



# **Environmental Assessment for Consideration of Changes to Final Rule for Off-Road Vehicles**

## ***Public Scoping Report***

December 2015

Revised March 2016



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## INTRODUCTION

On July 30, 2015, Cape Hatteras National Seashore (Seashore) published a news release requesting public scoping comments on the environmental assessment (EA) for consideration of changes to the final rule for off-road vehicles (ORV) public scoping newsletter that was distributed electronically and posted on the National Park Service (NPS) website. Scoping comments were accepted through August 21, 2015. Five public scoping meetings were held throughout the area of the Seashore. During the public scoping period, the park received 1,781 correspondences containing 1,748 individual comments. There were 774 form letters received. The comments received were reflective of a public that is passionate about the future of the Seashore's resources, its uses, and management.

This report summarizes the range of comments received, identifies substantive comments, provides concern statements reflecting these substantive comments, and provides a full listing of comments received. All substantive comments were reviewed and discussed by the NPS during multiple teleconferences and incorporated into alternatives, as appropriate.

## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

In August 2015, the National Park Service held five public scoping meetings for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore consideration for changes to the final rule for ORV environmental assessment at the following locations:

- August 5, 2015, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Ocracoke School, Ocracoke Island, North Carolina
- August 6, 2015, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the McKimmon Center, North Carolina State University Campus, Raleigh, North Carolina
- August 10, 2015, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Cape Hatteras Secondary School, Buxton, North Carolina
- August 11, 2015, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina
- August 12, 2015, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hampton Inn, Hampton, Virginia

These meetings were held to obtain public feedback on the initial purpose, need, objectives, issues and concerns, and preliminary alternative concepts and elements for consideration for changes to the final rule for off-road vehicles at the Seashore.

Each meeting began with a formal presentation by NPS staff and was followed by an open discussion or breakout groups with NPS staff where attendees' comments and ideas were captured on flipcharts. During the open discussion/breakouts, attendees were invited to walk around the meeting room, view display boards, and offer comments that were captured on flipcharts. The display boards included the following information:

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

The meetings offered a variety of methods for the public to provide comments. NPS personnel and consultant staff were present at flip charts to answer questions from attendees and record attendees' comments and ideas. The comments on the flip charts from the meetings were summarized for consideration along with comments that were submitted into the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) database for the environmental assessment. Summaries of these comments are provided in this report. Comment sheets were also provided to meeting attendees as an additional method for providing comments.

Individuals attending the meetings were also given a newsletter that provided additional opportunities for comment, including directing comments to the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/caha-orv-ea>. In addition, the Seashore posted the newsletter on the PEPC project website; 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. The following sections of this summary describe the comment analysis process and summarize the comments received.

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

Primary terms used in this comment summary report include:

**Correspondence:** A correspondence is the entire document received from a commenter. It can be in the form of a letter, PEPC entry, or written comment form.

**Comment:** A comment is a portion of the text within a correspondence that addresses a single topic. For example, a comment could address a topic such as an expression of support or opposition to a potential management action, additional data regarding the existing condition, scientific information, information on personal experience at the Seashore, or concerns about potential impacts of management actions.

**Code:** A code is a logical grouping centered on a common topic. Codes are developed during the scoping process and used to track major topics throughout the planning process.

**Concern Statement:** A statement expresses several comments on the same or similar topics.

## OVERVIEW OF THE COMMENT ANALYSIS PROCESS

Comment analysis is a process used to compile and correlate similar public comments into a usable format for decision makers and the EA interdisciplinary planning team. Comment analysis helps the team in organizing, clarifying, and addressing technical information under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. It also aids in identifying the topics and issues and the alternatives to be evaluated and considered throughout the planning process.

Comment analysis has five main steps:

1. developing a coding structure;
2. using a comment database for comment management;
3. reading and coding comments;
4. interpreting and analyzing the comments to identify issues and themes; and
5. preparing a comment summary.

A coding structure was developed to help sort comments into logical groupings or topics. The coding structure was derived from an analysis of the range of topics discussed during internal NPS scoping, past planning documents, and the comments themselves and was designed to capture all comment content rather than to restrict or exclude any ideas.

The NPS PEPC database was used to manage the comments. The database stores the full text of all correspondence and allows each comment to be coded by topic. The database produces tallies of the total number of correspondences and comments received, can sort and report comments by a particular topic, and provides demographic information on the source of each comment.

Analysis of the public comments involved assigning codes to comments made in the letters, written comment forms, and PEPC comment entries. All comments were read and analyzed, including those of a technical nature; opinions, feelings, and preferences for different alternative concepts or elements over others; and comments of a personal or philosophical nature. The database also includes comments received on topics outside the scope of the environmental assessment as it was described published news release.

## **SPECIFIC METHOD FOR ANALYZING PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENTS**

During the comment period, 1,781 pieces of correspondence were received, containing a total of 1,781 signatures and a total of 1,748 individual comments. One thousand seven hundred and fifty-nine pieces of correspondence were submitted through PEPC, 5 were submitted at the public meeting, 15 were submitted through letters mailed to the park, and 2 were received via e-mail. Three different form letters were submitted.

Once all correspondence was entered into PEPC, each was read, and specific comments were identified. Each comment was then assigned a code. The coding structure comprised codes established in the NPS PEPC system (referred to as national codes) and codes developed specifically for this project. An example of a code developed for this project includes comments specific to alternative elements related to this environmental assessment. The codes were used to identify the general content of a comment.

As noted above, there was an opportunity for attendees at the five public meetings to ask questions and provide feedback to NPS staff on the preliminary alternatives. Comments from all meetings were collected on flipcharts. The comments captured on the flipcharts at the public meetings were not officially entered into the PEPC system. However, they were reviewed, analyzed, and incorporated into the overarching analysis of public input. The following information provides a summary of the flipchart comments received at all five meetings.

## **MORNING BEACH OPENINGS**

Currently the beaches at the Seashore open at 7:00 a.m. for ORV use. The majority of comments offered by public attendees were in support of earlier beach opening times. This was a consistent comment at all five of the public meetings. Beach opening suggestions ranged from sunrise, 30 minutes before sunrise, and to a set time of 6:30 a.m. Reasons included early morning fishing and sunrise viewing. Additionally, there was support for opening priority beaches first as offered in one of the preliminary alternatives. Attendees offered suggestions of priority beaches, including Hatteras and Oregon Inlet and Ramps 4, 43, 44, 45, 49, and 55, as examples.

## **SEASONAL OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ROUTES**

Beaches in front of the villages with the Seashore and Ocracoke campground are currently open as seasonal ORV routes from November 1 through March 31. Commenters at all five public meetings discussed and supported expanding these openings. The majority of the commenters would prefer to see the beaches open for a longer ORV driving season. There was strong support for adding six weeks on to either end of the existing ORV seasonal route period. Additionally, commenters suggested that the National Park Service follow a timeframe that aligns with user seasons (school sessions, fishing seasons, peak tourist times. For instance, commenters recommended aligning the seasonal restrictions with the high visitation holidays of Memorial Day to Labor Day. Commenters felt the majority of pedestrian use

and need for safety closures aligned with the time period that starts and ends with the major summer holidays. Commenters emphasized that in the fall, beach accessibility is critical for key fishing times. Commenters suggested that reopening beaches closer to Labor Day would allow better beach access for fall fishing.

## **VEHICLE FREE AREAS**

A number of the public meeting commenters wanted to see a reduction in the amount of vehicle-free areas (VFA) at the Seashore. Commenters felt that vehicle-free areas are often underused, while some ORV routes are overcrowded. There was a recognition by the commenters that resource protection and safety play a role in the establishment of vehicle-free areas; however commenters requested what they feel would be a better balance based on use. Specific areas such as Ramp 2, Inlets and Spits (Ramps 45–49, Oregon and Hatteras Inlet) received a lot of attention as key areas for fishing and visitor use. However, commenters noted that because of vehicle-free areas and resource closures, accessing those areas is very challenging. Because many of the commenters either live at the Seashore or frequent it, each had specific vehicle-free areas they would like to see altered.

## **ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS**

The discussion around access improvements covered a wide range of topics, including parking areas, access for visitors with disabilities, ramp reopening, new ramp construction, and soundside access. Commenters made suggestions regarding three primary areas of concern: soundside access, parking locations to prevent vehicles parked along Highway 12, and reasonable access to areas of the beach currently designated as vehicle-free areas. Commenters noted that soundside access in various areas of the Seashore is limited, making activities such as kayaking and paddle boarding difficult. Additionally, commenters discussed the safety concern of having people parking along the highway to gain access. For example, there is very little space to park along Highway 12; however, visitors are parking in this location if they cannot access a parking lot on the ocean and sound sides of the island. Finally, many commenters wanted to see ramps, parking areas, or small ORV bypass lanes in areas that are primarily cut off due to resource closures or vehicle-free areas.

## **PERMITS**

Permit changes were supported by the majority of public meeting attendees, who see the current permit structure as too restrictive. Suggestions regarding permits involved both soundside and oceanside access and included providing an annual permit valid from the date of purchase as opposed to the set calendar year that is currently in place. Additionally, the public present at meetings would like to see more of a range in length of permits. Currently a 7-day permit is offered; ideas for new permit periods included 3 days, 10 days, and 14 days.

## **OUT OF SCOPE**

Commenters also made additional suggestions that were out of scope for this environmental assessment but are noted here, including comments related to, how the park should administer the permits (electronically), how the National Park Service should use the funds from ORV permit purchasing, reducing size of resource buffers, dog access, predation issues, signage issues, citizens advisory council problems, and habitat management programs.



## **GUIDE TO THIS DOCUMENT**

This report is organized as follows:

**Comment Summary Report:** A report produced from the PEPC system that provides information on the numbers and types of comments received, organized by code and by various demographics. The first section is a summary of the number of comments under each code or topic and the percentage of comments under each code.

Data are then presented on the correspondence number received by state, organization type, and the distribution by correspondence type.

**Comment Report:** A report summarizing the substantive comments received during the public scoping process. Comments are organized by code and further organized into concern statements. Below each concern statement are representative quotes that have been taken directly from the text of the public's comments and have not been edited; therefore, spelling and grammar errors were not corrected. Representative quotes further clarify the concern statement.

**Appendix 1 – Correspondences:** The full text of correspondences is provided.

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**COMMENT SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>Comment Distribution by Code</b>			
<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Correspondences</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
AE11000	Affected Environment: Species of Special Concern	9	0.21%
AE12000	Affected Environment: Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	6	0.14%
AE21000	Affected Environment: Socioeconomics	10	0.23%
AE22000	Affected Environment: Visitor Use	26	0.60%
AL1000	Support Earlier Beach Openings	119	2.74%
AL1100	Oppose Earlier Beach Openings	15	0.34%
AL1200	Beach Openings (Substantive)	91	2.09%
AL1300	Support Expanding Seasonal ORV Route Periods	116	2.67%
AL1400	Oppose Expanding Seasonal ORV Route Periods	791	18.19%
AL1500	Seasonal ORV Route Periods (Substantive)	103	2.37%
AL1600	Increase VFA Size and Locations	896	20.61%
AL1700	Decrease VFA Size and Locations	221	5.08%
AL1800	VFA Size and Locations (Substantive)	147	3.38%
AL1900	Support Additional Permit Periods	134	3.08%
AL2000	Oppose Additional Permit Periods	2	0.05%
AL2100	Additional Permit Periods (Substantive)	147	3.38%
AL2200	Support Additional Access Improvements	62	1.43%
AL2300	Oppose Additional Access Improvements	8	0.18%
AL2400	Additional Access Improvements (Substantive)	51	1.17%
AL2700	Support No Action Alternative	930	21.39%
AL4000	Alternatives: New Alternatives or Elements	19	0.44%
AL5000	Outside the Scope of this EA	238	5.47%
DC1000	Duplicate Correspondence	6	0.14%
GA2000	Impact Analysis: Use Trends and Assumptions	2	0.05%
GA3000	Impact Analysis: General Methodology for Establishing Impacts/Effects	7	0.16%
MT1000	Miscellaneous Topics: General Comments	183	4.21%
ON1000	Other NEPA Issues: General Comments	1	0.02%
PN1000	Purpose and Need: Planning Process and Policy	2	0.05%
PN3000	Purpose and Need: Scope of the Analysis	2	0.05%
PN5000	Purpose and Need: Regulatory Framework	4	0.09%
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,348</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Correspondence Distribution by State</b>		
<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Pieces of Correspondence</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
AK	8	0.45%
AL	6	0.34%
AR	5	0.28%
AZ	18	1.01%
CA	133	7.47%
CO	33	1.85%
CT	22	1.24%
DC	8	0.45%
DE	14	0.79%
FL	69	3.87%
GA	24	1.35%
HI	7	0.39%
IA	6	0.34%
ID	4	0.22%
IL	33	1.85%
IN	12	0.67%
KS	5	0.28%
KY	5	0.28%
LA	7	0.39%
MA	29	1.63%
MD	29	1.63%
ME	7	0.39%
MI	23	1.29%
MN	14	0.79%
MO	17	0.95%
MS	4	0.22%
MT	7	0.39%
NC	594	33.35%
ND	3	0.17%
NE	4	0.22%
NH	6	0.34%
NJ	39	2.19%
NM	13	0.73%
NV	3	0.17%
NY	93	5.22%
OH	34	1.91%
OK	1	0.06%
OR	34	1.91%
PA	71	3.99%
PR	1	0.06%
RI	4	0.22%
SC	16	0.90%
SD	2	0.11%
TN	15	0.84%
TX	29	1.63%

<b>Correspondence Distribution by State</b>		
<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Pieces of Correspondence</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
UN	20	1.12%
UT	6	0.34%
VA	175	9.83%
VT	8	0.45%
WA	36	2.02%
WI	17	0.95%
WV	6	0.34%
WY	2	0.11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Correspondence Distribution by Country</b>		
<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of Pieces of Correspondence</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Denmark	1	0.06%
Malaysia	1	0.06%
Spain	1	0.06%
France	2	0.11%
Columbia	1	0.06%
Great Britain	4	0.23%
Mexico	1	0.06%
United States of America	1,760	98.82%
Netherlands	1	0.06%
Germany	3	0.17%
Belgium	1	0.06%
Honduras	1	0.06%
Canada	4	0.23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Correspondence Signature Count by Organization Type</b>		
<b>Organization Type</b>	<b>Number of Pieces of Correspondence</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Conservation/Preservation	1	0.06%
Recreational Groups	4	0.22%
Unaffiliated Individual	1,776	99.72%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

<b>Correspondence Distribution by Correspondence Type</b>		
<b>Type</b>	<b>Number of Pieces of Correspondence</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Web Form	1,759	98.76%
Letter	15	0.84%
Park Form	5	0.28%
E-mail	2	0.11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Cape Hatteras National Seashore Environmental Assessment for Consideration of Changes to Final Rule for Off-Road Vehicle Management

### PUBLIC SCOPING CONCERN STATEMENT REPORT

#### *AL1200 - Beach Openings - Substantive*

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54804) Commenters provided a range of times they would like to see the morning beach openings completed by, as well as alternatives for implementation. One commenter recommended that the National Park Service (NPS) establish a telephone number that would allow morning beach users to notify park staff of new turtle nests, to allow for earlier beach access. Several commenters also recommended special permits for early morning beach users, who would undergo training to identify nests. Another commenter recommended that off-road vehicles (ORVs) should be allowed to stay on the beach, with no lights on and remain parked, until the beaches are opened in the morning. Recommended options for morning beach openings options included:

- 1 hour before sunrise
- 30 minutes before sunrise
- sunrise
- 24-hour access
- 6:30 a.m.
- 5:00 a.m.
- 6:00 a.m.
- 1 hour before sunrise, or 6:00 a.m., whichever occurs first

One commenter recommended that the National Park Service set morning beach opening times in the summer month by month when dawn occurs earlier to allow predictability but also sufficient time for resource management staff.

#### **Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID: 7 Organization:** OBPA **Comment ID:** 452252 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** First on my list is the time in which beaches are opened in the morning. I would suggest the opening of all beaches be at least one hour before sunrise with priority on ramps to get to the Point.

**Corr. ID:** 13 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 452351 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Morning Beach Openings: Both the current 7 AM and the proposed 6:30 openings are designed to allow time required for NPS evaluation of new turtle nests, false crawls, or turtle hatches that may have occurred overnight. NPS Staff resources are limited and the opening times proposed reflects that reality. However, during the summer months, sunrise occurs well before 6:30 and fishermen find late opening times extremely frustrating as first light is the best time to fish. 6:30 opening and allowing visitors to follow resource management staff onto the beach at a designated ramp and to drive a safe distance behind staff as they clear the beach are somewhat better than 7AM, but far from ideal. Please consider the following additional options.

1)Open the beach at officially published morning twilight to those ORV operators that take training, pay a registration fee and sign an official agreement to help NPS staff resources to help identify new turtle nests, false crawls, or turtle hatches and other resources allowing them earlier access than untrained visitors. The process should include an online training class, test, a special permit, markers and reporting instructions. This approach provides a pool of well-motivated, trained volunteers to augment NPS staff.

2)Consider changing summer staff work hours allowing the beach to open at the published time of official sunrise. The time between morning twilight and sunrise offers sufficient light and time for beach evaluation.

3)Set summer opening hour by month such that the opening time is the average time of official sunrise for the month.

4)Set the summer opening hour at 5:30

**Corr. ID:** 223 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 454488 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Allow ORVs to stay on the night closed beaches during closure times, remaining parked and not moved, with no lights on except interior lights. The excuses given in the Final Rule comment responses are like saying we don't have enough LEOs to patrol highways at night and sooner or later there will be a speeder or drunk, so we need to prohibit vehicles from highways at night. Besides night fishermen are not into light other than red type lights to prevent disturbing the fish and keep their night vision. Further such red lights would be far less disturbing to turtles than a pedestrian walking around with a mega CP flashlight that is now permitted.

**Corr. ID:** 1720 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 467720 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Night closures are too restrictive and should be from 1 hour after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise. This is more comparable to North Carolina hunting regulations.

**Corr. ID:** 1752 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457190 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Morning Beach Openings:

- All the beaches should be open by 5 AM. Part of the training for the beach permit involves awareness of turtle nesting indications. The park service could publish a phone number that the early beach goers could utilize to notify the park service of any nests. This would reduce the need to add extra personnel. Another option is to create a special permit for early access. These permit owners would need to undergo a more specialized training regarding identification and notification of nests. This would be a great way to form a partnership between the community and the park service.

**Corr. ID:** 1758 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457470 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Beach access in the mornings during the 'resource' season.

Beaches inspections should start at nautical twilight and the beaches opened as soon after that as possible. First light is what is sometimes referred to as Nautical twilight. Normally in these latitudes about 20 minutes before sunrise.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54805) One commenter stated that while the 2014 NDAA requires the National Park Service to consider opening beach segments on a rolling basis after daily management reviews are completed, the National Park Service is not required to change current management practices. The commenter requested that park staff dismiss opening beach segments on a rolling basis because it is incompatible with management requirements. The commenter noted that the current night-driving restrictions have resulted in successful protection of sea turtle nesting while avoiding confusion for seashore users regarding beach openings. The commenter requested that if priority beaches are designated for 6:30 a.m. openings, the environmental assessment should clearly identify those areas and provide a plan to ensure that isolating priority areas does not result in other areas of Cape Hatteras National Seashore (Seashore) going unchecked for nesting activity.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 1777 **Organization:** Southern Environmental Law Center **Comment ID:** 462023 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

**Representative Quote:** Under the NDAA, NPS is obligated to consider "opening beach segments each morning on a rolling basis as daily management reviews are completed." NPS should consider and immediately dismiss that alternative as incompatible with management requirements underlying the night driving restrictions.

The current night driving restrictions are essential to protecting sea turtle nesting on Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The EA must recognize that protecting nesting sea turtles by prohibiting ORV use from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. has been successful. In the eight years prior to incorporating these reasonable limitations on ORV use, CHNS had not recorded more than 99 sea turtle nests in any given season and only exceeded 87 nests once.<sup>7</sup> In



the eight years since implementing the protections, NPS has recorded at least 104 nests every year, including more than the Seashore's recovery plan target of 200 nests two of the last three years. 8 Moreover, successfully laid nests have exceeded false crawls each year, meeting one of the Fish and Wildlife Service's performance standards for the Seashore.<sup>9</sup> In the eight years prior to night driving restrictions, the Seashore exceeded the false crawl performance standard four times, including nearly twice as many false crawls as nests in 2004. 10

Opening beaches on a rolling basis threatens to undercut this success by creating avoidable confusion regarding beach openings. NPS specifically addressed this potential confusion in the FEIS. The FEIS evaluated various options for more fluid night driving restrictions and concluded that "restricting night driving between the hours of 9:00 pm and 7:00 am provides an easily understood, enforceable restriction that provides a balance between conservation and public access." 11 The EA should likewise dismiss rolling opening of beaches.

In addition, if the EA evaluates setting priority areas for opening at 6:30 a.m., it must specifically describe those priority areas, identify the basis for selecting each area, and provide a plan to ensure that isolating priority areas does not result in other parts of the Seashore going unchecked.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54806) Commenters provided recommendations for high priority beaches that could be opened earlier than the current 7:00 a.m. beach opening. Recommended beaches included:

- Areas of greatest usage
- Cape Point
- South Point
- Oregon Inlet
- Hatteras Inlet
- Between ramps 43 and 44
- Ramps 2 and 4
- Ramps 23, 25, and 27
- Ramp 34 (if made an ORV route)
- Ramps 38 and 30
- Ramps 45 and 49
- Ramp 55
- Ramps 72 and 70

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 1730 **Organization:** Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance/OBPA **Comment ID:** 457105

**Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 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. Sunrise and sunset play important roles in the visitor experience. NPS should implement procedures that maximizes the opportunities for visitors to engage in activities at these times of day without interfering with the protection of resources which is the objective of nighttime closures.

Sunrise and sunset activities during the summer months can occur at any beach location but are particularly important at locations which are favored by photographers attempting to capture images enhanced by lower light conditions, shadows, and colors; at locations favored by fishermen where schooling fish forage at first light and at dusk; and at locations favored by visitors who wish to avoid the mid-day heat and perhaps enjoy a beautiful sunrise/sunset or cookout on the beach. Historically, these locations have been Oregon Inlet, Cape Point, Hatteras Inlet, and South Point. CHAPA proposes changes to the ORV rule to enhance the visitor experience at sunrise and sunset:

-Sunrise key locations: Turtle patrols at the following locations should begin early enough in the morning to allow access as quickly after first light as possible with a goal to provide access no later than 6:00 am : Ramp 2 to 4, Ramp 43/44 to Cape Point, Ramp 49 east and west, and Ramp 72 south to inlet.

First light during May, June, July, August occurs well before 6:00 am. ORV access under the current rule does not begin until 7:00 am, eliminating the opportunity to participate in sunrise activities.

-Sunrise Other locations: Continue to open ORV access at 7:00 am.

-Sunset Delay closing of access at all locations from the current 9:00 pm until 10:00 pm. The 10:00 pm curfew will improve the visitor experience but continue to provide the additional resource protection benefits intended

by closed nighttime ORV access.

To comply with the current rule, visitors must prepare dinners, fish earlier in the afternoon than preferred, often still in the heat of the day. Sunset does not occur until 8:30 during the summer months, but beachgoers must end their dinner and campfires earlier than they prefer in order to be off the beach by 9:00 pm. Even with a 10:00 pm closing, many visitors will be disappointed they cannot participate in activities they have enjoyed in the past including stargazing, and fishing the tides.

**Corr. ID:** 1772 **Organization:** Virginia Beach Anglers Club **Comment ID:** 457919 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

**Representative Quote:** Morning Beach Openings: The earlier the better. It should be at a set time (6:00 or 6:30 a.m.). Following a staff member down the beach idea is weak. If you get to the ramp after the staff member has left, how would you know if you could go on the beach or not. I think the priority beaches are the point, ramp 55, and ramp 34 if that is made an ORV route.

**Corr. ID:** 1776 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 458485 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Morning Beach Openings

With the understanding that there are safety concerns that require your technicians to have adequate ambient light I think the beaches should be opened at dawn beginning in the areas of greatest access usage, such as ramps 43 and 44. Ideally we could have predawn access to be able to enjoy one of the two most productive fishing times of the day, but in lieu of that the earlier the better. If it is possible to abide by the 6:30 time I would suggest, again, focus on those priority beaches.

Since dawn occurs at different times it may be prudent to have a visual indication at the ramp entrance, such as a flag system or a flip sign that could be placed and removed upon entrance and exit from a given ramp by NPS technicians. If this was done your visitor would be able to follow the technician onto the beach.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54807) Commenters voiced support for the preliminary alternative option of allowing ORV users to follow resource management staff down the beach as sections are cleared.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 38 **Organization:** County of Hyde **Comment ID:** 454205 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Hyde County supports changes that will increase ORV time on the beach allowing ORV accessible priority beaches to open at 6:30 am and/or allow visitors to follow resource management staff onto the beach at a designated ramp and to drive a safe distance behind staff as they clear the beach. Hyde County supports action to open our beaches to the public as early as possible and to also potentially look at allowing the beaches to stay open until 10:00 pm or as late as possible.

**Corr. ID:** 1212 **Organization:** Private Citizen **Comment ID:** 453382 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Morning Beach openings. I find the 0700 time to open beaches too late and because it is so late one of the best times to access the beach is missed. To improve this I suggest that the beaches are opened somewhere around "first light" or about 30 minutes before sunrise. This of course will be after a qualified Park Ranger has had time to survey the beach for nocturnal activities from the evening before such as new bird nests or turtle crawls. This could also be done by allowing ORVs to follow the Ranger to the beach of their choice as long as they are clear of any Resource issues. Once the beach has been surveyed and approved for ORV usage a green flag could be used to signal the open beach (or a red one to declare the opposite) which would be posted at the vehicle ramp. This should be done on a priority basis considering the most popularly used beach as first on the list to be surveyed for opening. My vote for the first ones to be surveyed would be Ramp 4 to Bodie Island, Ramp 44 to the Point, Ramp 55 to Hatteras Inlet and Ramp 72 to the South Point and Ocracoke Inlet.

**Corr. ID:** 1231 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 453798 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** A. ORV ROUTE OPEN TIMES: Patrols should be on beach before sun rise, as soon as there is enough light for safe travel. Those beaches to be used for ORVs should be inspected first with priority to points and spits. ORVs should be allowed on beach as it is cleared by patrols but should stay back 100 yds and not interfere with resource personnel. Beach closing time should be at 10 PM for predictability and ease of law enforcement.

**Corr. ID:** 1714 **Organization:** Hyde County Board of Commissioners **Comment ID:** 456480 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Morning Beach Openings - Hyde County supports changes that will increase ORV time on the beach allowing ORV accessible priority beaches to open at 6:30 a.m. and/or to allow visitors to follow resource management staff onto the beach at a designated ramp and to drive a safe distance behind staff as they clear the beach. Hyde County supports action to open our beaches to the public as early as possible and o potentially look allowing the beaches to stay open till 10 p.m. or as late as possible.

**Corr. ID:** 1742 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457239 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Opening in the morning.

You should allow the ORVs to follow your inspection vehicles as soon as they start.

Preference should be given to opening the good fishing areas. The majority of folks who go out early are headed there.

The places would include the point and the inlet mouths.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54808) One commenter voiced concern regarding ORV users following resource management staff, stating this method would result in a variety of communication, coordination, and enforcement problems. The commenter felt the current system allows for predictability and high visitor compliance, while a flexible system would increase the chances of visitor misunderstanding and noncompliance and potentially distract resource management staff from their primary function.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 111 **Organization:** Coalition to Protect America's National Parks **Comment ID:** 453057

**Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 2. Morning Beach Openings: Under no circumstances should NPS allow any recreational ORV use on park beaches during the sea turtle nesting season until after the morning turtle patrol has checked the beach for new nests and emergent hatchlings, and has completed any related management activities. To be most effective, the turtle patrol staff should focus on its primary function of looking for and managing turtle nests, and should not be burdened with the additional tasks of monitoring and managing ORV use before a standard opening time. As explained in the FEIS (pp. C-58 and C-59), during the turtle nesting season "Restricting 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, or would force them to start before daylight, which may cause them to miss turtle nests or late nesting turtles"(emphasis added). The advantage of the current 7 a.m. opening time is that it is easily understood, with no room for misunderstanding; and because of this visitor compliance with the existing opening time is reportedly very good.

It is possible, given adequate staffing (which is often an uncertainty), that NPS may be able to reliably and routinely check a few select beach locations for turtle nests in order to open those areas at a fixed time earlier than 7:00 a.m. (such as 6:30 a.m. as proposed). However, "allowing visitors to follow resource management staff onto the beach at a designated ramp and to drive a safe distance behind staff as they clear the beach" (an option described in the newsletter) would invite a variety of communications, coordination, and enforcement problems. If the morning opening time were to become flexible (i.e., variable, not fixed), and based solely on when the turtle patrol has cleared a section of beach, how will newly arriving ORV users know if a section of beach is legitimately open or not once the turtle patrol has already left the area? Will there be signing, such as "open" and "closed" signs that need to be changed each night and morning? What measures will NPS take to ensure that ORV users don't "jump the gun" and enter a beach, whether intentionally or unintentionally, before the turtle patrol has arrived, creating the impression to new arrivals that the beach is open, if there is no clearly defined or posted opening time? Using flexible, rather than fixed, morning opening time(s) will significantly

increase the chances of visitor misunderstanding and noncompliance with the rule, as well as turtle patrol staff being distracted from their primary function, which in turn increases the chances that new nests will be missed. For that reason, we strongly oppose flexible or "floating" morning opening procedures that are not based on a fixed time.

***AL1500 - Seasonal ORV Route Periods (Substantive)***

***CONCERN STATEMENT:*** (Concern ID: 54809) Commenters provided suggestions for when seasonal ORV routes around the villages and Ocracoke campground should be opened for ORV use. Options included:

- After Labor Day - May 30
- The week after Labor Day - the week before Memorial Day
- Two weeks after Labor Day - two weeks before Memorial Day
- August 1 - May 1
- Sept 1 - June 1
- Sept 15 - Easter
- Sept 15 - March 31
- Sept 15 - April 1
- Sept 15 - April 15
- Sept 15 - April 30
- Sept 15 - May 15 (six weeks in the fall and spring), to coincide with North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) speed limit changes
- Sept 15 - June 15
- Oct 1 - April 30 (four weeks in the fall and spring), to coincide with northern beach ORV access periods
- October 15 - April 15 (two weeks in the fall and spring)

Several commenters requested that these seasonal ORV Routes be closed for ORV use year-round. Another commenter requested that the effectiveness of seasonal closures be reviewed each year.

***Representative Quote(s):***

**Corr. ID: 7 Organization:** OBPA **Comment ID:** 452253 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Second are the seasonal open/close access dates. The seasonal beaches in front of villages should consider opening by Oct 1 and closing April 30. And the seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches should be open to ORV access the first Sunday after Labor day (which is always on a Monday) and close the Sunday before Memorial Day. These dates I feel are after the so called crowds for Labor Day and Memorial Day.

**Corr. ID: 16 Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 452361 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** There seems to me no purpose in allowing vehicles on village beaches other than to annoy people who live in the village and walk on the beaches during the winter. The "off-season" is no longer "off" and there are many people visiting the OBX during late fall and winter and the practice of allowing driving on village beaches from October to March should be stopped.

**Corr. ID: 19 Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 452373 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** First let me say that I am pleased with the action Congress took late in 2014 to bring some sanity to the closures along Cape Hatteras National Recreational Seashore. Now the important thing is to enact these requirements in a manner that will benefit the American taxpaying public and not interfere with the traditional activities this parcel of land has provided sportsmen and tourists for generations.

- 1) All closures MUST be of the shortest duration and smallest area possible.
- 2) Seasonal closures MUST be reviewed to assess their effectiveness and not "grandfathered" in year after year.

**Corr. ID: 94 Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 458449 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 2. Seasonal Open / Close ORV Access Dates: Current Rule: seasonal beaches are open to ORV access between selective dates.

The seasonal beaches in front of villages should be reopened two weeks earlier in the fall and remain open longer in the spring. Beaches should be opened immediately following labor day in the fall and remain open for an additional six weeks (i.e. May 30th) in the spring.

Seasonal beaches not in front of the villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of VFA designations, should be reopened to ORV access during the same time periods, immediately following Labor Day in the fall and not closed prior to May 30, in the spring

**Corr. ID:** 233 **Organization:** NCBBA **Comment ID:** 453458 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Representative Quote:** Please extend the opening 2 weeks earlier and 2 weeks later. Please open the beaches at 6 am and close at 10 pm. Also in the fall open the Coquina beach access and extend through the Spring

**Corr. ID:** 238 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 454466 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Reasonable dates for opening and closing of seasonal beaches for ORV access should be: closing date May 1 reopened August 1 birds are able to take flight and fend for themselves by then.

**Corr. ID:** 275 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 454438 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Village Beaches: The village beaches should be closed to motorized traffic year round. The present seasonal opening for ORVs has been a mistake in park planning, but could be corrected. People stay in village cottages more of the year than what seems like any time before. Many homeowners and their families use the cottages every weekend. Many oceanfront cottages are also rented for the week or weekend all winter long. Large ORV rigs present a danger to both children and adults plating on the beach. Higher winter tides result in more damage to dunes and vegetation as ORVs travel closer to and on sand dunes. This, in turn, results in less natural protection for beach cottages from ocean wash. Additionally, the large size of ORVs and trucks traveling together and taking over entire beaches in front of the villages keeps beach pedestrians from enjoying the beaches they can walk to.

**Corr. ID:** 1582 **Organization:** none **Comment ID:** 455589 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Representative Quote:** The north beaches-during the summer tourist season, say 6/1-9/1 should close in front of the villages to vehicles as to prevent user conflict, and was an easy choice even back before the NPS closed some of these areas. I would like to see the north beach 23-38 change to year round and or seasonal routes. Those beaches are extremely important to maintain access to in the fall as it is a world class destination.

**Corr. ID:** 1625 **Organization:** New Jersey Beach Buggy Association **Comment ID:** 455681 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 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.

**Corr. ID:** 1712 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 456473 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Seasonal ORV Routes - The season for each activities expect fishing, surfing and birding is at its peak during summers school break and most birds have fledged by Sept. 15th. Seasonal closures could begin June 15th and end Sept 15th adjusting the dates to accommodate early nesting, late fledged birds or changes to cottage rental patterns.

**Corr. ID:** 1714 **Organization:** Hyde County Board of Commissioners **Comment ID:** 456481 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Seasonal ORV Routes - Hyde County encourages NPS to extend seasonal ORV periods for the routes in front of villages and Ocracoke campground for an additional six weeks in the fall and spring and/or for as much time as possible. Hyde County supports action to keep our ORV routes open as often and as much as possible.

**Corr. ID:** 1716 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 456498 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** I would also like to see the beaches in front of the villages be open Sept. 15-April 30.

**Corr. ID:** 1732 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457176 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Seasonal Open / Close ORV Access Dates:

- The Park Service should open seasonal beaches in front of villages starting the week after Labor Day and close them starting the week before Memorial Day. This would keep them closed during the busiest rental period when most families with school age children are staying in the homes along the villages but will allow greater access to families with younger children or families with handicap individuals to enjoy those beaches after Labor Day and before Memorial Day without the need to lug umbrellas, chairs, coolers etc. Many of the current open beaches are too far from the villages and the longer drive makes it difficult to get to the beach. Allowing more open periods will be a huge help to families with young children and older or handicapped individuals.

**Corr. ID:** 1776 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 458487 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Seasonal ORV Routes

I think the beaches in front of the villages should be open to ORV access from September 15th to May 15th. Use of the beaches by pedestrian visitors and locals is minimal between those dates. As someone who frequently spends a minimum of 12 hours on the beach per surf fishing visit I can testify that the majority of those daylight hours can witness a handful of pedestrians on our tri-city beaches (RWS) during that timeframe, and I understand the same is true of the southern beaches.

The beaches that are closed to ORVs as VFAs should be opened by September 15th as well. A sound study of pedestrian beach visitation to these areas would prove that they are much underutilized. The six week extension in the spring and fall would create little or no pedestrian or wildlife issues while allowing much sought after recreational uses by ORV owners.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54810) One commenter noted that the Bodie Island Spit provides excellent shorebird and waterbird habitat and should remain seasonally closed to off-road vehicles. Another commenter requested that this seasonal ORV route be removed entirely, providing year-round ORV access. A third commenter requested the Bodie Island closure be removed and recommended that closures of that section of the beach should be governed by specific resource protection needs rather than a blanket seasonal closure.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 1674 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 456264 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** In regard to seasonal ORV closures, I recommend that they all end no later than September 15 each year and begin no sooner than April 15. I believe that will better balance accessibility and public safety than the dates currently in place. Regarding the Bodie Island seasonal closure, I believe that should not in place at all, and any closures of that section of the beach should be governed by specific observations concerning the need to protect resources rather than a blanket seasonal closure.

**Corr. ID:** 1748 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457003 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Access to the ends of the islands.

The seasonal route on Bodie Island needs to be made year round and extended further into the inlet. This was a prime fishing area and presently appears to be totally unutilized.

**Corr. ID:** 1777 **Organization:** Southern Environmental Law Center **Comment ID:** 462026 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

**Representative Quote:** Bodie Island Spit provides excellent shorebird and waterbird habitat and should remain seasonally closed to ORVs. The site has consistently supported nesting shorebirds and waterbirds, and provides excellent habitat for non-breeding shorebirds such as federally-listed piping plover. Disturbance from vehicles and the associated disturbance from increased number of people, dogs, etc. resulting from allowing vehicular access to areas like Bodie Island Spit can lead to abandonment of habitats that are otherwise suitable for shorebirds and waterbirds, local population declines of species that use the area, and can be functionally equivalent to habitat loss.

To remain consistent with the applicable laws and requirements therein, including the Organic Act, the Cape Hatteras Enabling Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as well as the NPS's management policies, Bodie Island Spit must remain closed to ORVs to protect nesting by state-listed terns, skimmers, and American Oystercatchers, and federally-listed piping plovers. Nesting activity begins in early March and can continue until September.

It is well known that Bodie Island Spit also supports non-breeding, federally-threatened piping plovers. 12 Non-breeding piping plovers use most of the habitats present at Bodie Island Spit, excluding the densely vegetated dunes and marsh, but specifically including ocean and sound site intertidal areas, dry sand beach that is bare or sparsely vegetated, and wrack. Indeed, to be fully consistent with applicable laws and provide necessary protection to non-breeding birds, vehicles must be excluded from these habitats during the non-breeding period for migrating and wintering piping plovers (July through May).

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54811) Commenters voiced support for the current ORV seasonal route time periods. One commenter requested that any increase in seasonal ORV route time periods should be offset by increased vehicle-free area (VFA) periods in other locations to maintain the relative balance of ORV routes and vehicle-free areas. The commenter requested that the National Park Service should provide supporting rationale information for any proposed changes that extend the period for seasonal ORV routes.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 111 **Organization:** Coalition to Protect America's National Parks **Comment ID:** 453058

**Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 3. Seasonal ORV Routes: There are many references in the Plan to NPS providing a relative balance in the amount of ORV routes and VFA's in order to achieve the Plan's stated objectives of providing diverse visitor experience opportunities and protection of breeding and migrating and wintering wildlife. Yet, the NPS newsletter only proposes unilaterally increasing the period that seasonal routes would be open to ORV use. We oppose any increases in seasonal ORV route periods that would directly result in decreased periods for seasonal VFA's, unless such changes are appropriately offset by increased VFA periods in other locations in order to maintain the relative balance of ORV routes and VFA's.

Regarding the seasonal ORV routes in front of the villages and Ocracoke Campground, we support making those areas year-round VFA's, consistent with our comments on the 2010 draft Plan (DEIS). According to the Plan (FEIS, p. 558), the November 1 to March 31 dates for seasonal ORV routes were based on data when park visitation and rental occupancy are the lowest. We are not aware of any significant changes in visitation or occupancy trends since the completion of the ORV management plan. If anything, there is a continuing trend of gradually increasing off-season visitation and occupancy, particularly during winter vacation periods, which further supports making the village beaches year-round VFA's as a visitor safety and visitor enjoyment measure. Visitors taking a walk on a relatively developed and congested beach at a national seashore in front of the villages should not have to cope with vehicle traffic on the beach, even if only during the "off-season."

