experience of vehicle free beaches to visitors as well as places that they can access with ORVs. Solitude is one of the things that visitors search for on the Outer Banks and people interested in beach driving are not the only people entitled to that.

Correspondence ID: 1337 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 10:09:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: [REDACTED]

March 17, 2016

Mr. David Hallac Superintendent,
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Subject: EA for the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for ORV Management

Dear Superintendent Hallac:

I am reluctantly supporting Alternative 3 for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area 2012 Final Rule for ORV Management. While the proposed alternatives 1, 2, and 3 would have a positive impact on the visitor access, none of them go far enough in undoing the negative impacts of highly biased 2012 ORV Management Final Rule plan. I find it very disturbing that from the beginning of this process in 2007 the NPS ORV management plan was hijacked into an Audubon/NPS resource management plan. This has resulted in a significant negative impact of beach access for pedestrians and ORV users which further led to a negative economic impact to the surrounding communities.

I don't see a realistic proposal for providing access to the Cape Point area during the far too long "resource closures" season. Since there is no proposal addressing this issue I will expect again to be unable to visit Cape Point most of the year by foot or ORV.

I would like to see current Vehicle Free Areas reduced and/or made Seasonal. I find it hard to understand why Pea Island is not considered part of the Seashore and not counted as a VFA. This an example of the disingenuous tactics used by the NPS in formulation of the 2012 ORV Management plan. As a more than regular visitor to the CHNSRA I have observed very little usage of the VFAs and find the summer time ORV access ridiculously restricted. Last summer, we found about a total of 2-3 miles of ORV access on Hatteras Island due to unused VFAs and huge "resource closures".

I realize my comments and support for an alternative is pointless due to the "environmentalist" groups campaign's that overwhelm these public comments. I

suspect MOST of the groups comments come people that have no understanding of the Seashore access and resource issues, but are being told what to say. I don't know how combat this problem, but I ask that you take this fact into consideration.



Correspondence ID: 1338 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: March 18, 2016

Mr. David Hallac

Superintendent, Cape Hatteras National Seashore

1401 National Park Drive

Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Reference: Considerations for the modification to the Final Rule for ORV Management

Dear Superintendent Hallac,

The resident wildlife of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CHNS) has been over-protected for years under the current, excessive regulations and restrictions regarding ORV use on the beaches. The current management protocols regularly prohibit access to unjustifiably large swaths of ocean and sound shorelines to pedestrian and ORV traffic. While I agree that the species sheltered by these management procedures should be protected, allowed to nest, reproduce, and live in their natural habitat with minimal human interference, it is my position that further research should be done to establish less restrictive buffer zones.

My family has lived in eastern North Carolina for generations. Fishing and environmental stewardship along the CHNS has always been a tradition, and it is one that I hope to pass down to my children. I've spoken to many fishermen along the beaches over the years - access has been a point of concern for sportsmen who have been visiting the shoreline long enough to know that the borders are closing in. Many have been frustrated with the increasing frequency and spatial extent of closures to the point that they are debating the worth of the drive out.

In order of considerations of alternatives following are my comments:

Morning beach openings -

I prefer alternative 3 with additional considerations for a later nighttime closure of 10:00 PM.

Seasonal ORV routes -

I prefer alternative 3 with the additional extension of seasonal routes beyond the villages. Extending the seasonal routes in the fall can be done without increased risk to wildlife so there is actually no reason not to enable this additional access.

Vehicle free areas -

I prefer alternative 3 plus the 1.5 mile VFA area south of ramp 23 being designated as a seasonal ORV route. This is the particular area of beach with which I was most familiar and I feel strongly that opening that area as a seasonal ORV route will have no negative impact upon habitat while enabling closer access to those visiting the tri-village area. Reopening that area north of 23 as a year around route would provide access to a great, albeit small, fishing area that, again, is in easy striking distance to those in the tri-villages area and would ease the vehicle density at ramp 25.

Access improvements -

I prefer alternative 2 of the recommended alternatives with recognition of the additional need to enhance access to Cape Point in any fashion possible. Cape Point is the focal point of many visitors (some of the fishermen that I know will not visit Hatteras if the Point is not accessible) and, while being the most dynamic area, is also the one specific area that is the most important to the greatest number of visitors as well as local residents for whom it has historically been a community meeting and socializing place. Extended access behind the dune line or from the parking area at ramp 45 would provide alternatives to the most sought after piece of beach on the Island.

Permits -

Alternative 2 would be a great improvement and enable the 10 day issue to coincide with the 10 day fishing license. The changes that begin on March 16 have been lauded by many people and are appreciated as an effort by the NPS to make the permitting process easier and more reasonable.

Total VFA and ORV route mileage -

I prefer alternative 3 until such time as more studies can be made to allow additional ORV mileage without negative impact on habitat and while utilizing some of the VFA areas that are either greatly underutilized or almost never utilized.

It's no secret that millions of tourists from North Carolina and other places come to CHNS to enjoy the experience of a natural, unmodified, and pristine shoreline full of unique wildlife. Access to the shorelines via ORV and on foot is essential for this type of experience. Excessively restricting access undermines the reasons so many people have come to enjoy this area and keep coming back year after year, supporting the local economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on possible modifications to the final rule for ORV management. I understand that there are those who would prefer the complete closure of our beaches to ORVs and pedestrians and hope that you lend more weight to those of us who actually use the resource while, at the same time respecting and protecting a place that means so much to many people.

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 1339 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 10:18:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Urge 'no action' alternative. Would prefer NPS keep the VFA's and seasonal closures as they were established under the final rule.

Correspondence ID: 1340 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Oh it kills us to hear about what you want to go to hatteras island! Don't change it! Nature needs our protection especially with climate change rapidly approaching critical times! Please don't change! Leave our nature to succeed for posterity!!!!

Correspondence ID: 1341 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: please provide a alternate route to the Point and other areas that have been closed recently due to wildlife habitat and erosion, the ORV routes are to provide beach access for beach use and fishing as was the original intent of the creation of the National Seashore. I have enjoyed the outer banks with my parents and have raised my children and now my grandchildren to love and respect nature , PLEASE STOP RESTRICTING THE USE OF THE RESOURCE!!!

Thanks

Correspondence ID: 1342 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 11:02:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am pleased with the way the National Park Service is currently managing the beaches within the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I see the no action alternative as satisfactory. We are still allowed ORV beach access to selected sites and at the same time protecting natural resources and animals that inhabit and use the park.

Correspondence ID: 1343 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 11:06:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to speak up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- * I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.
- * Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- * Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers, and other shorebirds.
- * The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- * Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles, and other wildlife.
- * Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 1344 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Allow me to apologize as these comments will not pertain strictly to the ORV plan. I am a Buxton resident but I do not drive on the beach at CHNSRA. I frequently use the beach from legal access points and I never see anyone using the VFAs regardless of how far you have to walk to access the area. I understand using the ORV permit fees to improve access ramps and parking lots but shouldn't all the users pay for access, not just targeted vehicles ?
I applaud your asking for input but the data is largely useless. There is no classification and apparently no effort is put forth to weight the info from

residents, users or general comments from people who could not find Hatteras Island on a map. I feel you will never have a handle on visitation until there is a paid gate for every user. The current models are not going to deliver good data. Random headcounts are pointless.

In the past years we have watched access decline, watched larger areas of beach roped off and at the same time the number of fledged plover chicks has declined. The NPS is lucky that no one is asking how much we spend per chick. If you had bothered to ask 10 years ago I feel sure the local beach users could have told you that the presence of people is a deterrent to predators who are actually responsible for taking wildlife, not ORV users. As to 'Best Available Science' perhaps you would be better off trying some innovative, locally derived plans as 'Peer Reviewed' seems to be largely unproductive. As you know since October 2015 there has been varying amounts of water on Lighthouse Rd. It has never been this bad but has been getting worse over the past 10 years. We have largely lost the Maritime Forest due to standing salt water. We have standing water in the neighborhoods surrounding the park which will not drain until something is done. Rumors abound as to why the NPS is unable to move forward regarding pumping the water out but no reason is acceptable. If the campground was drained then perhaps camp sites could be rented which would help pay to repair the pumps if there is absolutely no other way to coerce the NPS into being a good neighbor. I shouldn't have to mention the health issues of the expected mosquito infestation in this, the summer of the Zika Virus. Many residents have also contacted Dare County about this issue as well.

Superintendent Hallac is a welcome change. Having someone who actually has used the park and openly engages in conversation is more than we could hope for. I just wish that the administrative power structure was equally shared between the Administration and the Biology side of the NPS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the future of a place I love.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]
Buxton NC

Correspondence ID: 1345 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Open up more ORV access. Stop closing the beaches over one bird that's NOT ON THE ESA.

Correspondence ID: 1346 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: For consistency all beaches should open at 6:00 am and close no earlier than 10:00 pm. If NPS finds it necessary to assign priorities for turtle patrols, non-prioritized beaches may be opened no later than 7:00 am.

All seasonal ORV Routes should be opened no later than Oct 1st and close no earlier than Apr 30th.

VFA's should be abolished until such time that NPS has real time statistical data to show how and how often these beaches are being used by pedestrians (excluding those who arrive via ORVs).

Access improvements (paid for with permit fees) should be done to enhance the experience of the permittees (ORV Permit buyers). Excess monies may be applied to non-ORV enhancement projects until such a time that NPS begins to collect an appropriate fee from non-ORV visitors. A soundside access on Bodie Island needs to be a priority unless all of Bodie Island Spit is reopened to ORVs on a year-round access.

During the last 40 years, NPS has closed approximately 40 miles of ORV accessible routes. When Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area originally opened, all beaches were ORV accessible (including what is now Pea Island NWR) and in total over 80 miles of ORV access has been reduced to 29 miles of year around ORV access. NPS needs to pursue alternative methods to restore access to the most popular points of ORV access on a year round basis - Bodie Island Spit, Cape point, North Hatteras Inlet, South Hatteras Inlet and Ocracoke Inlet. In total, all of these areas, with consistent and adaptive management, could return to being the prime visitation areas with little effect on the survival and productivity of the protected species who visit our beaches

Correspondence ID: 1347 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's agency comments have been emailed to David Hallac.

Correspondence ID: 1348 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for the opportunity to include my thoughts on the Environmental Assessment for changes to the ORV rule currently in effect at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

As a fisherman and amateur wildlife photographer, I have been visiting the northern Outer Banks for 45 years. In the past, it was a simple trip to be on a Hatteras beach; swimming, fishing, or capturing with my cameras what's special about the area and its inhabitants. The advent of sporadic ramp closures, along with expensive driving permits, have made those trips more ardent. To that point, I'm glad that this review is in process to hopefully restore most of the access that has been lost.

The alternatives set forth are a much-welcomed improvement but I'm respectfully requesting consideration of the following:

Beach openings:

A return back to 24 hour access would be great but if that isn't possible then perhaps a one hour before sunrise opening, somewhat similar to a standard hunting season, with a closure of 12pm.(?)

Seasonal ORV routes:

Extending seasonal ORV routes by six weeks in the spring and fall.

Vehicle-free areas:

No permanent closure of any of the beaches, especially if they are known to be "non-nesting" areas by species specific default.

Permits:

Fishing: Annual by date of issue would be a great improvement!

Driving: The ability to share a permit with another vehicle. If I have a permit on a 2-person vehicle and there are 5 guests that come to visit...another permit has to be purchased for a larger capacity vehicle. We've run into that a few times and it can get expensive. I understand not passing the permit among friends, etc. but maybe being able to share the permit between my own 2 vehicles, not having to buy 1 for each. Another consideration is to let the *owner* of the permit use that permit in a vehicle that is not their own as long as the owner is present with the permit in hand. The internet availability of permits is now easier than ever and much appreciated!

I encourage the National Park Service to use this opportunity to bring back the access to our national seashore that has been so much of an important part of our lives. The citizens that live there are responsible and take great pride and care of their land. People like myself, visitors who cherish it and wish to live there, do so as well.

Thank you for your time!

Correspondence ID: 1349 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I grew up near the Outer Banks, and was once a naturalist there w/ the NPS.

This started a life long career in coastal marine conservation and recreation, for which I am still engaged, now as an academic.

The dynamic and amazing nature of the Outer Banks is globally significant, and provides many 'ecosystem services' perspectives and values, critical to diverse species and society alike.

The fragile dune system is key habitat for migrating birds, a place to walk and enjoy nature, and critically buffers the wetlands behind the dunes (and many communities) from increasing sea level rise and climate events.

The dunes, in particular the fore dunes have been increasingly de-stabilized with removal of ferries for roads over the decades, then large-scale developments. The vestiges of foreshore are vital that they not be further damaged by unnecessary ORV access.

Positive zoning that meets all stakeholders and is in keeping with the dynamic nature of an ecosystem is fundamental, especially on the Outer Banks,

Leave space for nature - to provide for itself and us, now and for future generations (terns, turtles and people alike :-).

Correspondence ID: 1350 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,16,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Enclosed is the alternative summary with an additional Alternative 4 [REDACTED] Alternative" I am also making similar comments below from my Alternative 4 with further explanation of each.

1. Morning Beach Openings

There is little to no evidence that night closures of the beaches has helped the turtle nesting or hatching results since the court order and plan has been in place. While there have been some of the biggest numbers of nesting turtles on the beach the whole east coast has had the largest nesting numbers and we are the only ones having a changed ORV regulation. We appreciate the help NPS has given us by making nest passing available close to the hatch window and want that continued and expanded if needed.

2. Seasonal ORV Routes

While I do believe that the original Sept. 15 - May 15 Village/Ocracoke Campground open to ORV use that coincides with the C DOT speed changes that have been in place for many years is the best alternative for changing the dates, I can accept Alternative 3 extending the opening to October 1 - April 30.

3. Vehicle Free Areas

As a user that has shared the entire beach with pedestrians for years I do not think any of the beaches should be excluded from ORV routes, but with that said I realize that is not an alternative that you will favor. Alternate 3 does not address all the needs of the routes for ORV use. Avon has Ramp 38 open year round so we have a ramp open for ORV use year round with close proximity of the village, but Rodanthe, Waves and Salve have to go all the way to Ramp 25 for any access. I suggest you consider opening Ramp 23 north to the village line of Salvo and south the same amount of distance giving the visitor an area to access the beach via ORV closer to the Tri-villages. I will also include an item I described in the "Access Improvements" section of the alternative chart. Alternate "temporary" ORV access behind the dune line from Ramp 44 (like the narrows by-pass) should be an urgent priority to this plan to enable such access to be used when the East Beach to the point is unpassable. Furthermore temporary access routes should be established via ramp 45 or the pond road to be used when other access to Cape Point is unusable due to bird or turtle closures. Yes, I agree that most times these two routes would also be blocked by bird or turtle closures, but should the occasion find that they are useable they could be implemented without a mandated plan change for said opening.

4. Access Improvements

Same as Alternative 3 plus make a shore bypass behind the dunes from Ramp 44 to Cape Point to ensure less closures to the point. Extend Ramp 4 opening south around to the sound-side year round since bird activity has greatly reduced in recent years. Do the same at Hatteras Inlet both on the Hatteras side and Ocracoke side of the inlet. If birds do nest then closures will be instituted to protect them. These areas are too far from access to be included as vehicle free areas. Furthermore temporary access routes should be established via ramp 45 or the pond road to be used when other access to Cape Point is unusable due to bird or turtle closures. Yes, I agree that most times these two routes would also be blocked by bird or turtle closures, but should the occasion find that they are useable they could be implemented without a mandated plan change for said opening

5. Permits

Annual by date of issue and a 10 day license that mirrors the fishing licenses we issue. (I am pleased to hear about the new plan to allow permits to be purchased at no addition cost for weekly permits and annual permits. Our shop has already installed a computer for customers to purchase these permits in our shop)

6. Total VFA & ORV Route Mileage

All of your Alternatives have shown access mileages, because all ORV access is used by non-vehicle visitors there is little use to have any mandated vehicle free areas and the numbers showing any distinction are not needed. Pea Island is vehicle free giving any visitor more than enough wilderness beach access. The beach south of Kite Point to the light house in Buxton has not been open to vehicle use in many years. Seldom has the beach from the bath houses south of Frisco to the south end of Hatteras Village been open to ORV use. I have not even addressed the areas that have not been opened in Bodie Island and Ocracoke that have had no or little use in years.

Alternative 4, [REDACTED] Alternative

Morning Beach Openings: Beaches open 24 hours, year-round

Seasonal ORV Routes: Same as Alternative 3

Vehicle Free Areas: Same as Alternative 3 except that at Ramp 23, the area from Ramp 23 north to the village line and 0.5 south of Ramp 23 would be redesignated as an ORV route year-round.

Access Improvements: Same as Alternative 3 plus make shore bypass behind dunes from Ramp 44 to Cape Point to ensure less closures to Point; extend Ramp 4 opening south around to south side year-round, since bird activity in area has been small since plan instituted. Same at Hatteras Inlet; Hatteras and Ocracoke side an alternative route south through VFA rout should be designated either by the pond road or ramp 45 at times when east beach is not usable by beach or behind dunes access (see attached note).

Permits: Same as Alternative 2

Total VFA & ORV Route Mileage: All of your alternatives have shown access mileages, because all ORV access is used by non-vehicle visitors there is little use to have any mandated vehicle free areas and the numbers showing any distinction are not needed.

Correspondence ID: 1351 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a citizen of North Carolina, I ask and expect you to protect our wildlife resources. In particular, I am asking that vehicles on our beaches be kept OUT of sensitive nesting habitat where birds and turtles are laying eggs and hatching valuable young. To do that effectively monitoring must be in place and carried out regularly by qualified individuals so that areas are recognized and monitored. Having worked in hospitals that treated adults and children injured by off road vehicles, I don't understand why we even allow vehicles on beaches, but that doesn't seem to be the issues at this time.
Please ensure that sensitive areas are protected from vehicles....thank you. [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1352 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 12:22:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: [REDACTED]

March 18, 2016

Mr. David Hallac
Superintendent, Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Reference: Considerations for the modification to the Final Rule for ORV Management

Dear Superintendent Hallac,

It is my feeling that the birds, turtles and other fauna and flora have received good protection under the existing rules and it has come at an excessive cost to those who wish to recreate on the beaches of CHNS. Be it visitors who wish to use ORVs to reach a beach destination, due to age, infirmity or simply to exercise the privilege that was the onetime traditional right to drive on the beach, the restrictions that have been placed on access have created a situation where it is frequently very difficult, near impossible or prohibited to access many areas of various beaches at CHNS. In many situations the closures impair pedestrians as well as ORV users. My position is not to cast doubts on the science that was used to support the closures rather to include an appeal to continue the research and data evaluation to further assess the actual benefits to those species of concern and possibly put some sensitive closure areas into perspective while considering vast areas of adjacent beaches and islands that are set aside as refuges for as much as 5-6 months a year. My response to the Consideration of Modifications will focus on the specific options set forth and my recommendations regarding those options.

My further concern is for a group, including myself, that is currently threatened and suffering diminishing numbers due to the current beach access restrictions. Although I feel strongly that access should be available for all who wish to visit the beach, by ORV or on foot.

In order of considerations of alternatives following are my comments:

Morning beach openings -
I prefer alternative 3 with additional considerations for a later nighttime closure of 10:00 PM.

Seasonal ORV routes -
I prefer alternative 3 with the additional extension of seasonal routes beyond the villages. Extending the seasonal routes in the fall can be done without

increased risk to wildlife so there is actually no reason not to enable this additional access.

Vehicle free areas -

I prefer alternative 3 plus the 1.5 mile VFA area south of ramp 23 being designated as a seasonal ORV route. This is the particular area of beach with which I was most familiar and I feel strongly that opening that area as a seasonal ORV route will have no negative impact upon habitat while enabling closer access to those visiting the tri-village area. Reopening that area north of 23 as a year around route would provide access to a great, albeit small, fishing area that, again, is in easy striking distance to those in the tri-villages area and would ease the vehicle density at ramp 25.

Personal observation of the VFAs, admittedly primarily between September and May, has indicated to me that those areas are used lightly to rarely and hopefully data can be obtained that may show that many VFA areas have been indicated thus as a result of compromise and not a sound basis of need or usage.

Access improvements -

I prefer alternative 2 of the recommended alternatives with recognition of the additional need to enhance access to Cape Point in any fashion possible. Cape Point is the focal point of many visitors (some of the fishermen that I know will not visit Hatteras if the Point is not accessible) and, while being the most dynamic area, is also the one specific area that is the most important to the greatest number of visitors as well as local residents for whom it has historically been a community meeting and socializing place. Extended access behind the dune line or from the parking area at ramp 45 would provide alternatives to the most sought after piece of beach on the Island.

Permits -

Alternative 2 would be a great improvement and enable the 10 day issue to coincide with the 10 day fishing license. The changes that begin on March 16 have been lauded by many people and are appreciated as an effort by the NPS to make the permitting process easier and more reasonable.