In any event, the options listed in the newsletter for increasing the period that the village beaches would be open to ORV use are unsupported by any reasonable rationale. While we understand that NPS is compelled by the Act to "consider" (not necessarily to implement) such modifications, the Act does not exempt NPS from complying with other statutory and management requirements, which includes providing a reasoned basis for its proposed actions. Therefore, for any proposed changes that would extend the period for seasonal ORV

routes (and thereby reduce the period for the corresponding seasonal VFA's), NPS needs to provide supporting rationale.

**Corr. ID:** 1186 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 453164 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** I am a property owner in frisco NC. I prefer that ORV access to the beaches in front of the villages not change. At times there is very little beach depending on the weather patterns which make pedestrian access combined with ORV access problematic from a safety standpoint.

**Corr. ID:** 1720 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 456966 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Village and Night Closures - The previous village closure dates of May 15 to September 15 were and are adequate.

#### *AL1800 - VFA size and locations (Substantive)*

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54831) Multiple commenters suggested alterations to current vehicle-free areas to designate additional ORV routes on Bodie Island, including:

- Ramp 1 - open and designate a half mile of beach as a seasonal ORV route
- Ramp 2 - open and designate as a year-round ORV route
- Ramp 4S - designate 1,200 meters of the current vehicle-free area as a seasonal or year-round ORV route
- Bodie Island Spit - remove the vehicle-free area on the soundside and designate it as a year-round or seasonal ORV route

#### **Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 223 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 454512 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Redesignate the VFAs on the soundside of Bodie Island Spit and South Point as year round ORV routes. Again no one is walking out to these areas. They get there by ORV.

**Corr. ID:** 1730 **Organization:** Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance/OBPA **Comment ID:** 457130 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Specific recommendations by location are described below and recapped on the attached spreadsheet:

- Ramp 1 - South: Change 800 meter (.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 on Nags Head / Kitty Hawk / Kill Devil Hills during the fall and winter months.

- Ramp 2 - South: Change 800 meter (.5 miles) VFA to Year Round ORV access

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.

- Ramp 4 - South at Spit: Change 1,200 meter (.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: Change 800 meter (.5 miles) Seasonal Access to Year Round Access

This change will provide more convenient summer ORV access to visitors staying in Rodanthe/Waves/Salvo area. The area is seldom used now and its closure contributes to crowding at Ramps 25 and 27.

- Ramp 23 - South: Change 2,250 (1.4 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.



- Ramp 34 - North: Change 3,100 meter (1.95 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.

**Corr. ID:** 1773 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457937 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 4. Why were the ORV route's between ramp 23 and 32 not open all the way thur last year when the ORV route was opening to driving.

5. Open ramp #2

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54832) Multiple commenters suggested alterations to current vehicle-free areas to designate additional ORV routes on Hatteras Island, including:

- Ramp 23 - because of its proximity to the village, remove seasonal restriction and designate as a year-round ORV route
- Ramp 23S to Ramp 25.5 - convert to seasonal or year-round ORV route
- Ramp 25 to 34 - designate as a year-round ORV route
- Ramp 27 to Ramp 30 - designate as a year-round ORV route
- Ramp 34 - because of its proximity to the village, remove seasonal restriction and designate as a year-round ORV route. North of Ramp 34, redesignate the VFA as a seasonal ORV route.
- Ramp 38 - designate existing vehicle-free area south of the ramp as a seasonal ORV route
- Ramp 43N - designate 1,000 meters of the existing vehicle-free area as a seasonal ORV route
- Provide a walking corridor to the east tip of Cape Point
- Swap the existing ORV route at Ramp 43 and the VFA at Ramp 45
- Ramp 45E to Cape Point - designate as a year-round or seasonal ORV route, to allow for alternate access during resource closures
- Ramp 45W - designate 2,050 meter (1.30 miles) of the vehicle-free area as a seasonal ORV route
- Ramp 45 - designate as a seasonal ORV route
- Ramp 44 to Ramp 49 - designate as a year-round ORV route or provide a corridor through the entire area
- Ramp 49 - increase annual ORV route an additional half mile into the vehicle-free area (to the east of Ramp 49)
- Ramp 49 to 55 - designate as year-round ORV route
- Hatteras Inlet - designate the current vehicle-free areas (both soundside and oceanside) as year-round ORV routes

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 147 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 458454 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 34 which is 500 yards north of Avon village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness ares (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least ORV access 1000 yards to the north and 100% pdestrian access year around.

**Corr. ID:** 1778 **Organization:** North Carolina Beach Buggy Association **Comment ID:** 500192

**Organization Type:** H – Recreational Group

**Representative Quote:** Ramp 45 East: Change from from FVA 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.

**Corr. ID:** 147 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 458455 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 23 which is 500 yards south of Salvo village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness area (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least ORV access 1000 yards to the south and 100% pedestrian access year around.

**Corr. ID:** 223 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 454508 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Redesignate Hatteras Inlet VFAs (both sides of the inlet) as a year round ORV routes. For sure no one walks from the Ramp 55 parking area down the beach or Pole Rd to get to this VFA. They are getting there by ORV.

**Corr. ID:** 1218 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 453777 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Ramp 27 and Ramp 30- This area should be open to ORV use. There is little or no pedestrian traffic between to 2 ramps. There is no ocean side parking and to park along side of the road is unsafe and it is a considerable walk to the ocean.

**Corr. ID:** 1228 **Organization:** Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Civic Association **Comment ID:** 453416 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

**Representative Quote:** Currently, three-tenths of a mile of national seashore beach from the Salvo Village line to Ramp 23 is designated Seasonal "Off-Road Vehicle Route" and closed from April 1 through Oct. 31. For 1.5 miles south of Ramp 23, the park service beach is labeled "Vehicle Free."

The effect of the seasonal designation is that Ramp 23 is closed seven months of the year. No boardwalk is in place for people who do not own or rent oceanfront property to walk to the vehicle-free area. Only a small sign says pedestrians are welcome.

After due consideration, the board requests that the three-tenths of a mile between the Salvo line and Ramp 23 and one-half mile south of Ramp 23 be marked a Year-Round Off-Road Vehicle route.

This portion of national seashore beach is the traditional area where people in Rodanthe, Waves and Salvo drive to the beach for outings, community beach fires and recreation.

**Corr. ID:** 1231 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 453821 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 8) Hatteras Ramp 45: Change VFA to ORV Route. Alternately the portion from one half mile east of

Salt Pond Road to tile point could be designated for seasonal ORV use. Much will depend on how CAHA improves the plover breeding at the pond areas. Corridors and 50 yds buffers may be needed for AMOY and CWB. Pedestrian use of this VFA has been negligible. Pedestrian access from Cape Point campground paths and Salt Pond Road has been blocked by CAHA signage which informs them to use Ramps 43 and 44 for beach access. It is possible to access Ramp 45 by foot from the campground west exit.

**Corr. ID:** 1231 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 453819 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 6) Hatteras Ramp 38: Change VFA to a seasonal ORV Route. This VFA could have been an excellent pedestrian beach if One Way Road was rebuilt.

**Corr. ID:** 1231 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 453820 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 7) Light House swimming beach south to Ramp 43. This segment should be open to ORVs on a seasonal basis. There is a high density of pedestrians near the light house in the summer time but they do not extend closer than a mile from the ramp. This beach is noted for its excellent sloughs and holes for fall and winter fishing especially with artificial lures for trout, reds and stripe rs.

**Corr. ID:** 1730 **Organization:** Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance/OBPA **Comment ID:** 457133  
**Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** - Ramp 45 - West: Change 2,050 meter (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. The area to the East of Ramp 45 (1,950 meters, 1.2 miles) should remain VFA in recognition of the high density nesting and wintering activity that occurs here.

- Ramp 45 - West (continued): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) at western boundary from VFA to Year Round Access

This change will increase the size of the year round access area east of Ramp 49 by .5 miles. Ramp 49 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.

**Corr. ID:** 1730 **Organization:** Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance/OBPA **Comment ID:** 457132  
**Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** - Buxton - Ramp 43 - 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 E - 1.2 miles - The revised rule should include a provision to allow the superintendent to temporarily designate an ORV corridor beginning at Ramp 45 and extending through this VFA to Cape Point at times when access to Cape Point via the east beach from ramp 44 is impossible.

While infrequent and unpredictable, access via the east beach is closed periodically due to the effects of weather events such as nor'easters, temporary (or possibly permanent) erosion problems, and turtle nesting. The superintendent should have the authority to adaptively manage access through the VFA on a temporary basis to ensure access to the Point is not prevented. 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.

**Corr. ID:** 1732 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457177 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Vehicle Free Areas:

- Open the entire area between ramp 44 and ramp 49 to year round ORV use. This is the most pristine swimming beach and fishing area on the entire Outer Banks. This is by far the most popular beach for families as well as anglers. As a grandmother this is the only beach I can take my grandchildren to for safe swimming. Due to its southern orientation and shallow waters most days the waves are calm making it a safer option for children and the elderly. Keeping the area close to the dunes closed for birds would be a win/win for both. The biggest blow to the local community has been the loss of this prime fishing location and based on the numbers of fledging birds versus the cost to the community this does not seem to keep in the spirit of the agreement made years ago when private property owners passed their land to the park service. This option will also provide a good balance when sections of the beach are closed for nesting as it will still provide access for fishing and swimming especially with the addition of the new inter-dune road.

**Corr. ID:** 1756 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457474 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Also, please restore access(both pedestrian and ORV) to RAMP 23 to YEAR AROUND. People who usually enjoy the beach south of Salvo have been forced to travel to ramps far from town. Please restore ORV access and at least pedestrian access to YEAR AROUND. This same point goes for RAMP 34. Ramp 34 is a family favorite and there is no reason to force people to drive miles to another ramp when there is one right near Avon!

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54833) One commenter recommended that the end of the vehicle-free area at Ramp 43 be shifted to the old boundary of Ramp 43 because of the availability of parking and the dynamic nature of the beach.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 1775 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457970 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Buxton village beach is a year round vehicle free beach. The southern part of that beach (the Life Guard stand up to ramp 43 where the ORV line use to be) is an extremely dynamic beach. There is plenty of parking. The artificial dunes long ago eroded away and it is one of the few beaches where natural barrier island processes can be viewed. Dune succession and marsh building are actively occurring in this area. The old boundary of ramp 43 should be reinstated as the terminus for the VFA where there is parking at that end. The south lighthouse beach is one of the most visited year round beaches in the park.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54834) One commenter recommended developing a visitor use area, similar to Coquina Beach, between ramps 27 and 30. Locating a visitor use area between these ramps would provide 1.5 miles of vehicle-free area on either side of the main use area without impacting ORV areas.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 1772 **Organization:** Virginia Beach Anglers Club **Comment ID:** 457921 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

**Representative Quote:** Vehicle Free Areas (VFA): Make the area between Ramp 23 and the new Ramp 25 Seasonal use because people from the Salvo I Waves area might come to the beach there. Ramp 25 to 34 should be open to ORV's. Very rarely do pedestrians use this area at all and keeps fishermen from reaching some good fishing areas. The whole area around ramp 45 should be open to ORV's or at least seasonal routes. This area is also rarely used by pedestrians because there is no easy access. If VFA's are for pedestrian use only than they should be easily accessible to them. You might consider an area like Coquina Beach between ramps 27 and 30 with bath house, bathrooms, showers, lifeguards, etc. and plenty of parking. If it was half way between the 2 ramps there would be 1.5 miles of vehicle free beach on either side of the main use area.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54835) Commenters suggested alterations to current vehicle-free areas to designate additional ORV routes on Ocracoke Island, including:

- Ramp 59E - designate as a year-round or seasonal ORV route
- Ramp 59W to 67E - designate as a year-round or seasonal ORV route
- Ramp 68S - designate as an ORV route
- South Point Spit - designate as a year-round ORV route
- Ramp 59 to 72 - designate as a seasonal or year-round ORV route

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 1582 **Organization:** none **Comment ID:** 455619 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Ramps 59-72 I would like to see year round and or seasonal ORV routes. 59 north is growing, and access via ORVs should be restored. The area is another that could benefit from a geographical barrier used to provide access while protecting the resources. This area does not support vast protections as very few resources actually utilize the area, and access restored would not harm any resources if properly managed with wardens and or escorts used in conjunction with the geographic barrier. The area around the airport that was closed should also be restored as a year round orv area. In the ramp 72 area, I would again like

to see some sort of geographical barrier built so as to provide access and to protect the resource when used in conjunction with wardens and or escorts. The VFA from south point around to the sound should be a year round ORV route and I would like to see that route extended around the sound side.

**Corr. ID:** 1731 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457157 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Hatteras Island VFA's that need to be designated as seasonal or year round ORV routes are: ramp 34N, Buxton, Ramp 45E to Point, Ramp 45 W, Sandy Bay & Hatteras Island spit. Ocracoke Island VFA's that should be designated as seasonal or year round ORV routes are: Ramp 59E, between Ramp 59W & Ramp 67E, campground W and South Point inlet spit.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54836) One commenter requested that increased pedestrian access to the existing vehicle-free area at South Point be provided if ORV access is not possible.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 1616 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 455573 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Vehicle-Free Areas:

- Increased pedestrian access to the tip of South Point would be nice, if ORV access is not possible

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54837) Commenters suggested that ORV routes be detoured around resource protection areas instead of being completely shut down, allowing continued public access, especially at Cape Point and South Point. Commenters also suggested that resource closures, even within vehicle-free areas, not extend below the high tide line, allowing visitors to continue to walk along the shoreline.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 1570 **Organization:** Home Owner in Buxton **Comment ID:** 455157 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 1. We must have year around pedestrian shoreline access up to the high tide line on all of our beaches.

2. There must be no permanent closures for pedestrians on any of our beaches.

3. Beaches must be open to ORV if there is no evidence of bird nesting .

**Corr. ID:** 1692 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 456350 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 5) For any VFA's, make certain the shoreline remains open for visitor usage. Closures should not be extended to eliminate access to the shoreline. Birds do not nest below the high tide line. This would greatly enhance visitor experience, even during the period of resource closures.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54838) Commenters recommended that vehicle-free areas only be in place seasonally during peak visitation periods. They also suggested an ORV route through vehicle-free areas to allow passage through and the ability to drop off passengers. One commenter requested that half of the existing vehicle-free areas be converted to seasonal or year-round ORV routes. Another commenter suggested that vehicle-free areas be limited to the villages. One commenter requested that all vehicle-free areas be evaluated and adjusted according to their historical performance in meeting the VFA objectives defined in the Final Rule (e.g., to provide a vehicle-free experience for park visitors and to provide for resource protection for wildlife).

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 1231 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 453807 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** The value of VFA alteration is impacted by resource buffer closures. This is an important consideration since these coincide with the tourist season that is the engine that drives the economy of Hatteras and Ocracoke islands. An ORV Route that can be closed for 6 months by any buffer is not really an ORV Route. Buffers and VFA changes to routes are inter woven and cannot be divorced. Some accommodation between public access and resource protection should be made especially in high value beaches such as Oregon Inlet, Cape Point and the Ocracoke spits. Understand that public access for us is synonymous with ORV use. I am 85 years old and my wife is in her late 70s. We both have various health issues that preclude slogging through hot deep sand or even cold deep sand trying to carry equipment to fish or

just a chair and book.

There were two purposes initially argued for the creation of VFA:

- 1) Provide a wilderness experience for pedestrians.
- 2) Provide bird protection.

These were later defined on p. 41 (comment 54) of the Final Rule to be a vehicle free experience for park visitors and to provide for resource protection for wildlife.

VFAs should now be evaluated and adjusted according to their historical performance in meeting these objectives.

**Corr. ID:** 1414 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 453857 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** -Vehicle Free Areas

Should be limited to the Villages and a reasonable distance only.

"Locations of wintering shorebirds" should not be considered VFA's. If an area of the seashore is being enjoyed by a large population of people due to fishing conditions, the birds will not likely drop out of the sky and die due to a particular part of the beach having human activity. They will move to another, safer area. If NPS continues to close off beach sections because of "pre-nesting activities" and pre-emptive closures due prior year data of pedestrian restricted areas- of course more birds will potentially nest on empty beaches.

**Corr. ID:** 1633 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 455776 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** The size and number of current VFAs are excessive and detrimental to the Outer Banks visitor experience.

The NPS should reclassify at least 50% o the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes.

The NPS should reclassify at least 50% o the current seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes.

Reducing the amount of VFA miles can be done in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for Outer Banks visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore.

**Corr. ID:** 1692 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 456347 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 2) Any VFA's should be opened during the offseason when resource protection is not an issue and the visitor count is low. Basically during the late fall, winter and early spring, any use of these areas is primarily by locals, on a limited basis.

**Corr. ID:** 1693 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 456330 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Vehicle Free Areas:

I feel that the current number of VFAs is excessive and causing overcrowding on the sections of beach that are open to ORVs. I feel that the VFAs see very minimal use by pedestrians at ramps 23, 27 south to 30, 34, 45, and 59 see very minimal use by pedestrians and should be eliminated with some becoming seasonal closures and others returned to yearly ORV routes. AN ORV route thru VFAs to allow passage thru or the dropping off of people in the VFA would also be beneficial.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54839) One commenter noted that there is already more ORV access than vehicle-free areas within the Seashore and recommended that no additional areas be opened to ORV use. Instead, the commenter suggested that more vehicle-free areas be considered to provide necessary protection for the newly listed, federally threatened red knot. The commenter was concerned that allowing ORV access on beaches in front of residential developments would eliminate the opportunity for people to enjoy the beach in front of their residence and would increase public safety issues. The commenter requested that the environmental assessment recognize that the vehicle-free areas in the Final Rule are (1) essential to allow the National Park Service to meet its management requirements with respect to breeding, migrating, and wintering shorebirds and waterbirds; (2) necessary to protect non-motorized recreational uses of the Seashore, including wilderness experiences; and (3) unbalanced in favor of ORV use, designating year-round ORV routes on more than half of the Seashore and seasonal ORV routes on an additional 12.7 miles. A second commenter suggested that any changes to the size or location of vehicle-free areas at the inlet spits or Cape Point should result in equal adjustments in those same locations to maintain the relative size and proportion of the vehicle-free areas.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 111 **Organization:** Coalition to Protect America's National Parks **Comment ID:** 453059

**Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 4. Vehicle Free Areas (VFA's): What locations do you see as potential areas for modification? The purpose and benefits of VFA's are well described throughout the Plan. For example, the NPS Preferred Alternative 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...Such areas would be provided during all seasons so non-ORV users can experience the Seashore without the presence of vehicles...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 seasonal resource and visitor use...Outside the breeding season, vehicle-free areas throughout the Seashore would provide relatively less disturbed foraging, resting, and roosting habitat for migrating and wintering birds" (FEIS, p. 81).

In other words, according to NPS the relatively remote and undeveloped VFA's at the inlet spits and Cape Point area do, in fact, provide important opportunities for visitors to experience a "vehicle free beach." We assert that these areas are, in essence, vestiges of the "primitive wilderness" that the Seashore was mandated to preserve. These same locations provide relatively protected (i.e., less disturbed) habitat for both for breeding as well as migrating/wintering shorebirds. As a result, if NPS proposes any changes in the size or location (e.g., the starting or ending points) of the designated ORV routes at the inlet spits or Cape Point/South Beach, then NPS should make equal adjustment(s) to maintain the relative size and proportion of the VFA's in those same locations. For example, if NPS were to modify the Cape Point ORV route so that it extends further west of the Point in order to allow ORV access via Salt Pond Road (or some other connector from the interdunal road), then the corresponding VFA just west of the Point should be extended an equal distance westerly in order to maintain the VFA's relative size.

**Corr. ID:** 1777 **Organization:** Southern Environmental Law Center **Comment ID:** 462037 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

**Representative Quote:** In particular, the opening of beaches in front of residential developments eliminates opportunities for people to enjoy the beach in front of their residences and rental properties. It also increases the risks to public safety. There have been numerous incidents in which vehicles have come close to striking pedestrians at Cape Hatteras, and a few incidents where people have been harmed by beach driving, either by being in a vehicle that overturned on the beach or by being struck by an ORV. While there is no record of a death on Cape Hatteras National Seashore resulting from a person being struck by an off-road vehicle, there have been such deaths in other areas of the country where vehicles are allowed on beaches with pedestrians. The Final Rule allows more driving in front of populated areas than historically has been allowed, and any change allowing more would create unnecessary conflict between pedestrians and ORV users.

It is imperative that the EA recognize that the VF As in the Final Rule are (1) essential to NPS meeting its management requirements with respect to breeding, migrating, and wintering shorebirds and waterbirds; (2) necessary to protect non-motorized recreational uses of the Seashore, including wilderness experiences; and (3) unbalanced in favor of ORV use, designating year-round ORV routes on more than half of the Seashore and seasonal ORV routes on an additional 12.7 miles.<sup>20</sup>

**Corr. ID: 1777 Organization:** Southern Environmental Law Center **Comment ID: 462036 Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

**Representative Quote:** Under the Final Rule, Cape Hatteras allows extensive ORV use in areas that are important for both wildlife and visitor experience. As the FEIS documented in detail, the overwhelming majority of visitors to the Seashore prefer not to use a vehicle to access the Seashore's beaches and place little value on ORV access to the beach. 18 Yet the Final Rule disproportionately set aside more than half of the Seashore's beaches for either seasonal or year-round ORV use ( 40.6 of 67 miles). 19 Although pedestrians can theoretically also use the sections of the beach that are set aside as ORV routes, they cannot practically do so without risking their personal safety and having their experience diminished. The existing VF As set aside limited portions of the Seashore for the many visitors who wish to enjoy the National Seashore in its natural state, so that they may enjoy fishing, surfing, swimming, sunbathing, windsurfing, kite boarding, beach combing, wildlife watching, photography etc., free of the sight, sound, and danger of ORVs.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore already has too few areas where visitors can experience the Seashore's beaches without impacts from off-road vehicles. There are even fewer areas, arguably none, where a visitor can enjoy the Seashore's beaches without the sight of a vehicle on the landscape and the visual impacts left by vehicles on the beach. Vehicle use jeopardizes the experience for visitors who come to the Seashore for wildlife viewing and other wildlife-related activities, such as photography and other arts, and for the aesthetic enjoyment of scenic landscapes. Even those miles of beach set aside as year-round vehicle-free areas in the Final Rule are disproportionately narrower and less scenic than those set aside for beach driving, and still within sight and sound of ORV sections of the beach.

**Corr. ID: 1777 Organization:** Southern Environmental Law Center **Comment ID: 462034 Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

**Representative Quote:** The EA must evaluate expanding Vehicle-free Areas ("VFAs") to include necessary protection for the newly listed rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*). Following the Final Rule in 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the red knot, a species found at Cape Hatteras, as threatened. 13 As described by the FWS, "[i]n some wintering and stopover areas, red knots and recreational users (e.g., pedestrians, ORVs, dog walkers, boaters) are concentrated on the same beaches." 14 Recreational activities "can cause habitat damage, cause shorebirds to abandon otherwise preferred habitats, negatively affect the birds' energy balances, and reduce the amount of available prey." 15 In its documentation supporting the red knot listing, FWS recognized that "sites .with high ORV activity and relatively high invertebrate abundance suggest that shorebirds may be excluded from prime food sources due to disturbance from ORV activity itself." 16 In addition, a study of shorebirds on South Core Banks "found that disturbance from ORV s decreased shorebird abundance and altered shorebird habitat use." 17 Therefore, it is imperative that NPS evaluate red knot habitat on the Seashore and limit ORV routes as necessary to protect that habitat. One such area of habitat is South Beach, which is and must remain a vehicle-free area.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54845) One commenter suggested that the vehicle-free areas for Oregon Inlet, Hatteras Inlet, and Ocracoke Inlet be eliminated and be designated as ORV routes. The commenter recommended that the first 100 yards in each direction from the ramps could be pedestrian-only areas with an ORV corridor around these areas.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID: 1225 Organization:** Coastal Conservation Association North Carolina **Comment ID: 453410 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** - Vehicle Free Areas. The use of VFAs is the most restrictive designation for many areas of CHNSRA as they are generally very underutilized and are in several cases nearly inaccessible by pedestrians. The VFAs for Oregon Inlet (south end of Bodie Island), Hatteras Inlet (south end of Hatteras Island and north end of Ocracoke Island) and Ocracoke Inlet (south end of Ocracoke) require that users either walk several miles in the sand to access them or, as is usually the case, the users drive an ORV up to the access point and walk a few steps from their ORV. These VFAs should be eliminated and be open ORV routes. A further recommendation is to designate the first 100 yards in each direction from all ramps as pedestrian only areas with an ORV corridor around them. Consistent examination of usage indicates this provides a significant



improvement for both pedestrians who would not have a conflict with ORVs at the bottom of the ramps and also provide better access to ORVs beyond the 100 yard buffer. This approach would spread the pedestrian and ORV users over a larger expanse of CHNSRA and eliminate much of the crowding that currently occurs in restrictive areas particularly during holidays. This may well minimize the need for multiple ramps to avoid resource closures. Finally the VFA south of Cape Point should be designated a seasonal VFA that would be open October 1 to May 1 to ORV usage but be a designated VFA for the rest of the year when bird activity is highest. The spring and fall seasons rarely see any usage of this area by pedestrians. We would hope the road that is proposed to provide access to this area can be extended to improve access to Cape Point as well.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54847) One commenter requested restored access to the soundside, south of Haulover at Kite Point.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 147 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 458453 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Restore access to the sound side beach just south of the Haulover (Canadian Hole). which has been enjoyed by Family's and Watersports enthusiasts for many years. The area is shown to be "ORV open" on the NPS maps but there is no access since they put up the fence at the hole parking lot. Two specific suggestions. a.) easiest and quickest solution would be to lift the No ORV stakes at kite point and allow ORV to access sound side shore line south of the hole from kite point, not ideal..but would be quick and easy and low dollar.

**AL2100 - Additional Permit Periods (Substantive)**

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54812) One commenter noted that altering permit periods is outside of the scope of review required by the 2014 NDAA and requested that the environmental assessment scope contain only the three items required by Congress.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 111 **Organization:** Coalition to Protect America's National Parks **Comment ID:** 453061

**Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 6. Permits: Are there any other permit periods you would like to see considered? The proposal to change the length of permit periods is outside the scope of review required in the Act. While we understand that the proposed change(s) are primarily administrative in nature and may have little direct impact on park resources, if NPS voluntarily expands the scope of the review to include this or other issues not covered in the Act, it could open the door to reconsidering other aspects of the Final Rule that are significantly more important for the protection of park resources (such as the seasonal dates for night driving restrictions and/or the 9 p.m. night driving restriction time). Because we have already expressed concerns about the sufficiency of NPS's segmented NEPA review process, we oppose any additional "scope creep."

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54813) One commenter requested a special ORV permit that would allow handicap access to all vehicle-free areas.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 223 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 454519 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Make the handicapped special ORV permit applicable to all VFAs, not just village beaches. Recall at REG-NEG there was this overwhelming need for "wilderness" and "inlet" experiences and it is virtually impossible for a handicapped person to have such an "experience" on a village beach or ORV route. AND few, if any, pedestrians are walking deep into VFAs to have these "experiences" thus one or two handicapped vehicles in a VFA is not going to ruin any "experience".

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54814) Several commenters requested that the National Park Service issue a specific permit for fishermen that would allow ORV users holding active North Carolina fishing licenses the option to purchase a special ORV permit for areas not included in the general permit, including highly desired fishing locations.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 207 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 454535 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Have a separate pass for people that have a fishing license that allows access to "fishy" spots such as "spits, points, inlets, bights, etc" (ramp 45, 44, 55, 59, etc).

**Corr. ID:** 207 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 454537 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Special Fishing Permit (see above): If you have an active NC fishing license or have completed an you have the option to purchase a special ORV and Pedestrian access pass to areas the general public passes do not provide during certain times of the year. Provide educational resources for folks wanting to help in wildlife management such as having flags at ranger stations where ORV operators and pedestrians can mark nests and call these locations in.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54815) Several commenters requested that access to soundside beach be free and not require a permit or that soundside-only permits be offered at a reduced price, which could reduce current parking and safety issues along Highway 12.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 38 **Organization:** County of Hyde **Comment ID:** 454209 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Hyde County requests NPS to provide a sound side beach access for pedestrian use that does not require an ORV permit. Hyde County will work with NPS on a public scoping process to identify key stakeholders/user groups and find an ideal location for sound side access.

Hyde County further requests new ORV sound side access to be provided. Hyde County will also work with NPS on a public scoping process to identify key stakeholders/user groups and find an ideal location for sound side access for ORVs.

**Corr. ID:** 65 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 454540 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** I would like though to have a different permit that would enable people to drive on the side roads leading to the sound to launch kayaks.

**Corr. ID:** 94 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 458452 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 4. Permits: Current rule: NPS can only issue annual permits, valid for the calendar year, and seven-day permits.

The NPS should issue annual permits that are valid for one year from issue date as is done in other National Parks (i.e. Assateague Island). Additionally, NPS should issue 10 day permits.

**Corr. ID:** 147 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 458457 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Make Sound Side beach driving access free. If sound side beach driving access was free it would solve the safety issue of cars parking along all of Rt 12 instantly. Now you could safely and legally pull off Route 12 and park in a safe area. Use the current beach camp fire permit as a model. Sound side beach ORV access would free but you'd still have to get the permit so the NPS can "educate" the public about safe soundside beach access. Or make the sound side beach access ORV fee very affordable.. say \$15.. so everyone would comply. This would immediately stop the insanity going on Rt 12 all up and down the Cape Hatteras Seashore.

Make it so that when you buy a yearly Beach driving permit that it actually is good for a year. Yearly beach driving permits would last one year from the date of purchase

**Corr. ID:** 1692 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 456349 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 4) Provide all options presented for permits - 3 day, 7 day, 10 day, 14 day and annual permits running one year from the date of purchase. Review the possibility of selling a sound side permit, at a reduced cost. The idea would be to lessen the number of vehicles parked along Highway 12, which creates a

dangerous situation during busy periods. Kite boarders, especially park along the highway to avoid the purchase of the current permit.

**Corr. ID:** 1704 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 456408 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Permits. I fully support making permits valid for a year from the month of issue. I recommend removing the requirement for an ORV permit on sound-side access points. The current restrictions on the sound side seem unrelated to turtle and bird nesting. Requiring a permit appears to have increased the number of vehicles (illegally) parking on the side of the road.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54817) Several commenters requested a discounted permit price for seniors, veterans, Golden Passport holders, and local or state residents. One commenter requested that annual permit holders be able to purchase a second permit for a second vehicle for a nominal additional fee. Another commenter requested a reduced annual price for renewed permits.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 4 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 452243 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** I also think there should be a discount for seniors and ex Military who have served their country.

Brigantine NJ Beach permit for the year to seniors is \$65.00 that is a fair price for seniors that are on a fixed income.

**Corr. ID:** 145 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 452936 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 14 day permits would be better. Free for veterans, reduced fee for senior citizens (62 ). NC residents (license plates) go half price.

**Corr. ID:** 217 **Organization:** NCBBA **Comment ID:** 453356 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** We support the idea of a 10 day permit.

Annual permits should be good for a year from the date of purchase.

A discount program for seniors should be added if possible.

**Corr. ID:** 223 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 454524 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Make the annual permit renewable 60 days or less from expiration and such renewal does not shorten the expiration date by 60 days or less. Renewal cost to be less than the original cost. If permit expires, original cost applies to purchase a new permit.

**Corr. ID:** 1524 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 454936 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Permits based on a calendar year seem to be overpriced especially for the residents and homeowners of Cape Hatteras villages who effectively live in the Park. I feel that permits should be given free to homeowners on Hatteras Island since village homeowners are surrounded by the Park.

I can appreciate that the NPS would rather not deal with permits expiring on a monthly basis, but it is frustrating for guests to buy a permit in August that expires at the end of December and pay \$120. I'd suggest that Permits be priced at \$120 for 2-years, regardless of when they are purchased, i.e. a permit purchased in 2015 would be good thru 2017.

**Corr. ID:** 1543 **Organization:** Property Owner in Salvo / NCBBA **Comment ID:** 454977 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Seniors should get 50% of for a yearly permit. The permit should be extended from seven days to fourteen. If you are a registered vehicle owner and you buy a yearly permit you should be able to get a second permit for your second vehicle for \$20.00 a year. My wife cannot drive my manual jeep. She

needs to drive my truck. Why should I have to pay full price for this second permit when I am not using it all the time.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54819) Commenters provided options for alternative permit periods, including:

- Daily
- 3 days
- 4 days
- 8 days
- 10 days (to match North Carolina fishing licenses)
- 12 days
- 14 days
- 17 days
- 20 days
- 30 days
- 6 months
- Annual, from date of issue
- Keep 12-month calendar year permit, but reduce price after June 30
- Pro-rated 12-month calendar year permits
- 2 years

Commenters suggested developing an enhanced online purchase option and exploring options to sell permits at local businesses to simplify the process for visitors. Commenters also requested that permits be issued to drivers, not vehicles. One commenter requested that permits be replaced with a kiosk system that issues a sticker and allows for two-week passes. One commenter requested establishing a daily price that the user could tailor for his/her individual permit needs (e.g., a daily rate of \$5 could be established, and when issuing the permit, the user would enter the exact date range needed and pay the full fee based on the daily rate).

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 18 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 452363 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** I also question the cost of ORV permits. Currently, two options are available: weekly (\$50) or annual (\$120). I see that the NPS is considering other permit length options. I think the additional offerings may be helpful but wonder if this is just a ploy to increase NPS revenues. For example, if the 7-day permit option goes away and now I must purchase a 10-day permit, that will likely cost more money, how will this benefit me when my house rental is for 7 days. Rather than offering all these different types of permits why not offer 3 choices:

Daily Rate Permit: Permit for the number of days requested by the customer (from 3 day minimum to 14 day maximum) at a fixed daily rate (Example \$5/day).

30-Day Permit: 30 day issuance period permit for \$75.

Annual Permit: Calendar year permit (Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st) for \$120.

Unless the entire permit process is changing why could the NPS not establish a reasonable daily use fee (\$3 to \$5) and let the customer pay for the number of days they want to drive on the beach. In my scenario I want my permit to start on Sunday morning and expire at midnight on Friday for a total of 6 days. At the current permit cost of \$50/week I am paying \$8.33/day to drive on the beach. Using my proposal for my vacation this year the NPS worker would have written the valid dates of 6/21 to 6/26 on the permit. If the daily rate was \$5 I would have paid \$30 for the week rather than \$50. This option allows a customer to purchase exactly what they need based on when they want to drive on the beach.

**Corr. ID:** 223 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 454523 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Provide for a 20 day permit. This would similarly cover 2 weeks and 3 weekends. Cost of this permit to be less than two 10 day permits.

**Corr. ID:** 1218 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 453774 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** For various reasons I would issue an 8 day permit which would replace the present 7 day permit. Cottage rentals and vacation times are often a Saturday through the next Sunday event. The annual permit should be one year from the date issued. On line sales should be considered for repeat visitors and the price should remain the same. By doing on line sales there would be considerable savings in time for NPS employees which mean fees would remain the same. Since permit fees are so one sided, a complete reconciliation of fee money spent should be made available promptly after each year. A question should be added to the permit application asking if you are using your vehicle to access a vehicle free area.

**Corr. ID:** 1229 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 453421 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 4) Make the \$120 beach access permit - prorated based on the month permit is purchased. That way the decal could remain the same for everyone and make it easier for park rangers to enforce and more economical for the visitors.

**Corr. ID:** 1515 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 454661 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** PERMITS

A big bone of contention with fishermen/women is the calendar year permitting for ORVs. The permit should be valid for a year from the date of purchase. Also, there should be more permit options available than the 1 week and one year that currently exist. Possibly permitting for 14-day, 30 day and 6 month periods might be made available.

**Corr. ID:** 1722 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457006 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Permits

- \* I support annual permits valid for one year from issue as well as 3, 10 and 14 day permits.
- \* The video shown in the permit office should provide useful information to novice beach drivers. The current video is uninformative to say the least.
- \* Permits should be issued to drivers, not vehicles. The permit itself should be a hang tag, not a window sticker. This would allow a driver's permit to be confiscated for a single violation.
- \* Permit prices should be raised to deter casual beach drivers. Residents and possibly property owners should be able to purchase less expensive permits.

**Corr. ID:** 1730 **Organization:** Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance/OBPA **Comment ID:** 457134 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** ORV Permits-

The scoping documents suggested the NPS will consider modifications to the manner in which permits are issued. Alternatives proposed for consideration include:

CHAPA supports any action which provides visitors with a user-friendly experience and with choices which may enhance their visit at the Seashore. Annual permits should be issued for 12 months following the date of issue rather than at the end of the current calendar year. Also, a 10 day permit would be valuable to many 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.

CHAPA believes NPS should enhance the on-line purchase option to allow visitors to print receipts or documents that will allow them to proceed directly to the beach upon arrival rather than requiring them to wait until the next morning to pick up the windshield sticker or tag at the NPS office.

CHAPA also believes NPS should explore options to sell permits at local businesses to simplify the process for visitors who arrive after hours and who may not have purchased the permit on-line.

**Corr. ID:** 1735 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457209 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Permit pricing:

Annual; permits should be pro-rated based on the month sold. That is \$110 if purchased in February, \$70 for June etc.

This will allow you to keep the changing annual color as a simple way to check currency of the tags.

**Corr. ID:** 1737 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457227 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Permit periods:

A more generous short term permit should be extended to include the entirety of a two weekend and full week visit 10 or 12 days including both weekends for folks who drive down early and leave late.

**Corr. ID:** 1738 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457229 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Permit periods:

A weekend permit should be available at a notional (very low) cost. This would allow first time visitors to sample ORV access and decide if they want to commit to a longer visit and access period in the future.

**Corr. ID:** 1752 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457195 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Permits:

- Permits should expire from date of issue rather than calendar year. The park service should issue 3, 7 and 10 day in addition to the 7 day and annual permit

**Corr. ID:** 1753 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457220 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** I don't see why vehicles require passes. They are not using more park resources vs those that park and walk over the dune.

The whole multi-person pass system is inefficient. Set-up a computer kiosk, print the rules, guides to how to drive on the beach and a sticker for the window and a url to e movie. Make the passes available for two weeks as an option.

**Corr. ID:** 1772 **Organization:** Virginia Beach Anglers Club **Comment ID:** 457923 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

**Representative Quote:** Permits: Most visitors come for a weekend or 1 or 2 week vacations so make the permits fit those most common time slots. Anyone who comes for more than 2 weeks should get an annual permit. A 3 day permit would cover a weekend and should cost \$20. A 10 day permit would] cover a week and the weekends at both ends and should cost \$35. A 17 day permit would cover 2 week and the 3 weekends associated with them and should cost \$50. The annual permit should be from date of issue but that could be tough to monitor. Another option would be to keep the calendar year permit but reduce the cost \$60 after June 30. That way you could still use the color coding of permits for calendar years and reduce the cost for those who only come in the second half of the year.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54829) One commenter requested using a lottery system for permitted access to Cape Point.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 49 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 453098 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Perhaps a lottery system for access to the Point might help alleviate the tensions some. Given a point system, those folks who spend a week or two on the island could be assured access to an uncrowded fishing mecca over time. In many western states, hunters (resident and non) wait years to draw a tag to have the opportunity to chase certain game animals. The animal resource is healthier and the hunters get to dream. With limited and tightly controlled Point access, the turtles and plovers can be given their place on the Point as well as the fisherman. If it took me 3 or 4 years of paying \$10 a year in a lottery to get enough points to be drawn, but I'd be assured access to the Point and away from the crowds that flock their now, I'd be

in and I'm willing to bet many others would be too. That additional revenue could be utilized to manage the resources there.