Total VFA and ORV route mileage -

I prefer alternative 3 until such time as more studies can be made to allow additional ORV mileage without negative impact on habitat and while utilizing some of the VFA areas that are either greatly underutilized or almost never utilized.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on possible modifications to the final rule for ORV management. I understand that there are those who would prefer the complete closure of our beaches to ORVs and pedestrians and hope that you lend more weight to those of us who actually use the resource while, at the same time respecting and protecting a place that means so much to many people.

My comments come as an individual who lives southeastern Pennsylvania and has looked upon Hatteras Island in a revered fashion since first visiting it in the early 80's. This special venue is a great part of the life of my family as well as many of my friends. The people I have met who share the appreciation of Hatteras are among the finest one would wish to encounter. Among those people are many who need or prefer an ORV to access much of the area that otherwise would not be available to them. Some are folks who have simply taken the great American love of the vehicle to the ORV level and, as a result, discovered many of the spectacular areas of our islands that would unlikely be enjoyed without that vehicle.

With all of this being said I am hoping that my observations and recommendations will be considered.

Sincerely,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1353 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 12:24:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am opposed to further expansion of both time and areal access by motor vehicles to the seashore area. As a former resident of the area and a fisheries biologist, I spent a great deal of time on the beaches, and watched the destruction of this treasure by offroaders. While I appreciate the clamor for more access, at some point a limit must be set; else we will be discussing a paved road down the beach at some point to extend access to those without four wheel drive vehicles! Off road activities strain both the environment and the Park Service - in my experience the rules were poorly understood by off road drivers, and even more poorly followed due to the lack of adequate enforcement. More access will require more manpower for enforcement; lack of enforcement will result in further degradation of the area by irresponsible drivers - there is enough of that already. I strongly believe that expanding access is a step in the WRONG direction, and that if anything, curtailing motorized access and plans to enforce existing regulations should be the topic of discussion.

Correspondence ID: 1354 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 12:36:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Mr. David Hallac

I attended the recent public meeting you held on Ocracoke Island. Thank you for coming. I have lived on Ocracoke Island 33 years. I surf, kiteboard, fish, and duck hunt on Ocracoke and I am blessed to have National Park less than a mile from my home.

The new law regarding resource management specifically on Ocracoke is why I am commenting. I am member of OBPA and I support the comments presented to you by CHAPA.

These are the main issues for me personally.

Earlier morning access to ramp 72 and access to the inlet. This area one of the best surfing and fishing spots on Ocracoke. Sunrise surfing and fishing in the summer at South Point has not been possible.

Lack of sound side access at Hatteras and Ocracoke inlets due to Vehicle Free Areas.

There is no trail to the sound side south of ramp 72. There never has been.

The proposed sound side access at Bitter Wash Creek will give only limited access for a smaller group of recreation activities like kayaking. The access at the Tar Hole should have never been closed.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 1355 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have lived on the Outer Banks since 1994, and visited the area as early 1953. I have always been happy that we had a place where one can visit and see the wildlife and walk the beaches. As early as the seventies when my husband and I visited and camped in Frisco with our children, there were conflicts at the beach with trucks digging large holes in the sand and not paying attention to people walking on the beach. I remember being concerned for the safety of my children.

I hope that the wildlife can continue to be safe. I believe that that should be the priority for the NPS. Any additional changes allowing more beach driving can possibly be more of a concern for families with children walking in the same areas plus a real danger to the wildlife.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 1356 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: March 18, 2016

Via Electronic Submission

Mr. David Hallac
Superintendent, Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Re: EA for the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for Off Road Vehicle Management

Dear Superintendent Hallac:

The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) offers the following comments on the National Park Service's (NPS) Environmental Assessment for the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Management. Working with our members and partners in the region, ASA has been actively involved in the development, implementation and legislative activity surrounding the ORV Management Plan for approximately a decade. We are pleased that this opportunity exists for NPS to make significant improvements to management and operations at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area, and urge NPS to adhere to Congressional direction and intent by meaningfully incorporating the suggestions of stakeholders to better accommodate public access.

ASA is the sportfishing industry's trade association, representing sportfishing equipment manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers, outdoor media and angler advocacy groups. Our members depend on healthy and abundant fisheries resources, along with reasonable and responsible angler access. North Carolina's 1.5 million recreational fishermen contribute \$2.7 billion to the economy and support over 25,000 jobs.

ASA continue to hold serious concerns with the final ORV management plan, which was approved in December 2010. The final rule bypassed the interests of many park visitors and area businesses, and betrayed promises made to the public regarding recreational uses of the seashore. Because of the highly unbalanced nature of the final plan and the flawed process by which it was developed, Congress passed the Preserving Public Access to Cape Hatteras Beaches Act, requiring NPS to review important areas of the management plan to better accommodate public access. In order to avoid the potential for additional - and likely more severe - Congressional involvement, it is critically important that NPS use the current review process to better balance the important goals of resource conservation and public access.

ASA fully endorses the comment letter submitted by the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance on March 8, 2016, and will reinforce many of the same suggestions in this letter.

Morning beach openings: While Alternative 2 is an improvement by opening the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes: ASA supports Alternative 3, which extends seasonal routes four weeks in the spring and fall in front of villages, instead of the two week extension proposed in Alternative 2.

Vehicle-free areas: The existing set of Vehicle Free Areas is overly restrictive and not in alignment with park visitor needs and activity. More areas must allow for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but should be expanded to provide soundside access on Bodie Island.

Permits: The suggested permit modifications in Alternative 2 are reasonable and will make the permit process much more user-friendly.

Dating back to when Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area was created, the Department of the Interior promised the communities the seashore surrounds that public access for recreation would be maintained. The unique characteristics of the seashore and its recreational opportunities require the use ORVs to access remote spits and inlets. While the citizens and businesses of Dare and Ocracoke counties very much understand and support the need for resource protection within the seashore, the NPS's final rule severely disadvantages reasonable public access while providing excessive protections to bird and turtle species.

ASA is hopeful that the review process mandated by Congress will rectify the significant errors that were made in developing the existing management plan. The current proposal makes important progress in many areas, but falls short in others. Thank you for recognizing the need for improvements and for continuing to work with stakeholders to provide a balanced plan that allows reasonable access to the beaches while also providing resource protection.

Sincerely,

██████████
Ocean Resource Policy Director

cc: The Honorable Senator Richard Burr
The Honorable Senator Joe Manchin
The Honorable Senator Thom Tillis
The Honorable Representative Walter Jones

Correspondence ID: 1357 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge the National Park Service to protect the birds and wildlife in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I have been visiting the beaches along the Outer Banks and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore for 64 years. The birds and wildlife have been a very special part of my life - - as a baby and child, as a W & M college student, then as a parent with my children, and, now retired, as a birder and grandmother.

I would like to address the Environmental Assessment. I am concerned for the protection of migrating, courting, and nesting shorebirds as well as nesting turtles. I do not want the current plan to be changed without peer-reviewed science.

I want the beaches checked for shorebird and sea turtle nests, eggs, and chicks before and during nesting season. Protections need to be provided for migrating and courting shorebirds, as well. All are critical to the success of their life cycles! Beaches must not be opened until beaches have been checked for nests and nests have been adequately protected from vehicle traffic 24 hours a day. These protections should include pre-nesting closures, adequate buffers, no driving near chicks, and other precautions necessary based on bird behavior.

I am not in favor of seasonal ORV routes being left open until April 14. Seasonal driving restrictions need to be adequate for protecting oystercatchers, Least Terns, Red Knots, other shorebirds, sea turtles and other wildlife. I am requesting Less ORV access and More vehicle free areas.

In addition, I want to be able to bring my grandchildren to the beaches and enjoy this natural resources safely, not worried about being hit by vehicles or tripped by tire ruts.

I am asking the NPS to use scientific research to responsibly protect North Carolina native birds and sea turtles by maintaining and expanding beach-driving restrictions.

Respectfully submitted,
██████████

Correspondence ID: 1358 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 13:24:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: First I would like to thank the Park Service for the opportunity to listen to their presentation on 29 February in Hampton. Secondly I believe that my thoughts concerning the EA directly reflect those that were submitted by ██████████ written to Superintendent Hallac on 08 March 2016. Morning openings should be as per Alt. # 3 or as early as feasibly possible and stay open until 2200 hours. Seasonal openings should be as per Alt. # 3 with the areas not in front of the Villages opened on 1 Sept. in the fall provided there's no resource closures still in place. VFA should be considered as per the chart on page 4 of the above letter. The current VFA are very seldom used and they eliminate some of the best areas that used to be prime fishing areas in the fall. These areas are the Bodie Island spit all the way to OI, the area referred to as the "hook" from ramp 45 to ramp 49 and above all a secondary route to Cape Point from ramp 45 to the east. These would be season openings in most areas with resource closures as necessary. The only exception would be the secondary access to Cape Point from ramp 45 which would be conditional usage only if the access from ramp 44 becomes unusable. I like Alt. # 2 for permits as it seems to be the best for all parties. The current access improvements are great and Alt. 2 of the EA for the future seems to be best for all with additional consideration made for sound side access to Bodie Island. Thank you for the consideration of my thoughts. ██████████

Correspondence ID: 1359 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The health of our beaches and wildlife should come before beach driving - do not expand hours or allow more areas to be opened to vehicles. Nature before recreation...

Correspondence ID: 1360 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: When cars were allowed on beach the piping plovers made their nests far away from the shore in the dunes, now that there are no cars allowed, the stupid piping plovers make their nests close to the water. So, let people drive on the beach again to save the stupid birds.

Correspondence ID: 1361 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing on behalf of all the HUMANS who love to recreate on OUR beautiful Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I've never understood the reasoning behind all of the closures we experience EVERY time we visit Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands. I love birds, turtles, fish, and all sorts of wildlife. I take great care to help and protect our wildlife here in all of NC. I also see areas closed to all just for the sake of a bird scratching that may decide to nest there. What I would love to see more is just that area roped off and we can all still enjoy OUR beach. Same for the turtles. Rope if off and everyone respects that area. There's too many miles of beautiful beaches closed only for a bird that more than likely won't even make it thru the 1st storm that blows in. I see those piping plovers enjoy our human activity near them. Why can't the NPS use common sense in these times? Ramps should be open no later than 6 am and closed no sooner than 10pm, if they have to be closed at all. When these closures do happen, the ramps that are open are much too crowded. This in itself is more dangerous to wildlife!!! In the VFA I rarely see more than a handful of pedestrians enjoying their area. We come frequently to visit because we love OUR coast here in NC. I feel like it doesn't really belong to us, the people. Also, the standing water we've experienced while there. PLEASE do something regarding this area. The lighthouse area is ridiculous as is ramp 49! I'm so looking forward to visiting soon. I just hope and pray we can get to our favorite spots and that damn bird hasn't claimed it.

Correspondence ID: 1362 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have owned a second home and have had my rental decrease substantially since vehicle restrictions were started. The primary reason people come to Hatteras Island is to enjoy the beaches. The restrictions have caused job losses, businesses to close, and among many other problems, loss of rental income. This rental income created taxes for the local government that are no longer available to support the services the residents require. It is very important to the local economy that all the restrictions be removed. If these restrictions continue Hatteras Island will become a ghost town and no one in the entire country will be able to enjoy this beautiful area.

Correspondence ID: 1363 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am a full time resident of Hatteras Island, living in Buxton.

In reaching decisions that will formulate the final rule, from the alternatives presented, the NPS needs to strongly consider the social and historical aspects of Cape Point and the effect of any closures of that area upon the local community, as well as long time visitors. Both the social and historical importance of Cape Point were clearly expressed to Supt. Hallac at the Buxton meeting. These points give even further support to the need for an alternative route to the Point when access is not available via Ramp 43 or Ramp 44. The suggestion remains a corridor from the proposed parking area at Ramp 45 out to Cape Point, to serve as the much needed alternative route.

The NPS has proposed a route from Ramp 44 to intersect with the route behind the dunes, near the portion of the beach known as "The Narrows". To make such a route much more effective, it needs to be extended further long the beach, past the area where the beach traditionally narrows and exit out into the area where the beach opens up into a much wider area. This would allow access to the Point both during the time of resource closures or severe beach erosion.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1364 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: When the birds are forced to higher ground cliffs because of vehicle traffic, their nests and eggs are safe from high tides, hurricanes, flooding. These are not even indigenous birds the piping plover. They are from new jersey. So, why are you protecting non indigenous birds!!!!? Let the vehicles back on beach in order to save these non indigenous birds.

Correspondence ID: 1365 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My family vacations regularly to the outer banks. Without the use of our orv permit, we would be looking for a vacation place. It's more than a convenience to drive on the beach. We can cover great distances and experience more that the outer banks offers. We can carry our supply's for fishing and playing all day. This separates the outer banks from all the other beaches.

Correspondence ID: 1366 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 14:02:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to see more effort put into allowing people reasonable access to "The Point" area. It also doesn't make any sense to have the area known as "The Hook" as a pedestrian only area, used only by people who have to drive on the beach to get there.

Correspondence ID: 1367 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have visited Hatteras Island since 1978 and invested in a small cottage in Avon in 1988 to enjoy the environment and the ORV access to the beautiful beaches and enjoy following the migrating wildlife, do some beachcombing and occasionally having the opportunity to catch some moving fish.

We finally had the opportunity to "retire" and enjoy the beaches more frequently when the "final rule" was instituted. That severely reduced our ability to enjoy the beaches as with age my ability to navigate the sand became more difficult.

With respect to the opportunity to revise the "final plan" provided by congressional legislation, my wife Nancy and I are in agreement with the recommendations of the "Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance" with the exception that morning access for those of us with limited mobility and others have access to the beaches prior to sunrise to enjoy the beautiful opportunities that that provides.

I respectfully request that these recommendations and requests be instituted and implemented as soon as possible so those of us who have enjoyed and respected the beaches of Hatteras for so many years can enjoy them before we leave this earth.

Hopefully,



Correspondence ID: 1368 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 14:23:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 1369 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 14:26:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 1370 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Without ORV access my handicapped daughter does not have the access necessary to enjoy the beaches she grew up on fishing, swimming, shelling, walking and playing.

Correspondence ID: 1371 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 14:28:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

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Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 1372 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As an avid fisherman and Retired Law Enforcement Officer I find it very sad that an ORV permit is required to access beach fishing areas at OBX. I also understand NPS wanting to protect bird and turtle areas but instead of doing just that the NPS uses this as an excuse to close entire beach driving areas and to fine people by forcing them to purchase ORV permits who not only enjoy fishing but also sightseeing and having access to pickup shells. If the NPS agenda is to really just protect the wildlife then they could rope off bird or turtle nesting areas instead of closing entire beaches.

And the point of making people purchase ORV permits when the OBX is suppose to be a beach for the public to access for enjoyment is just a sad excuse to stop the public from enjoying the right that is suppose to be free to the public.

Correspondence ID: 1373 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 14:30:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 1374 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 14:35:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,



Correspondence ID: 1375 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,18,2016 14:47:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

I have been a regular visitor to Hatteras Island since the mid 1970s. My husband and I own a cottage in Salvo and our daughters and now our grandsons have grown up and are growing up with Hatteras sand between their toes.

When the ORV access restrictions and the protection closures were put in place it changed what, when and where and how and how frequently we could enjoy Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands. I understand some of the requirements for having protection in place and have complete regard for the animals and plants of the islands. I have been involved with varying rescues over the years and have raised orphaned squirrels, raccoons, possums,skunks and songbirds as well as rehabilitated raptors and vultures. We have rescued exhausted or injured waterfowl from the beach on Hatteras. Our family respects the environment and participates in organized beach cleanups several times a year as well as conducting our own every time we visit the beach. We are good stewards of the environment.

Sometimes it is seasonal closures and certainly it is frequently the nighttime closures that impact our ability to enjoy the beach the way we were once able to enjoy it. We have friends who used to visit on a regular basis who have now limited themselves to small windows when access and fish are likely to be common or, in a couple of cases have sadly given up on visiting Hatteras altogether. That being said anything that can be done to gain back some of what we have lost in the way of ORV and overall access privileges is much appreciated. Please find my comments on the specific alternatives.

1) Morning beach openings

I prefer alternative 3 with additional consideration of a later possible closing time.

2) Seasonal ORV routes

I prefer alternative three with the additional consideration of extended seasonal routes in the areas not at villages. This extended season should be Sept 1 to April 30.

3) Vehicle free areas

I don't believe there should be vehicle free areas for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the fact that I rarely see those areas being used by pedestrians and feel they were developed for some kind of concession or trade off with the anti-access groups and not on a basis of any sound science. I can't help but become upset while viewing a vast area like south beach totally devoid of humans. I feel that it is a waste of resource, not a protection of resource. One such area that is close to our heart is ramp 23. Any possible ORV access north or south of ramp 23 will be beneficial to visitors in the tri-village area and may even bring back some shoulder season rentals to those who could use the income to help maintain their cottages.

4) Access improvements

I appreciate what has been done to get us closer to the number of ramps we had at one time and your preferred alternative 2 would be greatly enhanced by anything that would provide additional access to Cape Point in consideration of animal closures or tidal conditions at the narrows.

5) Permits

Your preferred alternative 2 is fair.

6) Total VFA and ORV mileage

The best alternative is number 3 however I am opposed to VFAs as I do not believe there is scientific purpose but simply political expediency that created those VFAs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these alternatives. We hope that you can use your management skills to create a fair approach to all access for as much of the year as possible while maintaining the necessary protections. Thank you for the good things you and your staff have done so far to improve the visitor experience for your special CHNS.

Sincerely,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1376 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 14:55:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Morning openings: All ramps should open at 6:00 AM and remain open until at least 10:00 PM.

Seasonal ORV routes: Alternative 3 plus open non-village routes Sept 1- April 30.

Vehicle Free Access (VFA): Alternative 3. Reopening Ramp 34 North would dramatically reduce crowding and improve safety for southern ramps. Ramp 45 needs to be reopened to allow recreational use of South Beach. South Beach is the safest beach for families and allows an alternative route to Cape Point.

Access improvements: Alternative routes, such as reopening of Ramp 45 need to be considered when natural and resource actions (turtles) restrict access to Cape Point.

Permits: Annual permits should be 365 consecutive days from date of purchase. A 10 day pass is needed to cover two successive weekends.

Total VFA and ORV route mileage: Increase ocean front year round access; increase seasonal access; reduce VFAs to a minimum.

Correspondence ID: 1377 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've been going to Cape Hatteras National Seashore since 1972. One of the rule changes I would like to see is at least a 6:00 a.m. opening. Daybreak is one of the best times to fish.

I would also like to see seasonal ORV routes opened up earlier in the fall and later in the spring.

As for access improvements, I would like a west side access to the point. I would also like for the water drainage problem to be solved through this area (from ramp 43 to ramp 49. When these areas are closed it crowds other areas.

If you want to build extra parking areas for people to park, who will pay for this? The permit buyers. That is another reason to open more beaches for us.

I would like to see the permits changed to Annual by date of issue and 10 day permit available.

After 43 years of going down, I have seen a lot of changes. A couple of years ago some of the things happening caused some hard feelings between the Park Service People and the Public. I saw a change last year and it was for the good. I am looking forward to making my 5 or 6 trips down in the next week or two.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1378 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 15:05:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Permit changes to 10 day and annual by date are long overdue.

Under access improvements all ramps (ocean and sound side) need to be made two way for safety. Mile marker signs (the size of those posted in Ocracoke) need to be installed every tenth of a mile so visitors (ORV users or pedestrians) can tell dispatchers where they are with certainty in the event of an emergency. It has been my experience that even some dispatchers don't know ramp numbers and get ramp numbers confused with Hwy. 12 mile markers.

Ramps 44 and 49 need to be elevated with culverts installed to avoid flooding of the ramps.

Correspondence ID: 1379 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please keep our beach open and free to all! Cape Hatteras Seashore should be enjoyed by all, it gives people a wonderful view of our beach. And draws tourist from all over the world.

Correspondence ID: 1380 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 15:51:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I totally agree with CHAPA 8/2015 Recommendations Confirmed 3/2016. I want earlier beach openings a 6am and later closing at 10pm. I want extended seasonal ORV use by 4 weeks in spring and fall in front of Villages and Ocracoke campground Oct1-Apr 30 plus extend seasonal routes not at villages to Sep 1-Apr 30. I want road improvements and parking area installation at Bitter Wash and Devil Shoals sites plus extend bypass road north to Ramp 44 for 0.4 mi, soundside access on Bodie Isl and provisions for temporary ORV corridor from ramp 45 to Cape Point when conditions prevent access from east beach and when RISK to wildlife not present. I want annual by date of issue permits and 10day. I want 26.7 miles of year round OCEANFRONT ORV routes, 19 miles of seasonal ORV routes, 18.5 mi of VFAs. Restore ramp 2 and use ramp 59 extending each existing year round ORV route approximately 0.5 mi in both directions, ramp 23 become a seasonal ORV route, ramp 34 north would become a seasonal ORV route (2 miles), redesignate VFAs at ramp 1 south (.5mi), Bodie Isl spit (.75mi), ramp 43 north (.6mi), ramp 45 west (1.3mi) as seasonal ORV routes, ramp 48 east (.5mi) as year round. Also redesignate ramp 23 north as year round.
For the addition of ORV fees, the NPS share of federal funds, the outrageous fees for climbing Cape Hatteras Lighthouse WE THE PEOPLE deserve to get at least some of OUR beach back. After all, it was the NPS that FORGOT to file a beach driving plan with the federal government that got us here now.

Correspondence ID: 1381 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Sir:

I am a recreational fisherman, that frequents the outer banks at least once every year, with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

1. Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm. Most know that fishing peak times are at sunrise and sunset; preventing fisherman from ORV access prior to sunrise is like telling a child on Christmas morning they cannot open presents until lunch time. As a minimum, please consider opening beach accesses by 6 am.

2. Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks. Climate change (increase in temperatures) is causing a shift in the peak fishing period along the banks. Expanding the season will help compensate for the climate change.

3. Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted. The

flooding last Fall caused restrictive access so by expanding additional access will offset times when typical access is limited.

4. Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

5. Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 1382 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 16:01:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

I am a full time resident of Hatteras Island for the past 5 years. Before that I and my family were frequent visitors to the Cape Hatteras Seashore. Our family vacations have been spent in Dare and Hyde County beaches for over 30 years. I would like to state I support Option 3 that provides the most Access to ORV users. I would also like to see greater access to beaches for residents and guests alike. The ORV areas are needed to the families with young children and for the elderly who need their ORVs to get to the beaches. There are miles and miles of beaches just wanting to be enjoyed. If the beach is only accessible if you are young and healthy enough to walk there, this is not seem fair or right for the People. This park is for the enjoyment of the fine hard working people of this land.

This is my 2nd comment to NPS during this public review. The reason I am writing again is because I wanted to ask NPS to consider clearing the overgrowth of vegetation around the pond which is located off the route behind the dunes that takes you to the Point. This overgrowth is pushing the nesting birds onto the beach. The birds used to nest in the area around the pond but they no longer do so because it is not safe for them with all the overgrowth.

My next comment is to ask for greater access to the hook, south beach or the area which is located between the point and Frisco beach. This beach is a wonderful beach for family gatherings. The shelling is fabulous and the kids can swim in this area because the water is normally calmer. Locals gather in this area in the past and really enjoy gathering together to watch sunsets and visit. Could you please consider opening this area in the off season just as you do behind the villages?
South beach does not have to remain vehicle free area. But if it must, please consider opening it on a seasonal basis so we can enjoy this area when the birds and the turtles have finished nesting.

My next comment is to ask for corridor from the newly planned parking area at the end of ramp 45 to the point. This corridor can be used when access is not available to the Point using any other path. As long as people, residents and visitors have access to the Point, we will be happy. I know NPS wants visitors to enjoy their visit to the park and do not want to disappoint their guests. Some visitor come to Cape Hatteras just to see Cape Point and it is closed most of the summer. Shame of you for not thinking outside the box and finding a way to keep your visitors and residents happy. We all want people to enjoy their experience and come back. We want the children of today to want to come back and enjoy this park with their family too. Let's give access to Cape Point as much as possible.

Correspondence ID: 1383 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Sir:

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 1384 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I believe there can be a happy medium that would allow all groups to enjoy the beach. It creates additional revenue to the area. Thanks, [REDACTED] Native Tar Heel.

Correspondence ID: 1385 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 16:14:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Choose the no action alternative

Correspondence ID: 1386 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a resident of Dare County with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

While the preferred alternative(s) provide meaningful improvements in several areas, they fail to measure up to the spirit and intent of the reforms mandated in the Defense Appropriations Act for 2015. I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors and access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

-Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted. Observations over the past four years indicate many VFAs are seldom used during even the busiest months of the year. I suggest NPS initiate a continuing study of actual monthly visitor counts and uses within each VFA to validate that these areas are being used to an extent that justifies the level of year-round closures in place.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest, at a minimum, providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

The area east of Ramp 45 E (left)(1.2 mi) should be re-designated a VFA with Special Circumstances with a provision that would allow the superintendent to temporarily designate an ORV corridor to provide access to Cape Point when circumstances prevent ORV access via Ramp 44 S (right).

The single most important ORV access route at the Seashore is the area that encompasses Cape Point. The Final Rule designates only one ORV route, Ramp 44 S (right) for access to the Point. Prior to the Final Rule, Ramp 45 E (left) provided a secondary route to Cape Point. The designation of 4 miles of beach between Cape Point and ramp 48 as a VFA in the Final Rule removed this secondary route permanently. Should flooding or erosion occur unabated on the route from Ramp 44, future ORV access to Cape Point would be prohibited until a multi-year revised rule making process is completed.

Notwithstanding closures due to wildlife protection buffers during avian breeding season, Cape Point access via this one remaining designated route is closed periodically due to the effects of weather events such as nor'easters, extreme flooding, temporary (or possibly permanent) erosion problems, and turtle nests within the hatch window in the fall.

The VFA with Special Circumstances designation for Ramp 45 E (left) will recognize that the Superintendent has the authority to adaptively and positively manage access as conditions change at the Seashore just as he has the authority to adaptively manage resource protection measures as conditions change. The superintendent should use this authority to provide an ORV corridor on a temporary basis to ensure access to the Point is not prevented when access via Ramp 44 is not feasible. The temporary ORV corridor would be subject to the same resource management guidelines used to establish buffers and corridors in seasonal and year round ORV routes throughout the Seashore.

Ramp 1 - South (right): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) VFA to Seasonal access, This area abuts the South Nags head beach which is seasonally open to ORVs. This access would provide added convenience for visitors who stay in Nags Head / Kitty Hawk / Kill Devil Hills during the fall and winter months.

Ramp 2 - South (right): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) VFA to Year Round ORV access. Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 include this proposal. This change will help alleviate ORV crowding at Ramp 4 and will obviate the need for building a new ramp south of the existing ramp.

Ramp 4 - South (right) at Spit: Change 1,200 meters (.75 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. This is an extremely popular location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to the spit after the summer nesting season has completed.

Ramp 23 - North (left): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) Seasonal Access to Year Round Access. This change will provide more convenient summer ORV access to residents and visitors in the Rodanthe/Waves/Salvo area. The area is seldom used now and its closure contributes to crowding at Ramps 25 and 27.

Ramp 23 - South (right): Change 2,250 meters (1.4 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. Alternatives 2 and 3 include this proposal. This is an extremely popular location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed.

Ramp 32 - South (right): Change 1,550 meters (1.0 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. Alternative 3 includes this proposal. This location is extremely popular for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed.

Ramp 34 - North (left): Change 1,550 meters (1.0 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. Alternatives 2 and 3 include this proposal. This is an extremely popular location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed.

Buxton - Ramp 43 (left)- North: Change 1,000 meters (.6 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. This change will help alleviate the crowded conditions that occur on Ramps 43 and 44 during the summer as resource closures occur. This is an extremely popular location for summer and fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras and which cannot be easily accessed without ORV.

The area currently used as the lifeguard protected swimming beach will remain VFA and not be affected by this change.

Ramp 45 - West (right): Change 2,050 meters (1.30 miles) of the VFA to Seasonal Access. This is an extremely popular location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed. The proposal to change this area to Seasonal Access rather than to Year Round Access recognizes that the area is on the fringe of high density nesting activity which may spill over. Seasonal designation will ease the difficulties of managing the resources while still allowing visitor access during the fall fishing season.

Ramp 48 - East (left): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) at eastern boundary of Ramp 48 from VFA to Year Round Access. This change will increase the size of the year round access area east of Ramp 48 by .5 miles. The Ramp 48/49 route is one of the most popular ORV destinations during the summer for visitors who do not have direct ocean access at their rental homes or motels. It is frequently overcrowded. The additional access proposed should alleviate the overcrowding which occurs here.

Ramp 59 - East (left): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) VFA to Year Round ORV access. Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 include this proposal. This change will increase public access at a very popular area and will obviate the need for building a new ramp south of the existing ramp.

-Permits: the proposed permit modifications are positive and much appreciated. In addition immediate consideration should be given to a 14 day permit to accommodate those with two week rentals.

Conclusion: The modifications proposed in Alternatives 2 and 3 are not adequate to accomplish the objectives of the legislation which required the examination of the VFAs designated in the Final Rule. As a minimum, additional VFAs should be re-designated as seasonal ORV routes and Ramp 45 should be re-designated a VFA with Special Circumstances.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative(s) make some progress, there are areas where improvement is lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID:	1387	Project:	59571	Document:	70928
Received:	Mar,18,2016 16:38:24				
Correspondence Type:	Web Form				

Correspondence: As a resident of Dare County with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

While the preferred alternative(s) provide meaningful improvements in several areas, they fail to measure up to the spirit and intent of the reforms mandated in the Defense Appropriations Act for 2015. I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors and access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

-Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted. Observations over the past four years indicate many VFAs are seldom used during even the busiest months of the year. I suggest NPS initiate a continuing study of actual monthly visitor counts and uses within each VFA to validate that these areas are being used to an extent that justifies the level of year-round closures in place.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest, at a minimum, providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

The area east of Ramp 45 E (left)(1.2 mi) should be re-designated a VFA with Special Circumstances with a provision that would allow the superintendent to temporarily designate an ORV corridor to provide access to Cape Point when circumstances prevent ORV access via Ramp 44 S (right). The single most important ORV access route at the Seashore is the area that encompasses Cape Point. The Final Rule designates only one ORV route, Ramp 44 S (right) for access to the Point. Prior to the Final Rule, Ramp 45 E (left) provided a secondary route to Cape Point. The designation of 4 miles of beach between Cape Point and ramp 48 as a VFA in the Final Rule removed this secondary route permanently. Should flooding or erosion occur unabated on the route from Ramp 44, future ORV access to Cape Point would be prohibited until a multi-year revised rule making process is completed.

Notwithstanding closures due to wildlife protection buffers during avian breeding season, Cape Point access via this one remaining designated route is closed periodically due to the effects of weather events such as nor'easters, extreme flooding, temporary (or possibly permanent) erosion problems, and turtle nests within the hatch window in the fall.

The VFA with Special Circumstances designation for Ramp 45 E (left) will recognize that the Superintendent has the authority to adaptively and positively manage access as conditions change at the Seashore just as he has the authority to adaptively manage resource protection measures as conditions change. The superintendent should use this authority to provide an ORV corridor on a temporary basis to ensure access to the Point is not prevented when access via Ramp 44 is not feasible. The temporary ORV corridor would be subject to the same resource management guidelines used to establish buffers and corridors in seasonal and year round ORV routes throughout the Seashore.

Ramp 1 - South (right): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) VFA to Seasonal access, This area abuts the South Nags head beach which is seasonally open to ORVs. This access would provide added convenience for visitors who stay in Nags Head / Kitty Hawk / Kill Devil Hills during the fall and winter months.

Ramp 2 - South (right): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) VFA to Year Round ORV access. Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 include this proposal. This change will help alleviate ORV crowding at Ramp 4 and will obviate the need for building a new ramp south of the existing ramp.

Ramp 4 - South (right) at Spit: Change 1,200 meters (.75 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. This is an extremely popular location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to the spit after the summer nesting season has completed.

Ramp 23 - North (left): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) Seasonal Access to Year Round Access. This change will provide more convenient summer ORV

access to residents and visitors in the Rodanthe/Waves/Salvo area. The area is seldom used now and its closure contributes to crowding at Ramps 25 and 27.

Ramp 23 - South (right): Change 2,250 meters (1.4 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. Alternatives 2 and 3 include this proposal. This is an extremely popular location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed.

Ramp 32 - South (right): Change 1,550 meters (1.0 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. Alternative 3 includes this proposal. This location is extremely popular for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed.

Ramp 34 - North (left): Change 1,550 meters (1.0 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. Alternatives 2 and 3 include this proposal. This is an extremely popular location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed.

Buxton - Ramp 43 (left)- North: Change 1,000 meters (.6 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. This change will help alleviate the crowded conditions that occur on Ramps 43 and 44 during the summer as resource closures occur. This is an extremely popular location for summer and fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras and which cannot be easily accessed without ORV.

The area currently used as the lifeguard protected swimming beach will remain VFA and not be affected by this change.

Ramp 45 - West (right): Change 2,050 meters (1.30 miles) of the VFA to Seasonal Access. This is an extremely popular location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed. The proposal to change this area to Seasonal Access rather than to Year Round Access recognizes that the area is on the fringe of high density nesting activity which may spill over. Seasonal designation will ease the difficulties of managing the resources while still allowing visitor access during the fall fishing season.

Ramp 48 - East (left): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) at eastern boundary of Ramp 48 from VFA to Year Round Access. This change will increase the size of the year round access area east of Ramp 48 by .5 miles. The Ramp 48/49 route is one of the most popular ORV destinations during the summer for visitors who do not have direct ocean access at their rental homes or motels. It is frequently overcrowded. The additional access proposed should alleviate the overcrowding which occurs here.

Ramp 59 - East (left): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) VFA to Year Round ORV access. Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 include this proposal. This change will increase public access at a very popular area and will obviate the need for building a new ramp south of the existing ramp.

-Permits: the proposed permit modifications are positive and much appreciated. In addition immediate consideration should be given to a 14 day permit to accommodate those with two week rentals.

Conclusion: The modifications proposed in Alternatives 2 and 3 are not adequate to accomplish the objectives of the legislation which required the examination of the VFAs designated in the Final Rule. As a minimum, additional VFAs should be re-designated as seasonal ORV routes and Ramp 45 should be re-designated a VFA with Special Circumstances.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative(s) make some progress, there are areas where improvement is lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1388 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Hello from a local here in Buxton ,my name is [REDACTED] and together here w/ my husband [REDACTED] we reside and enjoy the nature both on land and at the bodies of water we are surrounded by. Though we would love to go off road during the summer to the point (as we call it) and the other beautiful places off limits to ORVs during those times we feel that the sacrifice to leave the limits now in place to preserve the population of several species, birds,turtles and fish is necessary. During a beautiful July evening we were personally effected by a turtle swimming in on the gulf side of the point(as we call it)to lay her eggs. We didn't know at first why she was there as we were all just admiring in awe of her. There she stayed and it came to me that she was waiting for us to leave ,it seemed to me she was afraid of all the lights and fishing that evening was good so there was a lot of trucks and fisherman.Then I personally felt concerned knowing that sharks are in the area and it would be best that she come in as quickly as possible and that she might be in jeopardy. I have seen old photos of masses of fish and native Americans in that spot for sure it is a very sacred cradle of life. Unfortunately we know from history as seen in places like Easter Island man will continue to hunt w/ the result of extinction ,this is human nature. This can be changed w/ education for sure there is more logic and desire to maintain healthy populations of all the earths inhabitants but are we doing enough to educate the public? I am for keeping the regulations which exist currently in place. My hope is that a more important issue is addressed as in education along a newly constructed bicycle route on the main road to the Hatteras Light House. Having only this dangerous fast speed road to the parks many features encourages truckers not green minded pedestrians,cyclists ,naturalists. There would be the place for education right along the walking,bicycle path ,
Respectfully [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1389 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 16:46:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been visiting the Outer Banks, specifically down in Buxton, Avon, Frisco area for more then a decade. I truly love coming down and enjoying all aspects that the beach offers.

What has been most frustrating to me has been access to Cape Hatteras Point. The Point is closed to driving almost half of the year, including in peak times from spring to fall. Even then, when the Point is open, it is inaccessible due to high water or tides. An access road behind the dunes should make alternate

entry to the area around the Point.

Another ASTONISHMENT to me has been the fact that there has been standing water on ramp 43, 44, and at the campground for over six months. What are my federal tax dollars and my ORV permit money going towards? I was under the impression it was to maintain the ramps and beach. I am paying to be able to access the beach, and due to standing water around this area, it is inaccessible. I understand that mother nature does what it wants and you cannot predict Acts of God, however there has to be a system in place to remove the standing water from the most accessed area of the Cape Hatteras.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1390 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a frequent visitor to the Outer Banks with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

While the preferred alternative(s) provide meaningful improvements in several areas, they fail to measure up to the spirit and intent of the reforms mandated in the Defense Appropriations Act for 2015. I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors and access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

-Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted. Observations over the past four years indicate many VFAs are seldom used during even the busiest months of the year. I suggest NPS initiate a continuing study of actual monthly visitor counts and uses within each VFA to validate that these areas are being used to an extent that justifies the level of year-round closures in place.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest, at a minimum, providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

The area east of Ramp 45 E (left)(1.2 mi) should be re-designated a VFA with Special Circumstances with a provision that would allow the superintendent to temporarily designate an ORV corridor to provide access to Cape Point when circumstances prevent ORV access via Ramp 44 S (right). The single most important ORV access route at the Seashore is the area that encompasses Cape Point. The Final Rule designates only one ORV route, Ramp 44 S (right) for access to the Point. Prior to the Final Rule, Ramp 45 E (left) provided a secondary route to Cape Point. The designation of 4 miles of beach between Cape Point and ramp 48 as a VFA in the Final Rule removed this secondary route permanently. Should flooding or erosion occur unabated on the route from Ramp 44, future ORV access to Cape Point would be prohibited until a multi-year revised rule making process is completed.

Notwithstanding closures due to wildlife protection buffers during avian breeding season, Cape Point access via this one remaining designated route is closed periodically due to the effects of weather events such as nor'easters, extreme flooding, temporary (or possibly permanent) erosion problems, and turtle nests within the hatch window in the fall.

The VFA with Special Circumstances designation for Ramp 45 E (left) will recognize that the Superintendent has the authority to adaptively and positively manage access as conditions change at the Seashore just as he has the authority to adaptively manage resource protection measures as conditions change. The superintendent should use this authority to provide an ORV corridor on a temporary basis to ensure access to the Point is not prevented when access via Ramp 44 is not feasible. The temporary ORV corridor would be subject to the same resource management guidelines used to establish buffers and corridors in seasonal and year round ORV routes throughout the Seashore.

Ramp 1 - South (right): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) VFA to Seasonal access, This area abuts the South Nags head beach which is seasonally open to ORVs. This access would provide added convenience for visitors who stay in Nags Head / Kitty Hawk / Kill Devil Hills during the fall and winter months.

Ramp 2 - South (right): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) VFA to Year Round ORV access. Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 include this proposal. This change will help alleviate ORV crowding at Ramp 4 and will obviate the need for building a new ramp south of the existing ramp.

Ramp 4 - South (right) at Spit: Change 1,200 meters (.75 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. This is an extremely popular location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to the spit after the summer nesting season has completed.

Ramp 23 - North (left): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) Seasonal Access to Year Round Access. This change will provide more convenient summer ORV access to residents and visitors in the Rodanthe/Waves/Salvo area. The area is seldom used now and its closure contributes to crowding at Ramps 25 and 27.

Ramp 23 - South (right): Change 2,250 meters (1.4 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. Alternatives 2 and 3 include this proposal. This is an extremely popular location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed.

Ramp 32 - South (right): Change 1,550 meters (1.0 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. Alternative 3 includes this proposal. This location is extremely popular for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed.

Ramp 34 - North (left): Change 1,550 meters (1.0 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. Alternatives 2 and 3 include this proposal. This is an extremely popular

location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed.

Buxton - Ramp 43 (left)- North: Change 1,000 meters (.6 miles) VFA to Seasonal Acces. This change will help alleviate the crowded conditions that occur on Ramps 43 and 44 during the summer as resource closures occur. This is an extremely popular location for summer and fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras and which cannot be easily accessed without ORV.

The area currently used as the lifeguard protected swimming beach will remain VFA and not be affected by this change.

Ramp 45 - West (right): Change 2,050 meters (1.30 miles) of the VFA to Seasonal Access. This is an extremely popular location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed. The proposal to change this area to Seasonal Access rather than to Year Round Access recognizes that the area is on the fringe of high density nesting activity which may spill over. Seasonal designation will ease the difficulties of managing the resources while still allowing visitor access during the fall fishing season.

Ramp 48 - East (left): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) at eastern boundary of Ramp 48 from VFA to Year Round Access. This change will increase the size of the year round access area east of Ramp 48 by .5 miles. The Ramp 48/49 route is one of the most popular ORV destinations during the summer for visitors who do not have direct ocean access at their rental homes or motels. It is frequently overcrowded. The additional access proposed should alleviate the overcrowding which occurs here.

Ramp 59 - East (left): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) VFA to Year Round ORV access. Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 include this proposal. This change will increase public access at a very popular area and will obviate the need for building a new ramp south of the existing ramp.

-Permits: the proposed permit modifications are positive and much appreciated. In addition immediate consideration should be given to a 14 day permit to accommodate those with two week rentals.

Conclusion: The modifications proposed in Alternatives 2 and 3 are not adequate to accomplish the objectives of the legislation which required the examination of the VFAs designated in the Final Rule. As a minimum, additional VFAs should be re-designated as seasonal ORV routes and Ramp 45 should be re-designated a VFA with Special Circumstances.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative(s) make some progress, there are areas where improvement is lacking.