**AL2400 - Additional Access Improvements (Substantive)**

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54840) Commenters provided suggestions for oceanside access improvements, including:

- Restore Ramp 2 so that it can be used by off-road vehicles, including construction of a boardwalk at Coquina Beach to provide easy pedestrian access
- Provide soundside access at Bodie Island by providing a route through the existing VFA and construction of a parking lot.
- Construct a parking area 1.5 miles south of Ramp 27
- Locate parking closer at Ramps 23, 34, 45, and 49; they are currently too far from the beach
- Construct a parking area halfway between the Salvo boundary and Ramp 23 to access a seasonal vehicle-free area in that location
- Construct a parking area halfway between the Avon boundary and Ramp 34 to access a seasonal vehicle-free area in that location
- Widen Ramp 38 to eliminate the current blindspot and increase parking capacity
- Decrease the no parking areas between Buxton and Avon
- Construct a new ramp at Haulover with a large parking lot and relocate the existing crosswalk to align with the path across the dune
- Construct an access road from the campground to Cape Point
- Expand parking facilities at Ramp 43
- Extend Ramp 49 for ORV access north to the point
- Construct parking behind the dunes at the southern access from the central road (Ramp 55)
- Construct Interdunal roads to provide year-round access to Cape Point and the north shores of Oregon on Ocracoke Inlets
- Construct all ramps and interdunal roads to accommodate two-way traffic, provide separate pedestrian access, and remove parking areas from ORV ramps to reduce user conflict
- Provide an area to check tire pressure at each ramp
- Create a sand road behind the dunes in all locations outside of the villages with more drive overs, specifically behind Ramps 43 to 49

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 6 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 452245 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Representative Quote:** Extending Ramp 49 for ORV access north to the point will ease access and restrictions during peak bird activity around the point. This area is known to locals as "Th Hook". This also would keep people from having to walk on the waters edge to the point.

**Corr. ID:** 1778 **Organization:** North Carolina Beach Buggy Association **Comment ID:** 500210

**Organization Type:** H – Recreation Group

**Representative Quote:** 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.

**Corr. ID:** 223 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 454518 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Remove all parking and boardwalks next to ORV ramps in the Salvo to Avon area so as to discourage pedestrian use of ORV areas and thus encourage pedestrian use of VFAs well away from ORV routes. Don't put in the parking area at Ramp 32. Provide only a small area for tire airing down at ramps, no parking. I'm most familiar with the Salvo to Avon user conflicts but this should be considered at other ramps/pedestrian accesses. Right now the way accesses exist and are being constructed, you are funneling ORVs into a reduced space and at the same time funneling pedestrians into the same reduced space. The current plan has actually increased user conflict, rather than reduce it. Yes, I know radical but unless this is

done you will always have more user conflict. It would also discourage the ferrying of folks over to the beach in a single permitted ORV making multiple trips to/from vehicles in a ramp parking area, and my observation is that most of the parked vehicles are ORV capable. This could also add revenue thru additional permits sold. BTW the number of vehicles parked at an ORV ramp is far from an indicator of pedestrian use, because of the ferrying.

**Corr. ID:** 1226 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 453413 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** First of all there needs to be a access road put in place through the camp ground out to the point from the south side just on the northern part of the Pedistrian only area to gain access to the point while nesting is process. Since ramp 44 and 45 get shut down as soon as a bird wiggles its tail in the spring for nesting. Also this would help on access with the narrow area going to the point from ramp 45 at high tide.

**Corr. ID:** 1414 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 453858 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** -Access Improvements

I would like to see a sand road created behind the dunes in any area outside the villages with more drive overs and potential parking (like the Core Banks). Specifically behind ramps 43 down to just past 49. This could allow for less potential traffic on the beaches, closer walks to desired fishing spots when restrictions must be in place and MUCH safer exit options in the event of an emergency (tides or human emergencies).

**Corr. ID:** 1704 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 456404 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** I recommend 3 improvements. First, I recommend increasing the parking lot capacity at Ramp 38. Second, where there currently are ORV ramps, I recommend ensuring separate pedestrian and vehicle access.

**Corr. ID:** 1711 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 456443 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** During Neg. Reg. there was much talk about public safety but there are no projects that address this issue. If all ocean and sound side ramps and roads (including the intradunal road between Ramps 44 and 45) were made to be two lanes wide many visitors would feel much safer. Too many pedestrians use ORV ramps to walk to the beach and this could possibly cause a problem and hard feelings, which could be easily avoided by making the ramp two lanes.

**Corr. ID:** 1722 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457005 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Access Improvements

\* Interdunal roads (similar to Pole Road) to provide year round access to the Cape Point and the north shore of Oregon and Ocracoke inlets.

\* Additional sound side parking lots to reduce the number of vehicles parked along route 12.

**Corr. ID:** 1752 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457196 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Access Improvements:

- Improvements are needed at ramp 34. The parking lot is too far from the beach.
- Widen the ramp at 38. It has a tight turn and blind spot when entering and exiting the beach.
- Decrease the no parking zones along NC12 between Buxton and Avon allowing people to walk to the sound or the ocean.
- A ramp should be added to access the ocean at Haulover with a large parking lot.
- The park service should also relocate the cross walk at Haulover because it is not in alignment with the path over the dune. It puts the person at least 50 feet from the dune causing people to walk dangerously along HW12 to get to the dune pathway.
- Widen the shoulder on one side of the road and create an 10 to 12 foot wide hike/bike path to reduce bicycle



and pedestrian hazards along HW12 where no concrete sidewalks are available. Specifically the road between Salvo and Avon and between Avon and Buxton. These are popular but unsafe areas to hike/bike.

**Corr. ID:** 1776 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 458498 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Ramp 49 -Access gained to south beach upon completion of the inter-dunal road should enable better utilization of ramp 49 as a through ramp.

Ramp 55- Create some parking immediately behind the dunes at the southern access from the central road. Access to the beach is questionable under almost all conditions but it is a very short and doable walk where there a place to park.

Ramp 72 - ORVs should be allowed to access the entire southern tip of Ocracoke by traveling close to the surf-line. Birds choosing to nest in that area adjacent to the water are frequently subject to losing nests to over-wash . With the vast expanse of beach within that. general area, but not as vulnerable to the overwash, the birds would have a better success rate further from the surf.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54841) Commenters provided suggestions for improving soundside access throughout the Seashore, including:

- Provide soundside access on Bodie Island and Ocracoke Island
- Construct a parking lot at Kite Point
- Create an ORV access point south of Haulover
- Provide soundside access on Ocracoke Island, especially in the wider portions between Ramps 68 and 70 (mayrequire new roads)
- Provide a walkway to Oregon Inlet
- Extend soundside areas to allow for parking in the area of Ramps 46, 48, 52, 53, and 54
- Provide additional soundside access points between Ramps 48 and 52, as well as from the Pole Road to the inlet

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 147 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 458456 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Build a parking lot at Kite point. Rt. 12 in this area is a huge safety issue. people enjoy using kite point. build a parking lot for them so they won't have to park along Rt 12. (note: This issue has been caused by requiring a beach driving permit to access kite point now people park on route 12 to avoid the beach driving permit fee.)

**Corr. ID:** 1570 **Organization:** Home Owner in Buxton **Comment ID:** 455160 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 6. A parking lot is needed on HWY 12 soundside at Kite Point, similar to the parking lot at Haulover. This area is getting more popular and there is a saftey problem because of so many cars parked along HWY 12. I always slow down to 15 - 20 MPH when passing this area.

**Corr. ID:** 1739 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457230 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Bay Side access:

Is inadequate and appears to be decreasing. The end of roads to the bay from route 12 which used to have long left and right routes along the sound-side are now terminating in dead ends.

Extend the sound side areas to allow for parking and spreading out from the access routes This would include 46, 48, 52, 53, 54.

Additional accesses should be provided between 48 and 52 spaced at least as frequently as the interval between 52- 54.

On the south end of the island access is needed from the pole road along the end of the island 1/2 the way down that section and especially inside the inlet opening. These are prime fishing areas and have enough tidal

movement to make them pleasant to swim in.

The same type of access should be provided on Ocracoke Island.

The sound side is a preferred location when visiting with very young children,. Also clamming without a boat requires sound access.

**Corr. ID:** 1756 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457472 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Secondly, just south of Haulover we have enjoyed windsurfing. Even though the NPS maps show ORV open on their maps, there is restrictive fence which does not allow access. Either another access point should be created or lift the No ORV stakes at kite point.

**Corr. ID:** 1759 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457469 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Sound access on Ocracoke Island

Needs to be expanded especially in the wider portions of the island between 68 and 70. New roads may be required.

**Corr. ID:** 1762 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457455 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 1. build a parking lot at kite point-we enjoy visiting this area but parking along the road seems to be a safety Hazzard. Another solution would be to make the sound side beach driving access free.

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54843) One commenter noted that by soliciting comments on additional access projects, the National Park Service failed to account for the ongoing access improvement projects already approved for implementation. The commenter requested that the National Park Service fully implement these proposed projects and evaluate pedestrian and ORV access once these improvements are in place before soliciting input on additional projects. A second commenter suggested that the National Park Service should not consider any additional access improvement projects until the previously identified projects are complete. If additional access improvements are considered, the commenter recommended that the appropriate level of NEPA compliance should include an environmental impact statement to consider all of the proposed actions in one action rather than segmenting the project into multiple NEPA documents.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 111 **Organization:** Coalition to Protect America's National Parks **Comment ID:** 453060

**Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 5. Access Improvements: What are some key locations where changes to parking or ramp configurations could improve beach or soundside access? NPS should not consider any "new ideas" for access improvements until it has fully implemented the previously identified improvements, which were designed to work together to make the Plan work better. The more new ideas that are thrown into the mix, the more "access improvements" become a moving target with no coherent overarching plan or synergy between ORV routes, VFA's, and designated access points. Anything not already covered in the ORV plan or the subsequent EA for access improvements, would require new NEPA compliance, which adds weight to the suggestion that if NPS opens the current planning process to actions outside the scope of the Act, then NPS really should be preparing an EIS to consider ALL of the proposed actions in one package, rather than segmenting the project into multiple incremental actions.

**Corr. ID:** 1777 **Organization:** Southern Environmental Law Center **Comment ID:** 462038 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

**Representative Quote:** The Newsletter solicits comments on "changes to parking or ramp configurations that could improve beach or soundside access."<sup>21</sup> This request fails to account for the numerous access-improvement projects that are already scheduled to be implemented at Cape Hatteras. In its November 18, 2013 Finding of No Significant Impact ("FONSI"), NPS approved the implementation of "29 public access facilities including parking areas, unpaved ORV ramps and roads, foot paths, ADA accessible boardwalks and elevation of a road segment."<sup>22</sup> Some of those projects have been accelerated in Phase 1 of NPS's response to the NDAA. Specifically, Ramp 25 and a 10-car parking lot have already been completed, while new Ramp 32

and a new interdunal road between Ramps 45 and 49 are expected to be completed this year.<sup>23</sup> NPS expects to complete work on Ramps 63 and 48 next year. 4 NPS should fully implement those projects and evaluate pedestrian and ORV access based on the improvements before soliciting input on additional projects.

***AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements***

***CONCERN STATEMENT:*** (Concern ID: 54820) Multiple commenters provided comments regarding improving access for visitors with disabilities along the Seashore, including providing ramps from parking lots over dunes to the beach with beach-style wheelchairs and life support systems nearby. Another commenter requested air and water stations and shade shelters at each ramp. Commenters recommended specific improvements for universal access, including modifying the existing access at the Ocracoke Day Use area to include a full wheelchair ramp. Currently, there are stairs that limit access for visitors with disabilities where the boardwalk meets the beach.

***Representative Quote(s):***

**Corr. ID:** 9 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 452262 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Representative Quote:** My wife is handicapped, so beach access by vehicle is a critical for us. Ramp 59 is our favorite access point, but I fish the "point", and other access ramps along the entire span of beaches, ocean and sound side.

**Corr. ID:** 39 **Organization:** Self **Comment ID:** 452568 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Representative Quote:** Please provide air and water stations at every 4x4 ramp and shaded shelters from sun.

**Corr. ID:** 39 **Organization:** Self **Comment ID:** 452567 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Representative Quote:** Please provided ADA ramps from parking lot over dunes to beach with beach style wheel chairs with balloon tires an life support systems nearby similar to all National Seashore Parks; such as, Cape Cod and Assenteague Island both Maryland and Virginia.

**Corr. ID:** 1616 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 455574 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Access Improvements:

- Could improve ADA access on Ocracoke by adding ramps to the beach side of the boardwalk at the Ocracoke Day Use Area

**Corr. ID:** 1714 **Organization:** Hyde County Board of Commissioners **Comment ID:** 456483 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Hyde County further requests new ORV sound side access be provided. Hyde County will also work with NPS on a public scoping process to identify key stakeholders/user groups and find an ideal location for sound side access for ORVs.

Handicap Access - Hyde County requests a greater effort from NPS and greater access for handicap individuals. Hyde County proposes three areas of improvement to allow greater access to our seashore for handicap persons:

Waive and/or reduce the ORV permit fees for individuals possessing a valid handicap placard from Department of Motor Vehicles

Modify the exiting Lifeguard Beach Access to include a full handicap access ramp. Currently the ramp is handicap accessible in the parking lot, however at the point where the boardwalk meets the beach, there are steps which would limit handicap persons from access. We believe the addition of a ramp at the beach area will allow more people to access and enjoy our beaches with limited investment.

Provide more handicap beach accessible chairs and work with Hyde County, local lodging and realty companies to better market and promote the availability of handicap beach accessible chairs. Local NPS staff has been extremely accommodating in providing handicap beach accessible chairs with has made it possible for individuals who may no otherwise enjoy out beautiful beaches to once again gain access.

**GA2000 - Impact Analysis: Use Trends And Assumptions**

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54822) Commenters suggested that the National Park Service study the use of ORV routes and vehicle-free areas to determine actual use for each area. Commenters noted that a balanced split of ORV routes and vehicle-free areas does not reflect actual park usage. Commenters suggested that collected data be used to guide future management decisions.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 1743 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457242 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** Extent and balance between ORV and pedestrian areas.

If we are to use the best science and balance the desires of those who want vehicle free areas and those who want to drive ORVs on the beach there should be some evidence to show the resulting division reflects actual usage.

You need to do a study to see how much use the two types of areas get. This varies based on my observation. For example the area between 27 and 30 is almost never used because of the need to hike over the dune from the highway. Evidence for this is the being able to drive that length and between 34 and 30 for that matter and almost never see parked cars along the road. This is partly a reflection of that there's no good places to park. I understand there was a tremendous outpouring of comments asking for pedestrian access but these reflected organized campaigns by various groups which seemed to be interested in closing the beaches. I believe the 50/50 split does not reflect the actual park usage.

We should make some evidence based decisions this time.

**Corr. ID:** 1774 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457952 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** A related comment is that the NPS should actively collect data on the actual use of Vehicle Free Areas and how this use pertains to the full range of visitor experiences, traditional cultural uses and value of the Seashore, and the local economy. These data can and should be used to guide future management directions and decisions in an open and transparent manner.

**GA3000 - Impact Analysis: General Methodology For Establishing Impacts/Effects**

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54823) Multiple commenters requested that any Final Rule changes be based on peer-reviewed science.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 854 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 453289 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 3. Make peer-reviewed science determinative for any rule changes, not political pressure.

**Corr. ID:** 1076 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 453981 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

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

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54824) One commenter noted that a May 2006 study determined that ORV use did not impact piping plover productivity and requested that the study be considered in this planning process.

**Representative Quote(s):**

**Corr. ID:** 1524 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 454943 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** One of the findings of the study titled, "GIS-based analysis of human disturbance on piping plover abundance, distribution and productivity on the barrier islands of Long Island, New York" by SK Thomsen, May 2006 was that Piping Plover productivity in areas where there were no ORV restrictions was the same as those in areas closed to ORV.

The paper stated "No consistent pattern of differences in mean productivity was observed...when all years were pooled together mean productivity was not significantly different between levels of ORV access..."

The study is important because it extends over several years; is based on the latest technological advances

using GIS; is rigorous in its statistical analysis; and examines large populations so results are statistically significant.

I suspect the above results can be inferred to be true for other species as well. Certainly, the least tern has no problem with ORV traversing close to nesting areas because the birds don't see a vehicle as a threat.

To conclude: Piping Plover fledged with the same success rate with or without ORV. At Hatteras closing the beaches has not improved Piping Plover numbers either; but buffer zones and beach closures continue to be the primary management tool even though they haven't worked. I think this hurts the credibility of the Park Service.

The environmental community as a whole relies on older methodology and studies. As an Engineer, if I relied on outdated methodology, I would be arrested

***PN1000 - Purpose And Need: Planning Process And Policy***

***CONCERN STATEMENT:*** (Concern ID: 54826) One commenter noted that any changes in ORV routes or VFA locations, including dates, must be made in the Final Rule, not as a Superintendent's Compendium.

***Representative Quote(s):***

**Corr. ID:** 111 **Organization:** Coalition to Protect America's National Parks **Comment ID:** 453055

**Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 3. Any changes in ORV routes or VFA locations and dates must be made in the Rule, not in the Compendium. The NPS general regulation at 36 CFR§ 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 must be specified in the special regulations, not in the Superintendent's Compendium where the details could be revised without further environmental analysis. For this reason, when preparing the Plan, NPS rejected the idea of "floating" ORV route locations and "floating" dates for seasonal ORV routes that would be unspecified in the regulations and identified only in the Compendium.

***CONCERN STATEMENT:*** (Concern ID: 54827) One commenter recommended that the National Park Service convene a group of resource experts and sportsman community leaders to determine the best way to train and educate sportsmen and allow trained sportsmen to help on the beach.

***Representative Quote(s):***

**Corr. ID:** 101 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 452690 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** A committee of NPS experts and leaders of the sportsman community should be formed to debate ways in which the NPS can train/educate the sportsman and make specific use of us on the beach or in the dunes. Turn our presence into an unqualified positive impact. I am sure that the group of sportsmen that I bring to OBX a few times every year are ready, willing and able to help.

***PN3000 - Purpose And Need: Scope Of The Analysis***

***CONCERN STATEMENT:*** (Concern ID: 54828) Commenters requested that the National Park Service limit the scope of the EA analysis to only those items contained within the 2014 NDAA and eliminate permits and public access improvements from the NEPA analysis. One commenter noted that completing the environmental assessment to modify wildlife buffers separate from the current environmental assessment was segmenting the project and did not consider combined impacts to wildlife. The commenter indicated that the National Park Service is making a series of incremental changes to the 2010 ORV Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (plan/FEIS) without giving due consideration to the cumulative effects of the combined actions on the overall effectiveness and synergistic effects of the various elements of the plan/FEIS or Final Rule. The commenter stated that unless the scope of the current environmental assessment is limited to the required topics in the 2014 NDAA, the appropriate level of NEPA compliance would be to prepare an environmental impact statement that fully describes and analyzes the potential cumulative impacts of all NPS actions prompted by the National Environmental Policy Act. One commenter also noted that the National Park Service is only directed to consider modifications to the Final Rule and is not obligated to expand ORV use.

***Representative Quote(s):***

**Corr. ID:** 111 **Organization:** Coalition to Protect America's National Parks **Comment ID:** 453056

**Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 1. Are there any additional alternative options you would like the NPS to consider? As described above, NPS should limit the scope of the current review to considering only those changes to the Final Rule that were specified in the Act.

**Corr. ID:** 111 **Organization:** Coalition to Protect America's National Parks **Comment ID:** 453054

**Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** 2. Sufficiency of Proposed National Environmental Policy (NEPA) Analysis: Because NPS has separated its response to the requirements of the Act into multiple planning processes, each involving their own NEPA analysis, NPS should limit the scope of the current review to only those potential modifications to the Final Rule that were specified in the Act. By preparing an EA to consider modifications of the Final Rule's ORV management requirements so soon after completing a separate EA to modify the wildlife protection buffers (an action also required by the Act), NPS is, in essence, "segmenting the project" instead of taking a hard look at the combined potential impacts of all NPS actions related to the Act.

For example, the NEPA analysis in the NPS buffer modifications EA failed to describe or consider the potential cumulative impacts to wildlife of the pending modifications in the Final Rule. As described in the recent NPS planning newsletter, the proposed modifications to the Final Rule could include increases in ORV route periods or locations, which would inherently cause corresponding reductions in Vehicle Free Areas (VFA's) and a decrease in the wildlife protections provided by the VFA's. As described in numerous locations in the Plan, the VFA's were created, in part, to provide opportunities for park visitors to experience a "vehicle free beach" (a euphemism for the long lost opportunity to experience the Seashore's "primitive wilderness") and to protect habitat for both breeding and migrating/wintering shorebirds.

Because of the lack of a comprehensive and consolidated NEPA analysis of the various actions mandated under the Act, NPS now appears to be headed toward making a series of incremental changes to the Plan, without giving due consideration to the cumulative effects of the combined actions on the overall effectiveness and synergistic effects of the various elements of the Plan or Final Rule. Unless NPS carefully limits the scope to the required topics in the upcoming EA, the appropriate level of NEPA compliance would be to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that fully describes and analyzes the potential cumulative impacts of all NPS actions prompted by the Act.

**Corr. ID:** 114 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 452717 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** I understand that you must comply with the Defense Authorization Act of 2014 but it was my understanding that it only called for a review of current ORV use and access and did not necessarily require that ORV use be expanded or allowed unabated as it appears the NPS is suggesting in the EA.

***PN5000 - Purpose And Need: Regulatory Framework***

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** (Concern ID: 54830) Two commenters provided multiple comments regarding additional laws and regulations that the alternatives will need to adhere to, including the Organic Act, Endangered Species Act, and Migratory Bird Treaty act, in addition to the Seashore's enabling legislation and NPS management policies. Commenters noted that the National Park Service and the court system have interpreted the Organic Act to place conservation above visitor enjoyment when a conflict occurs. Commenters referred to the enabling legislation and foundation documents for the Seashore, noting the purpose of the Seashore is to permanently preserve the wild and primitive character of the National Seashore. The commenters requested that the National Park Service continue the primitive wilderness as a management requirement for consideration in this environmental assessment. One commenter noted the desired future conditions established in the plan/FEIS must also guide management decisions.

***Representative Quote(s):***

**Corr. ID:** 111 **Organization:** Coalition to Protect America's National Parks **Comment ID:** 453052

**Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Representative Quote:** The Seashore's management requirements also include adherence to the "primitive wilderness" and resource "preservation" mandates of the Seashore's enabling legislation, which states:

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 (emphasis added).

Over the years at Cape Hatteras the NPS has often fallen short of complying with these mandates set forth in the Seashore's enabling legislation. As a result, today few, if any, of the Seashore's beaches resemble, even remotely, the "primitive wilderness" that existed when the park was authorized and which NPS was, in fact, mandated to preserve. This is particularly true of the Seashore's most remote and undeveloped beach locations, the inlet spits and the Cape Point area, which in recent decades have often been the most crowded and heavily impacted places at the Seashore due to the long history of relatively unregulated ORV use. And it is well documented that many years of inadequately managed ORV use contributed to the significant decline in shorebird nesting success at the Seashore during the late 1990's and early 2000's.

**Corr. ID:** 111 **Organization:** Coalition to Protect America's National Parks **Comment ID:** 453051  
**Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Representative Quote:** General 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 adherence to the "conservation mandate" of the NPS Organic Act, as 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.

**Corr. ID:** 111 **Organization:** Coalition to Protect America's National Parks **Comment ID:** 453053  
**Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Representative Quote:** A noteworthy change in management philosophy occurred at the Seashore in 2010 when NPS issued the Final ORV Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (Plan or FEIS), followed in 2012 by the Final Rule to implement the Plan. For the first time in many decades, NPS elevated "wildlife preservation" over "visitor convenience"; and also gave due consideration to the value of the visitor experience opportunities offered by the Seashore's remote beach locations, which still have the potential to provide vestiges of the "primitive wilderness" that NPS was mandated to preserve. As NPS proceeds with considering changes to the Final Rule, the respective mandates of the NPS Organic Act and the Seashore's enabling legislation must 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.

**Corr. ID:** 169 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 452973 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Representative Quote:** The legislation that designated the Cape Hatteras National Seashore states that the 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 in-compatible with the preservation of the unique flora and fauna or the physiographic conditions now prevailing in this area." Those who created the National Seashore were wise - - please respect and continue this well-established vision for this area.

**Corr. ID:** 1775 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 457967 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Representative Quote:** In 2011 the National Park released a foundation statement that clearly states how important the "wild and primitive character" of CHNS" is.  
 "The purpose of Cape Hatteras National Seashore is to permanently preserve the wild and primitive character of the ever-changing barrier islands, protect the diverse plant and animal communities sustained by the coastal island processes, and provide for

recreational use and enjoyment that is compatible with preserving the distinctive natural and cultural resources of the nation's first national seashore."  
2011, Foundation Statement, Cape Hatteras National Seashore

**Corr. ID: 1777 Organization:** Southern Environmental Law Center **Comment ID: 462020 Organization**

**Type:** Conservation/Preservation

**Representative Quote:** 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." 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. § 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. § 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.<sup>3</sup> 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 §§ 1.4.6, 4.1.







# **APPENDIX 1: CORRESPONDENCES**



**Correspondence ID:** 1      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Jul,31,2015 07:00:02

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am in favor of extending the times, areas and extend during the fall and spring seasons for off road vehicle use on our beaches on Hatteras island. Access should be available to fisherman with their vehicles and this is good for commerce on the island and of course for tax revenue for North Carolina.

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**Correspondence ID:** 2      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Jul,31,2015 16:45:54

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I understand that the Park Service is re-drawing rules governing use of ORV's on Hatteras Island. Under the current rules in effect, nestings of shore birds and turtles are making a strong comeback. We need to continue these protections and even expand them to protect other species such as Red Knots, a federally endangered species.

The truth is that we (mankind) continue to take for our selfish use lands that wildlife needs for survival. We have to stop this behavior if we are going to continue to benefit from a diverse world. The National Park Service must be seen as leading the charge. I hope you will assume this responsibility.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 3      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Jul,31,2015 18:26:30

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I hope the beaches can be open at sunrise. Reduce the length of time that the beaches are closed. Reduce turtle closes by relocating nests. Keep the point open as long as possible. Build a year round access to the point. There is enough room for man and birds on the island. Reduce clousure size. Dont close beaches for oister catchers. Lets work together so that all can enjoy the beach. Thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 4      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Jul,31,2015 18:40:59

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** It would be nice to see the beaches open to ORV's earlier than 7:00AM....

I also think there should be a discount for seniors and ex Military who have served their country. Brigantine NJ Beach permit for the year to seniors is \$65.00 that is a fair price for seniors that are on a fixed income.

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**Correspondence ID:** 5      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Jul,31,2015 20:27:38

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would encourage the NPS to implement a 10 or 14 day ORV permit in addition to the annual permit. This would be better than having to buy an annual permit for those who can only visit for a couple of weeks .

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**Correspondence ID:** 6      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,01,2015 03:22:13

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Extending Ramp 49 for ORV access north to the point will ease access and restrictions during peak bird activity around the point. This area is known to locals as " Th Hook". This also would keep people from having to walk on the waters edge to the point.

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**Correspondence ID:** 7      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,01,2015 08:28:50

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would like to submit my comments on a few rules that could be changed in the near future.

\*First on my list is the time in which beaches are opened in the morning. I would suggest the opening of all beaches be at least one hour before sunrise with priority on ramps to get to the Point.

\*Second are the seasonal open/close access dates. The seasonal beaches in front of villages should consider opening by Oct 1 and closing April 30. And the seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches should be open to ORV access the first Sunday after Labor day (which is always on a Monday) and close the Sunday before Memorial Day. These dates I feel are after the so called crowds for Labor Day and Memorial Day.

\*Thirdly I would like to put a few suggestions for VFA. The current VFA's. The current VFA's are too excessive. The NPS should reclassify many of the current seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV. I would like all VFA's to be changed, but know this will not happen. i would recommend the following changes to be put as year round routes. The ramp 45E to point, ramp 45 W and the Hatteras Island spit and the South Point inlet spit along with ramp 34 N. This would open up approximately 6.5 miles to year round ORV and to some of the best surfing and fishing locations on earth.

\*Lastly are the permits. I would like to see where you can purchase on line and not be charged extra for permits and annual permits are valid for a year from when we purchase. I also like the fact that you can get a 10 day pass.

I hope you will consider my recommendations and I appreciate the opportunity to express my comments.

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**Correspondence ID:** 8      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,01,2015 08:38:10

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Eliminate the restrictions and return the regulations as they were 10 years ago. I have spent many days and nights at Hatteras and Cape Lookout. Although I am sure there are some rare instances, I have never seen any driving violations affecting wildlife. I have had park service employees damage my fishing equipment 2 times with their reckless driving. It has come to the point in some areas that it is next to impossible to drive. I love birds and turtles. I also think that every one should be able to use the parks in a responsible way without ridiculous restrictions.

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**Correspondence ID:** 9      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.01,2015 09:12:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My wife and I enjoy visiting OBX as often as twice a year. We budget \$3-4,000 per visit. My wife is handicapped, so beach access by vehicle is a critical for us. Ramp 59 is our favorite access point, but I fish the "point", and other access ramps along the entire span of beaches, ocean and sound side.

We clearly understand and respect the need to preserve wildlife habitats, but upon our most recent visits we honestly felt there is a policy of over protection presently in place.

We feel CHAPA has a good understanding of the needs of residents, visitors, and wildlife along the OBX. We feel Chapa's recommendations are sensible, reasonable, and accurate when it comes to closures, and ORV practices. Please adopt CHAPA's full recommendations as we honestly feel they best serve the entire community.

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**Correspondence ID:** 10      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.01,2015 09:44:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** good afternoon, all. just wanted to chime in on this whole access to the cape point(ramp 44) issue. been fishin' hatteras since i was a child. i am 57 years old. for almost 50 years my family has cherished our time on the sand and surf. i like just about any surf fisherman, have a great respect and concern for the environment, for all living things, and for the integrity of the beaches. these closures and restrictions seem arbitrary and mean-spirited. we all care about the protection of endangered species. we all understand what a treasure the outer banks is. surely a sensible and equitable compromise can be reached which addresses the concerns of all special interest groups. no small minority group with deep pockets has the right to deny access to the masses. the people who regularly fish those beaches are people who obey the law, respectfully comply with any directives from authority figures, and leave the beaches cleaner than they were when they arrived. i hope the national park service recognizes this, and makes the adjustments they are obligated to make in the name of all americans they claim to serve. i understand that this is a complicated issue, and many react in anger and offense in accordance to their point of view. common sense and fair play will resolve this issue, and will more than likely be acceptable to all concerned. thank you for your time and consideration. email me when the point is open, please. the spanish are in that slough between the point and the sand bar.

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**Correspondence ID:** 11      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.01,2015 12:22:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I'm a fisherman who has been visiting Hatteras for 30 years - to fish; thus my comments are fisherman access oriented.

1. Extend the hours of access to the beach, especially in the morning. Morning fishing is best beginning at sunrise. Prior to NPS closures of the beaches, summertime morning fishing was often "over" by 8:00 AM. The best catching opportunities occurred at first light for the next 2 hours or so. Under current rules, we are denied access during the best fishing times. Focus on access at the Point - I'm sure you know that it is/was the most popular fishing spot. Why can't you vary the opening times? Set up a "rolling" system by checking Cape Point first thing then working down your list and open the beaches as you declare them to be ready. Start NPS employees earlier in the morning so the beaches can be opened earlier. I'm a retired federal employee who worked various flex schedules -it can be done. Some of your people might actually prefer to start earlier and get off earlier - I did.

2. Extend seasonal access. Again, the place is "Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Recreation Area", or at least it used to be. It's impossible to recreate in an area that is closed.

3. Make the short ORV permits valid for 10 days, not seven. This would be consistent with the short term fishing license now required and dovetail much better for the primary ORV permit users - the fishermen.

In summary, I ask for as much access as possible for ORV users. Focus on improving access to Cape Point. One has to ask if the overall public interest is being served by current policies that close substantial portions of the Park during prime seasons for prolonged periods to save 2 plovers and 10 oystercatchers. As your own data is beginning to demonstrate, the closure policies now in effect are having little impact on chick survival. It is becoming increasingly apparent that ORV's and people are not the limiting factors to bird reproduction. Open as much as you can for as long as you can. It's a recreation area!

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**Correspondence ID:** 12      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.02,2015 07:31:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

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

>

> \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

> \* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access is not the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect red knots, an endangered species, 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 is 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.

>

- > Research also shows that tourism has not been affected by the current plan.
- >
- > Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that can be enjoyed there. . We are asking you to cease further actions affecting the birds and turtles on the Seashore without substantial scientific research to support your actions

**Correspondence ID:** 13      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.02,2015 08:25:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Permits: Consider issuing non-annual permits on a per day basis such that a person can select a time frame appropriate to their length of stay. Current 7 day permits already have a start and expiration date applied at time of purchase suggesting that making this change would not involve a substantive change to the existing permitting process. Both NPS and the public benefit by having a single permit per visit. I suggest this approach as less cumbersome and less expensive to administer than adding additional fixed length permits. It encourages effective visitor compliance and provides greater accuracy in ORV use counts for future planning.

Morning Beach Openings: Both the current 7 AM and the proposed 6:30 openings are designed to allow time required for NPS evaluation of new turtle nests, false crawls, or turtle hatches that may have occurred overnight. NPS Staff resources are limited and the opening times proposed reflects that reality. However, during the summer months, sunrise occurs well before 6:30 and fishermen find late opening times extremely frustrating as first light is the best time to fish. 6:30 opening and allowing visitors to follow resource management staff onto the beach at a designated ramp and to drive a safe distance behind staff as they clear the beach are somewhat better than 7AM, but far from ideal. Please consider the following additional options.

- 1)Open the beach at officially published morning twilight to those ORV operators that take training, pay a registration fee and sign an official agreement to help NPS staff resources to help identify new turtle nests, false crawls, or turtle hatches and other resources allowing them earlier access than untrained visitors. The process should include an online training class, test, a special permit, markers and reporting instructions. This approach provides a pool of well-motivated, trained volunteers to augment NPS staff.
- 2)Consider changing summer staff work hours allowing the beach to open at the published time of official sunrise. The time between morning twilight and sunrise offers sufficient light and time for beach evaluation.
- 3)Set summer opening hour by month such that the opening time is the average time of official sunrise for the month.
- 4)Set the summer opening hour at 5:30

Seasonal ORV Routes: I favor the proposed expansion of six additional weeks for spring and fall.

Vehicle-Free Areas: Reduce the total number of VFAs. The Outer Banks had sufficient VFAs prior to the ORV plan.

Access Improvements: Reopen Ramp 34 to reduce crowding.

**Correspondence ID:** 14      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.02,2015 14:10:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I believe you should open more beach up to orv .I also believe in the ten day permit system for out of state vehicles. A yearly permit is to expensive cost for a one week vacation as a lot of people do.and think you should allow earlier access to the beach then 7am.

**Correspondence ID:** 15      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.02,2015 16:53:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Morning opening of beaches: Recommend that all ramps to ORV beaches should open at first light in the fall months to permit early fishing in the prime fishing months. Beaches should be open at least till 10 pm to allow beach drivers to enjoy beach fires the same as people in front of the villages.

Seasonal Openings: Six weeks in both spring and fall would be preferred, but four weeks would be much better then the present. Beaches should be opened from no later than Sept 15 to May 15 because most families with children do not vacation until school is out for the summer.

Vehicle Free Areas: Ramp 23 should be open north to the wreck and completely south to ramp 25. There are no villages in this area and south of ramp 23 is one of the best nicest beach on the island.  
Same for south of ramp 27.

Permits: NPS should issue a 10 day permit. Visitors coming for one week waste one day of their vacation getting a permit. Visitors on a two week vacation need to purchase two permits if they want access for their entire vacation.

The yearly permit should be from date of purchase to the same date of following year. The coastal fishing license is issued this way. If the permit can not be issued this, they should be pro-rated by the month.  
A visitor coming in June is paying for 12 months and getting 6.

**Correspondence ID:** 16      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.03,2015 06:09:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I own a small oceanfront property in Hatteras Village and was dismayed last year to find ORVs on the beach in Hatteras Village over the winter. There seems to me no purpose in allowing vehicles on village beaches other than to annoy people who live in the village and walk on the beaches during the winter. The "off-season" is no longer "off" and there are many people visiting the OBX during late fall and winter and the practice of allowing driving on village beaches from October to March should be stopped. thanks, [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 17    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.03,2015 07:00:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To whom it may concern:

The "23" in my email address represents ramp 23 south of Salvo. It used to be my favorite spot on the Outer Banks. That leads to my comment. I can see absolutely no reason why the areas south of ramp 23 and north of ramp 34 should be closed to fishermen and vehicles. These are two of the most popular and accessible areas on the island. Seems to me, they were closed solely to punish fishermen. I used to make at least four trips per year to Hatteras Island. In the period since these areas were closed, I have made one trip and have no plans to return unless these areas are reopened.

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**Correspondence ID:** 18    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.03,2015 09:00:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My wife and I have been traveling to the Outer Banks (specifically the town of Frisco) for the past 8 years to enjoy a relaxing vacation. We continue to return for two major reasons: the beautiful beaches and the ability to drive onto the beach and setup accommodations that allow us enjoy a day of fun. Since the ORV rules went into effect our trips have been impacted. The routine NPS beach closures limit access to many beaches. I understand the need for resource protection but question the necessity of completely closing an area (even to foot traffic) for extended periods of time. For example, the Point now remains completely off limits for the majority of the summer. I find it hard to believe that people walking on the beach during daylight hours would have a devastating impact on wildlife. There has to be a more reasonable approach for managing this beautiful resource that provides effective protection measures while still providing beach access to visitors and locals. I am hopeful that during this round of discussions the NPS will listen to the public's concerns and align its resource protection plan to be scientifically based with practical implementation rather than the current perceived philosophy of closing as many sections of beach as possible for unreasonable time periods.

I also question the cost of ORV permits. Currently, two options are available: weekly (\$50) or annual (\$120). I see that the NPS is considering other permit length options. I think the additional offerings may be helpful but wonder if this is just a ploy to increase NPS revenues. For example, if the 7-day permit option goes away and now I must purchase a 10-day permit, that will likely cost more money, how will this benefit me when my house rental is for 7 days. Rather than offering all these different types of permits why not offer 3 choices:

Daily Rate Permit: Permit for the number of days requested by the customer (from 3 day minimum to 14 day maximum) at a fixed daily rate (Example \$5/day).

30-Day Permit: 30 day issuance period permit for \$75.

Annual Permit: Calendar year permit (Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st) for \$120.

Unless the entire permit process is changing why could the NPS not establish a reasonable daily use fee (\$3 to \$5) and let the customer pay for the number of days they want to drive on the beach. In my scenario I want my permit to start on Sunday morning and expire at midnight on Friday for a total of 6 days. At the current permit cost of \$50/week I am paying \$8.33/day to drive on the beach. Using my proposal for my vacation this year the NPS worker would have written the valid dates of 6/21 to 6/26 on the permit. If the daily rate was \$5 I would have paid \$30 for the week rather than \$50. This option allows a customer to purchase exactly what they need based on when they want to drive on the beach.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments and ideas. I look forward to seeing the changes that NPS will make in 2016 and am remaining optimistic that improvements will be made to the current plan!

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**Correspondence ID:** 19    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.03,2015 09:21:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** First let me say that I am pleased with the action Congress took late in 2014 to bring some sanity to the closures along Cape Hatteras National Recreational Seashore. Now the important thing is to enact these requirements in a manner that will benefit the American taxpaying public and not interfere with the traditional activities this parcel of land has provided sportsmen and tourists for generations.

- 1) All closures MUST be of the shortest duration and smallest area possible.
- 2) Seasonal closures MUST be reviewed to assess their effectiveness and not "grandfathered" in year after year.
- 3) Turtle nest MUST be re-located so that they do not close the beach access.
- 4) The beach MUST be cleared as quickly after daylight hours as possible, the 7AM opening is arbitrary and should be flexible with daylight hours.
- 5) The attitude of the NPS should be to serve the American taxpaying public, not the interests of groups who's only goal is to close the beaches and prevent access.
- 6) COMMON SENSE GOES A LONG WAY AND QUITE HONESTLY COMMON SENSE HAS NOT BEEN EVIDENT ALONG THE CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL RECREATIONAL SEASHORE IN QUITE A FEW YEARS. Now is the time to correct these past mistakes.

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**Correspondence ID:** 20    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.04,2015 08:26:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My input is simple. Minimize restrictions when possible. Use the Dune Roads and other possibilities when not. Plovers and Turtles and other wildlife and Fisherman existed for years without issue. What we have here is manufactured drama and revenue loss for small town business owners on the island.