I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1391 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I ask that you leave the Nc outer banks alone. Leave them as they were for generations, free to enjoy. North Carolinians have always held our island in high regard and have treated them with respect. We ask that you will do the same. In order for the small fishing villages to survive they need the revenue that is generated by the tourism. Ask yourself would you like to go to the beach and not fish, swim, or take a walk on it. Please tell me you would agree with that. It seems to be the constant now that an all to powerful government has stripped away more of the peoples rights; do something refreshing and don't tread on NC! Or her citizens. Keep the ORV trails and the beaches open for all of us Americans to explore and enjoy.

Correspondence ID: 1392 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a resident of Dare County I have a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

While the preferred alternative(s) provide meaningful improvements in several areas, they fail to measure up to the spirit and intent of the reforms mandated in the Defense Appropriations Act for 2015. I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors and access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

-Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted. Observations over the past four years indicate many VFAs are seldom used during even the busiest months of the year. I suggest NPS initiate a continuing study of actual monthly visitor counts and uses within each VFA to validate that these areas are being used to an extent that justifies the level of year-round closures in place.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest, at a minimum, providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

The area east of Ramp 45 E (left)(1.2 mi) should be re-designated a VFA with Special Circumstances with a provision that would allow the superintendent to temporarily designate an ORV corridor to provide access to Cape Point when circumstances prevent ORV access via Ramp 44 S (right).

The single most important ORV access route at the Seashore is the area that encompasses Cape Point. The Final Rule designates only one ORV route,

Ramp 44 S (right) for access to the Point. Prior to the Final Rule, Ramp 45 E (left) provided a secondary route to Cape Point. The designation of 4 miles of beach between Cape Point and ramp 48 as a VFA in the Final Rule removed this secondary route permanently. Should flooding or erosion occur unabated on the route from Ramp 44, future ORV access to Cape Point would be prohibited until a multi-year revised rule making process is completed.

Notwithstanding closures due to wildlife protection buffers during avian breeding season, Cape Point access via this one remaining designated route is closed periodically due to the effects of weather events such as nor'easters, extreme flooding, temporary (or possibly permanent) erosion problems, and turtle nests within the hatch window in the fall.

The VFA with Special Circumstances designation for Ramp 45 E (left) will recognize that the Superintendent has the authority to adaptively and positively manage access as conditions change at the Seashore just as he has the authority to adaptively manage resource protection measures as conditions change. The superintendent should use this authority to provide an ORV corridor on a temporary basis to ensure access to the Point is not prevented when access via Ramp 44 is not feasible. The temporary ORV corridor would be subject to the same resource management guidelines used to establish buffers and corridors in seasonal and year round ORV routes throughout the Seashore.

Ramp 1 - South (right): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) VFA to Seasonal access, This area abuts the South Nags head beach which is seasonally open to ORVs. This access would provide added convenience for visitors who stay in Nags Head / Kitty Hawk / Kill Devil Hills during the fall and winter months.

Ramp 2 - South (right): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) VFA to Year Round ORV access. Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 include this proposal. This change will help alleviate ORV crowding at Ramp 4 and will obviate the need for building a new ramp south of the existing ramp.

Ramp 4 - South (right) at Spit: Change 1,200 meters (.75 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. This is an extremely popular location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to the spit after the summer nesting season has completed.

Ramp 23 - North (left): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) Seasonal Access to Year Round Access. This change will provide more convenient summer ORV access to residents and visitors in the Rodanthe/Waves/Salvo area. The area is seldom used now and its closure contributes to crowding at Ramps 25 and 27.

Ramp 23 - South (right): Change 2,250 meters (1.4 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. Alternatives 2 and 3 include this proposal. This is an extremely popular location for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed.

Ramp 32 - South (right): Change 1,550 meters (1.0 miles) VFA to Seasonal Access. Alternative 3 includes this proposal. This location is extremely popular for the fall visitors that come to fish at Cape Hatteras. This change will allow access to this section of beach after the summer tourists have departed and nesting season has completed.

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-Permits: the proposed permit modifications are positive and much appreciated. In addition immediate consideration should be given to a 14 day permit to accommodate those with two week rentals.

Conclusion: The modifications proposed in Alternatives 2 and 3 are not adequate to accomplish the objectives of the legislation which required the examination of the VFAs designated in the Final Rule. As a minimum, additional VFAs should be re-designated as seasonal ORV routes and Ramp 45 should be re-designated a VFA with Special Circumstances.

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Correspondence ID:	1393	Project:	59571	Document:	70928
Received:	Mar,18,2016 00:00:00				
Correspondence Type:	Web Form				

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By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative(s) make some progress, there are areas where improvement is lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1394 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for the opportunity to offer feedback on the Environmental Assessment for changes to the Off-Road Vehicle rule for Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Having visited that area for 40 years, limited accessibility to the beaches has adversely affected not only myself but more importantly the viability of the region in general. Im thankful that the NPS has opened a renewed dialogue hopefully resulting in the restoration of the majority of beach right of way.

The alternatives set forth are a much-welcomed improvement but Im respectfully requesting specific consideration of the following:

Beach openings:

Please consider restoring access to continual. If not, an opening of 5 am (or an opening tied to a set time before sunrise) to midnight.

Permits:

One big help would be that annual fishing licenses expire 1 year from the issue date. A day-to-day license would also be beneficial to those fishing for the day or maybe those with odd visits, such as 2 weeks, 2.5 weeks, etc. Now its either 10 days at a time or 1 year.

A Beach Driving Permit that is transferable between vehicles. I have 2 vehicles that I could take on my trips but am essentially limited to 1 unless I want to buy a second permit. I do like how they are now easier to purchase online, I just cant afford more than one.

This review is a great opportunity to restore most, if not all, access to our beaches. I use the term our because I share with the locals the admiration and responsibility necessary to hand the land down through generations for them to respectfully enjoy as we have. I encourage the National Park Service to broaden access and access points back to the levels of years ago.

Thank you for your time.

Correspondence ID: 1395 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Specifically, my concerns are:

I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open to ORV traffic both before and during nesting season, and that adequate protection for migrating shorebirds is also addressed.

Open beaches during sea turtle nesting only after beaches have been checked for nests and nests have been adequately protected from vehicle traffic, regardless of time of day.

I want you to use the best available science to protect birds and turtles: pre-nesting closures, adequate buffers, no driving in front of chicks and enumerate specific triggers for closures based on bird behaviors.

I am counting on you to protect:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

I support LESS driving on the beaches, in the form of:

Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles and other wildlife.

Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers and other shorebirds.

Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the us, people who love our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 1396 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I want less driving on the beaches, not more. Specifically, my concerns are:

I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open to ORV traffic both before and during nesting season, and that adequate protection for migrating shorebirds is also addressed. Open beaches during sea turtle nesting only after beaches have been checked for nests and nests have been adequately protected from vehicle traffic, regardless of time of day. I want you to use the best available science to protect birds and turtles: pre-nesting closures, adequate buffers, no driving in front of chicks and enumerate specific triggers for closures based on bird behaviors.

I am counting on you to protect:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. I support LESS driving on the beaches, in the form of: Adequate seasonal driving restrictions. Seasonal ORV routes left open to vehicles until April 14th in areas with a history of nesting birds may jeopardize nesting of oystercatchers, Least Terns, sea turtles and other wildlife. Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots, oystercatchers and other shorebirds. Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the us, people who love our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support them.

Correspondence ID: 1397 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: This has gone on for many years,environmentalist vs fishermen and other beach users.. Shame of it all is that both groups could be satisfied if both groups were willing to compromise.. These beaches could be utilized by all groups mentioned and STILL maintain habitat. When asked to fill out an extensive form,which I did,that form illustrated how wildlife could be protected while still allowing access though these areas by foot and leaving parking areas above the closure in sensitive areas. For instance,south beach between Buxton Point and Frisco has been closed to access for years now,WHY?? There could easily be a path for vehicles around sensitive areas and a parking area to allow pedestrian access from there!

At any rate there are many that comment that have NEVER EVEN seen these beaches and feel it is their right to curtail our right!! Anger is ramped up because of this and I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY!

Correspondence ID: 1398 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 19:01:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please support Alternative #3

Correspondence ID: 1399 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 19:20:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

-Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

-Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

-Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

-Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

-Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1400 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My family and I came down to the island quite a bit for vacation. The biggest draw was driving on the beach. I was sent a questionaire asking would I be willing to pay to drive on the beach. My answer was yes and no. I was willing to pay if some of the money was used to aide in access for people with handicaps. But if not then no. I have fished numerous tournaments over the years and spent a lot of money on the island. My family and I love the island and it is a shame what a few people have been able to do to the people that live on the island and make their living from the island. The island needs to be respected by all. It is a beautiful natural resource that is there for ALL to enjoy. Not just bird watchers. Keep your rules in place to protect the resources but for those of us who want to drive or need to drive on the beach to fish or enjoy the beach don't charge us. For those that don't follow the rules make the punishment harsh. For those of us that don't live in Carolina maybe there should be a small fee but it needs to go to the island.

Correspondence ID: 1401 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Sirs,

As a property owner for 23 years in Avon and an active fishermen and kiteboarder, access to the beaches surf/sound is the primary reason I visit and own property on the Outer Banks. In my opinion the CHAPA alternative is the best solution and the one that I favor.

Regards, [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1402 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 19:33:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: please adopt alt 3 for beach access. thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1403 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been visiting Hatteras (specifically Buxton/Frisco) for only a few years, but have totally fallen in love with the island. I am a middle-aged wife and mother of three children that enjoys outdoors. My family and I adore the area and spend our time on the beaches...photographing wildlife, surf fishing, beach combing, and the water sport opportunities.

We have a great respect for our 'natural world' and understand that some things (restrictions) must be in place...to protect the environment and wildlife, but I beg of you, to consider minimizing buffer zones, reopening more areas to ORV driving and to find a method of draining the areas in Buxton and Frisco that are prone to flooding.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concern.

Correspondence ID: 1404 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 19:49:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

Seasonal ORV routes:

I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

Vehicle-free areas:

I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

Access Improvements:

Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit.

Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1405 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please protect shore birds and turtles by checking for nests before orv season opens. Orv users represent only one kind of visitor to the shore. The natural beauty of the beaches remain the main draw for most residents, and the native wildlife is a big part of that! Please ensure that our shoreline remains beautiful for all residents and for generations to come.

Correspondence ID: 1406 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 19:58:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Alternative 3 is the best option for beach access advocates.

Correspondence ID: 1407 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 20:03:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Alternative 3 provides for the closest proposals for more reasonable access. However the vehicle free areas are too large and deny access to people who actually used and enjoyed these areas. Many of these areas are remote and not frequented by pedestrians. Typically pedestrians more often then not will settle down in ORV zones and not utilize the adjacent VFA .

Correspondence ID: 1408 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have visited the cape Hatteras national seashore for the last 15 years. The lack of access to fish gets more embarrassing and frustrating every year. The fact that the point gets shut down every year due to nesting during peak fishing times is not suspicious it is being done on purpose. I obey all laws on the beach and cannot understand why the closures are done in a way that does not allow access to the best fishing areas. The local economy has suffered long enough. I do not mind small closures but not allowing access to miles of beach is ridiculous. The point should always be open.

Correspondence ID: 1409 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a recreational fisherman with a strong interest in balancing resource conservation with public access, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the off-road vehicle (ORV) rule currently in effect at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. While the preferred alternative provides meaningful improvements in several areas, I respectfully urge you to consider making additional modifications to better accommodate park visitors being able to access large portions of the park for recreation.

I support the following positions on the proposed changes:

- Morning beach openings: while the preferred alternative opens the seashore earlier in the morning at certain times of the year, the seashore should open at 6am on primary routes throughout the year, as well as remain open until 10pm.

- Seasonal ORV routes: I support extending seasonal ORV routes by four weeks in the spring and fall instead of the proposed two weeks.

- Vehicle-free areas: I am disappointed that more areas are not restored for vehicular access. Alternative 3 makes the most progress, but additional openings are warranted.

- Access Improvements: Alternative 2 makes important improvements, but I also suggest providing a temporary corridor to access Cape Point when conditions permit. I feel the access should only be granted to persons licensed with accepted required fishing equipment in possession and using the access to fish.

- Permits: the suggested permit modifications are very positive and much appreciated.

By passing legislation that forced the current review process, the Congress clearly intended for meaningful access improvements to be made. While the preferred alternative makes some improvements, there are areas that are significantly lacking. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to restore balance and provide reasonable and responsible access to the seashore. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Correspondence ID: 1410 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 20:23:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: In regards to the new plan, I would like alternative PLAN 3 to be applied in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I believe Plan 3 is very reasonable between the NPS and the people who utilize our lovely beaches. I also believe opening the beaches 30-60 minutes earlier in popular areas like ramps 43, 44, and Cape Point would not be an issue. A simple shoreline corridor on the east side beaches to Cape Point would provide access while making the rest of the area much easier to monitor with no people or vehicles present. People just want access, they do not want to be walking in the seasonal bird enclosures.

I also believe access at ramp 44 could be improved vastly by raising the road a bit. It would keep it from ever sitting underwater, and wouldn't require too much sand. This is by far the most popular ramp on the island. It provides access for both pedestrians and ORV's.

I'd like to note that I don't feel like Plan 1 is a viable option... Plan 2 is ok if Plan 3 is not enabled, but Plan 1 does not give the beachgoers enough of their original rights back.

In closing I would like to say I'm excited about having a new superintendent at the Cape Hatteras Seashore. I thought my National Park here was doing a good job before Audubon's and the SELC lawsuits. Yes, some changes were needed but the way it was done caused unnecessary division. I wish you and your family the best while here on the Outer Banks.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1411 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 20:24:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: In regards to the new plan, I would like alternative PLAN 3 to be applied in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I believe Plan 3 is very reasonable between the NPS and the people who utilize our lovely beaches. I also believe opening the beaches 30-60 minutes earlier in popular areas like ramps 43, 44, and Cape Point would not be an issue. A simple shoreline corridor on the east side beaches to Cape Point would provide access while making the rest of the area much easier to monitor with no people or vehicles present. People just want access, they do not want to be walking in the seasonal bird enclosures.

I'd like to note that I don't feel like Plan 1 is a viable option... Plan 2 is ok if Plan 3 is not enabled, but Plan 1 does not give the beachgoers enough of their original rights back.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1412 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 20:39:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have driven an ORV in the CHNSRA to surf, birdwatch, shell and enjoy the beach since 1987.

I think the visitor experience and the local economy would both benefit by restoring access by ORVs to more beach.

Nesting closures that occur with no way around them cause crowding.

Some FVA areas are so remote from roads or parking you would have to be Laurence of Arabia to enjoy hiking there in the summer. They should be open to ORVs rather than build the roads and parking to make them usable.

Cape Point is a very awesome place and a way there should be available by interdunal road or the South Beach. I like being able to travel from Ramp 44 to 49 as in the past and feel that stretch of very popular beach should be open.

Alternative 3 is best for the now required permit.

Thank you for the the opportunity to comment on the polices at my beach again.

Correspondence ID: 1413 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 20:39:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
ORV route changes

The opening and closing of beaches in front of the villages was Sept 15 to may 15 for years without any problems. Why not put opening Sept 15, the closing May 1st or April 15. Open the fall for fishing, and close before the nesting begins in the spring. This would be part of all the plans. The fishermen and birders would be able to live with. Thank You.

Correspondence ID: 1414 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 20:42:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support alternative 3. there is simple logic here. access should be to the greatest extent possible without adverse impacts to wildlife or humans

seasonal ORV closures in front of villages are necessary to ensure public safety

there is no evidence that Vehicle Free Areas are necessary or useful for managing wildlife impacts

there is absolutely no scientific basis for complete closures

users in many cases are the strongest advocates and a valuable resource to engage in protecting the seashore. public commenters in California are of little help.

strain on NPS staff is not a legitimate excuse for restricting access (eg early morning, seasonal, or permanent closures [VFAs]).

it is reasonable to consider costs associated with additional NPS staff effort but it is completely expected that additional effort will be necessary to promote use as recreational resource and protect ecological/wildlife resources.

use volunteers. be creative. there are management options that do not require restricted access and personal inspection of very square foot of seashore by NPS staff. CAHA is not a DoD installation. this is not that difficult.

Correspondence ID: 1415 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar, 18, 2016 20:46:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: This is in response to the National Park Service request for comments regarding the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for ORV Management Environmental Assessment.

For more than a decade the visitors to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area have been exposed to the various attempts by the National Park Service to control vehicle and pedestrian access in order to promote the increase in wildlife on our beaches.

The results have been less than anticipated for wildlife and extremely detrimental to the visitor enjoyment and experience. The resource closures have been so large that the birds cannot be seen. The few open areas for pursuing the purpose of the seashore designation have forced crowding and congestion on increasingly small portions of beach.

BEACH ACCESS

Open 6am - 10pm

Priority ramps open first

Night closures have not been justified. The path to the water from nests in the hatch window is closed off. Any nests laid after September 1st may not have any hatchlings emerge and, if so, they can not survive the cold air and water.

Before the night closures our family saw a large turtle crawl in front of the truck and proceed to lay her eggs up higher on the beach. Obviously, this was not a headlight problem.

SEASONAL ORV ROUTES

Open Sept 1-April 30

Vehicle free areas included. Use of the beaches by the public, both pedestrian and ORV, is greatly reduced after the summer vacation months. There has been no

documentation of bird or human use to justify these closures at that time.

VEHICLE FREE AREAS

The use of these large areas has not been observed to be in demand by pedestrians. There has not been any research by NPS to prove the need except for comments of a few people who may not even visit here. The ORV folks have been crowded into increasingly smaller beach spaces which destroys the very unique character of this unique and special place.

The closures between Salvo and Avon are resented when there is little if any pedestrian use observed. The closure between Cape Point and Ramp 49 is especially onerous. This long beachfront area is desired by beachgoers of all varieties. Room is needed for kite boarders and fishermen in the Hook. Shelling, family gatherings, cookouts, surfing, swimming, sunning, playing games, and fishing all along the beach require space without interfering with each other. The experience of another world on the beach is broken by having to detour around VFA areas and detour on heavily traveled roads and through villages to get from one side of the closed area to the other.

It is understood and even appreciated by many that the NPS tries to do a commendable job of protecting the species where ever they happen to nest. A better practice would be to recognize that there are more proactive protective methods of preserving and increasing the species as have been acknowledged and put into practice in other state and national parks and wildlife areas.

ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

ORV permit money should be used only to facilitate ORV access.

New ramps between Salvo and Avon have been needed solely to get around excessive VFAs.

The need for pedestrian handicap ramps and parking lots has not been justified by usage. The parking lots are used by those who dont pay a fee and should not be financed by those who do.

Procedures and facilities for wildlife conservation may be financed by ORV funds if they also aid in more and better recreational beach assess. Noted in the letter from Gordon Myers of NCWRC is the statement that the commission can provide funds for research and adaptive management. (April 15, 2015)

Access trails and ramps should be built to provide a way to Cape Point. Ramp 44 needs to be extended all the way to Cape Point. Ramp 45 also should be opened all the way to Cape Point. Both trails should be two lanes wide with a pedestrian path along side. The surface should be of material appropriate for ORV 4 wheel drive or pedestrian walking passage.

If there is a proven need for more parking lots or roadways to give better access to those who do not use 4x4 vehicles, a parking/entrance permit system should be developed similar to the ORV permit

Cape Point should be ORV accessible at all times. This is a very special place and my grandchildren have never, or will they ever, be permitted to see it. It is a cultural and heritage site worthy of such designation. It has been used for ceremonies and inspiration for generations, many of whom have Croatoan ancestry.

PERMITS

Alternative #2

ROUTE MILEAGE

Total beach mileage should be open for ORV travel from September 1st -April 30th except those closed for safety. Until proven otherwise, personal observation is that the visitor attendance by pedestrian or ORV users doesnt necessitate segregated beaches other than during the summer months. Another reason that the beaches should be opened to the public is that all formerly open beaches are opened for tournaments for several weeks each year in the spring and fall.

Summer heavy pedestrian and bird use areas should be closed when and where needed. There has been no study to determine the need for Vehicle Free Areas. Personal observation is that few visitors walk in these areas except occasionally ORV riders who come from adjacent permitted spots. The few pedestrians who use the VFAs take their children and equipment to the edge of where the ORVs are parked. Obviously, the presence of ORVs doesnt bother the few pedestrians.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it appears, especially after reading the annual reports that Randy Swilling has been able to publish today, that the natural resources for 2015 show that the NPS is not achieving success with the current plans. The 2012 ORV Management Plan has not contributed to the increasing of the resources. Since 2005, when the Point was first closed to access, the increase in the propagation of the threatened species has not been sufficient to justify the enormous sacrifice of the visitors and the community. The methods chosen are not the methods needed.

The bird populations have not increased. Rather, they have diminished. Plover population is abysmal. Only one plover fledged at Cape Point last year. The numbers have gone down since 2010. The one better year still did not sustain the species. The Colonial Water Bird fledges have continually declined since 2012. Wilsons Plover is not sustainable. American Oyster Catchers, while impeding access to important recreational areas and not an ESA species, is declining and has a fledge rate of 0.52. Many times we have commented that better areas need to be created for nesting. The pre-nesting closures should not be encouraging birds to places they cannot survive, either because of ocean overwash or nearness to villages.