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**Correspondence ID:** 21      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.04,2015 10:01:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am somewhat confused re: VFA's- -from what I see they are actually people free areas- -Is that what was intended? Ramp 34 has a very nice beach- -perhaps 100 hundred yards or so is used during the summer months- -there's more open but people can't or won't walk a mile to avail themselves to more beach. The Hatteras beaches were designed to be accessed by vehicle- -for the most part ped access is difficult in most areas- -closing 34 puts more pressure on ramp 38,which is one of the few with easy ped access.

I would strongly support ending seasonal closures six weeks earlier in the Fall And re: ramp 34 again- -why in the world was the beach south of the ramp closed all the way to the village? Should be a driveable beach all the time,closing at the village boundry during the summer season like it used to be.



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**Correspondence ID:** 22      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.04,2015 12:32:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** First, let me say that I am extremely happy that the NPS appears to finally be willing to work with those that use the Hatteras area for recreational fishing. That is a welcomed change.

Concerning areas closed to ORV access. I have never understood why the beach at Ramp 34, just north of Avon is seasonally closed to ORV access. The width of that beach defies logical closing at any time of the year. I would like to see that beach opened up on a year round basis, and access restricted only as necessary to meet the environmental concerns and for the shortest period of time.

I am very hopeful that the NPS will adopt a policy that when a turtle nest is laid in such a location as to block access to areas such as Cape Point, that the nest in question WILL BE RELOCATED, not just MAY be relocated.

Concerning permitting, I have always thought the amount that was decided upon for beach access permits was too much in the extreme. The current price limits some folks from purchasing them, which was, in my opinion, the purpose of such a high price. The permit price should be lowered significantly to allow all those that want to enjoy Cape Hatteras the opportunity to do so. Secondly, I really would like to see the online application process changed to the extent that, if you are renewing your access permit, you could do so without having to play the movie each year. Being forced to watch that once, is entirely enough. You should be able to indicate this is a renewal access application and just pay for it. I do agree that the access permits should be like a fishing license, good one year from the date of purchase.

I have fished the OBX area for years, and I truly believe that fishermen are just as concerned about the environment as others. The desire to keep this area open for recreation should not be in conflict with other environmental issues. The area of concern, is when the cards are seemingly stacked so hard against their interests. With reasonable compensation for both groups, the end goal can be reached, and the economy of the OBX area can once again grow strong.



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**Correspondence ID:** 23      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.04,2015 13:39:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to comment on the EA for changes to the ORV Special Rule. I feel that it is essential that no changes be made to the Seashore's ORV special regulation. The ORV rules that were implemented under the CAHA 2012 Final Rule need to be left alone and implemented as they were written. The recent reduction of wildlife buffer sizes is well below research recommendations and needs to be reversed and increased back to CAHA 2012 guidelines. A small minority of visitors driving on the beach is controlling how the Seashore is being managed, at the detriment of the majority of CAHA visitors and the native wildlife. I often go to Oregon Inlet campground. Many times during my family visit we often drive over to Pea Island NWR in order to enjoy vehicle-free beach access. Vehicles driving on the beach ruins the whole experience. Fragile beach wildlife is suffering due to vehicle traffic on CAHA beaches.



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**Correspondence ID:** 24      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.05,2015 07:51:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My husband and I have stayed on Ocracoke Island over a dozen times, returning year after year to vacation there. One of the big deciding factors is the ability to drive on the beach. As you know, there are no "beach houses" on Ocracoke and the ability to drive your 4x4 directly to your spot on the beach, with everything you need to spend the day right within reach, is a huge deal for us. We have visited in the spring, in the summer, and in the fall and during those times, sections of the beach were blocked off for birds and/or turtles and it is no big deal! Especially on Ocracoke, there is

plenty of room in the open areas.

I believe the residents of Ocracoke should have the biggest "say" but I also hope that driving on the beach will always be a part of Ocracoke's charm. The one-week permit works the best for us (7 days) and probably most visitors to the island.

I remember when no permit was needed and I hope that adding the permit has helped keep a lot of trouble-makers off the beach.

We need to protect the birds and turtles that make Ocracoke their home. Closing parts of the beach periodically has hopefully taken care of that issue. But if you take away driving on the beach in Ocracoke, it will change Ocracoke forever and not in a good way. The beach is too big to walk from designated parking areas. Plus the expense to build MORE parking areas, including bathrooms and showers and cross-overs. No one likes a crowded beach, and being able to drive to your spot on the beach is part of what makes Ocracoke so wonderful, and award-winning! Tourism pays the bills and it should definitely be weighed in along with protecting wildlife. Especially since you have had such good luck with nesting areas so far.

I also hope each island is treated individually even though they are part of the CHNS. It should not be a blanket decision for all the islands/beaches.

I think NPS can come up with a balance that will work for both wildlife and tourism- -which I hope is not a whole lot different than the rules in effect now.

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**Correspondence ID:** 25    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.05,2015 13:05:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to have my personal information withheld from publication if at all possible.

1. Morning Beach Openings: I agree with and support the concept of opening ORV trails earlier in the morning after staff has deemed the area safe for ORV travel.

2. Seasonal ORV Routes: I would like the NPS to implement the alternative that would add 6 weeks to both the Spring and Fall seasonal ORV routes if front of the villages.

3. Vehicle Free Areas: I would like to see the VFA between Cape Point and Ramp 49 eliminated completely, as it is nearly impossible for pedestrians to access this area due to its exceedingly far distance from any road or public parking.

The area of South Beach is one of the best spots to take a family with small children and the elderly, due mainly to the geography of the "hook" South of Cape Point that protects it from a Northeast wind, and it is a travesty to see it so underutilized.

I would rather see a VFA that existed from Ramp 49 Southward to the Frisco Village boundary, as it could easily be reached by pedestrians from both the Frisco NPS campground, Frisco Village proper, and the Sandy Bay Day Use Area VF, or extended southward from Sandy Bay into the Hatteras Village boundary.

4. Access Improvements: I agree with all proposed improvements as they relate to additional ramps and parking, particularly the interdunal road proposed between Ramps 45 and 49. I also think it would be prudent to greatly expand the parking area at the "Haulover/Day Use" site, as this area is quite dangerous for motorists and pedestrians as-is.

I would also like to see expanded parking at Sandy Bay and the site of the former Frisco Pier.

5. Permits: I agree with the proposed 3, 10 and 14 days permit choices, as well as making your permit valid for one year from the date of purchase.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on these proposed changes, and look forward to seeing the NPS' final ruling on these topics.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.



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**Correspondence ID:** 26    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.05,2015 13:36:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The outer banks is so wonderful, and has become even more so without all the traffic on it! Not only for us beach goers, but also (and more importantly) for wildlife. Please do not undo all the good that has been done in the last few years having the restrictions in place. Tourism has gone up since beach driving was restricted, as have the numbers of baby birds born. Do not allow more beach driving. They can fish in the fall, winter and spring....why do they have to have the summer, too?

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**Correspondence ID:** 27    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.05,2015 14:22:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please consider a per day fee instead of a seven or ten day fee. Some people (like me) come down for the weekend and drive the beach for a day and a half. To me it is not worth the hassle to pay for seven days. Maybe \$5/day would be reasonable, but driving for free would be outstanding! OBX has the most beautiful scenic beaches in our country during any time of the year. Thanks in advance.



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**Correspondence ID:** 28    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.05,2015 14:49:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Would like to see an option for a daily permit or at least a 3 day permit.

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**Correspondence ID:** 29    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.05,2015 16:07:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** It would be a great benefit if the ORV annual permits were valid for one year from the date of purchase. We would probably buy one of those instead of the usual weekly that we buy, and perhaps visit the OBX more often (and spend our money there!) If not, the NPS is collecting more money from us that would help with the ORV funding.  
Also, this summer it was much better because only the nesting areas were cordoned off, and we could still walk around them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 30    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.06,2015 05:21:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We really don't need anymore cars running up and down the beach. Enough is enough. Thanks

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**Correspondence ID:** 31    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.06,2015 06:28:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I started coming to Hatteras Island beaches as a young child in the 50s, and now have a second home in Frisco, NC and spend time there as often as I can with family and friends.

The US Park Service used to be seen by locals and visitors to the Outer Banks as good stewards of the land they had been charged with managing. They created a healthy balance between caring for wildlife and sharing with humans.

Over the past several years, the Park Service has severely restricted beach access by locals and visitors to Hatteras Island. This change was in response to a vocal minority who do not live on Hatteras Island or even visit there.

I believe it is time to revisit the policies governing beach access and to look for ways to re-create a healthy balance between balance wildlife habitat and human enjoyment of the beaches.

Thank you for creating an opportunity to provide input on this most important issue!

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**Correspondence ID:** 32    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.06,2015 07:16:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** In my opinion it is a tragedy to see what has happen to our free and open Outer Banks during my life time. Due to concern about the quality of life for sea turtles and birds, we have overly restricted access to this natural treasure. It is time to repeal all rules referencing driving on the beach and revert to the policy prior to the changes in 2012. Sportsmen like myself do not want this area destroyed. We want our children and grandchildren to have the same access we have had during our life-time.

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**Correspondence ID:** 33    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.06,2015 10:04:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The Hatteras Seashore is a globally significant Important Bird Area. ORVs and other human intrusions endanger many species of sea birds and turtles. The health of these populations is under constant threat. ORVs enthusiasts have plenty of options for their sport. Please maintain the current restrictions on ORVs. I would like to see more restrictions of ORVs and better protection of the vulnerable wildlife.

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**Correspondence ID:** 34    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.06,2015 10:23:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Is it at all possible to allow a minimum issuance of permit usage? I would like to see a permit for number of days usage or a three day permit.  
Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 35    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.06,2015 11:35:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a long term resident of the OBX and an appreciator of the wild beauty of the place, I urge you not to modify the final rule unless it is to restrict access to ORVs in order to benefit the lives of the wildlife who call the seashore home. Many accommodations have been made for the ORVs to the detriment of the seashore. While it is fitting that some ORV use be allowed, the precautionary principal should be applied. The wildlife have no where else to go, the same can not be said of the ORVs. Kindly, take as cautious an approach as possible. Maximize wildlife, minimize disruption.

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**Correspondence ID:** 36    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.06,2015 12:59:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I do not think days or hours should be added to permitted on-beach driving - in fact I think they should be restricted even more. The natural resources on this beach (birds, turtles etc.) should be protected for the people they belong to - all Americans. This decision should not be made solely for the benefit of the small portion of visitors who feel a need to have 24-7 access to driving on our beaches. Furthermore, I do not think the economy of the Outer Banks is derived solely from these visitors. It is not onerous in my opinion to close beaches for periods of time to protect threatened

birds and wildlife. If more beach driving IS permitted, I and my family will find another beach to frequent. This is NATIONAL seashore, not off-road drive seashore.

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**Correspondence ID:** 37    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.06,2015 13:37:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear Sir/Madam:

I urge the Park Service to maintain effective, science-based regulations for the Seashore. The proposed rules significantly water down protection of nesting shore birds and turtles. During nesting season the shoreline should be continually monitored for birds and turtles. Those areas should be closed to night driving and driving should be restricted during daylight to prevent disturbing the nesting process. Night driving runs the risk of crushing baby turtles as they try to make their way to the water.

I would like to add that when I go to enjoy MY national seashore I don't care to see large ruts from vehicles nor do I like to have to dodge vehicles as I walk the beach. Some beach driving should be permitted, but there are way more people walking the beach than driving and these walkers should be given a significantly larger part of the seashore than drivers.

So I want to see my Park Service serve all beachgoers not just a small vocal minority. It is the obligation of the National Park Service to protect wildlife and those who like to enjoy a quiet day at the beach. Thank you for considering my comments.

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**Correspondence ID:** 38    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.06,2015 14:14:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** On behalf of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners and the citizenry of Hyde County, we would like to submit public comments to be considered as it relates to modification to the Final Rule for ORV management at the Seashore.

Hyde County supports changes that will increase ORV time on the beach allowing ORV accessible priority beaches to open at 6:30 am and/or allow visitors to follow resource management staff onto the beach at a designated ramp and to drive a safe distance behind staff as they clear the beach. Hyde County supports action to open our beaches to the public as early as possible and to also potentially look at allowing the beaches to stay open until 10:00 pm or as late as possible.

Hyde County encourages NPS to extend the seasonal ORV periods for the routes in front of the village and Ocracoke campground for an additional six weeks in the fall and spring and/or for as much time as possible. Hyde County supports action to keep our ORV routes open as often and as much as possible.

When designating ORV and pedestrian-only locations, Hyde County supports the NPS in considering proximity to villages, ensuring both the pedestrian and ORV visitor experience is available within a reasonable distance from each village, providing adequate parking, high-density day use areas, and lifeguarded beaches to better support VFAs and providing a balance between ORV areas and VFAs.

Hyde County requests additional sound side access for both ORV use and pedestrian use.

Hyde County requests NPS to provide a sound side beach access for pedestrian use that does not require an ORV permit. Hyde County will work with NPS on a public scoping process to identify key stakeholders/user groups and find an ideal location for sound side access.

Hyde County further requests new ORV sound side access to be provided. Hyde County will also work with NPS on a public scoping process to identify key stakeholders/user groups and find an ideal location for sound side access for ORVs.

Hyde County requests a greater effort from NPS and greater access for handicapped individuals. Hyde County proposes three areas of improvement to allow greater access to our seashore for handicapped persons: (1) Waive and/or reduce ORV permit fees for individuals possessing a valid handicap placard from the Department of Motor Vehicles; (2) Modify the existing Lifeguard Beach Access to include a full handicap access ramp. Currently, the ramp is handicap accessible in the parking lot, however at the point where the boardwalk meets the beach, there are steps which would limit handicap persons from access. We believe the addition of a ramp at the beach area will allow more people to access and enjoy our beaches with limited investment; (3) Provide more handicap beach accessible chairs and work with Hyde County, local lodging and realty companies to better market and promote the availability of handicap beach accessible chairs. Local NPS staff has been extremely accommodating in providing handicap beach accessible chairs which has made it possible for individuals who may not otherwise enjoy our beautiful beaches to once again gain access.

Hyde County requests NPS to offer different options for permits including: (1) Annual permits, valid for a year from issue date; and (2) Varying permit lengths to provide more flexibility to visitors including 3-day, 10-day and/or 14-day permits.

Please consider our above requests and consider Hyde County Government as a NPS partner in providing maximum access while maintaining and protecting our most precious resources. Revenues earned from visitors to our beaches are the life blood of our local economy providing our citizens with resources to achieve a high quality of life. We appreciate NPS efforts to support our local economy and increase access to our beaches. Thank you in advance for consideration of our requests.

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**Correspondence ID:** 39    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.06,2015 14:54:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please provided ADA ramps from parking lot over dunes to beach with beach style wheel chairs with balloon tires an life support systems nearby similar to all National Seashore Parks; such as, Cape Cod and Assentague Island both Maryland and Virginia.

Please provide air and water stations at every 4x4 ramp and shaded shelters from sun.

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**Correspondence ID:** 40    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.06,2015 16:36:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** This is a very important issue to me as I am a fifth generation Hatteras Islander. I was born and raised on Hatteras Island and so many of the privileges I enjoyed growing up have been taken away by the Park Service. My parents and grandparents taught me to be a good steward of all the natural resources this island has to offer. I'm not alone in this -- all of us were brought up this way. While I recognize there are many more people visiting Hatteras Island than in the past, I believe most visitors come here to experience the rich natural resources we have to offer and are not coming to destroy them.

I remember my great aunt telling me that when she sold her land to the Park Service they promised that the island natives would always have access to the beach. If she were alive today, it would disappoint her greatly to see how the Park Service defaulted on their promise.

It never has made any sense to me why the Park Service has to shut the whole beach down because of a few turtle or bird nestings, when roping off areas would accomplish the same objective. There surely are alternatives that the Park Service can explore that will be beneficial to both the people and the natural resources.

I surely hope this process will result in rolling back some of the restrictions that have been unnecessarily imposed.



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**Correspondence ID:** 41    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.06,2015 17:32:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I attended the public comment meeting in Raleigh on 8/6/2015. What I gleaned from the meeting was several issues. First the Superintendent seems to incorrectly believe that the permitting process has not reduced ORV use of the seashore. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have used this area for many years and have noticed a steep drop in the areas that I visit. Secondly since there are so many areas no longer available if use has not dropped all areas should be seeing more visits not less. He bragged about 3-5000 vehicles visiting Cape Point in a year. I have seen times when that many would visit in a week.

Secondly, no reason was given as to why there needs to be any Vehicle Free Areas VFA. It seems that the VFAs all have to be at the most liked spots. I don't think this is a coincidence.

Why do permit fees have to be so steep? Why do permit fees that we pay as visitors used to pay the people that cut us off from the beaches we are paying to use? The fees need to be dropped all together. Why should an ORV have to pay and not a pedestrian? How about a bicycle?

The environmentalist got what they wanted which was to vastly restrict use of the area. Has anyone shown hard evidence that it has helped the population of the birds/turtles proportionally to the cost and inconvenience to the users and residents/businesses of the area? I think not. The area should be opened back up completely and freely unless this evidence is absolutely proven.

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**Correspondence ID:** 42    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.07,2015 07:27:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I'm 73 years old and I grew up in North Carolina. I have great memories of fishing the Outer Banks. For the past 20 years I've made a trip back to the Outer Banks to make memories with my family and friends.

I'm very disappointed in the recent changes to the Off-Road policy. I ask you to consider reversing the current policy for these reasons:

1. Compare revenue you receive to your cost of collecting the revenue.
2. Consider the number of people who do NOT come because of the fee.
3. Consider the economic impact of the additional people to the fees collected.
4. North Carolina raises citizens who value freedom and independence and have a low regard for bureaucracy.

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**Correspondence ID:** 43    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.07,2015 07:53:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I visited Cape Hatteras for the first time this summer and was amazed by the lack of wildlife. Driving on the beaches for many years has destroyed the natural beauty of the area. The federal government and national parks have a responsibility to protect wildlife in Cape Hatteras. Do not allow beach driving at all. Let people park in the parking lots. This area is so small so the wildlife need the beaches to live and nest. Let the wildlife come back to the area by not allowing beach driving. Please protect the national park - they have a road and parking lots for driving purposes.

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**Correspondence ID:** 44    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.07,2015 08:12:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** This looks like a government agency (The National Parks) looking at ways to over-regulate.

I as a fisherman, these new rules are restrictive and not necessary.

Please stop making rules and regulations that impede our use of government owned properties! Please stop making new rules and regulations for the benefit of making new rules and regulations.

The National Parks goal should be to allow as many people as possible to enjoy our National Parks. Please stop expanding rules and regulations to keep US (people) from enjoying OUR (the American People's) parks!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 45    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.07,2015 09:09:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** good afternoon, all. this is truly encouraging. again, the earth is a finite resource; it is up to all of us to share and carefully manage this gift from God. as i said in my last email, all sides need to holster their pistols, take a step back, take a deep breath, and appreciate and respect the point of view and concerns of the other side(s). we all love this place; it is truly unique in the united states in terms for it's stark beauty and history. hatteras/cape point/ramp 55 have a three generational history in my own family. we love it and always will. i welcome to hear dialogue from mr. hallec and the nps. it's a breath of fresh air; parties on my side also need to pause, and put aside the anger and irrationality. no one should be able to monopolize such a beautiful resource. make no mistake, i really hate not being able to take my grandkids onto the point. i believe that the current closures are excessive, and almost mean-spirited. however, i am not a marine biologist, and want said resources intact when i'm long gone. again, i plead for decency, clarity, and common sense. there is a solution to this issue which will be acceptable to all. thank you for your consideration, and, get out on the beach this weekend. fish on.

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**Correspondence ID:** 46    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.07,2015 10:37:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear NPS,

My wife and I vacation to the Outer Banks every 2 years. We spend approximately 1 week on Portsmouth Island, 1 week on Ocracoke Island, and 1 week on Hatteras Island. We primarily spend our time surf-fishing, exploring, and relaxing on the beach. It has been a beautiful place for us and has generated some of our most fond memories. We have met and enjoyed many people who have our same passion and respect for this beautiful area. As such, we can not imagine a time when we won't make our bi-annual journey to enjoy the Outer Banks.

Having said this, we have been witness to some considerable changes over the years in the form of ever increasing restrictions to beach access. We had experienced a generally open and unrestricted ORV approach early on compared to what we have today, which I'd refer to as heavily restricted with a complicated transient shift of where one has access and where one does not. As such, it has become painfully clear that the areas to which ORV access has been allowed, has certainly shrunk and continues to shrink in our opinion. As a result of this constriction, these smaller access areas have become heavily used and often very crowded. At times it's a line of vehicles door to door. In our opinion this is having the opposite effect of what the NPS would certainly want, open space, uncrowded areas, and a relaxed atmosphere of respectful beach goers, surf-fisherman, and sun worshippers.

In respect of this, as a person raised in a family who's father, grandfather, sister, aunt, and some uncles were employees of the US Forest Service...I realize the delicate balance and pressure your government organization is put in while trying to be fair to the environment, the creatures that call it home, the outdoor and recreational enthusiasts, and the close-all-access crowd. We are people that believe in open access, and the recreational merits it provides when treated with respect by responsible law-abiding citizens. It is the foundation on which our public lands were founded and created. These are places that belong to every American Citizen. They need to be properly managed and open for the public to enjoy, while being governed by a minimum however very important base set of rules designed to preserve and insure these lands will remain available and accessible for the next generation. As my father and grandfather told me, "we own nothing of the earth, we are simply caretakers responsible for passing these things to our children and to their children".

So our thoughts are these;

1) Compressing access into small areas only increases the pressure and the damage thru heavy concentrated use to those regions. Providing more options of open access would reduce this pressure by spreading out the users over a larger area. We recognize that you will still have those crowded "popular spots", but they will be less crowded and more easily managed by NPS staff.

2) Increasing access hours makes sense. If clearing the beach is a major concern, then this may be a good opportunity for NPS to engage with recreational user groups for assistance. As an example, having a "sun-up to sun-down" access plan could work by taking advantage of the extra volunteer resources of these groups. They (we) are passionate about this area and it would be a pleasure to help safely open these access areas earlier and longer by providing beach-clearing support. From this perspective I think having relationships with specific groups (i.e. OBPA, Surf Fishing Groups, ORV Groups, Local business organizations, etc.) and authorizing them as "NPS Certified Members" to walk/drive the access areas as needed at the required times, to verify that these points can be opened and to provide input on any changing environmental/wildlife concerns.

3) Create working groups supported by NPS that included these local organizations and users who are willing to volunteer and to be trained to have knowledge on the environmental criteria necessary to provide sustainable access. These groups and individuals could then work with the guidance of NPS Controllers that would assign a group to a region, thereby gaining more man-power and man-hours to work towards opening more access areas and having them available both earlier and later in the day. I think this is also an opportunity for what is often seen as two opposing forces (NPS vs Users) to work together and gain a deeper knowledge and respect for each other.

4) Create an interactive free "smart phone app". This app could provide up-to-the-minute access reports, park user rules, maps, tide charts, emergency information and contacts, as well as reporting violations and abuse within the park. It may also provide local business an advertising opportunity thereby creating another revenue stream to help bolster the cost of park management. This again increases the NPS manpower, feet on the street, and eyes on the beach.

It's important to realize that we all love the Outer Banks and it is obvious that aligning our goals and working together serves the greater purpose of

preserving this amazing area, while enjoying it in totality and responsibly. At the same time the antithesis is to continue down the path of increasingly restrictive access, driving users to a more condensed area, thereby over-using those parts of the natural resource. The interest and attendance within the park is not going to decrease, so using more areas to spread out the pressure is the only suitable and sustainable approach. As the beach is an amazing resource, so are the passionate people who use this area. Reach out to them and find ways to use this overlooked human resource to help manage "Our" Outer Banks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 47 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.07,2015 12:36:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have vacationed on Hatteras Island since I was a child in the 1960's. I do not own a 4 wheel drive, I do not drive on any beach, I do not fish. I would consider myself a liberal, and believe that government is not always the problem but can sometimes be a solution. I personally prefer a beach without any vehicles, generally support the Audubon Society and find some of the most rabid ORV proponents frankly unpleasant people. However, I have also followed the heated arguments back and forth on blogs, boards, and in the news for the last decade or so and my own conclusion is that the restrictions are onerous without any evidence (in fact statistically I would think the evidence as such goes the other way) that they are effective. In this particular case, in this particular area, I believe the regulations need to be relaxed to allow more access to both tourists and locals who rely on ORV to access their fishing areas.

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**Correspondence ID:** 48 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.07,2015 12:52:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please, please open the beaches for the people. I was unable to scatter my fathers ashes as he wished this year because we were not allowed to walk on the beach. This was very hard to explain to my children.

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**Correspondence ID:** 49 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.07,2015 15:02:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Life is about balance. A fisherman's life is balanced by access to the waters that hold the most fish. A naturalist life is balanced by seeing that animals, marine life and plants are protected in such a manner to protect their existence. It seems that fisherman's and naturalist's balance conflict when it comes to ORV access on Cape Hatteras Island and especially the Point. There are overly zealous folks in both camps. Each side is passionate to the point of their own demise. A significant portion of Cape Hatteras Island has ORV prohibition and rightly so from my point of view. I am a fisherman and I am a naturalist. Do I want ORV access when I want it to the Point. Sure. Do I want to see the turtle and the plovers thrive. Sure. With proper and reasonable management, both can and will exist. There are a lot of productive waters to fish on Hatteras besides the Point. The Point is like no other place on earth from a fishing point of view and I've never actually fished in the fray yet, but I understand its value and appeal. Perhaps a lottery system for access to the Point might help alleviate the tensions some. Given a point system, those folks who spend a week or two on the island could be assured access to an uncrowded fishing mecca over time. In many western states, hunters (resident and non) wait years to draw a tag to have the opportunity to chase certain game animals. The animal resource is healthier and the hunters get to dream. With limited and tightly controlled Point access, the turtles and plovers can be given their place on the Point as well as the fisherman. If it took me 3 or 4 years of paying \$10 a year in a lottery to get enough points to be drawn, but I'd be assured access to the Point and away from the crowds that flock their now, I'd be in and I'm willing to bet many others would be too. That additional revenue could be utilized to manage the resources there. Meanwhile, day in and day out, there are plenty of places to fish on the island besides the point and plenty of birds, marine life and plants that will thrive there. Keep it simple and a solution can be found. Compromise is King!

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**Correspondence ID:** 50 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.07,2015 17:42:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** What is the purpose of Ramp 34, at the north end of Avon, being a permanent closure to ORV driving? It is my understanding that Avon carries the largest tourist load on the island, yet this large accessible beach is closed off all year from the ramp, north, for a tremendous distance. Residents and tourists alike are now forced onto beaches that are crowded and not large enough to comfortably deal with the beach goers. This particular beach is precious to Avon residents. It is close-by and wonderful to scout and explore. Is there any chance that Ramp 34 will be opened for anytime during summer or winter?

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**Correspondence ID:** 51 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.08,2015 01:02:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I believe that driving on the beach by any type of motor vehicle should be permanently banned in all seasons. Parking lots off the main roads should be maintained for visitors to park their vehicles and to provide access by walking only. Vehicles on the beach are a danger to wildlife and aesthetically displeasing to such an important and unique natural area.

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**Correspondence ID:** 52 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.08,2015 05:00:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I urge the opening of the beach before sunrise, I am 61 and have fished CHNS since I was a little boy, one of the greatest enjoyments I had was standing in the water at Cape Point as the Sun broke the horizon and catching Spanish Mackerel NOW I have to wait till 7am in a line of cars just to get on the beach. A beautiful Cape Hatteras Seashore experience has been taken away.

I am in favor of as MUCH ACCESS as possible AT ALL TIMES in all cases.

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**Correspondence ID:** 53    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.08,2015 06:12:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Hello, these beaches on Cape Hatteras National Recreation Area need to be opened. All the way. All ramps. All year. 24/7/365. I have been coming to visit CHNRS for 30 years. 30 years! It is my absolute favorite place to go on vacation. I am an avid surf-fisherman as is most of my family. Hatteras is a magical place, it truly is. I've met some of my best friends on those beaches, and it is an absolute shame to see what's happened there in the last ten years or so. I'm a fisherman and a hunter, which also means I'm a conservationist. We all are. We are the ones that are on the beaches and see what's going on every day. Not some guy from Audubon that's in an office hundreds of miles away. We police ourselves, we have beach clean-up days, and we call out wrong-doers. I have personally called Dare County's finest on more than one occasion to report people breaking the law or just doing stupid things on Hatteras beaches. When is the last time you saw an Audubon or SELC out there picking up trash? I bet you never have, or never will.

The economy of the Outer Banks thrives on the tourist and fisherman. That economy is falling apart. Businesses are closing or have closed, and people are leaving the island. It's really sad that people have had to uproot their lives because the lack of beach access has killed the local economy. Open the beaches today!

I've been driving these beaches, from Oregon Inlet, to Ocracoke Inlet for 30 years. I love to fish at night, as do most serious surf-casters. I have never seen an instance where a turtle nest was disturbed, or a bird nest was crushed. Sure there are people that visit every year, that simply don't care about closures and have damaged them. That's not our fault, and those people should have been charged and prosecuted. The rest of us should not have to lose our access because of the actions of a couple of people. It's simply not fair.

The science behind all this is bogus. The numbers are public for all to see, and to this day, even with the beaches being closed, the numbers of Plover chicks has NOT improved. It's very simple, ORV's had nothing to do with bird production or the lack thereof, and never will. In the grand scheme of things, compared to Mother Nature and her ever changing weather and ocean tides, humans and ORVs have almost no impact on the beaches. There should be NO beach curfew, we need to be able to drive anywhere and anytime we want. The seasonal beach closures in front of the villages I can understand, they have always been in place, but closing entire access ramps and miles of beach for one pair of birds in ridiculous. Turtle nests used to be marked and squared off, with access lanes in front or behind. No problems. Now you close an entire ramp, or say we can't drive at night because the lights "Might affect," the hatch. Again, no science.

We need the beaches open now. All of them.  
We need to be able to drive on the beach 24/7.  
We need to conserve the resource, not close it down.  
We need to bring the local economy back.

We need the NPS to help and not be influenced by environmentalists, most of whom probably couldn't point out CHNSRA on a map. This seashore was made for ALL people to enjoy. We want our access back, NOW. Thank you.



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**Correspondence ID:** 54    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.08,2015 06:54:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** No matter how much we would like to balance competing uses, when the health of a species is at stake we have an obligation to future generations to preserve that species. The selfishness of those people who "just want to enjoy the beach" by driving on it amazes me. Rather than considering increasing driving on the beach, this practice should be restricted further. The most recent poor reproduction statistics for a number of species makes this clear. the legislation that designated Cape Hatteras as a national seashore in 1937 says that except for certain portions deemed "especially adaptable for recreational uses," the 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." Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 55    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.08,2015 07:16:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello Dave,

You need to go trout fishing with me this late fall from the beach so we can really talk. We will stay on that note.

I have lived on Hatteras Island forty plus years and know my birds and wildlife very well. I have worked with NC State and UNC on many projects including studies on wind turbines threat to local birds and flight patterns. I have studied sea turtles from several regions around the world. I know my beaches here better than anyone that has ever lived on Hatteras Island.

My main issues with the CHNS is not allowing more walking shoreline access to large areas where there is virtually nothing there. Nobody has ever stepped on a flying bird to my knowledge. Plover chicks have never hung around herring and black-back gulls like those on the tip of Cape Point. The recent closure of the east side of Cape Point for one flying oystercatcher chick could have been handled much differently. Please consider a small walking corridor just to the east tip of Cape Point. Increase the fines for any offenders. The Point has been a social gathering place for many decades. Close everything else to the west during nesting season where the birds in question do nest. A little Cape Point access for walkers would take a big amount of pressure off the CHNS.





**Correspondence ID:** 56 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,08,2015 07:31:59

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Being able to drive on the beach is very important to me and my family. I have been going to Hatteras National sea shore to fish since I was a child. Driving on the beach is an important part of getting to the fishing areas. I am afraid with the way things are changing that I will not be able to take my children to the beach and enjoy fishing and riding up the sea shore. The birds and turtles have many different areas of beach to go to that don't have trucks on them. The ORV areas are such a small portion of the coast. Why can't the fishermen and truck owners have a small percentage of this area. Every year more and more freedoms are taken away from us in this country. We drive and pour concrete all over this country where animals once lived. Why is it any different on the coast of the Hatteras. Are we going to stop people from building beach houses too?? The turtles can't make a nest where someone built a house either.

In conclusion, driving on the beach is important to some people so please respect that and stop taking away our areas to drive on the coast. The fee to drive on the beach is ridiculous as well. If we are getting charged, then charge the bird lovers fees to get in there areas as well. 10 years ago you did not need a license to fish on the NC coast and no fee to drive on the beach. Now it costs almost \$100 to do both of these. This is unnecessary and unfair.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion.

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**Correspondence ID:** 57 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,08,2015 08:29:17

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am in support of opening the beaches at first light in the mornings. I believe that 7am is too restrictive and in many cases, especially during the Summer, the best fishing has come and gone by the time the beach is opened at 7am.

I am in favor of extending Seasonal ORV routes an additional 6 weeks in Spring and Fall.

I am in favor of reopening ramp 34 to ORV's. This has always been the widest, flattest, most accessible ORV ramp South of Oregon Inlet. And the safest for driving!

Permits should be for 14 days, and the Annual Permit should be valid for One Year from purchase date. I am a property Owner in Avon and a frequent visitor to Hatteras Island. My family and I support free and open beach access as well as resource protection.

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**Correspondence ID:** 58 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,08,2015 08:30:22

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As someone who has patrolled all of Ocracoke Island for a summer monitoring turtle and bird nests and who also holds a M.S. in Zoology, I strongly urge you not to extend the driving zones on Ocracoke. The cars on the beach are a danger to any and all wildlife, from sand-dwelling clams and worms, to sea turtles looking to nest, to oystercatcher hatchlings trying to find a way to get to the water to feed. As a mother of two, I can also say that the cars and trucks are a disturbance to people as well, to any and everyone who wants to enjoy the beach in a safe and quiet way. Already, so much of the shoreline in North Carolina is heavily impacted by human activity. If Cape Hatteras National Seashore is to succeed in it's mandate to keep the islands in a "primitive state" and to be a reservoir and safe haven for wildlife, the interests of a few very loud people should not overreach and ruin the beach for the vast majority of people who come to enjoy the wild landscape, and all of the wildlife you are sworn to protect. If anything, I believe that the driving zones should be reduced or eliminated, especially in areas with known nesting activity. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 59 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,08,2015 09:02:15

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

I want to first thank NPS for their proposals to make the new rules for beach access more open and relevant to actual wildlife protection. While this is a positive first step, I would like to make the following suggestions that would make beach access more equitable for recreational use, yet safeguard wildlife.

â€• Make annual beach driving permits for a full 12 month period

â€• Allow beach driving and pedestrian access at first light. Access to Cape Point and Hatteras Inlet point are most important.

â€• Currently, VFAs are too restrictive. Many can be reclassified to seasonal or year round routes. Further, the VFA areas are excessively restrictive. Please consider reducing the VFAs to what is essential and necessary for wildlife

â€• Areas most important for expansion are Ramp 43 south to Cape Point, Ramp 45 north to the point and Ramp 55 south to Hatteras inlet. These beaches provide the best opportunity for anglers, beach enjoyment and water recreation

The above suggestions are but a few that are deserving of your consideration that would enhance visitor enjoyment, promote a more robust Island economy and still allow wildlife to flourish. The time has come for us to come together and promote reasonable management of beach resources for visitors and wildlife.

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**Correspondence ID:** 60 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,08,2015 11:28:50

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please vote to keep RV's and 4 wheelers and cars off out precious beaches....thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 61 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,08,2015 11:32:05

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would like to see the annual permit run for 365 days from issei.

Access to Oregon inlet needs to be open. Closing it is a tragedy and beach goes need access to the bridge.

The beaches should open much earlier than they do now and ramps need to be open with more acces miles of beach open.

Why is the cape hatteras campground closed very sad.

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**Correspondence ID:** 62    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.08,2015 11:55:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been vacationing at the Outer Banks for over 50 years. The highlight has been fishing at The Point! Since the changes in 2007 our access to The Point has been restricted. In the past we have spent as many as 4 weeks a summer at the Outer Banks. Now we only go for one week and then after September 1st. The reason? You people have the beaches closed! I am 60 years old and to carry all my fishing gear and try to walk to the good fishing locations is not practical. That is if the beach is open! I support the NCCBBA and CHPA and have joined them to attempt to get access fixed! Due to the distance from my home to the Outer Banks I am unable to attend any of the meetings that are being held. So it is important for me to be able to voice my opinion in some manner. I have contacted my congressmen and have joined NCBBA and CHPA. My family has 3 generations vacationing at the Outer Banks. The most important part of our vacation is DRIVING ON THE BEACH!!! I would encourage the NPS to do it's job and allow the taxpayers, who own the parks, gain access to the beaches. It is my opinion that you have been on the side of the LAWYERS who want the beaches closed. They want all the beaches closed to the public. Their plan is obvious after the problems they caused over the construction of the replacement of the Bonner Bridge! They want Pea Island closed to the public. I have been reading all the posts and web sites to keep up to date on what you are doing to comply with the instructions Congress has placed on you and I am not satisfied that you are doing all you can to improve access to driving on the beaches! Your buffers are not reasonable and are larger than needed. Also, Your plan is not working anyway. The number of hatched birds should be embarrassing to you. All the restrictions you have designed have done NOTHING to increase the number of birds! So GIVE US OUR BEACHES BACH!!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 63    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.08,2015 12:38:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I urge that no use of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore be allowed for the convenience of visitors which would be incompatible with the preservation of the unique flora and fauna or the physiographic conditions that were prevailing in this area when the Seashore was created in 1937.

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**Correspondence ID:** 64    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.08,2015 14:06:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 requires a public process to consider changes to the ORV rule as it relates to the morning opening of beaches, extending the length of seasonal ORV routes in the fall and/or spring, and modifying the size and location of vehicle Free areas (VFAs).

I urge the National Park Service (NPS) to remember the original legislation designated this area as the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Closing and restricting as much of the ORV's as has been done is not in keeping with the original intent. I certainly hope the NPS will actually consider these comments instead of ignoring them as was done in the original ORV Management rules for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and again recently on the changes to the Biscayne National Park.

1. Morning Opening of Beaches: The Current Rule: All beaches open at 7:00 am, close at 9:00 pm. NPS should take necessary steps to open priority beaches as soon after first light as possible.

I would designate Cape Point and the South Point on Ocracoke as priority beaches. These two beaches are two of the most prime fishing areas on the east coast and should have 24 hour access. Allowing visitors to follow resource management staff from designated ramps leaves too much latitude relative to officers showing up on time and completing their inspections in a timely manner.

2. Seasonal Open / Close ORV Access Dates: Current Rule: seasonal beaches are open to ORV access between selective dates.

The seasonal beaches in front of villages should be reopened two weeks earlier in the fall and remain open longer in the spring. Beaches should be opened immediately following labor day in the fall and remain open for an additional six weeks (i.e. May 1) in the spring.

Seasonal beaches not in front of the villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of VFA designations, should be reopened to ORV access during the same time periods, immediately following Labor Day in the fall and not closed prior to May 1, in the spring

3. Vehicle Free Areas: Current Rule: 25.25 miles are designated as Vehicle Free Areas (VFAs).

The size and number of current VFAs is excessive and overly restrictive. NPS should reclassify several of the current VFAs to either year round or seasonal ORV routes. Reducing the amount of VFA miles can be done in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore.

The VFA designation should be completely removed from the most desirable fishing locations that include the Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point in Buxton, the Hatteras Island Spit, as well as 59E and South Point on Ocracoke. Seasonal designations could include Ramps 23S, 27S, 34N, and 59W to 67E.

Cape Hatteras wasn't designated a national seashore for birds; it was done for the American public. Millions have been wasted trying to protect a single bird with extremely poor results at the cost of wrecking the local economy. I do not object to temporary closures for turtle nests. Turtle nests can be marked with access allowed around them and closed during the hatch window.

4. Permits: Current rule: NPS can only issue annual permits, valid for the calendar year, and seven-day permits.

The NPS should issue annual permits that are valid for one year from issue date as is done in other National Parks (i.e. Assateague Island). Additionally, NPS should issue 10 day permits.