The turtle nesting, while increasing, is still an emergent rate of less than one-half. There is no knowledge of how many escape the ghost crabs and make it to the ocean. The loss of nests is more than 20% and is therefore considered catastrophic. We can do better. More nests must be relocated and to safer places. Relocating to a corral would make nest sitting more easily accomplished and protection from ghost crabs more likely. Moving to a hatchery, especially the nests laid after the second week of July would save half the nests.

By carefully looking at the statistics on the beaches of Cape Hatteras and researching the methods used in other areas, even as close as Pea Island, may lead to better stewardship of our environmental resources.

MY environmental assessment of this ORV management plan is that it does nothing for the environment. It severely limits the ORV accessibility with the needless curtailment of the recreational uses for which it was preserved, that is swimming, boating, sailing, fishing, and other recreational activities. The permanent closure of equal amounts of beach area for pedestrians and even more for birds during the summer season is not warranted.

Correspondence ID: 1416 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been coming ti Hatteras island since the mid sixties and have seen vast changes in the handling of this national park, some good but the vast majority of changes are not. As a fisherman with a bad leg orv access has been the only way I can enjoy the beauty and natural environment this park has to offer, I fear that my grandchildren will not know the immense enjoyment that ORV access has given me. As a fisherman and nature lover I assure you that we respect our national park and animals that dwell there. Perhaps education is the key here not restriction. I ask that we dont let a few people ruin this for the majority. Hatteras island has toched myself and many others at a spiritual level and to deny anyone the right to enjoy this national treasure would be truly unjust. Thank you for the opportunity to let my voice be heard as an American. Respectfully, [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1417 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

VFAs

The Vehicle Free Areas area are some of best beaches on the Island and are not used. They are hard to get to and seldom used. Why not open them to orv use when the nesting season is over in the spring, close when birds start nesting the next spring. Call this plan 4

Correspondence ID: 1418 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,18,2016 21:09:24

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: June 18, 2016

By Electronic Comment, PEPC Web Site

Dave Hallac
Superintendent
Outer Banks Group
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive

Manteo, NC 27954

Re: Public Comments on Seashore ORV EA

Mr. Hallac:

I submit comments on the National Park Service ("NPS") "Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for ORV Management Environmental Assessment" ("EA").

I am a resident of Buxton, North Carolina, where I have resided for about 19 years and visited frequently for several more years before that. I have used the beaches of Cape Hatteras National Seashore ("Seashore") for various recreational activities, including walking, driving, bird photography, bird watching, and formal scientific study of the threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*). I engage in those recreational and scientific activities at the Seashore and will continue to engage in those activities in the future.

I strongly oppose the NPS preferred alternative (Alternative 2) and strongly oppose Alternative 1 and Alternative 3. The no action alternative, of the alternatives presented in the EA, is the clearly preferable alternative and I request the NPS adopt the no action alternative.

To begin, I would note that the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 ("legislation") requires the NPS to "consider" modifying the vehicle free areas, nighttime closures, and seasonal closures. "Consider" does not mean that the NPS is required to take these actions. Indeed, the legislation makes clear that existing environmental laws, including the Seashore enabling legislation, the Redwood Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Endangered Species Act are not explicitly or implicitly repealed.

Unfortunately, the NPS appears to have been bullied into proposing a series of ill-advised modifications that will reduce environmental protection; place tens of thousands of pedestrian visitors at increased risk of pedestrian/ORV conflicts; significantly increase federal expenses associated with environmental, ORV, and law enforcement monitoring/implementation; and increase the risk of violations of multiple federal environmental laws.

Before turning to some of the most egregious provisions of Alternative 2, I would like to emphasize a few more points that place these comments in context. First, the ORV management plan was the result of an extensive multi-year planning process. The final result was a carefully crafted compromise that left no side in the environmental/ORV controversy happy. Second, the ORV management plan was clear to understand and implement. Third, the ORV management plan sharply decreased the risk of a violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act ("MBTA") or the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"). Fourth, the ORV management plan provided increased protections for pedestrians by providing vehicle free areas where visitors could experience the seashore without having to avoid recreational ORVs. It sometimes appears that the current NPS staff have forgotten the extensive effort that went into drafting the ORV management plan. I am fearful that some are choosing to not acknowledge the careful thought and lessons that were learned as the NPS, over a decade long period, attempted to better manage ORVs at the Seashore. That long effort culminated in the ORV management plan.

While I oppose all the provisions of Alternative 2, I briefly focus on certain particularly objectionable parts of the proposal:

I strongly oppose opening beaches to ORV use during the turtle breeding season before 7:00 a.m. This 7:00 time in the ORV management plan was a compromise that balanced the needs of turtle management against the desire of certain ORV users to access the beach. As a compromise, it still placed sea turtle nests at risk of being run over before being detected, which could result in illegal take, in violation of the ESA. By reducing the time available for the turtle patrol to complete its work, the NPS proposal means additional time pressures are placed on the turtle patrol to get the work done. The NPS has to sharply increase staffing levels, allowing smaller patrol areas which can be completed earlier. Realistically, going to a 6 or 6:30 opening inevitably means that the turtle patrol will be patrolling in the dark, which increases the risk that the turtle crawl will be missed, not protected, and run over. In addition, the proposal increases the risk that if a nest hatches not at night but shortly after the 6:00 - which can and has happened at the Seashore - the turtle patrol will have gone by and there will be an increased risk that off-road vehicle drivers could run over - illegally take - hatchlings.

In addition, it must be remembered that the 2015 bird/turtle management EA reduced protection for nesting birds and turtles and sharply increased the effort that will be necessary from NPS resource staff to monitor and protect birds and turtles. These changes, when combined with the changes outlined in the current EA, place the Seashore staff in nearly an impossible position. Such difficult changes virtually guarantee that there will be violations of the ESA and MBTA. It is easy for someone who has absolutely no experience monitoring species to claim something can be done. It is another thing to actually have to implement such changes in the field without real world consequences. I remember when, at one time at the Seashore not that long ago, field staff were improperly scape-goated for the decisions made by management responding to political pressure. I fear we are headed towards repeating the mistakes of the past.

I oppose extending seasonal ORV use two weeks in the spring and fall in front of the villages and Ocracoke campground. These areas are among the most heavily used pedestrian areas in the Seashore. Other than changed political calculations by the NPS, absolutely nothing has occurred since the ORV management plan to justify these changes. Particularly in front of the villages, the beaches are narrow, with many areas where the high tide line is close to or at the artificial dune line. In addition, over the last 20 years, visitation levels have increased during the shoulder seasons in the spring and fall. This proposal will place pedestrians at increased risk and diminish the recreational values for those who choose these areas because they are vehicle free at the time they visit.

I strongly oppose the vehicle free areas/"access improvements" changes. The ORV management plan was a carefully crafted compromise. Extensive effort went into its development. The EA shatters that compromise. A few may see an "access improvement," but many others will see the additional habitat destruction as a significant degradation of the Seashore's environmental and recreational values. The Seashore should not destroy one more inch of habitat to construct new ORV trails or roads. Likewise, existing ORV routes should not be expanded.

I am particularly appalled by the proposal to make Ramp 45 a "park road" and install a parking area on the ocean beach by Ramp 45. The beach in this area is my favorite beach in the Seashore and I have had many enjoyable moments there. This winter, I walked out the ramp several times to watch and photograph piping plovers feeding in the ephemeral pools west of Cape Point. Two winters ago, I walked out Ramp 45 to observe a snowy owl out on the beach. Other times, I go there because I just want a quiet beach without off-road recreational vehicles where I can go for a walk.

Making a 180 foot by 140 foot wide parking area out on the beach of "a pervious mixture of sand, shell, and clay" would fundamentally change the natural views of the area and sharply degrade the recreational values of the area for those - like me - who desire an area where we can experience a more wilderness-like visit to the Seashore beaches.

Despite the Seashore's enabling legislation, there are few areas remaining at the Seashore where one actually can have a "primitive wilderness" experience as mentioned in the enabling legislation for the Seashore. Much of the Seashore has been degraded by an artificial dune. It may provide some level of protection for the paved road, but the nearby beach is not a natural beach, nor a "primitive wilderness." Likewise, Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point, and South Point - those areas where there are somewhat natural beaches - have ORV use. The Ramp 45 area is the only area on Hatteras Island where a pedestrian can experience something approaching a "primitive wilderness" beach experience.

Why would the NPS destroy one of the nicest beaches in the Seashore by turning Ramp 45 into a "park road" and building a parking lot on the beach? This proposal would fundamentally degrade this important vehicle free area. The proposal isn't a small, minor change. Does the NPS recognize that having to walk a bit to get to a nice beach is one of the things that may make the visit to the beach a more enjoyable experience? I want to emphasize that value because for many visitors, including me, the fact that there are some more remote areas that take effort to get to is a value for the NPS to support and cherish, not denigrate. To me, this proposal is as offensive as the NPS proposing to build a gondola type lift from the valley at Yosemite National Park to the summit of Half Dome so people don't have to hike up. Just as there are some areas of Everglades National Park where motor powered boats are not allowed, there have to be some areas of the Seashore that are remote and slightly challenging to visit. If the NPS makes every area in the Seashore easy to get to, the NPS has fundamentally damaged the values of the Seashore.

In discussing this proposal - and other parts of Alternative 2 - we should acknowledge one more thing: these reductions in environmental values and protections will not appease the most radical of the off-road drivers who utilize the Seashore beaches. I drive on the beach, and support property regulated beach driving, but this EA goes too far. And no adequate justification is provided. So if the proposal is going to be more difficult and expensive to implement, increase the chance of violations of federal law, not solve the ORV management conflicts, and upset the pedestrian users who value a natural park experience, why is it even an alternative, much less the "preferred" alternative?

Congress established Cape Hatteras National Seashore as a unit of the National Park Service. I'm not going to quote the enabling legislation for the Seashore again, or the Organic Act, or the Redwood Act. But perhaps those in Atlanta and Manteo who are being pressured should repeat the requirements of these laws to those who wish to degrade the Seashore. Because after a massive new ORV road between ramp 45 and 49 that is a scar on the land, and more habitat destroyed to build new ORV ramps at other locations in the Seashore, and significant reductions in protections for endangered or threatened turtles and birds from the EA a few months ago, the NPS seems to have forgotten what it means to be a National Seashore.

If Congress desires to repeal the relevant laws and actually passes such legislation, at that time, the Seashore can roll over. Until then, the NPS should faithfully implement the laws as written and protect what remains of the environmental values of the Seashore.



Correspondence ID: 1419 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for allowing comment on this issue.

I have been visiting the outer banks and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore for the past 30 years. It is a very place and very much deserving of it's designation as a National Park, as it is definitely a National treasure that ALL should be able to enjoy.

In my younger years when I was exploring the Shenandoah National Park and George Washington and Thomas Jefferson National Forests which are local to my home, and also visiting Cape Hatteras I marveled at the foresight that allowed such beautiful areas to be protected and enjoyed by everyone.

Hiking, camping, sightseeing, scenic overlooks, fishing are all some of the activities I have very much enjoyed on the federal lands. 30 years ago it was with little restriction, especially along the Cape Hatteras Seashore. Some of my fondest memories are of driving on the unspoiled beaches, fishing and swimming in relative isolation.

My son who is now 21 has ridden along on fishing trips to the point, but has never had the opportunity to drive on the beaches, partly due to closures, and partly due to the registration fee which pushes the already tight budget on our yearly trip to the Outer Banks.

I'd urge you to not further restrict access to these lands for visitors, new programs to encourage good stewardship by the sportsmen and public would go much further in educating the public, while still allowing use of this NATIONAL Treasure. It is something that should be enjoyed by all.

Correspondence ID: 1420 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 21:28:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Modifications to the Final Rule for Off Road Vehicle Management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I am an avid environmentalist and surf fisherman who has frequented the Outer Banks since the early 1990s.

In my opinion Alternative 3 should be NPS' preferred option. Although I support protections for nesting sea turtles, in my opinion one of the most onerous aspects of the current management restrictions is the extremely late reopening of the beach in the morning. In the summertime in particular, fishing is far better in lower light conditions. Reopening times should be as close as possible to first light. In my opinion, although an improvement, the proposed beach opening times are still too late as sunrise (i.e., full, bright sunlight) in June can be as early as 5:45 am, with first "civil" light often an hour before sunrise. The earliest proposed opening time of 6:00 am in the proposed alternatives is after sunrise, which - while convenient for park staff - is too late to be of much use to serious surf fisherpeople. The bottom line from my perspective is the earlier the beaches can be reopened, the better. Turtles will not be disoriented by headlights after first light since headlights wont be needed and ambient light will be sufficient for both motor vehicle operators to navigate the beach and turtles to return to the surf. Because of their large stature, it is highly unlikely that nesting sea turtles returning to the sea, if not already

identified and protected by NPS staff or others, will interact with vehicles.

In addition to dawn, dusk is another period during which fishing can be good in the summer. I am disappointed that there is not a similar set of modifications proposed to push back beach closing times during the summer when sunset can be close to 9:00 pm and dark close to 10:00 pm. The one-size-fits-all approach to nighttime closures goes against the intent of the legislatively mandated review of ORV access requirements. Indeed, according to the EA, "the purpose of the project is to consider changing...nighttime closures", however only beach reopening times have been considered in the proposed alternatives. In my opinion, nighttime closures should be staggered over the summer to coincide with 1 hour after sunset.

In addition to nighttime closure timing modifications, the other area for which access modifications are warranted relate to the spatial extent of ORV access. Although more mileage of ORV access is appreciated, in my opinion, it is most important to maintain access to important, high value surf fishing areas including points, spits and inlet areas. Although I understand that many of these dynamic area also offer some of the most valuable migratory bird habitat, efforts to allow access including walk-on access with reasonably located unimproved parking areas would be a greatly appreciated way to meet both wildlife and user access objectives.

In my opinion, the variety of options for permit durations associated with Alternative 3 is not necessary. I believe the 10-day and annual permit options are sufficient, but I suggest this issue be carefully considered by comparing the costs of offering additional permit options versus the benefits to users and revenue that can be recovered.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Correspondence ID: 1421 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 21:45:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I grew up in North Carolina and spent much time in the summer vacationing on the various beaches of this beautiful state. However, my interest in this issue did not arise until I met and married my husband who loves to fish. While I occasionally fish, with two young children, these days, I do more observing along with lots of walks along the beach.

In my opinion Alternative 3 should be NPS' preferred option. During the summer, the beaches should open as early, and close as late, as possible to protect the nesting turtles while not interfering with the activities of people choosing to fish on the beach. The hour before sunrise as well as the hour after sunset are prime times for fishing. In order to pack up and get off the beach prior to closing, my husband often has to sacrifice fishing at sunset. Allowing the beach to be open later, particularly during the summer, will allow fisherfolk the opportunity to take advantage of that time while not causing their families to rush to get off the beach. Closing times should be staggered during the summer to coincide with an hour an hour after sunset. It does not appear that doing so will affect the nesting turtles.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this divisive issue.

Correspondence ID: 1422 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Sir, I have followed the NEG-REG process since 2007. I have attended and spoken at the public comment meetings in Hampton. My wife and I have been visitors to the outer banks for 50 years. We are property owners in the village of Buxton, N.C. I have read the proposed ORV Rules and the modifications suggested for consideration in the Mar.8, 2016 letter to Mr. David Hallac, Superintendent,CHNS sent by CHAPA. I fully support the modifications as stated in that letter. They represent a reasonable balance between beach and wildlife conservation and common sense recreational beach access.

Correspondence ID: 1423 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 21:55:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: GENERAL COMMENTS:

1. The will and intentions of Congress, representing the American People, were CLEARLY expressed in straightforward terms with the passage of the section pertaining to Public Access to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CAHA) in the Defense Appropriations Act last year. This Statutory Law, which is incorporated herein by reference, mandated that the National Park Service use an "Adaptive Management" method and approach that will "Maximize Public Access" to the park, consistent with "Reasonable" protections for the Park Resources.
2. The Current Superintendent has made commendable changes, so far, to accelerate certain physical improvements to the available Access Points and the Road and Trail network within the park, and has proposed, and even instituted changes, to the Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Permitting process. However there remains considerable further work to be done to "Maximize" the public's ability to gain access to the park, all of which offer many opportunities for the application of the Congressionally mandated " Adaptive Management" practices and initiatives. For example, it is notable that for the better part of the year under the current, and proposed management, the very namesake of this National Seashore, Cape Hatteras itself, or "the Point" of the Cape, is for all practical purposes, CLOSED and/or INACCESSIBLE to any reasonable public access.
3. The degree and scope of the "protection" afforded to the Park resources are in many ways UNREASONABLE by any rational definition. For example, First, several indigenous species which are neither threatened nor endangered according to the current legal definitions, such as American Oystercatcher and RedKnot Birds, are still being accorded the overly stringent and needlessly restrictive degree and extent of "protective" measures applicable to "Threatened or Endangered" species covered by the Endangered Species Act; Second, the Cape Point Camping Facilities which are constructed and maintained at great public expense, are for the greater part of each year virtually unusable to Park visitors due to flooding which the current management practices do not even address and which could be easily managed by reinstating and /or reactivating the drainage practices and facilities which for YEARS had kept that Campground available and useful year round. Remedy of that second example would not only improve the public access and utilization of CAHA, but would improve the revenue stream of the Park and go a long way to reducing net Park operating costs.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Of the Alternatives presented in the EIS, Alternative 2 appears to this commenter to offer the nearest approach toward the Congressional Mandates to

Maximize Public Access, and to bring Resource Protective Measures closer to "Reasonable" from the current overly restrictive, unnecessary, technically unsupported, and even draconian levels.

2. The current Night Time driving restrictions should This practice offers NO apparent benefit to the species concerned. be removed entirely, since for many years the turtle nesting activity had been unimpaired and followed the same cyclic fluctuations observed with the current closures.

3. Several reputable Public Interest Organizations have offered proposed modifications to the NPS Alternatives, and this commenter endorses and recommends those proposed modifications. In particular, the comments offered by the CHAPA consortium appear eminently reasonable and worthy of incorporation into the selected Alternative. I recommend that they be adopted and implemented.

4. Additional coordination with the NCDENR, and further consideration of modifications recommended by that State Agency, should be pursued with a high degree of initiative by the Current Superintendent. The State of North Carolina is actively involved in managing the Resources which are also of interest to the USNPS at CAHA, and in many respects the State is better positioned and capable of maximizing the beneficial management of those resources throughout the entire geographical area of the State, of which CAHA is only a portion, than the NPS is. Indeed differing management practices may have an adverse effect on the species involved, and at least is confusing and inefficient in the Public perception.

5. In ALL future reports to Congress or the Public regarding the effectiveness of the Protection Measures accorded to species indigenous to or transiting through CAHA, include a clear statement of the COST or EXPENSE of those management efforts, both in Personnel Cost and in Material of Resources, AND in measurable benefits attained. For Example, STATE how much was spent on establishing closures, surveillance costs, personnel, hours, and HOW MANY Birds actually fledged, as well as the Cost per Bird fledged, turtle hatchling returned to the sea, etc, in CLEAR terms. That way the public, and the Congress, will be better able to see what their tax money is buying.

Thank you for consideration of these Comments and Recommendations.

Correspondence ID: 1424 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: After much thought and hesitation I will comment on this proposal and waste a few minutes of my life. First off I would like to say that I have lived and spent more time on the beaches here than the vast majority of the people who will comment, as I'm sure most comments will come from those who have never set foot in this state much less spent time on the beaches here. This is why I feel this process is a waste of time as the people who live here and are affected the most by the worthless restrictions will not spend the time to comment. They know that we do not stand a chance against these lawyers, their money, or the people that will comment, feeling like they are doing something worthwhile. I feel if you cannot prove that any of the rules or changes to the rules affect you directly, your comment should not matter. I'm sure most disagree.

I have lived in Kill Devil Hills, NC since 1984. Since I have lived here I have spent a great deal of time on the beaches from Nags Head to Ocracoke as surf fishing is my passion and what most of my time is devoted to. I have been on the beaches here in the early '90s when you couldn't get another truck on the beach at Oregon Inlet and spent many spring evenings on the point at Hatteras when we were parked three rows deep. I will admit that was not sustainable and something had to change. However what we have now is totally unnecessary. From the start of April until some time in May if the wind is blowing from the southwest I will be on Cape Point in the evening. I work at TW's Bait and Tackle and when I get off work, if the wind is right, I will be heading to Buxton. The last few years, sometime in late March or early April, a portion of the beach between the only access ramp and the point is closed to "protect" the same couple pair of Oyster Catchers that are there every year and some biologist claims they are trying to nest. So for the next few weeks I have to walk in the water, below the high water mark as NPS has no jurisdiction there. After I have walked a certain distance down the beach, I will come to the end of the closure where I can come out of the water back onto the beach and continue walking along the beach until I reach the point. I and a few others, typically less than ten but sometimes as many as thirty, will do this most everyday in April. Sometime in late April, or more typically May, the beloved Piping Plover will begin the mating ritual and the entire point will be closed. From now on when myself and the even fewer people who still want to fish at the point must stay below the mean high water mark, which is not under park jurisdiction, the whole time we fish. It tends to make the endeavor not worth it for only a very select few. Add to that the occasional trip out to the point by an enforcement officer to intimidate us into not accessing the point most simply give up and say it's not worth it.

I wasted all the time typing that above to show that unlike most of the people who will comment "I'm for option 1 because I think we need to protect the" I spend time on the beaches here year round, closed and open, and have seen the effects. I walk around the short closures for Oyster Catchers and see that they don't necessarily stay within your roped off areas for them and they don't really care that I'm there. I walk out below the mean high water mark when it's all closed for the Piping Plover. I see the cages that are put over their nests which are far away from the point and the biologists standing in the dunes watching them. By the way, I drove out to the point a couple days ago, and can guarantee that where the last few years Piping plover nests, or at least the spots where the cages were, is under water and has been for the LAST FEW MONTHS. I'm sure there is GPS data for where last years nests were and I'd be willing to bet it's under water. The only birds on the point when its closed are the big herring gulls, and sandpipers. These people who comment from other places imagine the closed areas as some kind of wildlife utopia but I've seen it and it's not.

Last point of this worthless comment. I also spend most of the fall, from September through November, riding the beaches from Oregon Inlet to Hatteras Inlet looking for mullet as I have spent the last ten years commercial fishing. As such, my permit allows me access to areas that are considered vehicle free areas. Every day from the first of September until the end of November I will drive through these areas and can promise; these are the most under utilized stretches of beach in the seashore. I very rarely, if ever, see any one in these areas. And although it's great for me as it makes my job easier, it is such a waste of some of the best stretches of beach.

In closing (wow, now that sounds like one of my college papers) I'm pretty sure this comment will not be read, or will not count because of some technicality like I didn't pick any of the three terrible options. However here is what I think is necessary. Beaches open to driving year round. Beaches closed to driving from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. June 1 until August 31. That is all the turtles need. Rope off the Oyster Catcher Nests, Piping Plover nests and some short stretches for Tern colonies. Put the black fencing up for the turtle nests and extend it to the high water mark. Let vehicles drive behind, if possible, or below the fencing/high water mark when possible as any vehicle tracks will soon be washed away in that zone. The only vehicle free areas should be beaches that have houses directly behind the first dune line and pea island. The permit system should stay the same with a stipulation that you could lose access privileges for any rule violation such as D.U.I., excessive speeding, driving on dunes, harassing wildlife, etc. No need for new ramps or spending any money on anything else except for more law enforcement presence and all problems are solved.

Correspondence ID: 1425 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,18,2016 23:54:32

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The NPS should choose the "no action alternative" to keep the VFAs and the seasonal closures as they were established under the final rule.

Correspondence ID: 1426 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: My name is [REDACTED], I reside in [REDACTED]. Thank you for facilitating this EA ORV Management Rule request for comments and conducting local meetings to obtain input from Actual beach access advocates and local residents.

I began to enjoy the Seashore in the mid 1960(s) and was fascinated by the beauty and strength of the ocean. Our Family over the years has enjoyed the natural beauty and shoreline habitat. As a result we purchased our first property in 1975 and our Children, Grandchildren, and Extended Family are privileged to enjoy the picnics, shell hunting, fishing, bird watching and clean fresh air. Needless to say, we are All very distressed by the continued beach access restrictions driven by Groups who have no actual knowledge of the environmental dynamics of our Outer Banks Seashore. I believe strongly in continuing the quest for open access for both Pedestrians and ORVs and people of all ages to participate and enjoy our Seashore. I am currently on the Board of Directors of The North Carolina Beach Buggy Association, member of the Outer Banks Preservation Association (OPBA), The Outer Banks Anglers Club, a past member of Outer Banks Flotilla US Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Outer Banks Board of Realtors.

Therefore, over the past 50 or so years I have gained an intimate knowledge of the changing demographics and dynamics of our Seashore, and its habitat and wildlife, and feel qualified to make comments on your EA Proposal.

My Comments which I will keep brief and concise>

*I support Alternative# Three (3) plus some additions/modifications

*It is Extremely Important that somehow, through existing or new ramps, or access from adjacent ramps, that year round access be available to Cape Point. Access to Cape Point is the "hot issue" of most Locals and Seashore visitors. The success of this EA proposal process will be judged by this one most important access issue. The "Court of Public Opinion"

*Morning Beach Openings> Priority beaches open at 5:00am (dawn>depending on standard or daylight saving time).

*Seasonal ORV Routes> Support Alternative #3, plus extend seasonal routes non-village front.

*Vehicle Free Areas> Support Alternative #3, plus Redesignate VFAs to Seasonal ORV routes (ramp #1 south, Bodie island spit, ramp 43 north, ramp45 west,) and Redesignate ramp 48 east and ramp 23 north as year round routes.

*Access Improvements> Support Alternative #2. Develop Soundside Access on Bodie Island. Develop Ocean access on Pea Island (Co-ordinate with Fish and Wildlife). Develop access to Cape point... Most Important!

*Permits> Support Alternative #3-A 14 day permit is needed for 2 week visitors

*Total VFA and ORV route mileage> Increase year round ORV routes by reducing seasonal routes and VFAs ... It can be done without harm!

Again, Thank You and your Staff for managing this EA process in a direct and open manner.

Correspondence ID: 1427 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: I would like to have alternative plan 3 for Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I sure do miss observing the shore birds nesting and feeding their young at Cape Point. It was always an education for me and others. Now it is "out of sight, out of mind". I feel sorry for the youth in this country. The enclosures before the lawsuit worked well. Enlarging them in a realistic way, would not have been a problem, but what is going on now doesn't seem to be helping very much. Small access walking corridors would help.

I totally do not understand the incredible flooding that has been taking place in Buxton. No other community would be putting up with this obstacle. There is no reason to have standing water on roads and access ramps. It is a complete safety hazard as well as a health hazard. Please raise all roads and access ramps.

Thank you for this opportunity to send you our comments. Please remember education is of extreme importance to the youth of our country. Without observing wildlife at our Seashore, how can anyone really care anymore. I hope you and your family enjoy Cape Hatteras National Seashore as much as we do!

Correspondence ID: 1428 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: Biologists with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) reviewed the environmental assessment (EA) with regard to impacts of the proposed rule modifications on fish and wildlife resources. Our comments are provided in accordance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act (G.S. 113A-1 et seq., as amended; 1 NCAC-25), provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) the Coastal Area Management Act (G.S. 113A-100 through 113A-128, as amended), and Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (as amended).

The National Park Service (NPS) has submitted an EA for modification of the 2012 final Off- Road Vehicle (ORV) special regulation for Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CAHA). Alternatives within the EA do not include modifications to the species management plan on CAHA, but relate to (1) morning opening of beaches that are closed to ORV use at night, (2) the dates for seasonal ORV routes, and (3) the size and location of vehicle-free areas (VFAs). Three action alternatives as well as one no-action alternative were evaluated with the NPS choosing Alternative 2 as their preferred alternative.

Alternative 2 would increase year round ORV routes by one mile, seasonal ORV routes by two miles, and decrease VFAs by three miles. These changes in addition to the restoration of Ramp 2 and Ramp 59, the extension of the bypass road near Ramp 44, and parking area installation at Ramp 45 would increase ORV opportunities in areas of high demand and use. Protection of wildlife species through the current species management plan should allow for the increased public use with minimal impacts to wildlife resources.

In addition to the increased ORV route mileage, the NPS proposes to have rolling morning beach openings with the priority routes (Ramps 2, 4, 25, 27, 43, 44, 48, 49, 70, and 72) being surveyed and opened first. The times for priority routes would be based on sunrise; opening at 6:00 am in May, June, and July; 6:30 am during August and September; and 7:00 am October to November 15. All non-priority routes would open at 7:00 am. The NCWRC supports this systematic allocation of staff resources to complete survey and monitoring requirements prior to opening the beach. We believe this approach can

increase public access opportunities to priority areas without significant impact to wildlife.

We appreciate the cooperation with the NPS involving species jointly managed by the NCWRC and the NPS. This collaboration includes data sharing, coordination on species management measures, and opportunities to increase public use of CAHA. We understand the difficult task of balancing natural resource protection and public use and appreciate the opportunity to work cooperatively. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this EA. If there are any additional comments, questions, or if our agency can provide further assistance, please contact me at [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 1429 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Thank you for your letter of February 19, 2016, transmitting the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above project. We believe the EA adequately addresses our concerns for historic resources.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact [REDACTED], environmental review coordinator, at [REDACTED]. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Correspondence ID: 1430 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,18,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Please accept these comments on the National Park Service's Consideration of Changes to Final Rule for Off-Road Vehicle Management Environmental Assessment ("EA") pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"). The Southern Environmental Law Center submits these comments on behalf of Audubon North Carolina, the Defenders of Wildlife, and the National Parks Conservation Association. These organizations represent more than 3.3 million members and supporters who are interested in protecting public lands, wildlife, and other natural resources, including those at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. We write to request that the National Park Service ("NPS") maintain and expand upon existing protections provided by the Final Rule. In particular, we recommend that the NPS select the No Action Alternative as it relates to ORV routes, vehicle-free areas ("VFA"), and ramp designations.

I. The NDAA Requires NPS to "Consider" Changes to ORV Rule, but Management Requirements Support No Action Alternative.

Under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 ("NDAA"), NPS's obligations are clear. First, NPS must only "consider" changes to the enumerated aspects of the ("ORV") management plan. 1 NPS is not required to make any changes to the Final Rule. Second, any changes must be "consistent with management requirements at the National Seashore." 2 Here, those management requirements are found in the Organic Act, the Cape Hatteras Enabling Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as well as the NPS's specific management documents. In addition, the Desired Future Conditions established in the 2010 Cape Hatteras National Seashore Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement ("FEIS") must guide management decisions. Combined, these authorities provide significant protections for wildlife at the Seashore, which must be addressed and maintained in this process.

The National Park Service Organic Act requires the NPS to manage the Seashore and all park lands in a manner consistent with and supportive of the fundamental purpose for which the park system was created, namely, "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." 16 U.S.C. Â§ 1. It demands that management authority "shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which [units of the National Park System] have been established." 16 U.S.C. Â§ 1a-1. When a recreational use of a park conflicts with the conservation of wildlife and the park's other natural resources, the Organic Act requires that the conservation of natural resources for present and future generations must prevail. 3 This obligation extends to all species that are native to the Seashore and not only those listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. NPS Management Policies 2006 Â§ 1.4.6, 4.1. Congress established Cape Hatteras National Seashore in 1937 and specified its purpose and management objectives:

Except for certain portions of the area, deemed to be especially adaptable for recreational uses, particularly swimming, boating, sailing, fishing, and other recreational activities of similar nature, which shall be developed for such uses as needed, the said area shall be permanently reserved as a primitive wilderness and no development of the project or plan for the convenience of visitors shall be undertaken which would be incompatible with the preservation of the unique flora and fauna or the physiographic conditions now prevailing in this area. 50 Stat. 609, 16 U.S.C. Â§ 459a-2 (emphasis added). Off-road vehicle use is not among the recreational activities specifically enumerated in the Act, and, as compared to those that are listed, such as swimming and boating, it is uniquely capable of causing destruction to the Seashore's natural resources. Accordingly, the Park Service must be particularly vigilant about ensuring that plans to accommodate beach driving do not disrupt the native wildlife at the Seashore in violation of the Enabling Act.

NPS regulations also control the designation of ORV routes. Under 36 C.F.R. Â§ 4.10(a), NPS must minimize impacts to wildlife and conflicts between user groups. That regulation incorporates Executive Order 11644. Section 3(a)(2) of the Order requires NPS to minimize impacts to wildlife from ORV use, stating that "[a]reas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats." Section 3 (a)(3) requires NPS "to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors." Therefore, when selecting an ORV management alternative, NPS must choose the alternative which best minimizes impacts to wildlife and conflicts between visitors.

The Endangered Species Act ("ESA") provides additional protection to listed species on the Seashore. ESA Section 7 requires that all federal agencies

"shall, in consultation with and with the assistance of the Secretary, insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by such agency ... is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species ... or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species" 16 U.S.C. Â§ 1536(a)(2). In addition, federal agencies have an affirmative obligation to "utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of the [ESA] by carrying out programs for the conservation [defined as recovery] of endangered species and threatened species." Id. at Â§ 1536(a)(2). When federal agencies attempt to balance potentially conflicting objectives, such as ORV use that may imperil endangered or threatened species, the Supreme Court has instructed that "Congress has spoken in the plainest of words, making it abundantly clear that the balance has been struck in favor of affording endangered species the highest of priorities" 4 ESA Section 9 prohibits any person from "taking" a threatened or endangered species. To "take" means to "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, or capture or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." 16 U.S.C. Â§ 1538(a)(1). Governmental agencies that authorize activities by others that may result in a take of listed species may be held legally liable for that take. In *Loggerhead Turtle v. Volusia County*, 896 F. Supp. 1170, 1178 (M.D. Fla. 1995), the court held that the County was liable for takes caused by beach driving. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act also prohibits the taking or killing of certain migratory birds, or their nests or eggs. At Cape Hatteras National Seashore, piping plovers, American oystercatchers, red knots, least terns, and other colonial waterbird populations are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Accordingly, the NPS must be careful not to authorize beach driving in a manner that will predictably result in taking or killing of any of those species, or their nests or eggs.

Further, specific "Desired Future Conditions" have been established for wildlife at the Seashore and must guide NPS decision-making. As described in the FEIS, both short-term (10- year) and long-term (20-year) Desired Future Conditions set the benchmark for evaluating wildlife success on the Seashore. 5 Unless and until the conditions are met, NPS cannot reduce protections for wildlife. Critically, the Desired Future Conditions for piping plovers, American oystercatchers, seabach amaranth, and colonial waterbirds have not been met. For sea turtles, short-term Desired Future Conditions have been satisfied, but long-term targets have not. Finally, the EA must be corrected to put the proposed changes in the proper perspective. The EA improperly asserts that maintaining existing vehicle free areas or night driving restrictions would have an adverse impact on ORV users.⁶ That is not so. ORV use was illegal on the Seashore from 1972 until 2012, when the existing Special Regulation was finalized. 7

Therefore, it has been illegal to drive in the currently designated VF As since 1972. It has been illegal to drive at night since 1972. Continuation of those restrictions, therefore, cannot constitute an adverse impact. NPS's failure to apply the law for more than 40 years cannot be used as a basis to relax protections currently in place. II. The Action Alternatives Fail to Minimize Impacts to Wildlife or User Conflicts. All existing vehicle free areas must be maintained.

Alternative 2 proposes four changes to existing VF As that should be rejected. First, it proposes to convert existing VF As south of ramp 23 and north of ramp 34 to seasonal ORV routes. These areas are well-documented nesting areas for American oystercatchers⁸ and colonial waterbirds.⁹ As the Record of Decision ("ROD") on the Final Rule recognized, introducing ORV use in these VF As introduces additional harassment of wildlife and disruption of wildlife habitat. 10

Second, Alternative 2 compounds that threat by extending the ORV season so that it spans from October 15 to April 14. American oystercatchers, in particular, are known to nest well before April 15. The elimination of these VF As would also create user conflicts, eliminating essentially any access to vehicle free areas for visitors to Salvo or Avon between October 15 and April 14, a time period which intrudes upon higher visitation time periods 11 and typically includes North Carolina public school spring breaks. 12 Wildlife impacts and user conflicts are clearly best minimized by maintaining existing vehicle free areas under the No Action Alternative.

Third, Alternative 2 proposes to designate former Ramp 45 as a park road and to build a parking lot adjacent to the VFA on South Beach. That proposal threatens to undermine the value of the South Beach VF A due to the location of the proposed parking area. As presented in the EA, the proposed lot appears to be located on the upper beach in the VF A. This VF A not only provides essential habitat for piping plovers and colonial waterbirds during the breeding season, it is vital for migrating red knots. A better option is for NPS to utilize existing parking in the Cape Point Campground area and to improve Ramp 45 for use as a pedestrian path. Finally, reopening Ramps 2 and 59 and extending the existing ORV routes into the current VF As creates the potential for significant user conflict. The planned Ramp 2.5 provides a buffer between the heavily used Coquina Beach and the highly trafficked Bodie Island ORV route. Ramp 59 was relocated to 59.5 to prevent users of the adjacent VFA at Hatteras Inlet from having to cross an ORV route and ramp to access the VFA from the parking lot at MP 59.5. 13 These user conflicts are clearly best minimized by the No Action Alternative. B. Existing night driving restrictions must be maintained.

Alternative 2 proposes to open priority beaches at 6:00 or 6:30 a.m. during the nesting season. 14 It is unclear how NPS determined that those times would allow for adequate daylight to check nests. As the EA concedes, "[n]ew nests or nesting activity could be missed if staff were operating too early before sunrise, and turtles could nest in the morning hours after resource staff have already surveyed the beach, resulting in the potential for unmarked nests." 15 It is not clear, however, that NPS staff can adequately check designated priority beaches prior to the 6:00 a.m. opening in May, June, and July or 6:30 a.m. opening in August and September. Together, the priority beaches appear to include approximately 10-12 miles. Yet according to one online prediction, the earliest projected sunrise in Buxton during May, June, or July is 5:47 a.m. 16 In August and September, sunrise is projected to be as late as 6:34 and 6:56 a.m. respectively. 17 Therefore, NPS's proposal to open beaches by 6:00 and 6:30 a.m. appears to put nesting turtles at risk even according to the EA. 18

Moreover, it is not clear that NPS intends to complete turtle nest patrols prior to opening the beach. Opening of priority beaches in Alternative 1 is described as follows: "Upon completion [of turtle patrol], priority routes would be opened for ORV use at 6:30 a.m." 19 The description in Alternative 2 lacks the phrase "Upon completion," stating that "Under this alternative, priority routes (figures 8-11) would open to ORV use at 6:00 a.m. in May, June, and July. In August and September, priority routes would open to ORV use at 6:30 a.m." 20 Without that limiting phrase, NPS appears to have proposed opening the beaches irrespective of staffs completion of turtle patrol. The risk created by opening beaches earlier is not ameliorated by NPS's hope that ORV users will catch those turtle nests missed by incomplete or darkness-limited turtle patrols.²¹ NPS cannot modify the ORV routes in a manner that puts turtles at higher risk and rely on ORV permittees notifying park staff of nests missed because beaches were opened too early. Maintaining existing night driving restrictions minimizes impacts to sea turtles as compared to Alternative 2 and must, therefore, be maintained.

C. The NPS appropriately maintained VF As at inlets and South Beach. As recognized in the FEIS, the inlets and South Beach provide habitat that is

essential to wildlife that nest, winter, or stopover on the Seashore. As demonstrated by recent annual reports, the inlets (Bodie Island Spit, Hatteras Inlet, South Ocracoke), Cape Point, and South Beach are essential nesting locations.²² As recognized in the Annual Report, all piping plover nesting in 2014 occurred at Cape Point, North Ocracoke, and South Point.²³ A total of 14 nests were laid by 12 breeding pairs, including 8 at Cape Point.²⁴ American oystercatchers likewise have a history of nesting in significant numbers in these VF As. ²⁵ Colonial waterbirds make extensive use of the VF As, including recent nesting in the more remote sections of the VF As at Bodie Island Spit and South Point.²⁶ These areas also provide essential wintering habitat. South Beach, specifically, also provides important habitat for migrating red knots.

III. NPS Should Delay Periodic Review of the ORV Plan Until at Least 2022. In our comments on NPS 's modifications to the wildlife protection buffers, we emphasized that the Final Rule must be given time to work. In those comments and our scoping comments for this EA, we recommended that NPS wait until the 5-year review described in the FEIS. Based on the changes to wildlife buffers that were previously adopted, changes to routes proposed in this EA, and the expected changes in data collection from the anticipated science workshops, we now believe that NPS should postpone any 5-year review until at least 2022. The Final Rule and ORV management plan included in the FEIS represents a tenuous balance between wildlife and ORV use-prioritizing ORV use over resource protection on much of the Seashore. The changes adopted in 2015 with respect to wildlife buffer have changed that balance. Those changes will be implemented, for the first time, this year. Due to required rulemaking timelines, any changes to the Final Rule will not be implemented until 2017, at the earliest. In addition, NPS has invested in major access improvement projects that can be expected to influence visitor use patterns. Many of those projects were recently completed, are in progress, or are forthcoming. Similarly, 2017 is likely to be the first year under revised data collection procedures expected to result from the NPS's workshop that is expected to take place this summer.

Because of these substantial changes, a 5-year review based on the implementation date of the Final Rule would be meaningless. The wildlife protections, visitor access points, and data collected will, at that time, be outdated. With the changes outlined above, the earliest a meaningful 5-year review could be conducted is 2022.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments and your efforts to protect both natural resources and visitor experiences at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Please contact me at [REDACTED] if you have any questions regarding these comments.