I strongly urge you to not ignore public comment as NPS did in the original ORV Management rules for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and again recently on the changes to the Biscayne National Park. Changes can be made that are reasonable and will improve the visitor experience as well as positively affect the local economy.



**Correspondence ID:** 65 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,08,2015 22:15:10  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I feel that there is enough space to drive on the beach. I would like though to have a different permit that would enable people to drive on the side roads leading to the sound to launch kayaks. I am not going to pay \$120 a year for an off road permit so that leaves me few options for launching my kayak. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 66 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,09,2015 07:02:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please open more of our beaches. Why should the Cape Point be closed for so long when it is the best fishing spot and a favorite to so many people? It is our beaches to enjoy. People should have the right to enjoy them the way they were meant to be. Birds, turtles and people can all enjoy the beaches like they have for decades. People have rights too.

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**Correspondence ID:** 67 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,09,2015 07:09:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Many years ago when the land was given to the park service, they promised that it would always be open and it would be a recreational park. What happened to that weak promise? The people should not have to suffer because of birds and turtles when we have always survived together in the past. Please open our beaches!!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 68 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,09,2015 07:16:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** we need more access and less closures. the bird closures have done nothing to increase bird numbers. there are more plovers on top of the outerbanks mall than on the whole national seashore recreation area. we also need to stop predator removal. trapping and killing lactating female wildlife is animal abuse at its worst. this has been an expirement that has done nothing but fail. it is time to end it [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 69 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,09,2015 07:31:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Morning Opening of Beaches:

I think the NPS should open the priority beaches 1 hour before sunrise.

The beaches I would like to see this happen at is the beach South of ramp 72 on Ocracoke and ramp 59 on Ocracoke

Seasonal ORV routes:

I would like to see the beaches stay open an additional 6 weeks in the fall and spring. I would like to see this done at Ocracoke campground.

Vehicle Free Areas

There are too many VFA in terms of mileages on Hatteras and the NPS should look at reclassification to seasonal or year round ORV routes. This can be done in such a way as to not increase risk to natural resources.

The areas I would like examined are:

1. Ramp 59 E - there is still plenty of room to expand this area before the inlet as a year round route.

It is not heavily visited, yet expansion would provide a much more enjoyable visit for those that did.

2. 59W to 67E - would like to see this changed to seasonal with access opened up in Oct and May so you could drive from 59 to 67. This would take pressure off the inlets and open a new experience. Since you cannot drive through now - no one much goes there and pressure builds at the other areas.

3. South Point - extend access to the Point by lowering the VFA mileage. This helps fisherman and non fisherman, yet does not hurt the natural resources.

4. I would like to see the area from old ramp 23 s to ramp 34 open as a year round route. They is no house/business build up along this. It would take a lot of pressure off this section of the island. Now you are crammed in areas like cattle. Opening this up would help ORV users, and others who walk over.

Permits

The NPS should issue annual permits valid for a year from the issue date.

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**Correspondence ID:** 70 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,09,2015 07:35:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am a property owner in Frisco, NC on Hatteras Island. I am also an outdoorsman, surf fisherman and 4WD user. I have been visiting Hatteras Island (HI) all of my life (last 50 years). Only in the time since the implementation of the current overly restrictive regulations have I seen such a rapid decline in the vitality of the island. Business closures have been frequent. Division and disgust are prevalent. Most saddening is the betrayal of the historical culture of the island's residents and the forefathers who gave their land to be part of a gift to future (now, current) generations of ocean/shore loving citizens. This recreational area should be open, accessible and freely offered to citizens and visitors to HI.

Please remove the access restrictions, relocate threatened species, invest in conservation education and turn control and maintenance authority to HI/Dare County residents.

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**Correspondence ID:** 71 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,09,2015 07:36:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As an avid fisherman with a family and friends that like to join in in the activities as well, the closures in place now have stopped us from traveling to the southern Outer Banks and I feel these closures are not necessary and arbitrary. The fisherman and beachcombers that I have witnessed in the past 50 years have been and still strive to be good stewards of the beach. For some to say we are destroying the beach and harming Birds and Turtles or even the vegetation is proposterous and a lie. I can't imagine the negative impact it has had on the businesses up and down the southern beaches but I'm sure that many are suffering financially and there is no reason for it. The above being said I urge you to use good common sense and open these beaches back up so that we the people can still have access to the Cape Hatteras National Recreational Seashore.

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**Correspondence ID:** 72      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.09,2015 07:54:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please help us keep the beach driving open all year long The restrictions are frustrating and very confusing. We love and respect our beaches and would never do anything to harm them. I love to fish and having beach access with a vehicle is a must I have been visiting the outer banks and driving on the beach for 40 years please help with my request



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**Correspondence ID:** 73      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.09,2015 08:32:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Since the Vehicle closures occurred I have not returned to the OBX to fish, vacation, or spend any money. I have instead been going to other states to spend my tourist money and most of my fishing friends have done the same. It has become apparent that the primary reason for the closures, i.e. saving endangered nesting sea birds; has been a fail. The newest statistics show that at best no changes have occurred in the number of fledged chicks and seem to indicate that the numbers have actually DECREASED since the closings.

Mr. Golden, the deputy state director for Audubon has stated that over half the beach is open to driving but this is not true. Also I don't understand why the Audubon Society is so involved in the process but The largest special interest user group (fishermen) have no powerful rep for their group. It has also become very apparent that other statements Mr. Golden has made on behalf of the Audubon Soc. are not valid as well. If vehicle traffic causes birds to abandon nests then we should have seen a nice increase in fledging success by now but the opposite has occurred. I have witnessed these shore birds fight off a Fox for long periods of time to protect the nest, and yet we are to believe that vehicles driving by from a good distance away will put these birds off the nest. In truth, these birds are put off the nest by the predation of Foxes, feral cats, Raccoon, and ghost crabs. If we really want to help these shore birds, an intense program of trapping to remove these predators will do far more than beach closures. Unfortunately, this is something that the other conservation groups are dead set against.

Most of the people I talk to who still go to the OBX don't express any problem with sharing the beach with vehicle traffic and have said that the places they go are not really affected by vehicles. A large portion of the area that fishermen want to access are not really within walking distance of most beach users. Derb Carter of the southern environmental law service states that the majority of beach users are pedestrians (sic). The way ORV users use the beach in no way infringes on that user groups use. Fishermen spend most of their time parked not driving. When they are driving they are mostly driving slowly to look for fishing spots because the structure of the beach changes constantly.

We have also learned that it is very possible to safely control the ORV traffic around active turtle nests. This indicates that most if not all the arguments made by Audubon and other conservation groups are not actually valid for the reasons given by these organizations. In fact it seems that most of the users I contact feel that the current regulations are intended to be exclusionist rules to keep out all those that the environmental groups deem undesirable. Finally, Cape point, the most popular fishing area of all, should be open to fishing year round.

Thank you for taking the time to read my opinions.

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**Correspondence ID:** 74      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.09,2015 09:11:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I'm a resident of New Jersey and an avid land based angler..... Wildlife protections and beach closures for ES such as piping plovers occur up here as well. Federally owned beaches like the Edwin Forsythe Wildlife Refuge - Holgate Unit close April 1 and don't reopen until Sept 1 every year. State owned beaches, such as the north end of Brigantine are closed in mid June when chicks have hatched and reopen in Mid August when the birds are able to fly. Local township owned beaches, like Barnegat Light on Long Beach Island, just put predator enclosures over top the nest and string fencing to keep the public outside a 50ft buffer. Same bird..... Multiple methods of protections..... And town beaches offer fledge more chicks than the federal beaches. Smh.

What do the birds actually need in terms of buffers? Why 50ft with some string fence in one area and 1000m buffers in others. Why does it come out that when birds establish a nest on the sound side that could prevent home owners from going out their back door bump tests are conducted that show a much more reasonable buffer is needed?

Mobile surf anglers not being able to access the point in Buxton, the hook south of the point, or HI, or the north and south ends of OI is absurd! Especially considering only two plover chicks were fledged in 2015. Loss of tourism.... Loss of revenue.... Negatively impacting local economies..... For what? Two chicks? Busier public used beaches up and down the east coast did better.

It's clear there's many obstacles in the way of a full plover recovery. The publics access to the OBX is clearly not the main factor and continuing to keep people out guarantees nothing in the way of more birds. Storms and predation from other animals are much bigger issues.

Balancing access with wildlife protections shouldn't be easy. But with all we've learned there has to be a way to stewards of the wildlife and still make the above listed areas open and accessible to fisherman. Please listen to nc bna and obpa and enact their suggestions into the new rule. The fact federal law had to come into play to force these changes should be embarrassing to all and shows a more common sense approach is needed. Make it happen.

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**Correspondence ID:** 75      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.09,2015 09:28:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a Sportsman from North Carolina I see that the National Park Service is taking my rights to fish away. The point on Cape Hatteras closed even to human traffic the last time I was there. Now its \$50 to drive on the beach tat I have been able to drive on for my entire adult life for free. The numbers of the birds are so small its a joke.. TTwo chicks are stopping thousands of visitors from using "OUR LAND".. The National Parks are owned by every US Citizen not just those in a brown uniform protecting 2 birds that are breeding out of there natural habitat. Open the beaches..Driving and Walking but it should never be closed to human traffic ever..

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**Correspondence ID:** 76    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,09,2015 10:42:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I would like to see more beaches opened up over a longer period of time. Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 77    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,09,2015 10:52:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have submitted comments several times in the past concerning this topic and as always I feel this has been and remains a one sided catastrophe. I try my best to keep up with turtle and bird numbers from year to year. This year turtle number are up and that's because of the warm water that came in early this year, it had little to do with beach access. Bird number are at a low again this season even with the lack of human interaction. After these past years of little or no human contact bird numbers have not risen enough to justify such a overbearing ruling to keep people off the beaches. Your final ruling has accomplished nothing but keeping like myself and others from enjoying our pristine beaches. I stated in the beginning that this is one sided and it's apparent that the national park service caters to the Audubon Society and Defenders of Wildlife more often to those of us that fund the national seashore. I believe it's time to take notice of actually bird numbers tallied from not only stretches of beaches but also from dredge islands in the sound and makes a decision that is fair to everyone. Speaking for myself and my family the little beach access that is available and the long periods of spots we like to frequent has left us with no option but to make decisions that have kept us away. In the past we made numerous trips to enjoy not only the beaches but the wildlife found there and fishing. In the past we made between five and eight trips annually, now we haven't been there in two years and that's due to the fact of little or no access. Something has got to change! I'm sure a agreement can be reached by both parties involved that will countinue to help preserve bird and turtle populations and also once again allow people to enjoy the beaches. I can remember when the areas around the salt ponds around Cape Point were cleared and the birds thrived there, but since it's grown back and forced birds out. That's a starting point and I'm sure other areas can be made more bird friendly. I wasn't going to entertain you with the issue of permits and the money it generates but I feel it's a subject that needs addressing. I have no problem with the permit even though it's at a high price. I've always felt that a permit in place would deminish the number of vehicles that are on the beaches and I feel safe to say that it has but I'm sure if you were to take into account the people that purchase the permit are fisherman foremost. For those that wish to press the subject of preserving bird populations, how many of those purchase a permit? I'd say that number is minute. Supporters of Audubon and DOW do not frequent our beaches, they do not purchase permits like we do and they do not support the local economy as we do. Again I believe their can be a change that is equal to both parties. We have given up so much and they have gained in every ruling that has been made. It's time to look at the other side for a change and quit catering to those that have little to do with the economy and wellbeing of Cape Hatteras and Ocracoke Island. Thank you for allowing me and others to comment on this subject.

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**Correspondence ID:** 78    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,09,2015 12:27:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

Morning Opening of Beaches:

\* Beaches should open at first light. Seasonal adjustment of time would be necessary.

Being on the beach at first light for fisherman is usually a super time to fish.

Seasonal Open/Close ORV Access Dates:

\*Beaches in Front of Villages: Open Oct1-Apr 15

\* No changes for beaches outside of villages.

\* In my opinion, pedestrian traffic after September is minimum, so no need to wait to November to open beaches to ORV access, Same reasoning for ORV access until April 15.

Vehicle Free Areas:

\*Over 50% o the beach miles are either designated as VHA or seasonal access. In my opinion, this is excessive. I am 67 years old with multiple back and knee surgeries. I can no longer access the beaches that are VFA. That is 25 miles of beach that is closed to me that we used to have access. I would like to have ramp 23 S, 27 S, and 34 N reclassified to year round ORV route. Ramp 45 E, 45 W, Hatteras Island Spit designated as seasonal.

On Ocracoke Island, Ramp 59 W to Ramp 67 E, and Campground W open to ORV year round. Seasonal access for Ramp 59 E and South point. No change for Bodie Island. I have visited the Seashore for over 40 years and I think these changes would have no impact on the resource. After ~ 5 years of limiting access to the point, no change or decline in piping plover fledglings have been observed. Even after killing over a thousand mammals. Now NPS is thinking Bird predation maybe the cause. It should be very apparent by now that natural causes(weather and predation) are the primary factor for lack of

Piping plover fledge rate, not human interaction.

Permits:

One year ORV permits should be valid from the date of purchase for one year and not the calendar year. No explanation should be necessary here, just common sense.

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**Correspondence ID:** 79    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,09,2015 12:44:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I think that cape point should be open to ORV's. I was told by a reliable source that there is only one American oyster catcher chick keeping the point closed, he also said that the chick and its parents were very mobile. Currently it is a hard long walk to cape point from where the VFA starts. Hindering people from fishing at their favorite spot, the point, all because of 1 chick that could easily avoid ORV's. I encourage the NPS to open cape point to ORV's, so people can continue to fish their favorite and most memorable spot. Also I think ORV's should be able to start driving on the beach at least at sunrise, give me one reason they shouldn't. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 80    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,09,2015 14:24:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Sir I have been coming to CHNSS since I was in the Army in 1991. Back then the access to the point was pretty much around the clock now I haven't been able to enjoy that area in several years since the access limitations. I have been able to see it but not DRIVE FISH or enjoy a sunrise as I had Before. I believe that SPECIAL interest groups pushing to keep beech driving and access off limits except by binoculars and spotting scopes is wrong. I believe that the point area is the area at the center of the debate and believe that every effort should be made to keep access to that area open year round for driving. I also would hope that the bird buffer areas be made smaller. I also am interested to know how many of the letters against beach access have been written by people that have ever been there or were just financial contributors to a large special interest cause.

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**Correspondence ID:** 81    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,09,2015 17:45:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Where do I begin. Since this 'decree' was put in place, the impact has been substantial - loss of access for fishermen and loss of revenue for associated businesses. My main concern is that what drove this was NOT sound science, but hype. Everything I have read indicates that is true. Beyond that, here are my main concerns:

1. Summer hours beach access. What is in place now is INSANE. An arbitrary time (i.e., 7am) make no sense. EVERY similar park I have EVER been interested in entering has had hours "sunrise to sunset" or something similar. In July or August, limiting access to 7am means that the BEST fishing time, let alone just being able to watch the sunrise, has been eliminated - by up to an hour or more! YOU MUST FIX THIS!!! (I personally don't care too much about the evening hours, but even those need to be looked at as well.)

2. I read that there are 64 miles of beach. And someone said half of it was 'open' But in reality, only a small portion was open for driving - the rest was open only for walking, so much of the beach was effectively closed These beaches are NOT accessible for the most part without being able to drive to get to the good fishing spots - which are ALWAYS moving.

3. I have been fishing the OBX for 30 years. EVERY fisherman I know totally respects the beauty of what we have - example, stopping to pick up other people's trash that they left behind, etc. Fishermen are NOT the enemy. This area is supposed to be for RECREATIONAL use. What happened to that?

4. Everything I have read about what is trying to be protected - piping plover or whatever - indicates that NATURAL SELECTION is the main issue - not anything else. WHERE IS THE SCIENCE THAT SAYS FOLK'S ACCESS IS THE PROBLEM?

I have to stop because I get so upset that a small group has seemingly ruined a great recreational area because of unproven science. Back in 2012, my wife and I went, and spoke, at hearings in Newport News. I recall 50 folks being AGAINST what was being proposed back then - and 1 or 2 people being for it. WE WERE NOT HEARD THEN. WHAT IS GOING TO BE DIFFERENT NOW?

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**Correspondence ID:** 82    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,09,2015 22:23:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My family and myself, have been traveling to Hatteras Is for 33 years! We have always enjoyed family time on the beach, fishing, shelling, just relaxing! The last few years, with the imposed closings have made it difficult to enjoy many, many areas, we love! Now, I'm disabled, so it's even more important to have access to our favorite spots! Walking, is not an option! So, we are hoping and praying for less restrictions! We sincerely want to see all wildlife be safe, and have never harmed any of that wildlife! We have always been respectful of the driving rules! We would like to see more open beach for ORV use!

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**Correspondence ID:** 83    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 03:04:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Hello,  
Ocracoke Island is a treasure. Thank you for trying to protect Her and share Her at the same time. The beach is our main attraction here. Sunrise and sunsets are world class! Considering many of our visitors and residents fish and surf, the beach must be open for driving earlier. Everyone loves the beach first thing in the morning. People can go surf before work and fish with the sun rise. Please adjust the time allowed to drive on the beach to an earlier time. Thank you for helping to keep Ocracoke and the Hatteras Seashore the best, most accessible beaches in the word.  
Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 84    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 04:40:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Limiting vehicles on the beach has been a success! Why would you want to change this? National Parks were created to preserve wildlife and wild spaces. Cars and trucks do not belong in such a place! I wish you would consider even stronger limitations!! Please put the interests of the wildlife first.

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**Correspondence ID:** 85    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 04:47:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I regret that the NPS is still having to spend its limited time with this issue for so long. As a former manager of a state park that had seasonal ORV access I can understand on a smaller scale some of the challenges inherent on managing this at the national seashore level. As a lifelong frequent user of the national seashore I have seen the visitation patterns change over the years. Growing up I learned to drive on the beach at Ocracoke. As an adult I lived and worked in Nags Head for a time and was on the national seashore during all my free time. I think the current system was long overdue and is only creating heartburn because of the very loose regulation afterward. I would encourage you to examine the public comment/reaction that occurred on a smaller scale when the state of NC decided to close down Fort Fisher State Recreation Area to 24 hour, 7 day a week ORV use. The SRA now manages ORV on a permit system. People buy a year pass or daily pass and have 24 hr use of 3/4 of the beach from November to April, and daylight only 8am to sunset use during nesting season. There were a small group of loud connected locals that opposed all efforts to establish any sort of management of a 4wd free for all. As the park became established people saw how nice it was not to have to share all the space with 4wd and it became more of a inclusive family park.

I think that might be an angle that has not been approached as much- aligning with local tourism interests. I can tell you most visitors to NC think it is absolutely nutty we have any beach driving at all, and most tourists to the northern outer banks are not there to drive on the beach. In the good old days I doubt there was as much impact and conflict as there is now, when there are so many visitors to the seashore, a number that will only grow. Driving on the beach is a generational phenomenon that if you all will stand your ground you can outlast as more pedestrians use the seashore. I can tell you that I have had ORV'ers gun their vehicles trying to clear my family out of their favorite driving rut (while I was fishing in the surf having used my legs) on one of my last visits to the seashore. I think the older beach buggy folks are fading out and your newer ORV user is this sort of don't tread on me type of person. You will never make them happy, and making everyone happy translates to mediocre regulation. Stick to your guns, embrace the pedestrian and best of luck to you accomplishing your natural resource goals. You are rebuilding Cape Hatteras NS for the next 30 years and it is too early to adjust/scrap your current management system that needs time to evolve. ORV's have had the run of the seashore for most of its lifetime but no longer represent the majority of the visitors.

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**Correspondence ID:** 86    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 04:50:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** the off-rod restrictions seem to be successful. Why change them? Please do not loosen the restrictions.

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**Correspondence ID:** 87    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 06:16:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I oppose relaxing restrictions on Hattaras. Recent changes have dramatically improved the health of the seashore.

thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 88    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 06:31:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Sir,  
These comments are in response to NPS's request for comments on changes to the ORV rule in the National Seashore.

Morning Opening of beaches:

Why close them at all? The best fishing is at night. What is wrong with someone sleeping in their vehicle on the beach? They have done it for years. Baring no closure, open the beaches at first light.

Seasonal Open/Close ORV Access Areas:

I believe that "seasonal closures" should mean "closed to ORV traffic from Memorial Day to Labor Day." I agree with seasonal closures for the beaches in Front of villages (only) and in front of the Lifeguarded beach (only) at Coquina.

There should be NO VFAs!!!! There is almost no pedestrian in the National seashore other than where they walk directly across the dunes from the Oregon Inlet campground or at Coquina Beach. The area by the campgrounds is open to ORVs and the area at Coquina beach is open seasonally. There is NO justification in any way for permanent VFA's. The area between Cape Point and ramp 49 is the best example of an area that should allow ORVs, another is the area from ramp 0 to Coquina Beach. (The area from just North of Buxton to where ramp 43 used to be should probably remain as a VFA, but only because of the narrow width of the beach along that stretch.)

I also request that a short access road be built (cut) to allow access to the beach for ORVs on the South Point of Oregon Inlet (in front of the old Coast Guard building.) It could lead to a short area (1/4 to 1/2 mile) where ORVs could access the ocean (not the inlet). This would take a very minimal amount of effort and would help ease the amount of ORV traffic on the North Point.



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**Correspondence ID:** 89    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 06:50:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** People who want to drive on the beach are a minority and should not influence the regulations to such a degree. Everyone else and the birds and turtles should have more input. Driving endangers other users and the animals.

The original rules proposed by NPS were lax enough. They should not lean even more toward motorists.

I hate using a beach where there are tire tracks everywhere and you have to watch out for vehicles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 90    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 06:51:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I feel the beach access is a very important, if not the most important economic factor to the residents of the island and restricting access is harming the well-being of the residents. Fishing has been a way of life for them for many years and without it they will not survive. My father-in-law tells of times when you could drive from the Bonner bridge all the way to Hatteras Inlet. While this would be great under current laws I feel this will never again be possible. I also feel there is no real scientific proof that ORV's have had a negative impact on the wildlife they are now protecting (save a couple isolated incidents). And the NPS has gone way too far to protect a few birds. I am a Natural Resource Major and hold a degree from NCSU and am all for protecting and promoting good habitat for our wildlife but what they have done at our, the people's, island is beyond ridiculous. Thanks for taking the time to hear my comments and considering changes for the better.

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**Correspondence ID:** 91    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 06:52:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My family has spent 1 to 2 weeks on the Outer Banks in the Avon area for the past 20 years. Many of our friends own property on the Outer Banks. We are aware that many property owners, people who like to drive on the beach and fish, and people who simply like to drive their 4 wheels anywhere they wish in the beach, want the regulations eased. We have been discussing the pros and cons of the regulations for years.

Here is what I have learned: many property owners and residents on the OB believe they understand the beach and its wildlife better than any governmental authority and hence their stance is, at its roots, political. So, they want little or no regulation because they think nature is cyclical and wildlife will ebb and rebound. Man is seen as having little or nothing to do with it. However, the recent evidence that restrictions have yielded increased births and wildlife is benefiting has been noted by some of this group who do value wildlife, if for no other reason than they realize it is good for the economics of the area. The more reasonable opponents of driving restrictions tend to have a more long-term view of all the factors involved. Those who totally oppose regulations also have a long-term view, but it is looking back in time: "our families have driven on the beaches and fished on the point forever; it is our right." I would definitely not ease the restrictions now that there is proof they do impact the environment positively. Perhaps these 2 groups will talk and the result will be a less rigid viewpoint.

As someone who likes tranquility on the beach, I would not want any more driving allowed. And, I am absolutely delighted that the turtles and birds are faring better as a result of less intrusion by humans and vehicles. Please do not ease the regulations. Many times over the years while sitting on the beach with a group of folks I wondered what they would complain about if they didn't have a ranger or a regulation to mock. Perhaps the beach chat can shift to one that expresses pride in the wildlife and the beauty of our beaches. Most people enjoy talking to Park Rangers at national facilities, perhaps that dynamic can change at the Outer Banks. Dialogue can change the dynamics, but don't let the gains made be eroded by 4 wheels and their owners. (And, yes, we do own a 4 wheel).

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**Correspondence ID:** 92    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 06:59:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please keep vehicles off the beaches. They are destructive to people and wildlife.

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**Correspondence ID:** 93    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 07:00:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been visiting NC beaches, particularly the Hatteras Island area, for all of my 57 years. I love fishing off the coastline and driving my four-wheel drive vehicle along the beaches. I respect the environment and always make sure I drive responsibly while at the beach. I strongly support efforts to allow visitors to continue to drive on NC beaches.

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**Correspondence ID:** 94    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** ATTENTION!

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 requires a public process to consider changes to the ORV rule as it relates to the morning opening of beaches, extending the length of seasonal ORV routes in the fall and/or spring, and modifying the size and location of vehicle Free areas (VFAs).

I urge the National Park Service (NPS) to remember the original legislation designated this area as the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Closing and restricting as much of the ORV's as has been done is not in keeping with the original intent. I certainly hope the NPS will actually consider these comments instead of ignoring them as was done in the original ORV Management rules for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and again recently on the changes to the Biscayne National Park.



1. Morning Opening of Beaches: The Current Rule: All beaches open at 7:00 am, close at 9:00 pm.

NPS should take necessary steps to open all beaches! The most productive fishing times are 3 hours before sunrise and 4 hours after sunset!

I would designate Cape Point and the South Point on Ocracoke as priority beaches. These two beaches are two of the most prime fishing areas on the east coast and should have 24 hour access.

Allowing visitors to follow resource management staff from designated ramps leaves too much latitude relative to officers showing up on time and completing their inspections in a timely manner.

2. Seasonal Open / Close ORV Access Dates: Current Rule: seasonal beaches are open to ORV access between selective dates.

The seasonal beaches in front of villages should be reopened two weeks earlier in the fall and remain open longer in the spring. Beaches should be opened immediately following labor day in the fall and remain open for an additional six weeks (i.e. May 30th) in the spring.

Seasonal beaches not in front of the villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of VFA designations, should be reopened to ORV access during the same time periods, immediately following Labor Day in the fall and not closed prior to May 30, in the spring

3. Vehicle Free Areas: Current Rule: 25.25 miles are designated as Vehicle Free Areas (VFAs).

The size and number of current VFAs is excessive and overly restrictive. NPS should reclassify several of the current VFAs to either year round or seasonal ORV routes. Reducing the amount of VFA miles can be done in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore.

The VFA designation should be completely removed from the most desirable fishing locations that include the Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point in Buxton, the Hatteras Island Spit, as well as 59E and South Point on Ocracoke. Seasonal designations should not include Ramps 23S, 27S, 34N, and 59W to 67E.

Cape Hatteras wasn't designated a national seashore for birds; it was done for the American public. Millions have been wasted trying to protect a single bird with extremely poor results at the cost of wrecking the local economy. I do not object to temporary closures for turtle nests. Turtle nests can be marked with access allowed around them and closed during the hatch window.

4. Permits: Current rule: NPS can only issue annual permits, valid for the calendar year, and seven-day permits.

The NPS should issue annual permits that are valid for one year from issue date as is done in other National Parks (i.e. Assateague Island). Additionally, NPS should issue 10 day permits.

I strongly urge you to not ignore public comment as NPS did in the original ORV Management rules for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and again recently on the changes to the Biscayne National Park. Changes can be made that are reasonable and will improve the visitor experience as well as positively affect the local economy.

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**Correspondence ID:** 95    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 07:19:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep the current limits on vehicles as our wildlife deserve their space to live. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 96    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 07:23:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As you consider modifications to rules regarding vehicular access to the 64 mile long Cape Hatteras National Seashore, please DO NOT increase hours of access to the beach by vehicles. If any change is considered, it should be to return to regulations adopted in 2012.

I am a sometime fisherman and a lover of the Outer Banks who would have them preserved for the native wildlife without intrusion from motorized vehicles.

Thanks for your consideration of this request. ██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 97    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 07:32:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** This review should be undertaken from the perspective of risks and benefits for the affected wildlife and not the desires and convenience of the visiting public. The environment in which these birds and turtles breed is so easily disrupted that human traffic must be carefully restricted and monitored.

Motor vehicle access points are probably justifiable, but there needs to be a restriction of beach driving. This is after all primarily a wilderness area.

One other consideration is a prohibition of pets. I have spent a lot of time on the National Seashore beaches south of Hatteras and have not infrequently seen dogs running free despite leash restrictions. The potential for wildlife injury and nesting disruption is so high that I feel that this problem can only be

avoided by a complete prohibition of pets.

One important aspect of control of beach behavior and the protection of wildlife is visible monitoring. I suggest the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle for this, which would provide a visible but relatively unobtrusive and rapid coverage of these areas and facilitate timely enforcement when needed.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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**Correspondence ID:** 98    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 07:38:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Continue with the restrictions on beach access that are already in place. These restrictions have proven beneficial to wildlife including nesting birds and turtles. There is plenty of beach for everyone.

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**Correspondence ID:** 99    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 07:57:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please, please, DO NOT ease the restrictions on beach travel. The beach is not and should not be a roadway. We've made great progress increasing the population of sea turtles and sea birds; this is an excellent thing. The current regulations are already too lax. I'd support more restrictions not fewer. At the very least, keep the current limit on vehicles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 100    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 08:37:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The current plan is much too restrictive. It seems to be designed more to keep people off the beach than to protect the wildlife. It should not be necessary to close the whole beach for a nest in the dunes. Same can be said of the high fees for beach driving permits, totally unnecessary and designed to keep citizens from enjoying our national park.

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**Correspondence ID:** 101    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 08:38:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** First some specific comments:  
1) The proposed time periods for permits is an excellent idea however the pricing should take into account the need to keep those beaches open to all, without regard to their economic status. I am sure many families would like to drive out onto the beach with their families but just cannot afford the cost of the permit.  
2) Early morning access is critical. In fact, 24 hour access is critical as there are many of us who like to use the beach at night, sometimes all night. Clear and enforced rules governing the use over those periods is required but access is critical.

More general topic.

Unlike most of the organizations who oppose ORV access, the sportsman community actually use the resource (When they are allowed) just about everyday of the year. It is time to recognize the fact that these people are just as concerned with the welfare of the plant and animal life on the beach as anybody and the NPS MUST learn how to leverage their presence for the betterment of the wildlife. A committee of NPS experts and leaders of the sportsman community should be formed to debate ways in which the NPS can train/educate the sportsman and make specific use of us on the beach or in the dunes. Turn our presence into an unqualified positive impact. I am sure that the group of sportsmen that I bring to OBX a few times every year are ready, willing and able to help.

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**Correspondence ID:** 102    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 08:45:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello,

I am writing to express my concern for allowing increased driving on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I have been spending time at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore for over 20 years and love it so much that I even travelled home from Europe when I was stationed there in the Army just to be surrounded by its serenity and primitive beauty. It is my opinion that the serenity one feels in a place as unique as this is very fragile and is easily disrupted by vehicle traffic. Its natural beauty, too, is fragile, as vehicles and their tracks are a threat to wildlife including threatened turtle and bird species. For these reasons, traffic should be kept to a minimum.

In addition, I believe there is another, less obvious reason to limit vehicle traffic. As a physical therapist, I see regularly the importance of regular physical activity for the maintenance of health. It is well known that the US is currently in the midst of an obesity epidemic resulting in significant health problems and rising healthcare costs in our country. Studies have clearly demonstrated that one of the best ways to help people perform the physical activity needed for weight management and the maintenance of health is to incentivize active modes of transportation. By maintaining vehicle limitations, the National Park Service will be incentivizing walking for all who visit the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and helping the American populace reach and maintain higher levels of health while reducing healthcare costs.

Thus, for these reasons, I encourage the NPS to maintain vehicle restrictions on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I may be reached at the email address above for further comments if requested.

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[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 103    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.10,2015 08:47:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am commenting on easing NPS regulations further.

I am opposed to easing the regulations further as they relate to vehicle traffic on our NC beaches - the days and hours when vehicles can enter the beach should NOT be increased. NC has a wonderful sea shore - let's not destroy it's beauty for a few - it is senseless to do this. It is wonderful to walk along the NC shore and see nothing but a few people and lots of birds - let's not spoil the beauty with vehicles any more than we already are.

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 104    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.10,2015 09:25:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Superintendent

I am writing to urge the Park Service to keep the current limits on ORV's. There is no good or important reason for expanding access either for hours or boundaries.

I have seen the importance of these limits in Assateague, VA and in our beautiful state. North Carolina has done so much to keep Our natural heritage. ORVs not only hurt the chances of nesting seabirds and turtles, but they contribute to erosion. Not everyone drives with a gentle foot and watchful eyes. Please keep the current regulations to ensure our seashore is protected.

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 105    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.10,2015 09:34:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Thank you for finally allowing a review of the over reaching regulations we have been living with for the last few years. I have lived here for 34 years and I can honestly say that almost all of the folks I know love and respect the beach and its inhabitants. Sea turtle numbers are outstanding this year!

The Piping Plovers have not had a great year due to natural predation and weather events. Vehicles are not the issue! Please keep closures limited and seasonal.

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**Correspondence ID:** 106    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.10,2015 09:43:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am asking that the NPS refrain from easing regulations on motor vehicle access to protected shoreline in NC. By allowing any vehicle (except emergency vehicles) access to NC beaches, the current regulations are already too lax. Motor vehicles do not belong on beaches. There is plenty of land already dedicated to motor vehicles, while areas dedicated to wildlife are far more scarce. After reducing protected areas for wildlife this past June, the NPS needs to stop catering to a noisy minority of individuals who feel the need to drive on the sand. It is neither safe for wildlife or humans. With the restrictions in place, nesting wildlife are able to maintain their always precarious hold on life. Please don't inflict harm on wildlife; please maintain the current restrictions. Please keep our National Seashore the special place that it should be.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion.

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 107    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.10,2015 09:43:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am asking that the NPS refrain from easing regulations on motor vehicle access to protect its shoreline in North Carolina . by allowing any vehicle (except emergency vehicles) access to NC beaches, the current regulations are already too lax. Motor vehicles do NOT belong on beaches.

There is plenty of land already dedicated to motor vehicles, while areas dedicated to wildlife are far more scarce.

After reducing protected areas for wildlife this past June, the NPS needs to stop catering to a noisy minority of individuals who feel the need to drive on the sand and destroy the already fragile environment.

It is neither safe for wildlife or humans with the restrictions in place, nesting wildlife are able to maintain their always precarious hold on life.

Please do not inflict any more harm on wildlife, maintain the current restrictions please keep our National Seashore a special place as it should be.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 108 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.10,2015 11:01:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Open the beaches back up. Current restrictions are killing a local economy without any benefit to the piping plover. Plover numbers are down since the consent decree and since the new restricted access policies. It is criminal the way the NPS handled the closures under direction from Judge Boyle.

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**Correspondence ID:** 109 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.10,2015 11:24:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** good afternoon, all. this is my third message to you all. i appreciate the opportunity to express my views in regard to these beach closures. again, i think that common sense, decency, clarity, and good will can allow opposing parties to meet half-way with common ground on this closure issue. no one group, however well- funded, popular, or publicly supported, should completely dominate the outcome of this debate at the expense of the other(s). i would welcome the opportunity to verbalize the sentiments that i have expressed in these last three messages; conversely, i welcome the opportunity to listen to, and try to understand, the views of those individuals or groups whose stance is much different than mine. this is america. we're still a democracy, as far as i can still see. our founding fathers differed in background, as in significant political and economic posture. the constitution and bill of rights that they created is unrivaled and unmatched by any society in the world since. hey, let's talk, a little give and take never hurt anyone. we can do this. an equitable solution is very much possible. i don't have a ton of money, but, i am and will always be willing to weigh in and be a moderating force in this issue. please feel free to contact me at your convenience. by the way, i am heading into my 32nd year of high school instruction in american public schools, and coached for over 25 of said years. i'm not a genius, but, i do have courage and common sense. those qualities seem to be missing in our governmental decisions of late. have a great evening. [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 110 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.10,2015 11:29:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I think it is paramount to place preservation of the environment above the desire of some people to drive on the beach. The beach is a resource for everyone to enjoy. This includes my family being able to enjoy the peace and tranquility of the beach without be afraid of vehicles hitting our children. We don't need vehicles on the beach when people are trying to watch the sunrise. There should certainly never be a vehicle allowed before 7am. I am also greatly concerned about the effect of vehicle lights and tires on sea turtles and other wildlife. Please tighten the current restrictions on off road vehicles at the National Seashore.

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**Correspondence ID:** 111 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.10,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** August 10, 2015

David Hallac, Superintendent  
Cape Hatteras National Seashore  
1401 National Park Drive  
Manteo, NC 27954

Subject: Scoping for 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 1,090 members of the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks (Coalition), who 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 throughout the public comment process.

The purpose of this letter is to submit scoping comments on the planning newsletter for the Environmental Assessment for Consideration of Changes to Final Rule for Off-Road Vehicle Management (EA). NPS is considering changes to the 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 it was not an NPS choice to consider revisions to the Final Rule so soon after it was promulgated, we do have a number of concerns and comments, as described below:

#### General 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 adherence to the "conservation mandate" of the NPS Organic Act, as 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 of the Seashore's enabling legislation, which states:

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 (emphasis added).

Over the years at Cape Hatteras the NPS has often fallen short of complying with these mandates set forth in the Seashore's enabling legislation. As a result, today few, if any, of the Seashore's beaches resemble, even remotely, the "primitive wilderness" that existed when the park was authorized and which NPS was, in fact, mandated to preserve. This is particularly true of the Seashore's most remote and undeveloped beach locations, the inlet spits and the Cape Point area, which in recent decades have often been the most crowded and heavily impacted places at the Seashore due to the long history of relatively unregulated ORV use. And it is well documented that many years of inadequately managed ORV use contributed to the significant decline in shorebird nesting success at the Seashore during the late 1990's and early 2000's.

A noteworthy change in management philosophy occurred at the Seashore in 2010 when NPS issued the Final ORV Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (Plan or FEIS), followed in 2012 by the Final Rule to implement the Plan. For the first time in many decades, NPS elevated "wildlife preservation" over "visitor convenience"; and also gave due consideration to the value of the visitor experience opportunities offered by the Seashore's remote beach locations, which still have the potential to provide vestiges of the "primitive wilderness" that NPS was mandated to preserve. As NPS proceeds with considering changes to the Final Rule, the respective mandates of the NPS Organic Act and the Seashore's enabling legislation must 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. Sufficiency of Proposed National Environmental Policy (NEPA) Analysis: Because NPS has separated its response to the requirements of the Act into multiple planning processes, each involving their own NEPA analysis, NPS should limit the scope of the current review to only those potential modifications to the Final Rule that were specified in the Act. By preparing an EA to consider modifications of the Final Rule's ORV management requirements so soon after completing a separate EA to modify the wildlife protection buffers (an action also required by the Act), NPS is, in essence, "segmenting the project" instead of taking a hard look at the combined potential impacts of all NPS actions related to the Act.

For example, the NEPA analysis in the NPS buffer modifications EA failed to describe or consider the potential cumulative impacts to wildlife of the pending modifications in the Final Rule. As described in the recent NPS planning newsletter, the proposed modifications to the Final Rule could include increases in ORV route periods or locations, which would inherently cause corresponding reductions in Vehicle Free Areas (VFA's) and a decrease in the wildlife protections provided by the VFA's. As described in numerous locations in the Plan, the VFA's were created, in part, to provide opportunities for park visitors to experience a "vehicle free beach" (a euphemism for the long lost opportunity to experience the Seashore's "primitive wilderness") and to protect habitat for both breeding and migrating/wintering shorebirds.

Because of the lack of a comprehensive and consolidated NEPA analysis of the various actions mandated under the Act, NPS now appears to be headed toward making a series of incremental changes to the Plan, without giving due consideration to the cumulative effects of the combined actions on the overall effectiveness and synergistic effects of the various elements of the Plan or Final Rule. Unless NPS carefully limits the scope to the required topics in the upcoming EA, the appropriate level of NEPA compliance would be to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that fully describes and analyzes the potential cumulative impacts of all NPS actions prompted by the Act.

3. Any changes in ORV routes or VFA locations and dates must be made in the Rule, not in the Compendium. The NPS general regulation at 36 CFRÂ§ 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 must be specified in the special regulations, not in the Superintendent's Compendium where the details could be revised without further environmental analysis. For this reason, when preparing the Plan, NPS rejected the idea of "floating" ORV route locations and "floating" dates for seasonal ORV routes that would be unspecified in the regulations and identified only in the Compendium.

#### Specific Comments in Response to the Newsletter

1. Are there any additional alternative options you would like the NPS to consider?

As described above, NPS should limit the scope of the current review to considering only those changes to the Final Rule that were specified in the Act.

2. Morning Beach Openings: Under no circumstances should NPS allow any recreational ORV use on park beaches during the sea turtle nesting season until after the morning turtle patrol has checked the beach for new nests and emergent hatchlings, and has completed any related management activities. To be most effective, the turtle patrol staff should focus on its primary function of looking for and managing turtle nests, and should not be burdened with the additional tasks of monitoring and managing ORV use before a standard opening time. As explained in the FEIS (pp. C-58 and C-59), during the turtle nesting season "Restricting 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, or would force them to start before daylight, which may cause them to miss turtle nests or late nesting turtles"(emphasis added). The advantage of the current 7 a.m. opening time is that it is easily understood, with no room for misunderstanding; and because of this visitor compliance with the existing opening time is reportedly very good.

It is possible, given adequate staffing (which is often an uncertainty), that NPS may be able to reliably and routinely check a few select beach locations for turtle nests in order to open those areas at a fixed time earlier than 7:00 a.m. (such as 6:30 a.m. as proposed). However, "allowing visitors to follow resource management staff onto the beach at a designated ramp and to drive a safe distance behind staff as they clear the beach" (an option described in the newsletter) would invite a variety of communications, coordination, and enforcement problems. If the morning opening time were to become flexible (i.e., variable, not fixed), and based solely on when the turtle patrol has cleared a section of beach, how will newly arriving ORV users know if a section of beach is legitimately open or not once the turtle patrol has already left the area? Will there be signing, such as "open" and "closed" signs that need to be

changed each night and morning? What measures will NPS take to ensure that ORV users don't "jump the gun" and enter a beach, whether intentionally or unintentionally, before the turtle patrol has arrived, creating the impression to new arrivals that the beach is open, if there is no clearly defined or posted opening time? Using flexible, rather than fixed, morning opening time(s) will significantly increase the chances of visitor misunderstanding and noncompliance with the rule, as well as turtle patrol staff being distracted from their primary function, which in turn increases the chances that new nests will be missed. For that reason, we strongly oppose flexible or "floating" morning opening procedures that are not based on a fixed time.

3. Seasonal ORV Routes: There are many references in the Plan to NPS providing a relative balance in the amount of ORV routes and VFA's in order to achieve the Plan's stated objectives of providing diverse visitor experience opportunities and protection of breeding and migrating and wintering wildlife. Yet, the NPS newsletter only proposes unilaterally increasing the period that seasonal routes would be open to ORV use. We oppose any increases in seasonal ORV route periods that would directly result in decreased periods for seasonal VFA's, unless such changes are appropriately offset by increased VFA periods in other locations in order to maintain the relative balance of ORV routes and VFA's.

Regarding the seasonal ORV routes in front of the villages and Ocracoke Campground, we support making those areas year-round VFA's, consistent with our comments on the 2010 draft Plan (DEIS). According to the Plan (FEIS, p. 558), the November 1 to March 31 dates for seasonal ORV routes were based on data when park visitation and rental occupancy are the lowest. We are not aware of any significant changes in visitation or occupancy trends since the completion of the ORV management plan. If anything, there is a continuing trend of gradually increasing off-season visitation and occupancy, particularly during winter vacation periods, which further supports making the village beaches year-round VFA's as a visitor safety and visitor enjoyment measure. Visitors taking a walk on a relatively developed and congested beach at a national seashore in front of the villages should not have to cope with vehicle traffic on the beach, even if only during the "off-season."

In any event, the options listed in the newsletter for increasing the period that the village beaches would be open to ORV use are unsupported by any reasonable rationale. While we understand that NPS is compelled by the Act to "consider" (not necessarily to implement) such modifications, the Act does not exempt NPS from complying with other statutory and management requirements, which includes providing a reasoned basis for its proposed actions. Therefore, for any proposed changes that would extend the period for seasonal ORV routes (and thereby reduce the period for the corresponding seasonal VFA's), NPS needs to provide supporting rationale.

4. Vehicle Free Areas (VFA's): What locations do you see as potential areas for modification? The purpose and benefits of VFA's are well described throughout the Plan. For example, the NPS Preferred Alternative 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...Such areas would be provided during all seasons so non-ORV users can experience the Seashore without the presence of vehicles...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 seasonal resource and visitor use...Outside the breeding season, vehicle-free areas throughout the Seashore would provide relatively less disturbed foraging, resting, and roosting habitat for migrating and wintering birds" (FEIS, p. 81).

In other words, according to NPS the relatively remote and undeveloped VFA's at the inlet spits and Cape Point area do, in fact, provide important opportunities for visitors to experience a "vehicle free beach." We assert that these areas are, in essence, vestiges of the "primitive wilderness" that the Seashore was mandated to preserve. These same locations provide relatively protected (i.e., less disturbed) habitat for both for breeding as well as migrating/wintering shorebirds. As a result, if NPS proposes any changes in the size or location (e.g., the starting or ending points) of the designated ORV routes at the inlet spits or Cape Point/South Beach, then NPS should make equal adjustment(s) to maintain the relative size and proportion of the VFA's in those same locations. For example, if NPS were to modify the Cape Point ORV route so that it extends further west of the Point in order to allow ORV access via Salt Pond Road (or some other connector from the intertidal road), then the corresponding VFA just west of the Point should be extended an equal distance westerly in order to maintain the VFA's relative size.

5. Access Improvements: What are some key locations where changes to parking or ramp configurations could improve beach or soundside access? NPS should not consider any "new ideas" for access improvements until it has fully implemented the previously identified improvements, which were designed to work together to make the Plan work better. The more new ideas that are thrown into the mix, the more "access improvements" become a moving target with no coherent overarching plan or synergy between ORV routes, VFA's, and designated access points. Anything not already covered in the ORV plan or the subsequent EA for access improvements, would require new NEPA compliance, which adds weight to the suggestion that if NPS opens the current planning process to actions outside the scope of the Act, then NPS really should be preparing an EIS to consider ALL of the proposed actions in one package, rather than segmenting the project into multiple incremental actions.

6. Permits: Are there any other permit periods you would like to see considered? The proposal to change the length of permit periods is outside the scope of review required in the Act. While we understand that the proposed change(s) are primarily administrative in nature and may have little direct impact on park resources, if NPS voluntarily expands the scope of the review to include this or other issues not covered in the Act, it could open the door to reconsidering other aspects of the Final Rule that are significantly more important for the protection of park resources (such as the seasonal dates for night driving restrictions and/or the 9 p.m. night driving restriction time). Because we have already expressed concerns about the sufficiency of NPS's segmented NEPA review process, we oppose any additional "scope creep."

In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to submit these scoping comments and look forward to reviewing the upcoming EA.

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 112    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 12:20:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** For the past 25 years my family has visited the Cape Hatteras National Seashore each summer. Now my grandchildren look forward to the trip as the highlight of their summer. One reason we chose the area is to enjoy the natural areas of vegetation which provide food and shelter for a variety of wildlife. The current restrictions on ORV use is working to protect wildlife. I oppose the loosening of these restrictions. We owe it to future generations to continue to protect this fragile ecosystem.

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**Correspondence ID:** 113    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 12:54:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** There should be a provision for handicapped persons or elderly using an ATV/Vehicle. Such as reduced rates. A handicap card as used for a vehicle would be required.  
The situation of baby turtles getting stuck in ruts can be overcome by use of "groomers" towed behind a vehicle/ATV. Park personnel can do this during hatch season in the evenings. Funds would come out of fees from the ATV/Vehicle users.

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**Correspondence ID:** 114    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 13:18:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am opposed to extensions in the season/duration/ and location of permitted ORV use along the national seashore as well as to any proposed reductions in the number and/or size of areas that currently prohibit ORV use. There is no really good reason to expand ORV areas or seasons. Any part of the national seashore can currently be accessed by pedestrians. Those that are too lazy or obese to walk along to beach to access fishing or other recreational opportunities have ample other beaches that they can drive on in North Carolina. I understand that you must comply with the Defense Authorization Act of 2014 but it was my understanding that it only called for a review of current ORV use and access and did not necessarily require that ORV use be expanded or allowed unabated as it appears the NPS is suggesting in the EA. Please don't allow expanded use of ORVs along the national seashore. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 115    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 13:19:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I've been surprised at how many more vehicles I see on the beaches than I used to. It concerns me for the sake of humans, sea turtles and shore birds. It scares me to see vehicles (often traveling much too fast) near children and families. Often they aren't fishing, but cruising, burning gas, gouging the sand, creating noise, and being a dangerous nuisance. I think there should be fewer ORVs allowed and more beaches protected for quiet, safe enjoyment.

If you surveyed those of us who spend tourist dollars renting condos/houses and going out to restaurants, you'd find that the vast majority of us want quiet, safe beaches, and are there to get away from traffic! So CONSIDER TOURISM DOLLARS!

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**Correspondence ID:** 116    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 13:25:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** When I go to the beach, I am opposed to vehicles on the beach at any place, any time, especially in the National Park. An unspoiled sea shore is a wonderful thing. I do not feel safe on the beach when motorized vehicles are driving back and forth. No doubt the native wildlife is even more wary than I. It is enough for pedestrians to have access to the beach. This is minimally invasive and no doubt has been practiced from the beginning of human existence. The introduction of motorized vehicles is invasive and should be eliminated entirely. THE BEACH SHOULD NOT BE A ROADWAY!

I am unalterably opposed to EXPANDING vehicle access to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Efforts to do so are selfish and do not consider the fragility and sanctity of the beach habitat for precious wildlife. Fishermen can walk, same as I. Joyriders should not be allowed to destroy the serenity of the beach environment for those of us who WALK to get there for relaxation and spiritual healing, to enjoy the gifts of the sea and wonder at this magnificent work of Creation.

Please consider the responsibility of the National Park Service to preserve nature and natural treasures for all of our citizens. Motorized vehicles on the beach are destructive. They destroy the homes of creatures that live there and the safety and well being of creatures that feed and breed there.

People who drive their motorized vehicles on the beach are not entitled to that right, because the practice infringes on the rights of all the people who wish to go to the beach and hear the uninterrupted sounds of the surf, wind, birds, and other sounds of nature.

Please hear my appeal.

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**Correspondence ID:** 117    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 14:46:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Our family for generations has loved and respected the beaches of the outer banks. It is difficult to see the restrictions in access to our favorite place in the world. As we age it is more difficult to be where our hearts are without being able to drive on the beach. We were always mindful of nesting areas as are most of the people who have enjoyed this beautiful place. We taught our children that nature is to be respected and to this day they clean the beach area before leaving.

Some members of our family live and work on the outer banks and we have many friends who do. The economy has been impacted negatively, as you know, because many people who traditionally spent vacations here have opted to go elsewhere. I have noticed changes myself. Many locally owned businesses are closed or feeling the effects of less tourism, especially on the southern most part of Hatteras. I feel that people who disrespect the area and cause damage should be dealt with individually.

Please lift the restrictions and let America enjoy what should be available to each of us. And please help with sand replenishment.

**Correspondence ID:** 118 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 15:01:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I BELIEVE THE PEOPLE ON TOWELS HAVE A RIGHT AND SO DO THE BIRDS AND TURTLES. BUT THE PEOPLR LIKEME WHO DRIVE ON THE BEACH AND ONLY GO THERE TO GO FISHING. BRING A LOT OF MONEY TO THE ISLAND. I CAN BUY MY FISH A LOT CHEAPER THAN GOING FISHING BUT ME AND MY WIFE ENJOY OUR WEEK LONG TRIP EVERY YEAR. AND WE RESPECT THE AREAS WE CAN NOT DRIVE ON. AND THE MONEY WE PAY FOR OUR PERMITS TO DRIVE ON THE BEACH HELP WITH SOME UP KEEP AND OTHER THINGS LIKE WALKING AREAS TO THE BEACH THAT THOSE PEOPLE WITH THERE TOWELS CAN USE WITH OUT PAYING A DIME FOR THERE ACCESS. IF THE PEOLPE WHO DRIVE ON THE BEACH DID NOT GO DOWN FOR 1 YEAR IT WOULD COST THE ISALND SEVERAL MILLION IN LOST DOLLORS MOTEL RESTURANTS MISC STORES TACKLE STORES GAS ECT AND ECT

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**Correspondence ID:** 119 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,10,2015 15:45:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not open up parts of the beach which have been closed to vehicles in order to protect nesting birds and sea turtles. Please maintain the restrictions that are currently in place. Restricting beach access has helped nesting turtles and several bird species. Allowing vehicles in this area will eliminant gains that these animals have benefited from.



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**Correspondence ID:** 120 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 04:43:10  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My family and I have visited the Outer Banks for more than 30 years. The pristine beauty of Cape Hatteras National Seashore is an attraction not only to tourists but also to wildlife.

Additional off-road vehicles have decreased the beauty and threatened the habitat for the birds. I have felt as if someone might run me over when I have been walking along the seashore. The vehicles leave ruts, some of the drivers leave trash, and the sounds of motors is loud at times. And that doesn't even take into consideration the nesting birds and sea turtles that need this area to survive.

The rules that are in effect now must not be changed, no matter how loud the ORV supporters are. Sea turtles and birds need protection. We cannot be allowed to contribute to their extinction. The Park Service needs to be a service to all, not just to some.

Common-sense rules that allow for use of the beaches by ORV while the birds and sea turtles are not nesting can help everyone to enjoy Cape Hatteras.

I learned years ago this adage: "The squeaky wheel gets the oil." At the moment, the ORV group has the squeakiest wheels. But they are not the only wheels that should concern you, the driver.

Please consider my comments and others carefully.

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**Correspondence ID:** 121 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Restore access to the sound side beach just south of the Haulover (Canadian Hole). which has been enjoyed by Family's and Watersports enthusiasts for many years. The area is shown to be "ORV open" on the NPS maps but there is no access since they put up the fence at the hole parking lot. Two specific suggestions. a.) easiest and quickest solution would be to lift the No ORV stakes at kite point and allow ORV to access sound side shore line south of the hole from kite point, not ideal..but would be quick and easy and low dollar. b.) build an ORV access point from the SE corner (not SW) or the parking lot where it would not be prone to wash out from storms (which is why we lost the original access point). An "S" shaped access point would be far less likely to wash out than a straight ramp.

Restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 34 which is 500 yards north of Avon village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.

Restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 23 which is 500 yards south of Salvo village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.

Build a parking lot at Kite point. Rt. 12 in this area is a huge safety issue. people enjoy using kite point. build a parking lot for them so they won't have to park along Rt 12.

Take the Reform Bill to heart, beach walking below the hi tide line anywhere in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore should not be a crime. There are currently large stretches of shoreline in which you are not allowed walk. Open those beaches and change the law.. beach walking is not a crime.

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**Correspondence ID:** 122 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 05:58:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not permit driving on North Carolina's beaches. There are a thousand reasons why this is a bad idea, but most important is the fact that the beaches - - and their ecosystems - - were here long before automobiles, and cars cause irreparable harm to them. I understand sacrifices



must sometimes be made in the name of progress -- wetlands drained and bridged over, for example, to permit roads to be built or communities to thrive -- but no one NEEDS to drive on the beach. They just don't. And that should be the end of this debate. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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**Correspondence ID:** 123    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.11,2015 07:14:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We've been going to the Outer Banks since the 80s, and a primary part of the attraction has been driving on the beach. And as my folks, now 88 and 90 (she uses a walker and he uses a cane), have gotten older, driving them out and setting up their chairs and a canopy for them is an essential part of our family experience. We used to get up, grab some biscuits and orange juice, and drive out on the beach while it was still dark to watch the sun rise, the perfect start to another vacation day. But the current restrictions mean we can't even drive on the beach until well after sunrise. Then we'd spend a couple of hours at midday on the beach, head back to the house for the late afternoon, and we often used to drive back out on the beach as the day was waning and the temperature was beginning to cool down -- just a wonderful time to be on the beach.

⌘ Please consider allowing beach driving before and after dark. We've lost a bit of our family's tradition of greeting the new day together on the beach. ⌘ And consider narrowing the barriers around birds and turtles or allowing temporary passages if even narrower barriers would close access. One of my Mom's favorite places in the world is Cape Point, and she hasn't seen in in several years now because of the closures. No, she's not an avid fisherman, but she is a wonderful person, and she used to enjoy just sitting for hours out on the Point and watching the waves crash into one another. I'm afraid she doesn't have many more summers left to join us on holiday, but I'm hoping we'll all be able to drive out on the Point next summer, set up her chair, and watch the waves.

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**Correspondence ID:** 124    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.11,2015 07:41:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The Hatteras Park Seashore is over regulated. When a Turtle or bird take preference over the freedoms of citizens.

We pay enough taxes to not charge to drive on the beach area.

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**Correspondence ID:** 125    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.11,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** 1. a.) easiest and quickest solution would be to lift the No ORV stakes at kite point and allow ORV to access sound side shore line south of the hole from kite point, not ideal..but would be quick and easy and low dollar. b.) build an ORV access point from the SE corner (not SW) or the parking lot where it would not be prone to wash out from storms (which is why we lost the original access point). An "S" shaped access point would be far less likely to wash out than a straight ramp.

2.) Tell them to restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 34 which is 500 yards north of Avon village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use.

3.) Build a parking lot at Kite point. Rt. 12 in this area is a huge safety issue. people enjoy using kite point. build a parking lot for them so they won't have to park along Rt 12.

4.) Make Sound Side beach driving access free. If sound side beach driving access was free it would solve the safety issue of cars parking along all of Rt 12 instantly. Now you could safely and legally pull off Route 12 and park in a safe area. Use the current beach camp fire permit as a model. Sound side beach ORV access would free but you'd still have to get the permit so the NPS can "educate" the public about safe soundside beach access. Or make the sound side beach access ORV fee very affordable.. say \$15.. so everyone would comply. This would immediately stop the insanity going on Rt 12 all up and down the Cape Hatteras Seashore.

5.) Make it so that when you buy a yearly Beach driving permit that it actually is good for a year. Yearly beach driving permits would last one year from the date of purchase.

6.) Tell them to take the Reform Bill to heart, beach walking below the hi tide line anywhere in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore should not be a crime. There are currently large stretches of shoreline in which you are not allowed walk. Open those beaches and change the law.. beach walking is not a crime.

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**Correspondence ID:** 126    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.11,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** 1.) Tell them to restore access to the sound side beach just south of the Haulover (Canadian Hole). which has been enjoyed by Family's and Watersports enthusiasts for many years. The area is shown to be "ORV open" on the NPS maps but there is no access since they put up the fence at the hole parking lot. Two specific suggestions. a.) easiest and quickest solution would be to lift the No ORV stakes at kite point and allow ORV to access sound side shore line south of the hole from kite point, not ideal..but would be quick and easy and low dollar. b.) build an ORV access point from the SE corner (not SW) or the parking lot where it would not be prone to wash out from storms (which is why we lost the original access point). An "S" shaped access point would be far less likely to wash out than a straight ramp.

2.) Tell them to restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 34 which is 500 yards north of Avon village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness ares (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least ORV access 1000 yards to the north and 100% pdestrian access year around.

3.) Tell them to restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 23 which is 500 yards south of Salvo village year around. Currently most of the year

there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness area (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least ORV access 1000 yards to the south and 100% pedestrian access year around.

4.) Build a parking lot at Kite point. Rt. 12 in this area is a huge safety issue. people enjoy using kite point. build a parking lot for them so they won't have to park along Rt 12. (note: This issue has been caused by requiring a beach driving permit to access kite point now people park on route 12 to avoid the beach driving permit fee.)

5.) Make Sound Side beach driving access free. If sound side beach driving access was free it would solve the safety issue of cars parking along all of Rt 12 instantly. Now you could safely and legally pull off Route 12 and park in a safe area. Use the current beach camp fire permit as a model. Sound side beach ORV access would free but you'd still have to get the permit so the NPS can "educate" the public about safe soundside beach access. Or make the sound side beach access ORV fee very affordable.. say \$15.. so everyone would comply. This would immediately stop the insanity going on Rt 12 all up and down the Cape Hatteras Seashore.

6.) Make it so that when you buy a yearly Beach driving permit that it actually is good for a year. Yearly beach driving permits would last one year from the date of purchase.

7.) Tell them to take the Reform Bill to heart, beach walking below the hi tide line anywhere in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore should not be a crime. There are currently large stretches of shoreline in which you are not allowed walk. Open those beaches and change the law.. beach walking is not a crime.

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**Correspondence ID:** 127    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 08:30:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect North Carolina's beaches and wildlife by restricting off-roading! Vehicles do not belong on beaches. This treasured area should be preserved for the animals who call it home and the people who, like myself, call it home away from home. I have been visiting the Outer Banks every summer since I was a child and now I have the joy of bringing my own children every year. Please preserve the beauty and safety of North Carolina's beaches for future generations of both people and wildlife. Thank you for your consideration!

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**Correspondence ID:** 128    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 09:06:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Increasing the days and hours for off road vehicles to be permitted on the beaches would a tragedy to the beach and to the wild life that call that beach home. Cape Hatteras MUST remain a protected beach as it has been or you are risking the destruction of a national wildlife treasure and also risking losing many of the quality families that vacation there because of the peace and quiet. The regulations must be kept as is. There is plenty of off roading sites for these few individuals to enjoy without selfishly ruining it for everybody else.

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**Correspondence ID:** 129    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please build a parking lot at Kite Point  
Please make parking permits good for 1 year from time of purchase/ and or a discounted pass for permanent residents.  
reopen the secondary road to allow access to south side ocean beaches during bird/turtle closures.

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**Correspondence ID:** 130    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 10:38:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect the Outer Banks for birds. Humans have degraded so much of our coastline. Surely the birds can have a little bit so they can merely survive!

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**Correspondence ID:** 131    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 11:05:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My family enjoys going to the beaches in North Carolina, but the beaches should be a natural resource, not a parking lot or roadway. Sea turtle and bird nesting sites should be protected and preserved. Spending our tax dollars for special checks on sea turtle nests so that a small group of people can drive on the beach is ridiculous, and unlikely to be effective. Vehicles on the beach are a danger to wildlife and people who walk and sunbathe, as well as to small children playing in the sand.

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**Correspondence ID:** 132    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 13:32:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not ease regulations adopted in 2012 regarding vehicle access- -days and hours- to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Please keep the current limits on vehicles for the sake of all of nature that calls the seashore home and for me who loves to visit it.

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**Correspondence ID:** 133    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 requires a public process to consider changes to the ORV rule as it relates to the morning opening of beaches, extending the length of seasonal ORV routes in the fall and/or spring, and modifying the size and location of vehicle Free areas (VFAs).

I urge the National Park Service (NPS) to remember the original legislation designated this area as the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Closing and restricting as much of the ORV's as has been done is not in keeping with the original intent. I certainly hope the NPS will actually consider these comments instead of ignoring them as was done in the original ORV Management rules for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and again recently on the changes to the Biscayne National Park.

1. Morning Opening of Beaches: The Current Rule: All beaches open at 7:00 am, close at 9:00 pm. NPS should take necessary steps to open priority beaches as soon after first light as possible.

I would designate Cape Point and the South Point on Ocracoke as priority beaches. These two beaches are two of the most prime fishing areas on the east coast and should have 24 hour access. Allowing visitors to follow resource management staff from designated ramps leaves too much latitude relative to officers showing up on time and completing their inspections in a timely manner.

2. Seasonal Open / Close ORV Access Dates: Current Rule: seasonal beaches are open to ORV access between selective dates.

The seasonal beaches in front of villages should be reopened two weeks earlier in the fall and remain open longer in the spring. Beaches should be opened immediately following labor day in the fall and remain open for an additional six weeks (i.e. May 1) in the spring.

Seasonal beaches not in front of the villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of VFA designations, should be reopened to ORV access during the same time periods, immediately following Labor Day in the fall and not closed prior to May 1, in the spring

3. Vehicle Free Areas: Current Rule: 25.25 miles are designated as Vehicle Free Areas (VFAs).

The size and number of current VFAs is excessive and overly restrictive. NPS should reclassify several of the current VFAs to either year round or seasonal ORV routes. Reducing the amount of VFA miles can be done in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore.

The VFA designation should be completely removed from the most desirable fishing locations that include the Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point in Buxton, the Hatteras Island Spit, as well as 59E and South Point on Ocracoke. Seasonal designations could include Ramps 23S, 27S, 34N, and 59W to 67E.

Cape Hatteras wasn't designated a national seashore for birds; it was done for the American public. Millions have been wasted trying to protect a single bird with extremely poor results at the cost of wrecking the local economy. I do not object to temporary closures for turtle nests. Turtle nests can be marked with access allowed around them and closed during the hatch window.

4. Permits: Current rule: NPS can only issue annual permits, valid for the calendar year, and seven-day permits.

The NPS should issue annual permits that are valid for one year from issue date as is done in other National Parks (i.e. Assateague Island). Additionally, NPS should issue 10 day permits.

I strongly urge you to not ignore public comment as NPS did in the original ORV Management rules for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and again recently on the changes to the Biscayne National Park. Changes can be made that are reasonable and will improve the visitor experience as well as positively affect the local economy.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 134    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My wife and I are retired and spend more than half the year at our house in Avon. I am a passionate windsurfer who typically windsurfs 100-120 days a year in the Pamlico Sound and the Atlantic. We also spend time beachcombing on the ocean beaches and kayaking/paddleboarding on the sound. My comments are as follows:

1. Restore access to the sound-side beach just south of the Haulover Day Use Area (Canadian Hole), which has been enjoyed by families and watersport enthusiasts for many years. The beach to the south of the parking lot is shown to be "ORV open" on the NPS maps but there is no access since the NPS put up the fence at the Haulover parking lot. Restoring access to this beach is important since, without access, there can be severe congestion in the beach area immediately in front of the parking lot, creating a potential safety issue when there are large numbers of swimmers and windsurfers in the same small area. The best solution is to build an ORV access point from the SE corner (not SW) of the parking lot where it would not be prone to wash out from storms (the original access point was a straight ramp from the SW corner). A second best, perhaps cheaper, solution would be to lift the No ORV stakes at Kite Point and allow ORV to access to the sound-side beach south of the hole from Kite Point.

2. Build a parking lot at Kite Point. Parking on Rt. 12 in this area by people using Kite Point creates a significant safety issue. A parking lot at Kite Point would also encourage kite boarders to sail at Kite Point rather than at Canadian Hole, where kites can pose a safety issue for small children and other beachgoers at Canadian Hole.

3. Restore both pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 34, which is 500 yards north of Avon village, and to Ramp 23, which is 500 yards south of Salvo village, year around.

4. Beach driving permits should be good for a year from date of purchase (not the current calendar year ending on December 31 regardless of when

purchased).

5. Beach walking should always be allowed below the high tide line anywhere in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. There are currently large stretches of shoreline in which you are not allowed walk.

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**Correspondence ID:** 135 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 14:45:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please open up more beach access and turnouts, particularly near the towns and windsurfing/kiting areas. On the soundside people should be able to park and drive without an orv pass. I spend a fair amount of money vacationing in the outer banks and it would only be fair that I have access to the entire place. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 136 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** 1.) Please restore access to the sound side beach just south of the Haulover (Canadian Hole). which has been enjoyed by Family's and Watersports enthusiasts for many years. The area is shown to be "ORV open" on the NPS maps but there is no access since they put up the fence at the hole parking lot. Two specific suggestions. a.) easiest and quickest solution would be to lift the No ORV stakes at kite point and allow ORV to access sound side shore line south of the hole from kite point, not ideal..but would be quick and easy and low dollar. b.) build an ORV access point from the SE corner (not SW) or the parking lot where it would not be prone to wash out from storms (which is why we lost the original access point). An "S" shaped access point would be far less likely to wash out than a straight ramp.

2.) Please restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 34 which is 500 yards north of Avon village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness areas (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least ORV access 1000 yards to the north and 100% pdestrian access year around.

3.) Please restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 23 which is 500 yards south of Salvo village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness areas (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least ORV access 1000 yards to the south and 100% pdestrian access year around.

4.) Build a parking lot at Kite point. Rt. 12 in this area is a huge safety issue. people enjoy using kite point. build a parking lot for them so they won't have to park along Route 12. (note: This issue has been caused by requiring a beach driving permit to access kite point now people park on route 12 to avoid the beach driving permit fee.)

5.) Make Sound Side beach driving access free. If sound side beach driving access was free it would solve the safety issue of cars parking along all of Route 12 instantly. Now you could safely and legally pull off Route 12 and park in a safe area. Use the current beach camp fire permit as a model. Sound side beach ORV access would free but you'd still have to get the permit so the NPS can "educate" the public about safe soundside beach access. Or make the sound side beach access ORV fee very affordable.. say \$15.. so everyone would comply. This would immediately stop the insanity going on Rt 12 all up and down the Cape Hatteras Seashore.

6.) Make it so that when you buy a yearly Beach driving permit that it actually is good for a year. Yearly beach driving permits would last one year from the date of purchase. This is what you do in Assateague.

7.) Issue 10 day permits for beach driving access at a cost that is reasonable (in addition to annual Beach driving permits). You can always CAP the number of 10 days permits in any time window to ensure that things do not get out of control.

8.) Please take the Reform Bill to heart, beach walking below the high tide line anywhere in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore should not be a crime. There are currently large stretches of shoreline in which you are not allowed walk. Open those beaches and change the law.. beach walking is not a crime.

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**Correspondence ID:** 137 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 16:00:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We oppose increased vehicle access. We support protection for the birds and nature but also because that protects humans who want to use the beach safely for recreation. The vehicles ruin the beach and endanger people as well as wildlife. We are taxpayers and citizens just as much as the folks who insist on driving on the beach but our rights for safe beach use are being ignored by the drivers. People on foot are being pushed off the beach by the folks obsessed with driving, it is not fair.

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**Correspondence ID:** 138 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 16:02:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I understand that some in Congress want another swing at the pinata for more ORV access. Take a good look at the current map. Enough is enough. The value of Cape Hatteras is in the ability to drive the length of the Cape, and with a short hike be isolated. The ORV destroy this. So we've compromised thus far. NO MORE!

Please place my name on the mailing list for this process.

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**Correspondence ID:** 139    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** NPS,

In your reform plans please consider the following suggestions.

1. Please open up to ORVs the soundside beach just south of the haulover (canadian hole) area. This is a great area for families to enjoy the water away from the pounding surf on the oceanside. You could easily install a new entrance closer to the road than the one that washed out a couple of years ago.
2. Please open ORV access to Ramp 34.
3. Make soundside beach driving free. This would help keep Highway 12 safer.
4. Change the ORV permit from a calendar year to one year from the date it was purchased.
5. Please allow beach walking below the high tide line anywhere in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Please be reasonable in what you do.

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██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 140    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 17:06:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I count on the National Park Service to protect and preserve the wildlife that occurs in every National Park I visit. I always thought that was one of the main responsibilities of the NPS. I am most unhappy that you are considering changes to the rules that have been in effect for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, especially with respect to the rules concerning ORV use of the beach. I certainly do not go to the beach to observe ORV's and I doubt there are many beach visitors who do.

The plan that has been in effect was based on scientific research to protect several species of threatened and endangered birds and turtles. That plan was working and numbers of various species pf birds were up. Research also showed that tourism was not negatively affected by these rules.

Please do not change these rules. Please protect our birds.

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**Correspondence ID:** 141    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 18:32:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The limits already established by the NPS along the beaches of Cape Hatteras National Seashore have yielded positive results for wildlife conservation. I urge the NPS not to relax them further. The beaches should be a place to escape the noise and pollution typical of every-day life, to walk and relax, for the children to play without fear of being run over, and for wildlife to nest and continue to thrive and not face the threat of extinction. Respectfully,

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**Correspondence ID:** 142    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 21:02:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I want to tell you what happened to a friend of mine on memorial day 2015. HE was coming off the beach at Nags Head. The park service had a road block set up coming off the beach with park range full SWAT uniform with gun and an AR 15. He was handcuff for drinking and was a veteran and asked the ranger if he was going to take a veteran in on memorial day. What got me is what he said next. OUT of the ranger mouth came YOU OUGHT TO FELL LUCKY YOU ARE ON THE BEACH, WE DO NOT WANT YOU ON THE BEACH AT ALL. I have heard this is the way the NPS feels. Why do we need park rangers dressed in SWAT uniforms in the first place. It is not there job to lock people up. The NPS had no right to make people pay to ride on the beach. The parks are owned by the citizens of the US, our tax money paid for these parks and we should not have any charge to go to any park. All our beached that are paid for by the people you should have a right to ride on them 24 hrs. a day. NPS YOU HAVE KILLED THE BUSINESS AT THE BEACH. I have not been to the beach because I am not willing to pay your price to go 3 or 4 times a year and a lot of people are like me. It should be FREE and opened ALL YEAR. The AMERICAN people paid for this it is our rights to do this. This fee was passed without CONGRESS an SENATE approval. I have never seen a bird or turtle run over in all the years I have been going to the NPS should be sued about this matter and I feel if you had this happen you would lose. YOU DO NOT LET THE PUBLIC KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON. I would not have known about this if I had not got a newsletter from OBPA. This government is out of control and I am tired of being lied,cheating,and stealing from.

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**Correspondence ID:** 143    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 05:23:50

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** With all the surrounding development and challenges from global climate change , this Park provides a unique opportunity to save our wildlife. The current restrictions should be maintained as there was a lengthy process to put them in place. The current restrictions have proven to be effective.

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**Correspondence ID:** 144 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 06:00:36

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Public land is for everyone. People, birds, and turtles but trucks are not going to die if they are left at home.

I support the continuing restriction on beach vehicle driving. As our wildlife continues to struggle to survive protecting habitat is critical and as a tourist I do not want to be laying on a beach towel trying to get way from it all just to hear the roar of a 4 wheeling truck. I drive to the beach once a year. It's expensive by the time my family rents a place to stay, and pays for food. State parks provide access to hte beach front that otherwise would be in private ownership with condos everywhere. Please keep this resource clean and pristine as possible.

Thanks for listening.

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**Correspondence ID:** 145 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 06:30:23

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Hi

Being a visitor to the OBX on a regular basis, I like to see more access to VFA's. All VFA routes should all be ORV routes.

Any know nesting sites (bird or turtles) should be off limits (VFA) at those times of the year. After those times there should be access year round.

Access time should also start 1/2 (half) hour before sun up, not a 7am time.

14 day permits would be better. Free for veterans, reduced fee for senior citizens (62 ). NC residents (license plates) go half price.

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**Correspondence ID:** 146 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** 1.) Restore access to the sound side beach just south of the Haulover (Canadian Hole). which has been enjoyed by Family's and Watersports enthusiasts for many years. The area is shown to be "ORV open" on the NPS maps but there is no access since they put up the fence at the hole parking lot. Two specific suggestions. a.) easiest and quickest solution would be to lift the No ORV stakes at kite point and allow ORV to access sound side shore line south of the hole from kite point, not ideal..but would be quick and easy and low dollar. b.) build an ORV access point from the SE corner (not SW) or the parking lot where it would not be prone to wash out from storms (which is why we lost the original access point). An "S" shaped access point would be far less likely to wash out than a straight ramp.

2.) Restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 34 which is 500 yards north of Avon village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness ares (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least ORV access 1000 yards to the north and 100% pdestrian access year around.

3.) Restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 23 which is 500 yards south of Salvo village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness ares (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least ORV access 1000 yards to the south and 100% pdestrian access year around.

4.) Build a parking lot at Kite point. Rt. 12 in this area is a huge safety issue. people enjoy using kite point. build a parking lot for them so they won't have to park along Rt 12. (note: This issue has been caused by requiring a beach driving permit to access kite point now people park on route 12 to avoid the beach driving permit fee.)

5.) Make Sound Side beach driving access free. If sound side beach driving access was free it would solve the safety issue of cars parking along all of Rt 12 instantly. Now you could safely and legally pull off Route 12 and park in a safe area. Use the current beach camp fire permit as a model. Sound side beach ORV access would free but you'd still have to get the permit so the NPS can "educate" the public about safe soundside beach access. Or make the sound side beach access ORV fee very affordable.. say \$15.. so everyone would comply. This would immediately stop the insanity going on Rt 12 all up and down the Cape Hatteras Seashore.

6.) Make it so that when you buy a yearly Beach driving permit that it actually is good for a year. Yearly beach driving permits would last one year from the date of purchase.

7.) Take the Reform Bill to heart, beach walking below the hi tide line anywhere in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore should not be a crime. There are currently large stretches of shoreline in which you are not allowed walk. Open those beaches and change the law.. beach walking is not a crime.

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**Correspondence ID:** 147    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Restore access to the sound side beach just south of the Haulover (Canadian Hole). which has been enjoyed by Family's and Watersports enthusiasts for many years. The area is shown to be "ORV open" on the NPS maps but there is no access since they put up the fence at the hole parking lot. Two specific suggestions. a.) easiest and quickest solution would be to lift the No ORV stakes at kite point and allow ORV to access sound side shore line south of the hole from kite point, not ideal..but would be quick and easy and low dollar.

Restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 34 which is 500 yards north of Avon village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness ares (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least ORV access 1000 yards to the north and 100% pdestrian access year around.

Restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 23 which is 500 yards south of Salvo village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness ares (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least ORV access 1000 yards to the south and 100% pdestrian access year around.

Build a parking lot at Kite point. Rt. 12 in this area is a huge safety issue. people enjoy using kite point. build a parking lot for them so they won't have to park along Rt 12. (note: This issue has been caused by requiring a beach driving permit to access kite point now people park on route 12 to avoid the beach driving permit fee.)

Make Sound Side beach driving access free. If sound side beach driving access was free it would solve the safety issue of cars parking along all of Rt 12 instantly. Now you could safely and legally pull off Route 12 and park in a safe area. Use the current beach camp fire permit as a model. Sound side beach ORV access would free but you'd still have to get the permit so the NPS can "educate" the public about safe soundside beach access. Or make the sound side beach access ORV fee very affordable.. say \$15.. so everyone would comply. This would immediately stop the insanity going on Rt 12 all up and down the Cape Hatteras Seashore.

Make it so that when you buy a yearly Beach driving permit that it actually is good for a year. Yearly beach driving permits would last one year from the date of purchase

Take the Reform Bill to heart, beach walking below the hi tide line anywhere in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore should not be a crime. There are currently large stretches of shoreline in which you are not allowed walk. Open those beaches and change the law.. beach walking is not a crime.

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**Correspondence ID:** 148    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 08:57:43

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** NPS: Please keep my information above secure.

NPS should take the necessary steps to open priority beaches as soon as first light at possible. The point and airport beaches are very important to us.

beaches in front of the villages should be reopened earlier in the fall and stay open longer in the spring.

beaches other than in front of the villages including any new beaches should be reopened to ORV access no later than September 15th.

the size and number of beaches that are vehicle free are excessive and detrimental to the visitor experience along with loss of income to the businesses that serve the visitors. As we all started out driving on the beaches at an early age and it was wonderful, now there are many closures that are not necessary and should be reclassified to year round ORV routes year round. Like it use to be.

Beach permits: I would like to see them be 10 days as people stay longer than 6 or 7.

year round permits should be valid one year from date of purchase.

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**Correspondence ID:** 149    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 150    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 09:18:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 151    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

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**Correspondence ID:** 152    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 09:28:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 153    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 09:30:00



**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 154 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 09:41:49

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 155 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 09:42:30

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Stopped coming down to fish once the fees were attached. It was bad enough before with the closings and restricted areas. My Jeep really misses the sand and I miss the whole experience. My seven year old doesn't even remember going down and riding on the beach. I doubt she will bring her family down as most of go because that is what our parents did with us.

Please make some changes so we can all enjoy the beaches that should be and were for hundreds of year free to roam.

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**Correspondence ID:** 156 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Changes are being considered to the off road vehicle (ORV) rules at Cape Hatteras National Seashore and they need to hear from fishermen like you.