1 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, Pub. L. No. 113-291, Â§ 3057(c).

2 Id

3 See, e.g., *S. Utah Wilderness Alliance v. Dabney*, 222 F.3d 819 (6th Cir. 2000) (citing 16 U.S.C. Â§ 1 and Park Service Management Policies); *Fund for Animals v. Norton*, 294 F. Supp. 2d 92, 102-06 (D.D.C. 2003) (holding that goal of conserving natural resources must be predominant over conflicting off-road recreational use of park by snowmobiles).

4 *Tenn. Valley Auth. v. Hill*, 437 U.S. 153, 194 (1978).

5 See FEIS at 7-10.

6 See EA at 127.

7 In a case involving beach driving at Cape Hatteras, the federal court for the Eastern District of North Carolina ruled "where the Park Service fails to create a plan for ORV use, [it] is prohibited. [Cape Hatteras] does not have regulations in place to govern ORV traffic. Consequently, it is [illegal] to operate a motor vehicle on Cape Hatteras National Seashore ... "United States v. Matei, No. 2:07-M-1075-BO (July 17, 2007) at 3.

8 National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, American Oystercatcher 2014 Annual Report, Appendix A, available at http://www.nps.gov/articles/caha_amoy2014.htm.

9 National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Colonial Waterbirds 2014 Annual Report, Appendix A, available at http://www.nps.gov/articles/caha_cwb2014.htm.

10 See ROD at 5 (stating that VF As provided species protection in conjunction with buffers), ROD at 16 (stating that VF As provide "more areas with less human disturbance for breeding"); ROD at A-10 (stating that "VF As will be located in areas of suitable habitat that have had concentrated and recurring use by multiple individuals and/or multiple species of protected shorebirds during the breeding or nonbreeding season.").

11 See ROD at 5.

12 Although spring break during the current academic year is in late March, it more frequently falls in early April. Only the No-Action Alternative protects beaches in front of the villages and in existing VF As during that time period.

13 See FEIS, Appx. Cat C-232.

14 EA at 33.

15 EA at 52.

16 See www.sunrisesunset.com (May through September calendars attached as Exhibit 1).

17 Id

18 See FEIS, Appx. Cat C-58-59 (stating that opening earlier than 7:00 a.m. would not allow staff sufficient time to check turtle nests).

19 EA at 18.

20 EA at 33.

21 EA at 52.

22 See FEIS at 208 (describing important PIPL habitats), FEIS at 560 (describing basis for seasonal ORV routes and VF As in important habitats).

23 National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Piping Plover 2014 Annual Report, available at <http://www.nps.gov/articles/caha :Pipl2014.htm>.

24 Id.

25 National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, American Oystercatcher 2014 Annual Report, Appendix A, available at http://www.nps.gov/articles/caha_amoy2014.htm.

26 National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Colonial Waterbirds 2014 Annual Report, Appendix A, available at http://www.nps.gov/articles/caha_cwb2014.htm.

Correspondence ID: 1431 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,24,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: The above referenced environmental impact information has been submitted to the State Clearinghouse under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act. According to G.S. 113A-10, when a state agency is required to prepare an environmental document under the provisions of federal law, the environmental document meets the provisions of the State Environmental Policy Act. Attached to this letter for your consideration are comments made by the agencies in the course of this review.

If any further environmental review documents are prepared for this project, they should be forwarded to this office for intergovernmental review.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

[Please see PDF for full content of clearinghouse comments, including checklists and tables]

Based on a review of the Environmental Assessment for Cape Hatteras National Seashore Consideration of Modification to the Final Rule for ORV Management, the following comments were points of consideration when considering the development of this project. Review of the subject project mention of possible impacts to jurisdictional wetlands within the footprint of the proposed projects. Therefore, this Office recommends coordinating with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) concerning identification of any jurisdictional features and the required permitting that may be involved prior to the implementation of this project.

Any new proposed disturbance and/or impervious area installed in order to access the beaches for ORV might need E&SC and State Stormwater permitting. A federal consistency determination is recommended.

Correspondence ID: 1432 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,24,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Dave,

In my 77 years I have had some remarkable opportunities involving the great outdoors.

I grew up in the Shenandoah Valley and mountains of Virginia, traveled and worked across the country and retired to Nags Head to be near the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area.

I have been associated with various sportsmen's clubs and conservation organizations. My grandfather raised me to respect the great outdoors and always be a gentleman. I have tried to follow his lead.

Cape Hatteras is a very special place. The Park service has been entrusted with its' management and care. There have been promises made and promises broken, good times and bad but we are all entrusted with the duty to see it is protected so that future generations may experience the grandeur of it all.

I support reasonable OVR access to the Seashore and feel that this can be accomplished by a combination of alternatives 2 and 3 with some added suggestions from Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance and The North Carolina Beach Buggy Association.

1. I strongly feel that Pea Island should be included in the plan as a vehicle free area. The 14 miles of beach "SHALL be managed by the NPS for recreational use not in conflict with USF&W" Any ORV plan that does not include these miles is incomplete. With savings from administration of permits and access projects being completed on Hatteras and Ocracoke, funds will be available to partner with USF&W to improve safe access to the beach on Pea Island. If this is not included in the plan there will be a great deal of opposition to any funds being spent there. Please plan for the future.

2. The Point should be treated as the iconic feature that it is. It is the "Old Faithful" of Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area. As such adaptive management should insure that there is year round access to the Point. As you know there is a strong sense of community on Hatteras and it centers on the Point. To the surf fisherman it is "the spot" on the East coast. To the nature lover it is unique.

3. There is a good Turtle Program on Pea Island that has been run by volunteers for years. The Park Service should look no further and partner with USF&W to implement a joint program for the entire Seashore with the use of volunteers.
4. I support the changes made in the issuance of permits and appreciate the convenience it will give to anyone wanting a permit. Thank you and your staff for making this happen.
5. I support 10 day permits and a 12 month permit from date of issue.
6. I strongly support access to more of South Beach. That needs to be accessible for those who camp at Cape Hatteras. South Beach is another area that that is very special to the Community on Hatteras.
7. Bodie Island Spit needs to be a seasonal ORV Route. For those of us at this end of the Seashore it is our "Cape Point". With adaptive management proper protection can be provided for nesting birds and all of the Spit can be accessible by a seasonal ORV route.
8. I strongly support the opening of Ramp 2.
9. The Official Name is Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area. It is America's first and put the Park Service in the Recreation Business. It should be recognized and celebrated in this NPS 100th Anniversary year and forever more.

Thank you for your time, effort, listening and candor. You and your Staff are greatly appreciated and have done an outstanding job in keeping the lines of communication open. I look forward to working with all of you for the betterment of CHNSRA.

Correspondence ID: 1433 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,24,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

I would like to submit the following comments regarding the Changes to the ORV Rule. I have been enjoying Cape Hatteras for 52 years. My family and I are three generations of folks who have a great love and respect for the island and its uniqueness. We are home owners in Avon. Having seen many changes over this time span I would like to comment on the Environmental Assessment for consideration of modifications to the ORV rules currently in effect on Cape Hatteras.

While some aspects of Alternatives 2 and 3 are indeed improvements they still need to be modified to make for better access to our beaches. The proposed beach closures need to be modified to open beaches earlier in the morning and later in the evening. The continual closer of South Beach, the area between the Point and the north end of Billy Mitchell is unacceptable. It seems obvious that that area will never truly be opened again. Additionally the expanse of VFA are far too numerous, too large and underutilized. The idea that families with small children, physically challenged individuals or the elderly could ever use those areas is preposterous. Furthermore these closures negatively impact the small open areas in the peak season by causing severe overcrowding and limited areas for fishing.

I do feel the improvements in the permits will be a positive move. I appreciate my pass could now be used for one entire year and short term passes for 10 days will be beneficial to many as well.

Finally, I have a great love and respect for the island. I feel we need to protect our beaches and wildlife while ensuring beach access. This is imperative. We can all agree this is no easy task. The vitality of the island depends on us to keep our beaches open.

Correspondence ID: 1434 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,24,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

Here are my comments on determinations for proposed ORV Rule changes:

- 1) Beach opening 6am-10pm
- 2) Keep Ramp 23 open
- 3) Seasonal routes not in front of villages to run 9/1 - 4/30
- 4) Open more VFA to ORV use
- 5) VFA with special-circumstances designation for Ramp 45E should be an ORV corridor on temporary basis to ensure access to the Point.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1435 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,24,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Dave,

The North Carolina Beach Buggy Association was founded in 1964 in Nags Head, NC and has 3800+ members in over 40 states and foreign countries. We are a conservation organization dedicated to preserving the natural resources and beach access in Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area.

We are a proud member of Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance. We are in full support of the ideas and recommendations put forth in CHAPA'S letter Of March 8, 2016. We know these proposals can be put in place without harming the natural resources of CHNSRA. We are also very committed to seeing that all of the intent of the legislation that created CHNSRA and the legislation passed by congress that ordered this review of the ORV Regulations are carried out as stated. We further believe that these proposals in addition to protecting the natural resources will greatly enhance the visitor's experience

and improve the relationship of the visitor, the local population and the Hatteras Island Business Community with The National Park Service.

There are 5 areas we would like to comment on in addition to the above mentioned proposals.

1. Peas Island is a part of CHNSRA and if this land had not been included there would be no CHNSRA. Pea Island has 14 miles of beach that the" NPS shall administer for recreational use as long as such use does not conflict with USF&W programs and policies". The word is SHALL not "may" or "if the mood strikes". With access projects being completed on Hatteras and Ocracoke there will be ORV Permit funds available to work with USF&W on access projects on Peas Island. Without recognition of Peas Island's 14 miles the ORV Plan is incomplete and there will be opposition to any ORV permit funds being so spent. When Pea Island is included all maps and reports will include these miles as a Vehicle Free Area. All Maps should show Seashore Mile and not Park Mile as that is the only proper classification.
2. The official name is Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area by Act of Congress and that name must be used. It is the first National Seashore Recreation Area and it put the NPS in the recreation business in a unique way. It should be celebrated and recognized as such.
3. Studies, workshops and research projects are being funded by ORV Permit monies. We support this and will support the best adaptive management practices that can be developed from the knowledge gained from them. The USF&W has for years run a turtle program largely conducted by volunteers. It would be great if the two agencies could work together and devise a volunteer program that would cover the entire seashore.
4. ORV Permits: We strongly support Alternative 2 and the issuance of 12 month permits based on the date of issue
5. We appreciate and support the changes made in the issuance of ORV permits. This is of great benefit to all who wish to obtain a permit and will result in considerable savings. As a result of this a considerable amount of money will be available for resource protection, law enforcement and access improvements.

In closing we want to express our appreciation to you and your staff for all of the time and effort you all have put into this review. We appreciate you being available to meet, to listen and your candor on all matters. We look forward to continuing to work with all of you for access to and the protection of Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area.

Sincerely,

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President North Carolina Beach Buggy Association

Correspondence ID:	1436	Project:	59571	Document:	70928
Received:	Mar,24,2016 00:00:00				
Correspondence Type:	Letter				
Correspondence:	Dear Superintendent Hallac:				

I submit the following comments relative to the EA for the Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for ORV Management.

Morning Beach Openings - I support Alternative 3 - proposal for priority beaches to open daily at 6:00 am. This would provide access to high priority ORV routes as soon after sunrise as possible, with the understanding that the daily turtle patrol would have to be completed prior to being opened to ORVs.

Recommend that night closures of the beaches not occur until 10:00 PM. NPS should further study data within the planned science workshops to determine opportunities to mitigate the risks to turtle nests/hatching to provide access until 10:00 pm.

Seasonal Off-Road Vehicle Routes - Support Alternative 3 - Will provide benefit from the extension of seasonal routes in the fall with no increased risk to wildlife. I would also support extended seasonal routes not at villages to September 1 - April 30.

Vehicle Free Areas -The current Vehicle Free Areas (VFAs) within the seashore severely limit the visitor experience. The EA proposes only minimal changes to VFAs at four locations. Observations during the past several years indicate that the VFAs are seldom used even during the peak seasons. The NPS should initiate a study of actual monthly visitor counts and uses within each VFA to validate that these areas are being used to an extent which justifies yearround closures in these areas.

Route specific ORV access:

Ramp 1 S (right) - Seasonal access

Ramp 2 S (right) - Year round

Ramp 4 S (right) at spit - Seasonal

Ramp 23 N (left) - Year round

Ramp 23 S (right) - Seasonal (Alternative 2 and 3)

Ramp 32 S (right) - Seasonal (Alternative 3)

Ramp 34 N (left) - Seasonal (Alternative 2 and 3)

Ramp 43 N (left) - Seasonal

Ramp 45 E (left) - VFA with Special Circumstances - use of adaptive management by Superintendent to temporarily designate an ORV corridor to provide access to The Point when circumstances prevent access via Ramp 44 S

Ramp 45 W (right) - Seasonal

Ramp 48 E (left) - Year round

Ramp 59 E (left) - Year round (Alternative 2 and 3)

These changes would provide access to these areas once the summer tourists have departed and nesting seasons have occurred. The proposed modifications in Alternative 2 and 3 are not adequate to accomplish the objectives of the legislation which requires the examination of the VFAs designated in the Final Rule.

ORV Permits - I support Alternative 2. Changing the annual permit from a calendar year to a year from date purchase will be a great improvement. Replacing the 7 day permit with a 10 day permit should be a favorable benefit to visitors.

Access Improvements - Support Alternative 2 - NPS Preferred Alternative. Soundside access should be developed on Bodie Island.

I feel that these recommendations provide for additional opportunities for the public and experience to Cape Hatteras National seashore, while continuing to provide protection of the natural resources and habitat.

Correspondence ID: 1437 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: A. REQUEST: I request an extension to the public comment period of 30 days after the Seashore publishes the 2015 annual resource reports. Perhaps these reports will show a miracle and disprove Einstein's theory that repetition of the same experiment looking for a different answer qualifies as insanity. Perhaps the plovers had a successful fledge at the inlet spits or along the 26 miles of beach front VFA's. On the other hand if the Seashore is willing to stipulate that 2015 was similar to their previous record wherein plovers fledge rates failed to recover or even sustain plover species and the Seashore lost a catastrophic 40% of the sea turtle nests; then the following comments are still pertinent.

B REVIEW OF THE E.A. :

- 1) Cape point was first closed to the people in 2005 to protect piping plovers under the premise that human interaction was detrimental to plover survival. For over 10 years the Seashore has meticulously gathered data on the wildlife that frequents Cape Hatteras. The recent NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) required the Seashore to use peer reviewed science and improve public access to the beaches. The Seashore has lamented the lack of peer reviewed science and has resorted to a body of information that they referred to as the best available science. I submit that the best available science is the data and observations that are developed from the Seashore beaches by their own personnel. From this wealth of information the E.A. would be expected to overflow with factual words like: does, did, found, experienced or witnessed. Instead we still find words of conjecture used like: can, may, could or would. Perhaps the truth is not convenient to the Seashore's agenda.
- 2) The E.A. contains 160 pages of prose and graphs to support their proposed compliance with the NOAA. The length of this publication is intimidating to most of the public. The Seashore's interpretation, is far too narrow and pays only lip service to the law. By now the Seashore administration should be able to justify the creation and continued maintenance of all the VFA's with the best- available science of their own data. The E.A. does not do so. The NPS should be reporting actual pedestrian and vehicle counts on the beaches. Vehicle counts of vehicles in the ramp parking lots would be beneficial and easy to obtain. Parking lot Analysis should differentiate between two wheel and four wheel drives capable of over sand travel. We have observed that half the vehicles in those lots are ORV's without permits and their occupants carpool with friends to avoid the permit fees. Public observations are that the VFA's are seldom frequented by pedestrians. These beach resources are not used adequately to justify their continued designation. The VFA between Ramp 45 and 47 is a perfect example. While hundreds of vehicles may be crammed into the Ramp 49 area the VFA is vacant. The few pedestrians in the VFA came from ORVs parked at the Ramp 47 barricade so as to search for shells or fish the forbidden sloughs.
- 3) The Seashore concern is not justified that a date of September 15 for seasonal ORV opening will interfere with bird and turtle nesting. There are no birds nesting in September and the latest sea turtle nest of record was September 11, 2013. Turtle nests laid after mid-August do not hatch on our beaches. They must be moved to an incubator for survival.
- 4) The Seashore administration should commit to provide ORV access to Cape Point! The proposed northward extension of the safety by-pass to Ramp 44 is a good move but it should also extend southward to the Point and be designated as a park road and not subject to bird buffers. A physical barrier such as a sand berm may help separate from plover foraging. During Nor'easter storms it would be beneficial to allow ORV access from Ramp 45 or Salt Pond Road to the Point.
- 5) Analysis of plover fledge rates to compare success of reproduction in VFAs versus Cape Point pond areas is very revealing and illustrates the futility of VFAs for bird protection. Each year we witness how the VFAs of the inlet spits lures plovers to nest in sites of poor reproduction. This Seashore policy is helping drive the piping plover to extinction in violation of the ESA. Recreational activity should be returned to these spits.
- 6) It is interesting that the Park Service utilizes an internal document (2006 Management Policies) as authority for beach closures of non-ESA birds while flouting the very law that created this national seashore. The NPS contends that those birds have poor reproduction rates here because they have not been provided with large undisturbed areas. I must submit that the acres and acres of VFA and Cape Point closures were sufficient to test that hypothesis. This theory has proven false and must be discarded. The VFAs should be eliminated completely instead of the slight changes proposed in this E.A.
- 7) Our beaches are too dynamic to support the present policy of natural nesting of birds and turtles with public exclusion as the only means of protection. The seashore's protection policy is a facade and has not worked for over 10 years. Hatteras has become little more than a wildlife theme park. Yes, birds are here to be observed by telescopes to thrill bird watchers but these birds are not propagating to species survival. It need not be this way. These species can be truly protected but human intervention will be needed for correction. Dredge soil islands and adjacent oyster bars are needed in the near-by sounds. Storm water management and topographical control in areas such as the dredge hole and salt ponds at Cape Point will develop the MOSH necessary to nurture plovers successfully. Sea turtles must be actively managed. Padre Island National Seashore has an excellent turtle program. Variations or all of this program could be duplicated here.

8) The Seashore Operation and Management section of the E.A. mentions a concern with personnel safety during early morning operation of heavy equipment. Does the park service intend to use bulldozers, road graders, steam shovels or 18 wheel tractor trailers for resource monitoring?

9) The E.A. takes note that the Red Knot is now on the federal ESA threatened list and must be provided for. I hope the NPS does not intend to close long sections of beach to protect the Red Knot as it migrates in spring and fall. We should recognize that vehicles can drive 10 yards away from resting or foraging Knots without disturbance. Pedestrians are perceived as threats. If certain portions of beach prove to have frequent congregations of Red Knots, signage could be erected to warn vehicles to stay 10 yards away and visitors remain in the vehicles for observation or photographs. A 50 yard recreational buffer should be adequate to protect this migration.

Submitted March 1, 2016

Correspondence ID: 1438 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: We are beginning the 12th year of responding to NPS plans by commenting in oral and written form. I could just resubmit all my commentaries since 2005.

Current procedures and wishful thinking are killing birds and turtles and affecting the lives and economy of the islands.

It is a crime that for nearly all year we have not been able even to see Cape Point. This is in violation of the purpose of this park. It is impossible for handicapped people like me to walk there. This surely wouldn't happen in the other special designated Federal places like Grand Canyon and Yellowstone. A safe, dry access from 44 or 45 is imperative. There is no documented reason for not providing such access.

The extensive Vehicle Free Areas/Resource Closures have not been justified by data on our beaches. The need has not been justified by observation to be nearly as many miles as ORV miles.

The Natural Resource annual reports are not yet ready for the active weather last year which has created a very different beach landscape. Those who depend on trucks and pay to access the beach desire and deserve open beach areas. We don't like to be jammed into ever smaller pieces of sand. Some of us even like to fish where the fish are.

The free parking lots should not be constructed with funds from those who pay to use the beach. A better use of our millions would be to create safe bird nesting habitat and turtle hatching corrals or hatcheries. We truly need to establish methods for meeting the Endangered Species Act goals of increasing these species.

There are ways to solve these issues. This current attempt fails miserably and guarantees we will soon be back here because Congress will again require it.

I'll end by paraphrasing Denny from Dayton who commented on Irene's blog on Island Free Press. This is like putting lipstick on a pig. It doesn't improve the pig and it irritates the heck out of him.

Correspondence ID: 1439 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: To whom it may concern,

I am here today to present some facts and figures for consideration in implementing the NOAA mandate regarding beach access issues in Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

In December, when Director Jarvis submitted his report, it became clear the direction of this process has been overtaken by special interest groups.

National Audubon, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Southern Environmental Law Center, all 501c3 "not for profit" organizations, have intruded upon this process to the detriment of the residents and businesses of this community.

This is ever so clear in Director Jarvis's letter where he refers to the 9,300 comments he received in this process.

THAT NUMBER IS MORE THAN TWICE THE POPULATION OF THIS ISALND

How can a community of so few people fight for what they want with the numbers and resources stacked against them?