The National Park Service has requested public comments regarding the morning opening of beaches, extending the length of seasonal ORV routes in the fall and/or spring, and modifying the size and location of vehicle free areas (VFAs).

Public comments are due by August 21, 2015 so don't delay.

To send a message, go to the National Park Service's comment form by clicking the Take Action button below. Enter your thoughts into the comment form or cut and paste from the sample message below.

Thank you for making your voice heard.

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As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the

potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 157    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I agree with everything in the statement below, with the additional input of that I would like to see every inch of shoreline possible be opened to ORV's, and every possible hour of their use allowed.

As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 158    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 09:52:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As an avid recreational fisherman, surfer and overall beach lover who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been "severely" restricted under the current management plan and has significantly impacted the ability for the public to visit and experience these beaches.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light as possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national and public treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 159    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 09:52:08

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
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- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 160 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 09:54:14

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Sportsmen, those that support the coastal community need more freedom,or they cannot continue that support.

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**Correspondence ID:** 161 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** With the current rules in place, I have not visited the park for several years. Before it was put into place, I spent as many as 30 days in the area each year, sometimes more. I support open beaches and as much access as possible for the tax payers that pay for the park. I respect the land and it's wildlife.

As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
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- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 162 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 09:59:25

**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

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**Correspondence ID:** 163 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 10:01:34

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National

Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
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- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 164 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 10:08:43

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 165 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 10:30:55

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please allow nesting birds and turtles to not disturbed by recreational motorized vehicles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 166 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 10:36:46

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

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- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 167 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 10:37:49

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am in favor of reopening the Cape Hatteras National Seashore areas to fisherman and ORV's once again.

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**Correspondence ID:** 168    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 11:12:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

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- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 169    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 11:18:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please, please, please do not allow more beach driving at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore!! The enjoyment of that beautiful area by a majority of people who visit is adversely affected by the few people that drive on the beaches. My family spends significant time at the Coast (several weeks out of each year) and the beauty of the beaches, dunes, wildlife, and natural areas should not be compromised by the few people who drive over those fragile areas. There are plenty of places to fish and drive around that don't involve harming this national treasure that should be preserved for all. The beach protections now are working - - and helping both people and wildlife (especially sea turtles and seabirds) who depend on beaches without deep tire ruts, dunes without erosion causes by vehicles driving too close or over them, and safety without having to avoid vehicles and those who (sometimes) carelessly drive them. This is such a valuable asset of the American people and North Carolina citizens - - please don't let a few people take over and ruin it for everyone else.

The legislation that designated the Cape Hatteras National Seashore states that the 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 in-compatible with the preservation of the unique flora and fauna or the physiographic conditions now prevailing in this area." Those who created the National Seashore were wise - - please respect and continue this well-established vision for this area.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 170    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 11:30:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been fishing the Outer Banks since 1968, I am now on SS and the \$50 fee for a week is killing me. I have a Time Share at MP 18 so I would like to see the ramp at Kokena Beach opened to Oregon Inlet for \$25 a week, although its a public park as mandated by Congress and there should be no fee. Start time should be 1 hour from Sunrise. Befour all the regulation I got up , went to Oregon Inlet to put a line in and had the most wonderful experience of watching the Sun rise, all should have that experience.n Thank you for your time.

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**Correspondence ID:** 171    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 12:05:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have fished the outerbanks since the late 50's. I am a disabled veteran and i can no longer fish the point or any other parts of the surf. I need to be able to drive on the beach in order to fish. Why wasn't the birds on the drege island counted? What you have done is a disgrace and is not what the agreement yhe Federal Government had with the Sate of North Carolina when they took the park.

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**Correspondence ID:** 172    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Restore access to the sound side beach just south of the Haulover (Canadian Hole). which has been enjoyed by Family's and Watersports enthusiasts for many years. The area is shown to be "ORV open" on the NPS maps but there is no access since they put up the fence at the hole parking lot. Two specific suggestions. a.) easiest and quickest solution would be to lift the No ORV stakes at kite point and allow ORV to access sound side shore line south of the hole from kite point, not ideal..but would be quick and easy and low dollar. b.) build an ORV access point from the SE corner (not SW) or the parking lot where it would not be prone to wash out from storms (which is why we lost the original access point). An "S" shaped access point would be far less likely to wash out than a straight ramp. Restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 34 which is 500 yards north of Avon village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness ares (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least ORV access 1000 yards to the north and 100% pdestrian access year around.

Restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 23 which is 500 yards south of Salvo village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness ares (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least ORV access 1000 yards to the south and 100% pedestrian access year around. Build a parking lot at Kite point. Rt. 12 in this area is a huge safety issue. people enjoy using kite point. build a parking lot for them so they won't have to park along Rt 12. (note: This issue has been caused by requiring a beach driving permit to access kite point now people park on route 12 to avoid the beach driving permit fee.)

Make Sound Side beach driving access free. If sound side beach driving access was free it would solve the safety issue of cars parking along all of Rt 12 instantly. Now you could safely and legally pull off Route 12 and park in a safe area. Use the current beach camp fire permit as a model. Sound side beach ORV access would free but you'd still have to get the permit so the NPS can "educate" the public about safe soundside beach access. Or make the sound side beach access ORV fee very affordable.. say \$15.. so everyone would comply. This would immediately stop the insanity going on Rt 12 all up and down the Cape Hatteras Seashore. Make it so that when you buy a yearly Beach driving permit that it actually is good for a year. Yearly beach driving permits would last one year from the date of purchase.

Take the Reform Bill to heart, beach walking below the hi tide line anywhere in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore should not be a crime. There are currently large stretches of shoreline in which you are not allowed walk. Open those beaches and change the law.. beach walking is not a crime.

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**Correspondence ID:** 173 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 12:41:06

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The Outer Banks is THE fishing hot spot on the East Coast. The last changes made on beach access, beach closures, rule changes, etc. etc., was far from friendly to both the people fishing and the local business's. When a group or family is coming to the Outer Banks on vacation and to fish, they should not have to jump through hoops taking vacation time to get permits, licenses, not knowing what sections are off limits one day but o.k. the next etc. The buffer zones for the wildlife is fine, but don't ruin the fisher men and women access to fish. The vacationing and fishing people are the ones keeping the local business's going. Lets ALL have a good time and fun while at the Outer Banks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 174 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 13:01:04

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

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- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 175 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 13:03:53

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** To all concerned: I have watched, with great dismay, the diminished of Off Road Vehicle (ORV) access on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CHNS) for too many years. It is my personal belief that certain interests have negatively swayed the regulating bodies responsible for management & oversight of this precious natural resource.

It is also my personal belief, and one shared by the vast majority of anglers, that the processes for formulating rules and regulations concerning access to CHNS have unfairly impacted the responsible and resource-conscious angling community.

Protecting wildlife (endangered species or not) can easily be accomplished with a collaborative, cooperative set of solutions that would minimize environmental impact and allow for reasonable ORV access. The current state of affairs is grossly in favor of the former at the considerable expense of the latter.

The concerned angling community has no issue with ORV Use Fees, as long as those funds are relegated to support the resource and maintain open and reasonable access. Unfortunately, overzealous restrictions of Buffer Zones, limited beach access times, and requirements to walk "in the water" to Cape Point constitute a serious limitation to the angling public's access.

I applaud all those who have represented the angling community regain expanded, reasonable access, however well-funded special interest groups have clearly swayed the regulatory bodies. One would easily surmise that "their" main goal would be to eliminate ORV traffic, thereby ending a valuable and

highly enjoyable right to responsibly enjoy CHNS in its prime.

My earliest visits to this area occurred approximately 55 years ago. Since then, it has been one of my favorite spots to share with family and close friends. Teaching all of them about respect for the beach and conservation of the resources has been my goal. Now, at 62 years old, it is with utter amazement that I witness the current state of affairs.

Surely, reason and logic will take precedence as future decisions are made in this regard. I support expanded access for the angling public and expect that to occur sooner than later.



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**Correspondence ID:** 176      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 13:13:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** CAPE HATTERAS OFF ROAD VEHICLE PLAN MODIFICATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

#### NEED

To address the concerns required by Congress.  
After several years of extensive closures due to the Consent Decree and the ORV plan experience has demonstrated the need for adjustment in order to meet the objectives of a satisfying visitor experience and successfully preserving the bird and turtle species.

#### MORNING OPENING OF BEACHES

Beaches should open at dawn with priority given to those most used such as Ramp 43 and 44 and close at 10 pm.

#### SEASONAL OPENING OF BEACHES

Village Beaches should be opened to ORV use from September 15th until May 15th. These are the times of lower visitation established by the NC Department of Transportation, when the speed limits are raised in the villages.  
They are not used at night by pedestrians at this time.  
Those are the dates when sea turtle nesting does not take place.  
The beaches are open several of those early and late times for fishing tournaments.

#### VEHICLE-FREE AREAS

The established mileage for VFAs is much more than is needed by those who wish to escape vehicles.  
Casual observation, recorded observations, and knowledge of human nature have proven that there is little pedestrian use of these beach areas. Since they were established several years ago there have been topographic changes and construction of new ramps which have affected usage. Birds may have chosen other spots to nest making additional de-facto VFAs.  
Overcrowding of visitors has been the result of the general shrinking of ORV areas.  
The current situation with sharks has resulted in the necessity for fishing and swimming to be further distanced from each other.  
Due to the refusal to pay for ORV permits, heavy usage of some parking lots has occurred, in order to shuttle larger groups to smaller areas of beach by one vehicle.  
Observation of parking lots shows approximately half of the vehicles are four wheel drives.  
Observation of pedestrian walkways show them used primarily as overlooks. Observations of VFAs from ORV areas have identified a couple of families that located next to the ORV area and few people over a several hour period who walked a short distance in the VFA.

Proximity to villages and public bathing areas with restroom facilities are important locations for Vehicle Free Areas.  
These VFAs should be restricted to the summer months.  
Such VFAs would be adjacent to Nags Head, Salvo, Avon Buxton, Frisco, and Hatteras, as well as Ocracoke Island north point near the ferry terminal, along the North West side.

Adequate parking appears to be provided, from our many observations, except for those who currently are parking along Route 12 between Canadian Hole and Buxton.  
These areas are used because of the high cost of ORV permits.  
Off road parking should be provided soundside, just as it is for bathing beaches, but not paid for with ORV permit funds.  
This is a high priority safety issue. If funds other than ORV permit funds aren't available for parking lots, off road access should be allowed soundside without the permit requirement.  
One other area of concern is the parking at Ramp 49. This area is used primarily by those loading and unloading for travel to the beach in a single vehicle in order to avoid buying a permit.  
Such parking lots should be expanded closer to the beach and have boardwalk, but not with ORV permit funds.

Wintering birds could be accommodated by dividing parts of wide bird preferred beaches by allowing ORV passage either near the ocean or near the dunes so as not to disturb feeding or resting.  
There are already wintering designations for plovers which are quite ample and available for other birds.  
Other resource management concerns need to be addressed on a case by case basis. The need for location of bird closures is changing and should be decided by where the birds are at a given time/year.  
Resource closures/VFAs aren't needed other than in nesting season.

Providing for a balance between ORV areas and VFAs should not mean equal distance throughout the Seashore. Many miles are required to be closed to ORVs for resource protection and village users. This drastically affects the experience of those who need to use ORVs. Being crowded into a restricted area that is not appropriate for swimming, fishing, shelling and other activities of a similar nature including atmosphere for relaxing is not the vision or historical use of the Seashore. The number of ORV permits sold is an indication of the need for more summer beach space.

Prohibiting ORV access to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Cape Hatteras seashore is extremely excessive based on need and use. There have been no scientific studies to prove the need for the excessive bird and VFA closures on this seashore. Pre-nesting closures should be at the higher sections of the beach because that is where the birds choose to rest and nest. ORVs and pedestrians should be allowed near the water. The colonial birds fly to feed. Nesting should be encouraged away from the danger of flooding. The ongoing NC STATE AMOY studies have shown that 25 meters is sufficient buffer to prevent nesting disturbance. Other beaches have used 50 yards as the distance for pedestrian and vehicle closure from birds. We have witnessed this along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts for nesting birds. When fledglings have established a feeding area, a corridor away from them should be established. Adaptive management should be used to accomplish the NPS goals of allowing people to enjoy the Seashore and birds and animals to be safe and recover in numbers.

#### ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Addressed will be the ramps and boardwalks with which I am most familiar. Adaptive management of Resource closures may close them during nesting activities.

Ramp 23 Should be open year round with north being VFA during summer and south being ORV accessible year round except where there are bird closures. It is the closest VFA and ORV access from Bodie Island and the tri-villages. It should be used to eliminate over crowding of Ramp 25 parking and beach use.

Ramp 25 Open to ORV north and south

Ramp 27 Open to ORV north.  
Open to ORV south. Observed underused.

Ramp 30 Open to ORV north. Observed several times, under used by pedestrians.  
Open to ORV south 2.5 miles. Observed. Under used by pedestrians

Ramp 34 Open to VFA use north 1.5 miles  
Open to VFA 4 miles south to Ramp 38 in summer.

Ramp 38 Open as VFA north in the summer.  
Open to ORV south to the Buxton village.

Ramp 43 Open to ORV north to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of bathing beach in summer.  
Should be open in winter. Little used by pedestrians.

Ramp 44 Open to ORV north and south. Access to Cape Point should be possible by extending the bypass north and south, opening the Salt Pond Road, and opening Ramp 45 as natural resource management allows. Cape Point is a very special section of the National Park System. It should be accessible by whatever it takes to accomplish this. All pre-nesting closures should be along the dune line or behind it so as to encourage nesting there to prevent nests from being washed out by tides and storms. ORVs should travel and park close to water.

Ramp 45 Open to ORV north and south as resource closures allow. This large area is not accessible to pedestrians because of deep soft sand for long walk from ramp 44 or the campground parking area.

Ramp 49 Open north for ORV to ramp 45  
South to Frisco village (closures in the summer). All opened in the winter. The inter-dunal road will be a help for accessing the South beach due to resource closure. It should be only as wide as to allow a single lane with pull-outs where the former road was. This area is a true wilderness area and should be respected as such. A better passage method would be to allow ORV and pedestrian travel along the water edge or dune front as closures dictate.

Ramp 55 Open south and west around inlet as beach space allows. This area has been seriously eroded in the last few years. Birds do not nest there. It is accessible only by ORV. There is no parking nor should there be due to the rapid erosion of the area.

Ramp 59 Open to ORV north around the inlet point to the sound. A VFA should start at the inlet and go toward the ferry docks with pedestrian ramp from the parking lot. Ramp should not be paid with ORV permit funds. Open south to the Pony pens area with ramp and pedestrian walkway built at that area. Pedestrian walkway should not use ORV funds. This provides an alternate route to and from the ferry docks if needed. This is especially important for emergency travel with frequent road flooding.

Ramp 72 Open to ORV north and south around inlet point. There is no provision for pedestrian parking and access to the southern point of the island. Bird pre-nesting should be well back to the center of the spit to encourage use of that area for nesting, where overwash is less likely. An ORV area along the water should be permitted to discourage bird nesting and allow use of this special area



PERMITS

4 day permits

10 day permits

Annual from day of sale

The cost of all permits should be lower. Those with lower income should be able to enjoy the Seashore experience at a reasonable cost.

MY CONCLUSIONS

We have been working on an Off Road Vehicle plan for 10 years. We have tried to balance resource and recreation through regulation. We have had meetings, made speeches, written papers, completed a workbook and attended Neg/Reg ad nauseam. The entire effort was based on the unproven theory that the reason for decrease in bird and turtle production was people presence. So all human activity was banned from areas that appeared to have the primary constituent elements and/or history of animal activity. The result has been a failure for animals and people. This has created general distrust or satisfaction of NPS policies. This year the Piping Plover results were 2 fledges from a record number of pairs. The problem has not been people but predation and weather. Fortunately Congress has allowed us to look at this failed experiment and make changes to improve the policies to provide for the original purpose of the seashore - to again become a true recreational area. Hopefully we can find better ways to preserve the species by realizing that the true detriments to survival which are predators and weather.

Thankfully we are now doing what should have been done from the beginning - to consider input from the beach users, to consider the statistics gathered by the NPS staff, and recognize the results on our beach. Recommendations,

- Consider the overcrowding of the ORV beaches which is contrary to the unique attraction and historical use of CAHA
- Do away with the VFAs that are only slightly used at most.
- Limit VFAs to areas that adjoin village beaches or where there are public bathing beaches and bath facilities.
- Open all VFAs in off season due to lack of use for that purpose.
- Provide adequate parking in areas of high pedestrian use.
- Give a transparent accounting of expenditures for ORV costs.
- Reduce the costs for ORV permits.
- Provide pedestrian facilities with funds other than ORV funds
- Use adaptive management in determining bird use areas and length of time of closure.
- Recognize that birds are less disturbed by ORVs than pedestrians. Adjust closures accordingly.
- Initiate the community committee that was described in the ORV plan in order to get feet on the sand input.
- Use the Superintendent discretionary policy provision in managing people and animal use of the beach on a case by case basis.

In summary I must point out that I cannot access the beach unless I step out of our ORV. I only walk on hard sand areas a short distance because of breathing and mobility issues. Being dropped off on the village beach or sitting ORV door to door is not why I came to Cape Hatteras to get away from the Jersey Shore. I want to enjoy the Point and Inlets with my grandchildren in the summer before I die.




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**Correspondence ID:** 177    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 14:07:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
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  - Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
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  - Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
  - Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 178    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 14:58:27

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

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- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- The elimination of driving permits.
- If this is not an option, then issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 179 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug.12,2015 15:13:57

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

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**Correspondence ID:** 180 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug.12,2015 15:56:38

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

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- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 181 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug.12,2015 16:13:19

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As an Outer Banks resident, Hatteras Island business owner, plus a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light as possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 182    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 16:27:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please consider the suggest changes to the Orville rules suggested by the OBPA

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**Correspondence ID:** 183    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 16:33:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** [REDACTED]

August 12, 2015

Supt. Dave Hallac  
National Park Service Headquarters  
Manteo, NC

These comments supersede any comments made at an earlier date

I would like to make the following comments about the upcoming changes required by the legislation passed by the US Congress to improve vehicle access within the Cape Hatteras National Recreational Seashore by year's end.

**Village Closures**

I believe that the original pre-consent decree closures of May 15 until Sept. 15 were and are adequate. If this option cannot be supported by NPS in the rule making the closures should put in place no earlier than May 1 and remain closed no later than September 30. These are the dates that the beaches north of the seashore use.

**Night Closures:**

There is no need for night closures to any area of the beach, but if you insist on continuing the closures they should begin no earlier than 11PM at night and open no later than at 6:00AM in the morning.

You have mentioned rolling times for opening the Ramps. I do like the idea of following the turtle patrol out but fear it would be impossible for proper enforcement. Therefore, I suggest that the following ramps be made priority ramps: Ramp 4, Ramp 44, Ramp 49, Ramp 55 and Ramp 72 with 6 AM openings.

**Permits:**

You have also mentioned in your announcement that suggestions for the permit changes be considered:  
I hear the complaints and suggest you make simple changes.

Change the 7 day to a 10 day that matches the NC Fishing License. The reason this was established by North Carolina Legislators was that the Fishing License Advisory Committee that studied the idea for over a year before the license was sent to the legislature gave them that proposal. It gives the visitor the ability to arrive on a Friday and have two weekends within one permit.

While a 1-3 day permit has been suggested my opinion is that most weekenders come from nearby and do so several times a year so most would opt for the year permit and it is not necessary to complicate the issue process with another license.

The yearly pass should change to from date of issue to renewal on that date the next year.

Also it would be a very good idea if businesses that issue fishing licenses be able to also issue the beach driving permits. Like the extra charge required for the licenses being purchased on line it would be nice if said business could be given a "service fee" similar to the NC State Fishing License Fee, but my

business would consider doing it without a fee to help my customers

I heard in the scoping meeting a suggestion that due to traffic problems between Avon and Buxton soundside permits be issued at a reduced rate (\$10.00 per week). They are off roading and if that discount is given I want the same benefit so I don't have to park and walk to the beach. In conjunction with NCDOT build a widened road shoulder for their parking that could also be made in a manner to reduce flooding from ocean or sound in storm events preventing some of the previous erosion and road collapses.

Routes and Areas:

While I think that there should be no vehicle free areas between villages year round on any part of Bodie, Hatteras and Ocracoke I will give you what I feel are most important to me in changes.

Bodie Island:

Ramp 2 to Ramp 4 should be year round ORV access continuing to the shoal point near the inlet entrance. From September 1 until May 1 from the shoal point at the inlet to tidal creek should be open to ORV.

Hatteras Island:

Rodanthe-Waves - Salvo Village beaches: See Village Closure Comments

Ramp 23 should be open 12 months a year from the ramp north to the village limits and south to Ramp 25 seasonally from September 1 until May 1.

Ramp 25 South to Ramp 27 should remain a year round ORV Route

Ramp 27- Ramp 30 should be seasonally opened from Sept. 1 until May 1

Ramp 30 should continue to be open year round to Ramp 32.5

Ramp 32.5 should be open seasonally from September 1 until May 1.

Ramp 34 should be open 12 months a year for vehicles from the ramp to the village limits south and from the ramp north to Ramp 32.5 seasonally from Sept 1 until May 1.

Avon Village Beach - See Village Closure Comments

Ramp 38 should remain a year round ORV Route to the present south boundary and the area from that point to the south side of the life guard area in Buxton can be a vehicle free area.

Ramp 43 should remain an ORV route year round with access North for 1 mile. Ramp 43 south should be a 12 month ORV Route because the prenesting closure there has not been productive due to lost nests. The area is too narrow for suitable wildlife nesting.

Ramp 43 & Ramp 44 to Cape Point: Cape Point's east facing beach from Ramp 43 and Ramp 44 should never be closed to vehicles for any reason. This is the most prestigious surf fishing area on the east coast. If it takes a man made buffer far enough west of the surf be built in a way it would protect and aid birds resting and nesting but not interrupting vehicular traffic it should be made. A cut could be made south of the Cape Point where water would enter from the south beach making a barrier that would keep nesting birds and chicks near the surf zone separated from east beaches vehicles and people. The vehicles and people in this area year round would then diminish the birds from using the east beach that has so many occurrences of lost nests due to ocean over wash from occurring. Pre-nesting closures should be moved west where the man made or natural barrier keeps the birds west and allows vehicle access where turtles may lay their nests. If there is an area that is narrow on this beach from Ramp 44 to Cape Point then any turtle nest should be moved to a safe area where vehicle and beach conditions are better for its success.

Ramp 45 should be opened west to Ramp 48 seasonally from Sept. 1 until May 1 each year.

Ramp 49 should remain open to ORV year round From the Village limit to Ramp 48 and seasonally to Ramp 45.

Frisco Village - see my village closure comment.

From west Frisco boundary to Hatteras Village east boundary I have no comment.

Hatteras Village - See my village closure comment

Ramp 55 should remain a year round area and from the South Point to the Cable Crossing should be seasonally open from Sept 1 to May 1.

I do not know some of the issues on Ocracoke so the only comments I will make for that area is that:

1. Ramp 59 should remain a year round ORV route and that seasonally from Ramp 59 around to the ferry dock should be open from Sept 1 until May 1.
2. All ORV areas between Ramp 59 and Ramp 72 should have the same ORV designation as now.
3. Ramp 73 South should remain open 12 months to the present boundary that is VFA and the VFA area there should be made an ORV Route from sept. 1 to May 1

Many years ago I drove over to the beach at Oregon Inlet and driven to 200 yards before entering Buxton (Old Ramp 22) leaving the beach and re entered at Ramp 43 and driven via the point to Hatteras Inlet. As an optimist I would like my youthful experience to be what congress intended in the legislation. But I am a realist, knowing that we will be somewhat limited in our success. You, the leaders of NPS have been charged to help us gain better access and know that the present rules were established with a lawsuit over your head. The congress of the US has seen this mistreatment by your predecessors and now expect you to make changes for the benefit of visitor experience like we once had.

Thank you for your help and we look forward to good decisions made on your part to encourage the return of many of our past visitors.



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**Correspondence ID:** 184    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.12,2015 16:55:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 185    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.12,2015 17:02:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 186    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.12,2015 17:17:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA)

designations, by no later than September 15;

- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 187    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 17:19:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 188    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 17:21:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am not for removing any thing in nature from its existence, but there are times when common sense has to be used. I think we should mark turtle and bird nest, but to close the beach and cost people their living, its absurd. I've seen the number of animals killed in the national park to protect the birds, why does not a fox or racoon have just as much right to live in the park as a bird who is in its southern most range. It's a National Park< I think when it was purchased, it was under the pretense it would be preserved for use for the people. I think most of the plovers nest elsewhere, their numbers have always been low, as it is not one of the smartest nesting birds. I would like to know how many birds there were in 1950, 1975, 2000, 2015, are they truly less today. Show me the numbers.

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**Correspondence ID:** 189    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 18:24:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible especially ramp 44 or other ramps that provide access to Cape Point;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

**Correspondence ID:** 190 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 18:36:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I know that there is enough room for ORV , birds and turtles in the Buxton area. I would like to watch sunrises from the point. Longer hours for fishing, reduction in closers, more acces to the point. also I feel that the permit should be for 1 year from date of issu. it would be nice if there was a discount for out of state seniors. Keep up the good work ,and let all of us birds ORV, and turtles share the beach. thank you. [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 191 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 18:42:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 192 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 18:53:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The night time driving rule should be canceled due to no effect on false crawl. The high numbers have continued to happen without any vehicle present. The only time a turtle has been hit was during the night time driving rule was being enforced. Breaking the law and driving without any lights cause the only reported case in the history for the park. All beaches need to be open to drive on during the nonnesting season in order to kill ghost crabs for and weeds which will assist nesting shore birds.

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**Correspondence ID:** 193 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 18:56:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 194 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,12,2015 19:55:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
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- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 195    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 20:02:09

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please stop this non-sense. Our coastal communities are a fragile ecosystem and no place for 4x4 trucks. I can't believe this is even a suggestion. Driving a truck on a beach will result in destruction of habitat for sea turtles that come ashore to lay eggs. There are many other important animals that would be impacted with allowing 4x4 trucks to drive on the beach. Besides the environmental impact, the serenity of a beach would be ruined by numerous loud monster trucks running up and down the beach.

I feel strongly that the proposal to allow trucks on Cape Hatteras beach should be stopped.

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**Correspondence ID:** 196    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 21:00:03

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We have been going to the beach in NC for over 20 years. Over the last few years, the access to the beach has become very limited, under the guise of protecting the wildlife on the beaches. I don't know why wildlife can't co-exist with others? It happens all over the world, except Cape Cod, MA and Hatteras, NC.

The same people closing the beaches in NC did the same thing 20 years ago in Cape Code, MA. Look what happened to those beaches. Seals moved in. Eating all the fish and wild life. Then, the sharks showed up to eat the seals. Sharks now inhabit those waters and people can't enjoy the beaches. Things got worse than better. By the way, the rangers working those beaches lost their jobs because there was no one left to access the beaches. No rangers were need for patrol. No stations need to be manned. This will happen in NC! When people are gone, the sharks will move in the eat the sea turtles. The rangers will no longer be needed.

It's a sad state in our country where the wildlife is more important than the human life. I can't tell you how many people's lives have been effected by these closings. Many shops have closed down in the Outer Banks. Every year, there seems to be more and more closures. Generations of people who lived on the island need to move off to make a living.

My recommendation is to go back to the rules of 10 years ago. Provide an area for the wild life, but still provide access to the public. Implement beach driving regulations, enforce those regulations, and charge a usage fee. Bring back to tourist to the island. Bring back the generations and traditions to the island. Bring back the economy and jobs to the island. We can co-exist.

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**Correspondence ID:** 197    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,12,2015 21:57:52

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The area called South Beach between ramps 45 and 49 should have an ORV access route at least during the offseason. You are forcing beachgoers, especially families away from the relative safety of the flat and gently sloping beaches of South Beach to the sharper deeper and often rip strewn northern beaches. Perhaps it will save a few birds but what will the cost be in human lives over time?

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**Correspondence ID:** 198    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,13,2015 04:50:28

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.



Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 199    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 05:30:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 200    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am a recreational fisherman who supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access. I urge the National Park Service to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore. Access has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore
- Issuing annual permits valid for a year

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

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**Correspondence ID:** 201    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 06:18:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman and someone who has spent many years vacationing on Hatteras and hope to spend many more. I strongly support resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 202    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.13,2015 06:56:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I strongly support resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light as possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 203    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.13,2015 07:09:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As an avid fisherman and family man who hopes to pass down my great love of North Carolina's natural resources to my children and eventually their children, I would like to register my support for as much open ORV access to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore as possible. It is my strong belief that the best way to nurture good stewards of nature is to get them to experience it. Responsible ORV use doesn't hurt anything and adds immensely to their appreciation of the resource.

Additionally, my aging father's bad knees prohibit him from walking on the beach very much at all, so the ability to drive out there enables him to continue to enjoy the resource. This is all a central part of our family's closeness and tradition.

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**Correspondence ID:** 204    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.13,2015 07:40:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Never regress with any rules or regulations that have proven successful in their objective. Keep all buffers and times of vehicle access on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore as they presently are written. Wildlife does NOT have a say in the matter nor the ability to vocalize their happiness with the conditions that allow for their prosperity and sustainability. Thank you for doing the right thing, which is the best thing for turtle and bird nesting. THANK YOU!

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**Correspondence ID:** 205    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.13,2015 07:45:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I ask that you leave as much ORV access as possible. As an avid fisherman along the Outer Banks throughout the year, having vehicular access to the beaches is extremely important to me. As a father of three young kids, we enjoy the access during the summers. I want my children to continue to experience how wonderful it is to explore our beautiful beaches as I have my whole life. It is a huge part of our family tradition to drive on the beach every year. It is such a wonderful thing to be have this freedom. Thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 206    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.13,2015 07:55:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please keep the beaches open to ORV use. The communities surrounding the Cape Hatteras seashore have a long and rich history of responsible use of the area beaches by outdoors enthusiasts. One of the most common ways of accessing this national treasure is through the use of permitted ORV's. Further limiting their use would render accessing these beaches nearly impossible for recreational fishermen and outdoor enthusiasts, hurting both the enthusiasts and the communities they help support economically. Please keep the ORV routes open and restore ORV and pedestrian access to the cape point.

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**Correspondence ID:** 207    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.13,2015 07:58:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** 1. Morning Beach Openings: First safe light or "false dawn". Times to be posted for various times of the year online since "false dawn" is somewhat subjective. Early morning and late evening are "prime" fishing times. 7am & 9pm closures prohibit use during the times that most fishermen want to be on the beach the most.

Night driving: May 1st-Nov 15th. Create access points that do not traverse prime turtle nesting areas and educate people intending on night driving (see special pass below) on proper night driving educate. Other times of year where nesting is not occurring allow night driving.

2. Seasonal ORV Routes: Extension in the Fall & Spring. Extend this season to coincide with the spring and fall fish migrations (specifically Red Drum seasons). Have a separate pass for people that have a fishing license that allows access to "fishy" spots such as "spits, points, inlets, bights, etc" (ramp 45, 44, 55, 59, etc).

Provide alternative access to these areas in case of closures, to ensure there is some form of access that does not interfere with wildlife management areas. If areas need to be closed to ORV for temporary management make them open to pedestrians by foot so they at least have the option to hike out to these areas and re-open as quickly as possible.

3. Regarding Permits: 3 Day permit available online, that can be printed, or electronically stored on cell phone. If permit must be physically displayed then set up a ATM style permit stations somewhere at the entrance of the OBX and other key locations where you can pay and print a sticker/hang tag 24 hrs.

Special Fishing Permit (see above): If you have an active NC fishing license or have completed an you have the option to purchase a special ORV and Pedestrian access pass to areas the general public passes do not provide during certain times of the year. Provide educational resources for folks wanting to help in wildlife management such as having flags at ranger stations where ORV operators and pedestrians can mark nests and call these locations in.

Vehicle Free Areas: These need to be re-evaluated because it does not appear that VFA are being accessed by the individuals that requested them in the first place. Especially points, spits, bights, and areas where most pedestrians are not going to "walk" to. The VFA areas that are adjacent to ORV access points should be moved so there is not ORV traffic near pedestrian access points. VFA should only be in high pedestrian traffic areas immediately adjacent to communities with public access points and open to ORV traffic during "off season" Labor Day through Memorial Day.

I recently attended a meeting in Hampton VA where an individual expressed his desire for more scientific data to be gathered. I totally agree that factual science must be employed to have a successful management strategy.

He also expressed his desire to eliminate all dogs from the beaches. I strongly DISAGREE with this. Most of the folks using the beaches that own dogs are responsible dog owners. As long as dogs are not hurting other individuals or adversely effecting management efforts they should NOT be restricted.

When "management" and "regulation" begin infringing on the public's right to access areas that not only their tax dollars, and now permit money, go toward protecting I feel that this is a problem. I strongly feel that a management strategy that is fundamentally strong in public education and individual responsibility MUST be employed to be successful. The core group of individuals that advocate for access feel very strongly about conservation and preserving our national parks. Common sense needs to be brought back and a certain level of trust needs to be placed back with the public to manage these areas and root out the bad seeds that cause friction and ultimately destroy the ability for the public to enjoy these natural resources. Utilize the public as a conservation and management resource and keep political organizations and non-state governing bodies out of the process. Have the "peers" that are reviewing the resources ever visited our shores? Give the "peer review" responsibility to those that know it best. I would be more content with less "peer review" and more local determination and ruling based on data and factual science.

I also believe it is counter productive on one hand to promote conservation and on the other hand selectively exterminate native species to protect other select species. This seems to fundamentally contradict "natural selection" and a healthy management strategy. Feral cats invasive species and deer population control are one thing but selectively eliminating predators is no different than killing sharks because there was an increase in human/shark casualties.

Another issues is I have directly seen evidence of VFA's and Closures being disregarded by park officials. If the public is forced to abide by these regulations it seems only fair that park officials are held to the same standard. Again, if park authorities can be educated on how to drive responsibly in these areas than so can the public. This does not set a good example for the promotion of these regulations and VFA's when the people instituting them are not held to the same standards.

Together we can create a solution that is in line with conserving our beaches and preserving this treasure for many future generations to come.

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**Correspondence ID:** 208      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.13,2015 08:48:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have been vacationing at OBX on an almost annual basis since 1980. SUGGEST seasonal beaches be opened as of September 15th, and open the VFA area between Ramps 27 and 34 to seasonal or year round ORV access. Also, ORV permits should be issued on a one week, two week, or one year from date of purchase basis. Thanks for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 209      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.13,2015 08:54:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Night Enclosures.  
Would like to see 6am to Midnight.

ORV Routs.  
Would like to see year-round ORV routes at Ramp 43, 44,45,49, 55,59,and 72.

Beach Access.

Would like to see Cape point open year round. No closures.

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**Correspondence ID:** 210    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 09:16:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would like to encourage a management approach to the Cape Hatteras beaches that protects wildlife while allowing as much public access as possible. I think the state of North Carolina does a good job with this at the beaches areas it manages and I hope to see the National Park Service adopt similar methods. Specifically the way they manager sea turtle nests at Fort Fisher seems like a good compromise. The turtle nests are protected by a fence to prevent anyone from driving over the nest but the rest of the beach is open to vehicles. Staff are present when the nest hatches and assists with turtles who can't make it to the surf. This eliminates any concern about tire tracks as an obstacle for the baby turtles.

The more people who are able to enjoy and interact with nature and wildlife the more people who care about and want to protect it. Public access and conservation need not be at odds, public access when handled correctly can be a tool to promote conservation.

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**Correspondence ID:** 211    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 09:26:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Sirs:

Following bare my suggestions...

- â€NPS should take necessary steps to open priority beaches as soon after first light at possible, especially Cape Point.
- â€Seasonal beaches in front of villages should be reopened earlier in the fall, perhaps October 1st.
- â€Seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of VFA designations, should be reopened to ORV access no later than September 15.
- â€The size and number of current Vehicle Free Areas (VFAs) are excessive and detrimental to the visitor experience.
- â€The NPS should reclassify many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes.
- â€The NPS should reclassify some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes.
- â€Reducing the amount of VFA miles can be done in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore. Especially Bodie Island ORV access and access to the "spit" should be increased when conditions allow to access the good fishing area along the inlet.
- â€The NPS should issue annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

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**Correspondence ID:** 212    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 09:29:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I don't understand why all this can't go back to the way it used to be. I am all for preserving the wildlife on the OBX but someone has gone a little too far. This has not only affected the tourism and fishing but it has also affected the livlyhood of the folks and merchants that live there. I can't believe the government of our fine state of NC has let this go. It's time to put a stop to it.

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**Correspondence ID:** 213    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 09:39:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Return the dates for the seasonal closures in front of the Villages to the original dates of April and October. These months have more people fishing than the casual beach user, who could also benefit from vehicle access.

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**Correspondence ID:** 214    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 09:40:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public

access can be restored to this national treasure.



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**Correspondence ID:** 215    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 10:47:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We now have a new law that is supposed to give the people access to the beaches of Cape Hatteras. All I ask is do your job. Thanks member NCBBA

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**Correspondence ID:** 216    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 11:25:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Superintendent Hallac,

My family visits the area every year, and we very much support your effort to review portions of the ORV plan. In my opinion, the current rules are too restrictive. I am grateful for the buffer changes you announced earlier in the summer. Regarding some portions of the policy itself I would recommend several things. First, I think that beaches should be opened earlier in the day. It is totally appropriate to have them closed at night during those times when turtles are nesting, but by 7:00 AM the sun has been up for awhile and it is quite bright outside. Why not move it back until 6:00 A.M.? At that time of day it is light enough so as not to interfere with turtles nesting. I also think that some means of making the ORV permits extend for a year from the time of purchase would be very convenient. When we all purchase fishing licenses from the state those licenses are annual from time of purchase. If it is a given that the area just to the west of Cape Point is vehicle free all the time as it appears to be, completion of the interdunal road from the Frisco Campground back to the Ramp 44 area would be very, very helpful and I would encourage your staff to finish it as soon as possible. Would it be possible to create some sort of similar path behind the dune line down to the Cape Point area to provide access to the point for ORVs during those times when the beach route needs to be closed due to bird or turtle activity? While any national park or seashore must be protective of natural habitat and wildlife, I think that the current rule enacted in 2012 went too far in that direction making it too difficult for the public, either pedestrian or in ORVs, to use the beaches. At the end of the day, the seashore was created for the people, the public to enjoy.

Once again, I appreciate what you have done so far in your tenure to strike the balance between protecting wildlife and ensuring that the people who paid for the beaches have access to them.



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**Correspondence ID:** 217    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 11:47:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The beaches should be opened as soon after first light as possible and should remain open until 11 PM.

We do think the size and number of VFA's is excessive. [Redacted] comments about aerial observation of VFA's should be given strong consideration.

Ramp 2 should be opened to ORV's year round because north of Oregon Inlet at present there is only ramp 4 and this would open a bit more beach to ORV's. The parking area at ramp 2 should be extended to the North with a walk way added to facilitate pedestrian access to the beach.

Ramp 45 should be open to ORV's year round. There was much support about this at the Hilton meeting.

We support the idea of a 10 day permit.

Annual permits should be good for a year from the date of purchase.

A discount program for seniors should be added if possible.

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**Correspondence ID:** 218    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 12:13:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I'd like to commend Supt Halleck and the NPS for a more open and flexible approach to beach access and resource issues. I would consider myself both an environmentalist and a believer that the Cape Hatteras seashore should be available to the widest variety of users and access methods. It has to be about balance, based on good science. Two specific things I would like to see is the reduction in the vehicle free zones and earlier access in the "off-season" to more of the beach. The current Vehicle free areas cut off significant parts of the park from many users whom access the beach in historically consistent ways - beach driving pre-dates the Seashore and is a strong cultural feature of the island. Hatteras is different than many other NPS parks in its limited size and linear nature - closing off sections destroys the continuity; particularly outside nesting seasons, unnecessarily.

Many folks that don't visit the island or stay only in the villages may envision vehicles on the beach different than reality. Many picture teens in jacked up pickups doing donuts on the beach around turtle nests - nothing could be further from the truth. Vehicle access on the beach is about just that - making the amazing resource available to a much wider group of folks. Can I hike 2 miles up the beach with all the gear that I need to fish or even just comfortably enjoy a day - maybe, but most others in my family and group of friends cannot. Resources are only cherished when they are viewed, used and enjoyed in responsible manners - let's continue to partner together to provide greater access and build the community of those that cherish and preserve the Seashore.