Actually, it is somewhat surprising that with millions of members, and hundreds of millions of dollars, these non-profits generated such a small percentage of responses.

The following illustrates the size and power of these organizations:

National Audubon: 2015 financial statements shows \$33,482,773 in cash and cash equivalents, \$231,977,976 in investments, revenue of \$95,143,330. They spent \$323,541 in "direct contact with legislators, their staffs, government officials, or a legislative body", and, another \$105,100 in "grants to other organizations for lobbying purposes". They list total assets as \$471,019,435.

Defenders of Wildlife: 2015 contributions and grants total \$29,358,805. Lobbying expense "to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)" was \$183,194. They spent \$81,329 on their annual donor benefits dinner!

Southern Environmental Law Center: 2015 contributions and grants of \$38,106,261. A whopping 65% increase in contributions and grants from the prior

year. Their lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)" was \$242,914.

More concerning to me in these financial statements are the monies received from government. National Audubon received \$8,684,231 in government grants last year.

That frees their resources to be used against the objectives of this community.

As such, of the comments submitted, all effort should be made to identify them as a resident, a visitor who has actually been here in the past few years, or as someone who simply followed directions from these non-profits to boost numbers. I believe separating the results into these categories will paint a different picture, and be much more informative to the Secretary. Given the "hand in pocket" relationship with government, comments from these member organizations with "no skin in the game" should be excluded.

Our small community cannot compete against this. Our voices are drowned out. It's no wonder the residents here throw up their arms saying "government does here what they want, we can't change anything".

Community organizations here are small. Their volunteers are overworked. Their financial resources have been stressed dramatically from hiring attorneys, and fighting for their beach access rights. There are those whose health has been adversely affected from working so hard on these issues. Many just give up.

Prior to Director Jarvis's report of December 15, 2015, we in the community were under the impression only "peer reviewed science" would be considered. Director Jarvis opened the door to consideration of "best available science". He did not though specify what science was considered, and what was not, in his report. We in the community would like the opportunity and the time required to prepare a comprehensive brief of "best available science" on these topics.

Given the new information we now have, I would like to ask 2 things of Secretary Jewell, in order to satisfy her objective of obtaining views of the actual users of this resource:

1) Adequate funding to:

A) Institute and organize a program to obtain comments from residents, owners and visitors to Hatteras Island. To implement this, I will contact the 6 largest real estate firms on the Island and coordinate with them to submit via electronic mail, and the postal system, a query regarding the issues of this mandate, concentrating particularly on buffer size and bypass corridor access. We will contact visitors of the past 3 years. As post office boxes are used for residents, that query can be distributed in all boxes of each Village.

B) Have a brief prepared containing "best available science." This will reflect what is currently in use in Federal and State parks, and in private sector protection areas, reporting the success and failures of these plans.

2) An extension of 1 year to the public comment time frame. This will allow time to compile, organize and report this information.

Lastly, I believe NPS is potentially threatening its existence on Hatteras Island. I believe good argument can be made NPS is not operating to the benefit of this community, and has not satisfied the promises it made here when it obtained the land on our beaches. The community is being usurped by special interest, and its residents and businesses are suffering.

Thank You,

██████████

Correspondence ID: 1440 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,17,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: From: ██████████ regarding issues of concern in Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

I would first like to thank Dave for our continuing sincere conversations with some of our Park issues. I would also like to thank ██████████ for all she does in regards to getting the news out about our great island.

My main topic here tonight is the recent flooding on Hatteras Island. Global warming is real ...and real conversations and solutions must happen sooner than later. Time is not on our side.

In the last 6 months we have had 3 major storms where ocean overwash went through 8 areas between the old Coast Guard base and ramp 43. I personally walked out to ramp 44 twice during the Super Bowl storm and watched as wave after wave filled up the pond at Cape Point. I also watched as it washed over the road and flooded the Cape Point campground. My main concern is our Park and the true freshwater wetlands in the Buxton Woods are filled to unhealthy level with salt. They are all connected by nearly 10 miles of ditches, drains, and culverts. Sadly, some of these are unable to drain like they were intended to when constructed. If you go to google Earth, all of these canals and ditches are viewable from above. The water that was on old lighthouse road and Hwy 12 ended up going into the Pamlico Sound through the Fessenden Drain. Think about that.

However, today... much of what were wonderful wetlands have become holding ponds for millions of gallon of ocean over wash. This is where everyone must come together! We cannot logically sit back and watch our wetlands, roads, forest, and businesses be flooded by saltwater when it could be simply drained out to an acceptable level. I encourage everyone here to work together for a viable solution to this major problem within our community and Park. Oh ya... mosquito season is coming and the last word anyone needs to hear is ZICA.

Correspondence ID: 1441 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,24,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac,

I am a Virginia resident with a life-long passion for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Recreational Area. I am over sixty-years of age and have been visiting Hatteras Island and the CHNS since the age of eight. I rent a mobile home lot in Buxton for my RV on a year-round basis. Both of my (now grown) children were exposed to the seashore at a very early age. They learned to appreciate and respect the beauty and fragile nature of the island. Unfortunately, they do not visit much anymore because several of their favorite beaches are closed during the times of year they are available to travel.

I have witnessed the financial devastation many of the residents experienced as a result of ever-increasing limitations on ORV access to some of the finest beaches and habitat on the east coast. Conversely, I also understand that habitat and wildlife must be protected and preserved.

I feel that all interested parties now have a unique opportunity to develop a fair compromise between access and environmental interests. I reviewed the Final Rule for ORV Management and thought "Alternative 3" (EA page 51) afforded visitors and residents alike with the best possible experience. That is, until I read the CHAPA Recommendations which are also supported by The Cape Hatteras Angler's Club, of which I am a member and supporter.

Therefore, after final analysis, I am writing to you/the NPS in support of the CHAPA Recommendations dated 8/15 and confirmed 3/16, copy attached. I am confident that the new bridge replacing the "Bonner" will help re-generate tourism interests in Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands. Improved beach/ORV access will help ensure great visitor experiences and future return trips. Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

CHAPA - 8/2015 Recommendations Confirmed 3/2016

Morning Beach Openings: Same as Alternative 3 (ramps 25, 27, 70 were not requested as priority). Also recommended routes remain open until 10:00 pm.

Seasonal ORV Routes: Same as Alternative 3, plus extend seasonal routes not at villages to Sep 1 - Apr 30.

Vehicle-free areas: Same as Alt 3, plus: Redesignate VFAs at ramp 1 south (.0.5 mi), Bodie Island spit (.75 mi), ramp 43 north (.6 mi), ramp 45 west (1.3 mi) as seasonal ORV routes; ramp 48 east (.5 miles) as year round. Redesignate ramp 23 north (.5 mi currently designated as seasonal) as year round route.

Access improvements: Same as Alternative 2,(parking area at ramp 45 was not requested) plus: Provisions for temporary ORV corridor from Ramp 45 to Cape Point when conditions prevent access from the east beach and when risk to wild life not present: Soundside access on Bodie Island.

Permits: Same as Alternative 2

Total VFA and ORV route mileage: 26.7 miles of year round of year round Oceanfront ORV routes, 19 miles of seasonal ORV routes, 18.5 mi of VFAs. (NPS year round routes include 2.8 miles which are not Oceanfront access)

Correspondence ID: 1442 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,24,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: I am opposing any increase in ORV routes, Number of entries or extend the time for ORV traffic on the beach.

Correspondence ID: 1443 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,24,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: Let me preface this letter by stating that I have been a visitor to both Hatteras Island and Ocracoke Island since the late 1960's so soon I will have visited almost every year for fifty years. My children, and now my grandchildren, have vacationed with my wife and me many times. Early retirement has allowed me to continue to spend at least three and as many as six weeks each year on these islands during the last thirteen years and I hope to continue this for quite some time with a great group of fisherman that have been together for many years. I am very familiar with the way "things used to be" and the regulations "currently in place".

Although each of my children caught their first fish at "the point" as did some of my grandchildren, it is unfortunate that my children now prefer to spend time on the northern beaches of Duck and Corolla where there is far less intrusion of regulations. These are, of course, not part of NPS jurisdiction.

With regard to comment(s) on proposals to modify the existing agreements on lands managed by NPS, I would like to see the following:

• Longer hours of access by OR Vs (both early morning and late evening). Also release of closed areas (VFAs) in less than two weeks after a bird or turtle nest has been deemed abandoned or destroyed by natural processes.

• Better ramp access where driving does not entail 10" to 24" of standing water and draining of existing areas that currently are left to become hazards for motorists and breeding ponds for mosquitoes and other pests.

• An ORV route either in front of or behind the dunes that allows access to the area known as "the point" that would allow both birds/turtles to coexist as they have in prior decades. Less restrictions of cordoned areas for turtle nests seems to work well on private beaches such as Nags Head and I'd like to see that at least considered and, ideally, implemented on publicly owned lands managed by the NPS. ~Annual ORV permits that actually last for twelve months rather than the current calendar year expiration (I usually visit periods in April-May and September-November). Ji~ Re-establishment of the campground at Buxton. This had been a great area many years ago but appears abandoned with no intention of ever bringing it back to a functioning recreation area.

If I had to chose between the considerations shown in your file, it would appear Alternative 3 more closely reflects my sentiments.

Correspondence ID: 1444 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,24,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form

Correspondence: I oppose any increase in ORV traffic on Hatteras Island. My opposition includes any proposal to increase the number of entry and exit points to and from the beach area.

I oppose any proposal that adds days of the year when ORV driving on beach is permitted.

Correspondence ID: 1445 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,24,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: Superintendent Hallac,

At their March 17, 2016 meeting, the Dare County Tourism Board endorsed the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance's document (attached). We wish to offer this as our public comment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

[CHAPA Letter from [REDACTED] attached].

Correspondence ID: 1446 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,24,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: My name is [REDACTED] and I have lived on Hatteras Island since 1978. I have worked retail all my adult life. I am a former owner of the [REDACTED] in Buxton N.C. I have experienced first-hand the economic needs of the Hatteras Island business community. We sell the beach! Customers want to spend as much time on the beach as possible. When bird nesting closes Cape Point, business suffers greatly. The bird closures and Ramp closures drive people to other areas of the island and business doesn't rebound very fast. I hope you realize how tough this has been on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands!

1. ORV Permits.

I support Alternative 2. Annual permits should be on a yearly fiscal year. Day of purchase to the next year day of purchase. Just like the N.C. Fishing license. The permit seems high for the blue collar working force. Any help would be great to lower that expense. A 10 day permit would serve the public better than a seven day permit.

2. Morning beach openings

A universal opening of 6:00 AM for all beach locations is needed. Fishing starts early all around the world. These openings should start with priority beaches that include Ramps 2,4,25,27,43,44,48,49,70,72. These beaches should not close until 10:00 PM. Maybe NPS should have "opening" teams separate from the Bio-techs, to help speed up the task of getting the beaches ready to open, while the resource personnel readies the nesting concerns. I am not aware on any birds being run over by ORVS here at Cape Hatteras.

3. Seasonal ORV Routes

ORV routes should be open Oct 1 thru April 30. These areas have been closed since Neg-Reg and have handicapped the visitor experience to the seashore as well as a big problem for businesses. We need these areas opened to survive! There is no data that supports the earlier closures in the year. These times coincide better with the traditional fall and spring fishing seasons. Alternative 3 would be acceptable with further studies on the 10.00 pm closings suggestions. Alt 2 beach opening would be acceptable as well for beach openings! Try combining them!

4. Access Improvements

Ramp 44 needs an extension all the way from the base of the ramp to Cape Point. Nothing is more important than keeping cape Point open all year!!!!!! That is our most valuable asset! Ramp 45 needs to be reopened with a parking lot to insure pedestrian access to the hook area. While we are at it let's provide sound side access to Bodie Island. This was widely discussed at Neg-Reg. NPS make it happen, no downside to the issue. All ramps 2 way traffic! Alternative 2 with note additional suggestions!

5.VFA

VFA's don't work and visitors don't use them. No studies have been done to support keeping them closed! If these areas aren't being used why not convert them to seasonal closes. Seems to me this is a logical compromise! OBPA has laid out a ramp by ramp plan. I agree with their assessment.

Correspondence ID: 1447 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,25,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: Hello David,

In regards to the new plan, I would like alternative plan 3 to be applied in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I personally know a good number of your fine staff here on Hatteras Island. These are very capable people that could certainly monitor the very small increases plan 3 would cover. I also believe opening the beaches 30-60 minutes earlier in popular areas like ramps 43, 44, and Cape Point would not be an issue. A simple shoreline corridor on the east side beaches to Cape Point would provide access while making the rest of the area much easier to monitor with no people or vehicles present. People just want access, they do not want to be walking in the seasonal bird enclosures. People would actually endorse larger seasonal enclosures as long as shoreline access to the popular beaches was provided.

I also encourage you to improve access at ramp 44 by raising the level of the road once over the high dune ramp to the beach. This is by far the most popular ramp on the island. It provides access for both pedestrians and ORV's. Over the past few years it has been flooded for 4-5 months during the year. This is not a good reflection of our National Park and a lot of people are asking "why". This has really become a safety access issue too. Could the Park be liable if our law enforcement, rescue services, and EMT's were denied access to the popular Cape Point and the vehicle free pedestrian area in an emergency because of a flooded ramp? Thousands of people have needed assistance in this dynamic area for literary 200 years. That's why the lighthouse and life-saving stations were built here.

In closing I would like to say I'm excited about having a new superintendent at the Cape Hatteras Seashore. There's a new breeze blowing through the island that feels good. Please be careful dealing with the special interest groups. I have known many of their leaders for years and in some cases decades. Some of these people are not truthful people. I thought my National Park here was doing a good job before Audubon's and the SELC lawsuits. Yes, some changes were needed but the way it was done divided many real environmentalists and nature lovers like myself. I think island residents should also have a bigger voice within Park issues that hit close to home. Dave, I wish you and your family the best while here on the Outer Banks.

Correspondence ID: 1448 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Mar,25,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: The most grievous of the policies of the Cape Hatteras national seashore, is the absolute prohibition of the vehicular traffic on the beach in front of the various villages, during the summer. To prohibit vast stretches of the beach to a select rich few, is contrary to all that the United States and the National Park Service endorsed.

By sheer accident, I overheard a conversation between the Cape Hatteras District Ranger and a person he obviously considered a confidant. During the

conversation the Ranger complained that he was being ordered to close the beach in front of the village of Avon, because a United States senator not from North Carolina, who was on the beach with his girlfriend, and was annoyed not because the vehicle driving by looking at his girlfriend, but because the girlfriend was obviously looking back.

Being a vindictive person, like a lot of government employees are, he filed a complaint. Obviously, since he didn't want his wife and family to find out about the girlfriend, he implied that it was a safety issue, in spite of the fact, that there had not been any safety incidents between pedestrians and vehicles, the alcoholic, and later felon, who was superintendent, ordered the beach closure. Which was later expanded to all the villages. Resulting in a major portion of the park being managed with taxpayer dollars only available to a very few rich people.

a very dim star in the intelligent world, should have, and now you must do, is to inform the villages, that if they want the beaches close to off-road vehicles, they must provide a 20 car parking lot, with a handicap beach access ramp every quarter mile in the villages. Similar to what is available in the Nags Head area. The beaches in front of the villages should be open year-round to off-road vehicles until the parking lots are completed.

Secondly, it is criminal that there is not a bike path the entire length of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, a considerable distance offset from Highway 12. One was proposed, and the state of North Carolina was willing to finance in the mid-90s. The idea was vetoed by a person in your position, who was short and exceedingly fat, who obviously never rode a bicycle and definitely not on Highway 12.

It is ridiculous that many restrictions are placed on the users of the park for safety reasons, yet the park, meaning you, continue to insist that families be forced to ride bicycles within 2 feet of large recreational vehicles, large boats being pulled on trailers, many from other government agencies, and emergency vehicles including many of your employees racing by without any regard for their safety.

Since you are unable, or unwilling, to curb your employees, you need to take whatever action is necessary to put in an 8 foot wide bicycle path from Whale Bones junction to Ocracoke Village.

Because this project will take some time, in order to expedite the construction, every Park service employee north of the Bonner Bridge will be required to bike once weekly from whalebone to the Bonner bridge and back. Those living south of the Bonner Bridge will be required to bike from North Avon to the ferry dock and back. In addition to making the employees vividly aware of the problems bicyclists encounter, it will be a great wellness exercise for you and your crew. I would suggest that only two employees could ride together.

Thirdly, another one of basically stupid rulings, was to deny the state of North Carolina permission to install runway lights on Billy Mitchell field. Barely 3 months after his grievous decision, they dredge knocked down a major portion of the Bonner Bridge. For months the only way on and off the island was by ferry. True that is the way it was for a long time before the bridge was built. However there was not the population, there were not the number of tourist that are now on the island. Increased numbers mean, increased chances of medical emergencies. A lit runway with the GPS approach would make a medical evacuation by aircraft available just about every day of the year. Helicopters only fly in clear weather.

What made decision unpalatable, was not the fact that it showed complete disregard for residents and visitors, but it showed a total disrespect for his fellow employees and families. I am embarrassed that I was really hoping, that a Park service employee or family member would suffer a life ending event because of his lack of intelligence. There have been many storms, and many times, that the island has been cut off from vehicular traffic. The airport has been underused and one of the reasons is the lack of lights, and an instrument approach, along with obstinate leadership from the Park service.

Again, I will mention that not only are there residents and tourists, that you wish weren't here, but there are also your employees and their families. I won't mention the Coast Guard and their families because they really are not worth mentioning. I used to travel and I remember talking with a father who was very excited when he learned I lived on Hatteras. The reason for his excitement, was that his charming daughter was an intern of the park in Buxton. I had a great debate with myself on whether to tell this gentleman that the Park service was deliberately, putting his daughter in jeopardy, because of their/your lack of foresight.

Lastly, I have to laugh at the efforts to expand the Monitor refuge. True, it is the site of some history. However, if you look at all the ships and the thousands of men who died on Diamond Shoals and the area around the shoals. The closest that relatives of those who perished can get to their relatives permanent burial site is the point at Cape Hatteras. It is the closest that relatives of the Monitor can easily access to their family remains. I have listened in amazement as petty people have argued over access to the point. It is a historical site, with enough dead bodies, like all the Civil War battlefields, It should be readily available to descendants of those who perished. There should be a place to Hatteras lighthouse were descendants of the deceased can go sign up to be transported to the point.

When special interest groups approach you with requests to only consider their point of view, you need to remind them that the park is for everyone. That if they are not willing to share the park with everyone, they need to renounce their citizenship and go to another country. I find it amusing that some of my neighbors are the squeaky wheels that you hear constantly, proclaimed themselves patriotic Americans.

Correspondence ID: 1449 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Apr,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Sirs:

We favor increased access to the beaches on Hatteras Island. We have been coming to the Banks for over 30 years and had intended to buy a home there upon retirement. However, once the beaches were closed and access was limited, we decided that it was not the same Outer Banks that we had come to know and love.

In all of the years that we've fished on the Banks, we never saw sportsmen abuse the beaches. Often the fishermen cleaned the beaches so that they were as pristine when they left as when they got there. These are the people that pay the bills on the Outer Banks. And it really hurts the merchants on Hatteras Island when beach access is severely limited.

Thank you for considering our request.

Correspondence ID: 1450 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928

Received: Mar,10,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Dave,

I would appreciate alternative access at Cape Point. Most all my spare time is spent here. 6+ months a year.

Correspondence ID: 1451 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 70928
Received: Apr,07,2016 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Hallac:

Welcome to the Outer Banks!

Thanks for this opportunity to comment on the National Park Service's optional plans for improving the management of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and enhancing public access to its beaches and facilities.

I strongly support Alternative Plan 3 as the best means of protecting shore wildlife and its habitat while providing residents and visitors with good recreational access to the Seashore. Alternative 3 will make no dramatic changes in the current configurations of open and protected areas, but the changes it will make are reasonable and very important. You might already have found that Hatteras Islanders are dedicated conservationists who do not want to interfere with bird or turtle nesting activities or to walk or drive through seasonal enclosures. These are the folks, after all, who volunteer to wade into frigid ocean waters to rescue cold shocked sea turtles several times each year.

I also join those who urge the NPS to move quickly to restore the frequently flooded areas along Lighthouse Road, on the campground and around Cape Point. The flooding throws wildlife habitat out of balance, cuts off vehicle and pedestrian access to Ramp 44 and the beach, and creates a critical public health hazard as a breeding ground for mosquitos. Environmental hydrologist Chris Egghart's article in a recent issue of the Island Free Press offers some useful history and technically feasible approaches to correcting the flooding problem. I recommend the article as valuable reading and Mr. Egghart as an expert resource to the NPS.

The people of Hatteras Island and the National Park Service have been through some rough times over the past few years. In my opinion, the difficulties have largely been instigated and fueled by outside special interest groups. I hope those groups have had their fangs pulled - or at least blunted - and I look forward to a renewed spirit of cooperation and cordiality between the NPS and us.