Perhaps a broader issue, but looking beyond the park boundaries when assessing the health of a particular species - I.e. The nesting colonies on spoil islands; may result in a more realistic understanding of needed protection.

I regret not being able to make the meetings, but appreciate this opportunity to provide input.

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**Correspondence ID:** 219 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.13,2015 12:39:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would like to start out by saying I have been coming to Hatteras for at least 2 weeks a year for about 40 years now. I am part of a group of about 8 people that come for a week in the spring and a week in the fall to fish. we are not the spring chickens that we once were, so getting to areas to fish (such as Cape Point) by ORV is important to me and my buddies. The following are changes I would like to see.

I would like to see as much of an extension of opening the beach closings in front of the villages as possible. The additional 6 weeks in the spring and fall is my choice. This would include any new seasonal beaches that may come about due to new rulings. I believe pedestrians and ORV's can coexist during the extended timeframes. There aren't as many folks that are strictly "pedestrians" during the early and late seasons. Most kids are usually still in school. This limits "family vacations" during these periods.

I also feel the seasonal beaches not in front of villages should be re-opened no later than September 15th. This would also include any new designated areas as a result of the review. There are quite a number of folks who come to Hatteras to be able to drive out on the beach, set up for the day and enjoy the beach. Even a lot of families want to be able to do this. Toting all the things needed for a full day out there is nearly impossible for mom and dad. Not everyone can afford to stay ocean front, so these rules limit them as well.

In the overall scheme of things, there is way more beach area designated as "non-use" for ORV's than there is beach that can be used. A little more balance would be nice. Families would like to be able to drive out on the beach and enjoy life away from some of the people fishing. As it is now, both families and people fishing are all piled together.

I also feel strongly about the pedestrian use only between ramp 45 and Cape Point. This section should be opened back up to ORV use as a secondary way to get to the point area. I know it's not always possible to get thru this area because of water, but getting to this area to fish would be important. As I said before, I'm not the spring chicken that I once was, so the walk with equipment is difficult. I don't even know if anyone even uses the campground in this area anymore anyway.

In closing, I believe nature and people co-existed on all these beaches for a very long time without problems. The beach closures for birds have not resulted in some huge number of birds that are fledging. Predators and storms have been their biggest problems, not people in ORV's. The people who live on the island year round have been affected the most. All of these rules and regulations are killing businesses and folks are going broke. Please remember them when deciding on new regulations.

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**Correspondence ID:** 220 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.13,2015 12:59:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please keep the limits on beach driving per the 2012 regulations adopted. The beach is a beautiful natural area which should be maintained for both wildlife conservation and future generations to enjoy, not to be destroyed by air and noise pollution from ORV's. I personally feel that vehicles have no place AT ALL on our beaches, and common sense has been overruled by whomever felt the need to allow these atrocious vehicles on our beaches. Please stop reducing protected areas for wildlife. If you aren't concerned about wildlife, think about how unattractive an area it is for sunbathers to have to share the beauty of the beach with noisy, noxious vehicles ruining their vacation spot. Isn't our National Seashore Designation supposed to provide protection to nature?!

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**Correspondence ID:** 221 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.13,2015 13:19:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The primary purpose of the designation of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore was to protect and preserve the unique natural resources of the Outer Banks of North Carolina. While recreational use is an important and acceptable use of the seashore, the protection of the endangered, threatened, and rare animals, plants, habitats, and ecosystems should remain the principal mission of the National Park Service. The existing public access rules resulting from an extensive collaborative effort and based on science appear to offer reasonable protection of the most at risk species. These rules must not be relaxed to accommodate a vocal minority of seashore users who are more interested in selfish activities than in protecting the very resources that make the seashore the treasure that it is and will hopefully continue to be.

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**Correspondence ID:** 222 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.13,2015 13:38:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please give us the fisherman a chance to fish the point during the spring and summer. The people of Hatteras are suffering because there are no fish at the areas that allow access. I know that you think that it is not possible to have fish in one section of the beach, because of the currents and deeper waters this is where the fish go.

Ramp 49... there are so many sand bars that even a great castor can not reach the deep waters. Ramp 45,44, are always closed. The only place left to even think of having deeper waters is Ramp. 55. Now there are so many people trying to fish this area that there are no fish.

I come down 4 weeks during the year..and have been for 12 years. 7 years ago we caught fish, not bucketful's but enough to have a meal. This past June we caught 2 fish...There was no where that was open because of the expanded bird closures.

People do not tell the whole story when it becomes news. There is an article in the NEWS &Observer that is very one sided, against the fishing and recreations of the beach.

In my years of coming down I have never ran over a bird, hit a turtle, left trash on beach ,or ran over a sign(bird closer). I respect the beach and leave it as I have found it.

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**Correspondence ID:** 223 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.13,2015 13:53:07

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Here are items ( in priority order within each category of MORNING BEACH OPENINGS, SEASONAL ORV ROUTES, VFAs, ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS AND PERMITS) that I feel should be implemented to improve access for ORV users as well as pedestrians.

I have put them in the category order as listed in the NPS scoping document. The fact that one category is first has no bearing on priority. It is the priority within a category that is important.

I've also generally commented on the areas I am most familiar with.

#### I. MORNING BEACH OPENING

1. . Make night closures from just after Memorial Day to Mid August since few turtle nests are laid in May and any laid after Mid August are not generally successful and should be incubated.
2. Allow ORVs to stay on the night closed beaches during closure times, remaining parked and not moved, with no lights on except interior lights. The excuses given in the Final Rule comment responses are like saying we don't have enough LEOs to patrol highways at night and sooner or later there will be a speeder or drunk, so we need to prohibit vehicles from highways at night. Besides night fishermen are not into light other than red type lights to prevent disturbing the fish and keep their night vision. Further such red lights would be far less disturbing to turtles than a pedestrian walking around with a mega CP flashlight that is now permitted.
3. Make night closures 2200 to one half hour prior to sunrise ( eg nautical twilight) and have all closed beaches open NLT one half hour prior to sunrise. The Spanish don't wait until 0700 and sunset is around 2000 during much of the period proposed above.
4. Start morning patrols to open night time closed beaches on a rolling basis to be completed NLT one half hour prior to sunrise, (eg nautical twilight) allowing ORVs to follow NPS personnel at a safe distance as beach is cleared.
5. Priority of morning opening.
  - A. Ramp 43/44 and Narrows Bypass to Cape Point and Hook area
  - B. Salt Pond Rd or Ramp 45 to the Point if that corridor is opened to ORVs. See ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS # 1 below.
  - C. South Point
  - D. Ramp 55 to Hatteras Inlet
  - E. ORV routes between Avon and Salvo.
  - F. Bodie Island Spit

#### II. SEASONAL ORV ROUTES

1. Return to the 15 May to 15 Sep seasonal ORV closure in the villages, that was established in the late 1970s. Certainly not closing villages seasonally to ORVs more than towns North of the Bonner, that being 1 May to 1 Oct. I think there is little doubt that there are more visitors in the North towns than in the Seashore during off season so 15 May - 15 Sep makes common sense. Plus those dates are what NCDOT uses to reduce speed limits in the villages based on traffic volume, a clear indicator of visitation.
2. Opening most VFAs to ORVs off season. That way in off season you could still have Coquina, Pea Island, and the bath house area between Frisco and Hatteras Village as year round pedestrian only areas. Certainly more than enough VFAs for off season. In addition there is now a public (county) pedestrian access in Rodanthe and all of these except Pea Island have rest room facilities and parking, along with showers.
3. Not closing Ramps 23 and 34 seasonally to ORVs.
4. Redesignate the VFA just South of Ramp 38 down to the Buxton line as a seasonal ORV route.
5. Redesignate the VFA from North boundary of Buxton down to just North of Ramp 43 as a seasonal ORV route. I know it is narrow now but if so designated, it could be opened in the future with no rule mod needed and kept closed now for safety ( eg narrow beach or pedestrian density ) or wildlife, such closures all being within the current discretionary authority of the Supt, with no rule mod. Such flexible/adaptive management is sorely needed rather than a rule change process that takes years.
6. Redesignate the seasonal ORV route at Bodie Island, including soundside VFA, as a year round route, subject of course to resource or safety closure when needed just like for any other year round ORV route. This gives flexibility when no closure for wildlife or safety is necessary with no rule mod required to open it to ORVs. And I've yet to see anyone on the spit when closed to ORVs unless arrived by boat. Folks are not walking out there.

#### III. VFAs

General Comment. I seldom see anyone now within VFAs more than just at/near the boundaries, even in prime season. I have spent the month of Aug 2012, and months of Jul 2013, 2014, 2015 in Salvo and have watched the VFAs between Ramps 23 - 34 closely on nearly a daily basis. They have received little to no use, other than at the boundaries, during that time. And many times that I have seen someone just inside a boundary, they have arrived there by ORV, eg South boundary of Ramp 23 VFA and North boundary of Ramp 34 VFA. In off season my observation is little to no use. Fall fishing tournaments (2012 - 2013) with VFAs from Ramp 23 - 34 open to ORVs have shown me virtually no pedestrian use.

Also my observations during the periods above show folks arriving out on the beach by ORV vs walking is at least about 10 to 1 respectively.

1. Remove the VFA South of Ramp 23 and make the seasonal village boundary at the North side of Ramp 23. See ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS # 3 below for boardwalk comment.
2. Remove the VFA North of Ramp 34 and make the seasonal village boundary at the South side of Ramp 34. See ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS # 4 below for boardwalk comment.
3. Reduce the size of the VFA at Ramp 27 - 30 to start about a mile South of 27 and a mile North of 30. See ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS # 5 below for boardwalk comment.
4. Redesignate Hatteras Inlet VFAs (both sides of the inlet) as a year round ORV routes. For sure no one walks from the Ramp 55 parking area down the beach or Pole Rd to get to this VFA. They are getting there by ORV.
5. Redesignate the VFA area in Rodanthe from South of the pier up to the Pea Island line as a seasonal ORV route.
6. Redesignate Ramp 1 VFA down to the North side of Coquina as an ORV seasonal route. I doubt there is much pedestrian use of the area even in prime season, let alone off season.

Note: Yes I know 4, 5, and 6 above are narrow beach now but if so designated they could maybe be opened to ORVs in the future and can be closed now for safety or wildlife. AND no rule mod would be needed to open to ORVs. Narrow beaches come and go and the present rule allows no flexibility in managing ORV routes vs pedestrian VFAs.

7. Move the East boundary of the VFA at South Beach to the West just past Ramp 45. And see Access Improvements # 1 below for corridor to the Point if the boundary is not moved. I don't think many, if any, pedestrians ever access it (long walk) and no near parking unless the campground is open and even when open there seems to be much reduced use now of the campground.
8. Redesignate the VFAs on the soundside of Bodie Island Spit and South Point as year round ORV routes. Again no one is walking out to these areas. They get there by ORV.

#### IV. ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

1. Provide an alternate year round ORV route to the Point thru a corridor at Salt Pond Rd or Ramp 45. The size and location of the VFA that the road and ramp go into now prevents such a corridor. Or modify the VFA East boundary per VFAs #7 above
- 2 Extend the Narrows Bypass well back toward Ramp 44 and down toward the Point well past the Narrows.

Note: The above would then give 3 possible year round routes to access the Point. (the beach along the Narrows, the Bypass, Salt Pond Rd or Ramp 45. And the Bypass extension and/or alt corridor at Salt Pond/Ramp 45 could prevent moving a turtle nest in the Narrows area as a last resort, as now provided for in the buffer mods.

3. Put in a parking area at the backside of the dune line with boardwalk about half way between the Salvo boundary and Ramp 23 to access the seasonal VFA there (per VFAs # 1 above).
4. Put in a parking area at the backside of the dune line with boardwalk about half way between the Avon boundary and Ramp 34 to access the seasonal VFA there (per VFAs # 2 above). Stop construction on the parking area and boardwalk just South of new Ramp 32.
5. Put in a parking area on the backside of the dune line and boardwalk about 1.5 miles South of Ramp 27 to access the modified seasonal VFA between Ramps 27 - 30 (per VFAs # 3 above)

Note parking near dune to reduce length of walk for 3, 4, 5 above.

6. Remove all parking and boardwalks next to ORV ramps in the Salvo to Avon area so as to discourage pedestrian use of ORV areas and thus encourage pedestrian use of VFAs well away from ORV routes. Don't put in the parking area at Ramp 32. Provide only a small area for tire airing down at ramps, no parking. I'm most familiar with the Salvo to Avon user conflicts but this should be considered at other ramps/pedestrian accesses. Right now the way accesses exist and are being constructed, you are funneling ORVs into a reduced space and at the same time funneling pedestrians into the same reduced space. The current plan has actually increased user conflict, rather than reduce it. Yes, I know radical but unless this is done you will always have more user conflict. It would also discourage the ferrying of folks over to the beach in a single permitted ORV making multiple trips to/from vehicles in a ramp parking area, and my observation is that most of the parked vehicles are ORV capable. This could also add revenue thru additional permits sold. BTW the number of vehicles parked at an ORV ramp is far from an indicator of pedestrian use, because of the ferrying.

Bottom line. It makes no sense to place ORV and pedestrian access along side each other.

#### V. PERMITS

1. Make the handicapped special ORV permit applicable to all VFAs, not just village beaches. Recall at REG-NEG there was this overwhelming need for "wilderness" and "inlet" experiences and it is virtually impossible for a handicapped person to have such an "experience" on a village beach or ORV route. AND few, if any, pedestrians are walking deep into VFAs to have these "experiences" thus one or two handicapped vehicles in a VFA is not going to ruin



any "experience".

2. Make the annual permit valid for one year from date of purchase. Use a month/year sticker to aid enforcement, just like vehicle inspection stickers and license plate stickers.
3. Provide a 4 day permit for weekenders, Fri to Mon or Thur to Sun, covering a Fri or Mon holiday. Cost less than a 10 day permit.
4. Provide for a 10 day permit. This would cover a 1 week period including 2 weekends (ie a Fri to a Sun 10 days hence.)
5. Provide for a 20 day permit. This would similarly cover 2 weeks and 3 weekends. Cost of this permit to be less than two 10 day permits.
6. Make the annual permit renewable 60 days or less from expiration and such renewal does not shorten the expiration date by 60 days or less. Renewal cost to be less than the original cost. If permit expires, original cost applies to purchase a new permit.
7. Do away with the 7 day permit.

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**Correspondence ID:** 224    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 14:16:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** To whom it may concern,  
there are very few places in his country that allow the recreational opportunities that the Cape Hatteras seashore does. The rights of our citizens are being striped by special interest groups everyday. It is my opinion that it has never been about the birds but more about lining the pockets of frat brother lawyers. Please keep in mind there are many folks that could not physically access this wonderful place without a vehicle! It is also my understanding that when the original familys gave up their lands to create the seashore, they were told that access would never be denied by our government. Well I believe that it HAS!! It is my opinion that it is time that the Fed keeps it's promise and tells the environmentalists that they do not have a case and that they are to make everyone whole as far as all the money that has been spent by ALL parties.

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**Correspondence ID:** 225    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 14:25:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** My comments are directed to beach access for Ocracoke because that is where I most frequently surf fish.

**Morning Opening of Beaches:**

The best fishing on Ocracoke is at the points - Ramp 59 E for the North Point and Ramp 72 for the South Point. Fish leaving the sound and traveling to the ocean or leaving the ocean to enter the sound pass the ends of the island. The beach at Ramp 59 E and the beach south of Ramp 72, including the South Point, should be designated priority beaches and opened as soon as possible after first light. A set time, such as 6:30 am, should not be used since, at times, sunrise will be before 6:30 am.

**Seasonal Open/Close ORV Access Dates:**

I would like the beaches to reopen 4 weeks earlier and stay open 4 weeks longer. Rather than Nov 1 through March 31, the dates would be October 1 through April 30. This would enhance the visitors experience by allowing longer access to the beach and should not be detrimental to natural resources. This would also have a positive economic impact on the island.

**Vehicle Free Areas:**

Ocracoke is a small island - only 16 miles of beach. Currently, 6 1/2 miles is designated VFA. Thus, over 40% o the beach is VFA. This is excessive for such a small island and detrimental to the visitor experience. I would like to see the beach north of Ramp 59 E and the beach around South Point (access from Ramp 72) revised from VFA to seasonal or year round access, since theses beaches possess the best fishing as noted above. At Ocracoke one must drive to and on the beach to access these areas, as there is no development near the water. It should be possible to increase access and still preserve natural resources.

**Permits:**  
No position.

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**Correspondence ID:** 226    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 14:56:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As an avid fisherman and family man, I would like to register my support for as much ORV open access on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore as possible

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**Correspondence ID:** 227    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 14:59:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

**Specific changes I support include:**

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;

- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed modification to the ORV rule. I am hopeful that through this process, reasonable public access can be restored to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 228    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 15:00:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As an avid fisherman and family man, I would like to register my support for as much ORV open access on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore as possible. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 229    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** 1.) Make it so they restore access to the sound side beach just south of the Haulover (Canadian Hole). which has been enjoyed by Family's and Watersports enthusiasts for many years. The area is shown to be "ORV open" on the NPS maps but there is no access since they put up the fence at the hole parking lot. Two specific suggestions. a.) easiest and quickest solution would be to lift the No ORV stakes at kite point and allow ORV to access sound side shore line south of the hole from kite point, not ideal..but would be quick and easy and low dollar. b.) build an ORV access point from the SE corner (not SW) or the parking lot where it would not be prone to wash out from storms (which is why we lost the original access point). An "S" shaped access point would be far less likely to wash out than a straight ramp.  
2.) Make it so they restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 34 which is 500 yards north of Avon village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness ares (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least ORV access 1000 yards to the north and 100% pdestrian access year around.  
3.) Make it so they restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 23 which is 500 yards south of Salvo village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness ares (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least ORV access 1000 yards to the south and 100% pdestrian access year around.  
4.) Build a parking lot at Kite point. Rt. 12 in this area is a huge safety issue. people enjoy using kite point. build a parking lot for them so they won't have to park along Rt 12. (note: This issue has been caused by requiring a beach driving permit to access kite point now people park on route 12 to avoid the beach driving permit fee.)  
5.) Make Sound Side beach driving access free. If sound side beach driving access was free it would solve the safety issue of cars parking along all of Rt 12 instantly. Now you could safely and legally pull off Route 12 and park in a safe area. Use the current beach camp fire permit as a model. Sound side beach ORV access would free but you'd still have to get the permit so the NPS can "educate" the public about safe soundside beach access. Or make the sound side beach access ORV fee very affordable.. say \$15.. so everyone would comply. This would immediately stop the insanity going on Rt 12 all up and down the Cape Hatteras Seashore.  
6.) Make it so that when you buy a yearly Beach driving permit that it actually is good for a year. Yearly beach driving permits would last one year from the date of purchase.  
7.) Make them to take the Reform Bill to heart, beach walking below the hi tide line anywhere in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore should not be a crime. There are currently large stretches of shoreline in which you are not allowed walk. Open those beaches and change the law.. beach walking is not a crime.

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**Correspondence ID:** 230    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 18:09:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** While ORV use may be enjoyable to humans, it is not necessarily healthy for them any more than it is healthy for the wildlife inhabiting the beaches. Aren't we supposed to be doing more to encourage physical exercise to help combat obesity (First Lady's Let's Move agenda), not to mention decrease fossil fuel consumption (President Obama's environmental agenda)? I'd like to propose that special permits be required for ORV use on beaches and that there be a limit as to the number of permits issued for any given area. Yes, the permits must be paid for (\$25 a day?) and could help pay for restoration of habitat. Humans cannot continue demolishing the environment for fun or profit without losing the quality of life. Please do not weaken the current ORV regulations by allowing more use on the beaches. I want to see the turtles, birds and other wildlife when I visit, not the latest in ORV design. Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 231    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,13,2015 18:28:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I would like to support as much Orv open access as possible to the CHNS. I fished these beaches as a child and am currently doing the same with my three boys. We visit for at least two weeks a year and the main draw for my family is Orv access. Sure makes taking 3 young children, fishing equipment and all of their beach toys much more pleasurable.

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**Correspondence ID:** 232    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,13,2015 18:51:06

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been going to the Outer Banks most of my 50 years. I have been visiting Oregon Inlet drive on beach for 30 years. My kids have grown up knowing the joy of driving out onto the beach. They were taught to respect the privilege of being able to do so; staying within the limits allowed and taking out whatever you brought onto the beach. I live in Va. Beach, but choose not to visit the "beach". My family and I would rather experience the nature we find at Oregon Inlet vs. hotels and boardwalks.

This all abruptly came to an end several years ago, due to a small group of people, who I'm guessing never went surf fishing or spent time with their families on these beaches. People who would put animals before humans. Well in all the years I spent time on Oregon Inlet, it seemed the animals and humans coexisted just fine. There was no need for government intervention.

Well it's past time that we go back to the way things were. Full access to the drive on beaches, staying off the dunes, and Park Rangers patrolling to make sure everyone is safe and following the rules. Just like in every other part of life, no matter where you live or visit.

My family and I stopped going to the area, with the exception of Corolla a couple of times, since the policies changed years ago. I imagine many others families have done the same, spending their time and tax dollars elsewhere.

I look forward to the day I can go back to visiting Oregon Inlet and resume the great times with family again. I hope my kids will be able to make memories with their kids the way we did years ago.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

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**Correspondence ID:** 233 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,13,2015 19:08:06

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please extend the opening 2 weeks earlier and 2 weeks later. Please open the beaches at 6 am and close at 10 pm. Also in the fall open the Coquina beach access and extend through the Spring

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**Correspondence ID:** 234 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,13,2015 20:19:05

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I COULD NOT SAY WHAT NEEDS TO BE SAID ANY BETTER THAN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] HOWEVER, LIVING IN AVON THERE ARE SOME ITEMS THAT ARE PERSONALLY MORE IMPORTANT TO ME. SUCH AS RAMP 34.....ANY REAL LEGITIMATE REASON THIS RAMP IS CLOSED TO ORVS? ALSO THE NOV 1ST RAMP OPENING TIMEFRAME IS....IS....NOT REALISTIC AND SERVES NO REAL PUPOSE OTHER THAN TO LIMIT ACCESS TO ONE OF THE BEST SURF FISHING AREAS ON THE EAST COAST. THIS IS A PARK, RIGHT?? IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SOME SPECIAL INTRESTS HAVE BEEN AT WORK HERE, AND I KNOW ALL ABOUT THESE PEOPLE. I HAVE OWNED 4 SUCESSFULL BUSINESSES IN THE WASHINGTON DC AREA (AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR), AND ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE GROUPS INVOLVED. LET ME TELL YOU, THESE ARE THE SAME PEOPLE THAT WILL YELL, SCREAM AND HAVE A FIT WHEN THIER VEHICLE FAILS THE EMISSIONS INSPECTION AND THEY HAVE TO SPEND THIER OWN MONEY TO BRING THIER CAR INTO CLEAN AIR COMPLIANCE. JUST SAYIN.....THE PARK SERVICE SHOULD DEFEND AND HELP THE PEOPLE THAT USE AND LOVE THE PARKS THEY CALL HOME, NOT LIMIT ACCESS.

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**Correspondence ID:** 235 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 04:03:28

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I do not think that we will have any access to the outer banks in a couple years, maybe sooner due to the fact that no one has done anything but support the bird lovers and the turtle lovers.

Nothing has kept them from getting there way and this has got to have a monetary impact on the area.

I personally know fisherman who no longer go there I myself have not even purchased a N.C. fishing license What is the point I have contacted representatives from VA who could care less and N.C. representatives who keep blowing hot air.

Imagine The outer banks as a wildlife refuge  
you will get a ticket for simply walking on the beach

Liberalism truly is a mental disorder

Maybe they can get help through Obama care

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**Correspondence ID:** 236 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 06:16:33

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We have been visiting the Cape Hatteras beaches since 1982. We have always been respectful of this beautiful resource. We do enjoy driving on the beach, fishing and swimming in the ocean.

The increasing restrictions on beach access are very troubling to us. We thought the National Parks were created to encourage interaction of humans and nature. While we might understand some brief closures to protect a certain species, it seems that something new comes up every year. It also seems far too restrictive. Opening the beach at 7:00 is too late to enjoy fishing at dawn. Closing at 9:00 PM restricts later night fishing and tide line camp fires.

We are the type of people that come every year and our motto is to leave the beach cleaner than when we arrived. We are careful not to disturb nesting areas and we follow the rules, however excessive they may be.

Closure of the Cape Point is very troubling and seems out of line for the amount of time that it is closed. Certainly, closing to vehicles may be necessary, but to completely shut it down for pedestrians seems unwarranted. I have never personally witnessed one person doing anything to harm nature at the point.

In fact, I would suspect that all sportsman that visit the point are very like minded and have a deep respect for the natural resource that is the Cape Hatteras Point.

Please, let's create an access plan that works for all!

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**Correspondence ID:** 237 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 06:18:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I strongly support the proposed increased access to the beach. This will help local business while not harming the beach. The beach fisherman do quite a lot to help keep this great area clean. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

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**Correspondence ID:** 238 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 06:24:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** 1. NPS should take necessary steps to open priority beaches as soon after first light as possible.  
2. There should be no beach that is not considered a high priority.  
3. Seasonal beaches in front of villages should be reopened earlier in the fall and longer in the spring.  
4. Seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of VFA designations, should be reopened to ORV access no later than September 15.  
5. Reasonable dates for opening and closing of seasonal beaches for ORV access should be: closing date May 1 reopened August 1 birds are able to take flight and fend for themselves by then.  
6. The size and number of the current VFA's are excessive and detrimental to the visitor experience.  
7. The NPS should reclassify many of the current VFA's to either seasonal ORV routes or year round routes.  
8. The NPS should reclassify some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes.  
9. Reducing the amount of VFR miles can be done in a way that will not increase the risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the sea shore.  
10. The NPS should issue 10 day permits in addition to annual permits.  
11. The NPS should issue annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

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**Correspondence ID:** 239 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 06:25:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The Beaches in N C outer banks are part of a Recreation Park. The proper name is Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Park. Why do NPS and others insist on removing the Recreational part?? This Park was set up for use by all people of the US. It also means access to the shore front of the Park for those same people.  
There should be more access to the shore front at more times and places than there are. When I lived in Va Bch and used this Park for fishing we always took great care to not harm any of the birds or animals there and we always never left any trash of any kind. The organizations of the outer banks have always done a great job keeping the beaches clean and free of trash and to let people know not to interfere or harm any of the birds and animals. So please use the proper name for this recreation area in the future and also open the off road access to more hours and more locations than there are now. The people have been asking and speaking out about this and they are the majority. Last I knew this is a democracy and majority is to rule not the minority.

Thank you for reading this



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**Correspondence ID:** 240 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 241 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 09:34:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 242 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 243 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 09:36:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as

decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.  
Use your common sense!

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**Correspondence ID:** 244    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:37:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 245    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:38:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 246    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Wildlife is being marginalized to the point that they won't be able to live. Seashores are homes to animals that depend on them. I advocate for protections for birds and turtles, including:

\*regularly monitoring the beaches 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as

nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 247    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 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:

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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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 248    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:40:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 249    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:40:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please rely on park staff for requirements to protect nesting sea birds at Cape Hatteras. The dune buggies can wait until nesting season is over. We have enjoyed visiting this area several times.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 250    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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.

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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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 251 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:42:37

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please keep the off-road vehicles off birding areas on Cape Hatteras North Carolina. I am an avid birder and member of the Audubon Society and we have annual trips to the Outer Banks to go birding and I know many other groups do too. We are not in favor of tearing up the beaches with motor vehicles and we always park in the parking lots and walk to see the birds. We are in favor of keeping the strictest restrictions on off-road vehicles to protect species such as the piping plover and sea turtles.  
regards, [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 252 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

New Threats to Imperiled Birds at Cape Hatteras

Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and our partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

The National Park Service is accepting comments on its misguided proposal. The full plan is available at the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment website. Comments must be submitted at the comments page by August 21, 2015. You can use the sample comments below:

Sample Comments

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 253    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:44:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 and other shorebirds.

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Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 254    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:44:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 255    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:44:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for reading my comments. Please consider the effects that will happen if you do not help the habitat of the wildfire.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 256    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:45:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 257    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:45:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Off roading damages the environment irreversibly. Enlarge VFAs and reduce off roading areas. Off roading permits are a license to destroy. There are non-sensitive areas that can be used for off roading. Allowing off roading at Cape Hatteras is insane, and should be reduced not increased.

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**Correspondence ID:** 258    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** 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.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service and makes no sense. I strongly support the an expansion of vehicle free areas and these areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots 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

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**Correspondence ID:** 259    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:46:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** How stupid can we be, not to know that loud noise and human activity so close to birds trying to raise a family, will end with the vanishing of many bird species.

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**Correspondence ID:** 260    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug.14,2015 09:47:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do not extend access and hours for vehicles in the affected area. Saving the habitat for wildlife should be the priority.

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**Correspondence ID:** 261 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:47:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 262 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:48:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 263 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:49:10  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 264 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:50:06

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** No reasonable person will permit vehicles of any sort traversing through or within hearing distance of the wildlife, considering that birds and turtles nest in and naturally inhabit the subject area. For the childish pleasure in recklessness is to be unlearned, hence prohibited in deference to nature's innately correct requirements, especially on public lands.

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**Correspondence ID:** 265 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:52:57

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect the Cape Hatteras National Seashore for wildlife! Do not reduce current restrictions on access and vehicle use on beaches. Bird and sea turtle habitat must be given precedent over public access. Please keep all restrictions in place that will protect critical wildlife habitat and reduce impact by visitors. I favor increased restrictions on public and access and designating critical wildlife habitat areas off limits to the public.

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**Correspondence ID:** 266 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:53:08

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 267 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:53:24

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** On behalf of the birds and sea turtles and the very area itself, I wish to express my opinions regarding protection of our National Seashore for all wildlife.

Please have regard for the public that loves and respects our beaches and the wildlife. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

I believe the beaches should be daily checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. I am appalled that ORV traffic is allowed on the beaches at all, but would like to know that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is permitted on the beach.

I would like to see that the ORV routes are not extended on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

Many concerned individuals are relying 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.  
 There must be night driving restrictions and prohibited night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
 Allowing more ORV access is definitely NOT the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots and other shorebirds.  
 As for visitors and tourist, it must be noted that beaches impacted with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore. These ORVs are obnoxious, unnecessary and a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle. The people who drive these ORVs are NOT the people who care about wildlife and the experience of others; they are in general just inconsiderate yahoos with no thought for anyone besides themselves.

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

**Correspondence ID:** 268    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 09:53:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!  
 I really don't see the need for ORVs on our beaches at all, but if they are going to be allowed please be sure that drivers are educated about how to do so in a safe way for nature and wildlife. Support limits on times, days, boundaries....please, please, please. Humans are supposed to be guardians of this earth, not destroyers. How can running some motorized vehicle along the beach be more important than saving our precious world?

At any rate - Please do NOT extend the ORV routes  
 Any rule changes should be supported by science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
 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 just don't see the need for people to drive their vehicles on the beach. WHY????

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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.

**Correspondence ID:** 269    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 09:53:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:  
 \* 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:  
 \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
 \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
 \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 270    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 09:54:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am appalled at the disrespect some members of the public have for the natural environment. Public pressure and so called enthusiasts must respect the limited natural resources in our land. I say limited, because that is exactly what kind of world we live in. Showing no regard for animal life or environmental needs is equivalent to moral incompetence. Do not let a few bad players influence policy, protect and preserve all natural habitats from abuse and neglect.

**Correspondence ID:** 271    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 09:54:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 272    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:55:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As somebody whose family enjoys the beach as well as its wildlife I am opposed to any reduction in protections for nesting birds. They need all the help they can get.

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**Correspondence ID:** 273    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Specifically:

- \* 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.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 274    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:56:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Driving on the outer banks should be eliminated. Allowing it to expand or go on is folly and shows a disregard for the islands themselves. Disregarding bird habitat destruction, these practices are short sighted and destructive to the sand and to the native flora.

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**Correspondence ID:** 275    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:56:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I respectfully submit the following comment:

Vehicle Free Areas: The present vehicle free areas present a balanced approach and should not be modified. To be able to enjoy the environment without beach traffic and to be able to walk the beach without struggling through tire ruts is a positive change for the national seashore. The present location and methodology established by NPS seem sound. VFAs are the only way to experience the beach in more of a wilderness type of way. They are wonderful.

Village Beaches: The village beaches should be closed to motorized traffic year round. The present seasonal opening for ORVs has been a mistake in park planning, but could be corrected. People stay in village cottages more of the year than what seems like any time before. Many homeowners and their families use the cottages every weekend. Many oceanfront cottages are also rented for the week or weekend all winter long. Large ORV rigs present a danger to both children and adults plating on the beach. Higher winter tides result in more damage to dunes and vegetation as ORVs travel closer to and on sand dunes. This, in turn, results in less natural protection for beach cottages from ocean wash. Additionally, the large size of ORVs and trucks traveling together and taking over entire beaches in front of the villages keeps beach pedestrians from enjoying the beaches they can walk to.

Beach driving permits: Prices should be raised to encourage more environmentally sound access. Permit purchasing times and lengths of times should remain the same. Further education and enforcement is needed to stop vehicles from always exceeding speed limits nearly 100 percent of the time when no ranger is in sight. Possibly ORV permit fees could be used to establish speeding/radar traps to discourage reckless driving including intentional rooster tailing.

I have not included my name as some ORV drivers are threatening and intimidating toward anyone of a different opinion. That's a fact of life here on Hatteras Island and those who wish for greater ORV restrictions have learned the hard way to not be too outspoken.

Thank you in advance for encouraging public input.

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**Correspondence ID:** 276    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:57:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.




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**Correspondence ID:** 277    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:57:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Do not let the radical rightwing congress pressure you to lift the safeguards that protect The wildlife of Hatteras. Let the wealthy polluters with 4 wheel vehicles BUY their own PRIVATE LAND and ruin it.

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**Correspondence ID:** 278    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:58:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Cape Hatteras: We urge you to maintain the protection of beach-nesting birds and turtles -keep vehicles off the beaches during nesting season. And keep reasonable areas protected. Your current plan seemed thoughtful and was justified by peer-reviewed science. Politicians and the uniformed public should not be allowed to overturn these essential protections for birds and turtles. Keep the beaches closed to vehicles at night.

You are the guardians of our beaches and their vulnerable inhabitants. Most of us realize that our 'rights' to amuse ourselves should not cancel our obligation to protect our wildlife and their habitats. And much of the public feels that ORVS are not compatible with the true magnificent experience of these outer beaches.

Please don't give in to pressure to renege on your stewardship, 

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**Correspondence ID:** 279    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:58:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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

- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 280    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:58:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 281    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 09:59:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 282    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:00:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.



Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

We Americans should not do so much less in planning protections and safe national space than have our citizens in much more difficult eras.

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**Correspondence ID:** 283    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:00:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 284    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:00:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 285    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The Park Service seems to be intent on reducing protections to plovers and oystercatchers so that these species will be soon made extinct. It is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

I am writing on behalf of creatures who cannot speak. 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 the current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks. 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 and other shorebirds. 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 visit the Seashore almost every year. I intend to spend my money elsewhere if you do not protect all these animals. Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 286    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

I don't understand why Congress and the National Park Service have ignored scientists recommendations on ORV protective buffers at Cape Hatteras. And now those already reduced buffers are being considered for even further reduction? I find it very upsetting and sad that the NPS would risk some of The People's most delicate ecosystems for the ignorant pleasures of a minority who already have plenty of space for what they find entertaining without threatening more wildlife. Please be diligent about protecting what is left of The People's natural resources on Cape Hatteras, the nesting grounds of the birds and sea turtles.

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 287    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:02:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Reduce ORV use in Hatteras National Seashore. They are destructive of wildlife and their use should be limited.

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**Correspondence ID:** 288    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:02:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 289    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and our partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles  
I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 290    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear National Park Service representative:

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen closely to Mahatma Gandhi when we make decisions about the way we treat animals: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

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**Correspondence ID:** 291    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:03:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect the wildlife at Cape Hatteras! Do not reduce the protected areas any further.

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**Correspondence ID:** 292    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear Sirs:

Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004.

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 293    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:03:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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.

Wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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. I'm asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 294    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:04:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 295    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:04:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 296    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:04:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I would like to see an annual permit that would be valid from a year to year

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**Correspondence ID:** 297    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:06:10  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 298    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:07:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.



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**Correspondence ID:** 299    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** 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.

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 300    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:08:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 301 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:08:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 302 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:09:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Re: Nesting birds on Hatteras NC park.

The off road drivers use huge vehicles that damage bird nests and turtle nests. These sites are necessary for birds, and there is no excuse allowing them to be ruined. Why is it so important for the drivers to use the beach areas during the short nesting time? Are they that selfish and uncaring to other earthlings?

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**Correspondence ID:** 303 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:09:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 304    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:09:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. Thank you.

██████████

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 305    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:09:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 306    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 307    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:10:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 308    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:11:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** re: hateras seashore  
please restore protective zones that were science based for wildlife on the island. do what's best for nature and the majority of americans not just a handful. that is your job. thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 309    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear Superintendant

I urge 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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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.

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 310    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:12:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 311 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:12:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 312 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I concur fully with the following comments made by another citizen:

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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 313 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:13:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Human activity that disturbs birds and turtles must continue to be prohibited, as scientific research has shown that these native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive. ORV's and other vehicles have no business on the beach, as they tear up habitat, spoil the beauty of the area for the general public, and cause safety hazards for young children. Night driving is particularly harmful.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you also to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 314    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:13:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing to condemn your efforts to reduce protections for nesting shorebirds and expand the access that ORV have at the Cape Hatteras National SSeashore. No ORVs, except for emergency vehicles, should be allowed access to the beach in the first place. But the reasonable limitations that were in place to allow people and birds to share the shore helped both wildlife and people enjoy the peace and beauty of Cape Hatteras. I am strongly against any rollback to shorebird protection, and strongly encourage you to maintain (or even increase) limitations on ORVs.

██████████

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 315    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:13:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 316    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:13:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore and protect the birds and all wildlife.

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**Correspondence ID:** 317    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 318    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
This is to ask that you continue as well as augment current protections for all marine life.

Specifically:

\* Check for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks, before the beaches open in the morning and see that all 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.

Protect:

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

\* Continue to prohibit night driving. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* Don't allow more ORV access; that isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public who loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 319    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:14:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 320    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:14:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 321    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:15:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you!

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**Correspondence ID:** 322    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive. There are absolutely no good reasons why these animals have to have further restrictions placed on their habitats. Humans do not NEED access to these beaches during critical nesting periods.

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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 323 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:16:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear National Parks Official:

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 324 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:16:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I was distressed to hear of your current proposals to extend the hours and range of vehicle allowed at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, given that this is a nesting habitat for a number of imperiled birds. Living near a piping plover nesting habitat myself, I can say that protections for these birds are not only necessary in and of themselves, but are to the advantage of human visitors as well.

I urge you not to change the current plan and not to allow night driving or extended ORV routes, and to be sure to check for nest, eggs, and chicks before any traffic is allowed.

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**Correspondence ID:** 325 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:17:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 326 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:17:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 327    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:18:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 328    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

The current NPS plan to reduce the buffer size for imperiled wildlife is a very bad idea!

Please 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 329    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 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.

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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 330    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:18:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I wish to speak up for the sea turtles and sea birds that come onshore to nest and lay eggs. They must be protected from interference from dogs, people, and especially offroad vehicles. The numbers of young that can survive are already low, but with human disturbance and interference we may find that these creatures, who have been on the planet for longer than human beings, are going extinct. In the past 70 years over half the species have been extinct and this must stop. We need protections of the sensitive habitats, especially during the time turtles and birds come on shore to nest and lay eggs, hatch and fledge their young. The young animals already face fierce threats from predators and Ocean conditions, and there are other places off-road vehicles and recreating humans can go for their pleasure. Do not value human recreation and pleasure over the existence of an entire species we can do more to help survive.

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**Correspondence ID:** 331    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:19:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 332    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:19:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

Please do NOT expand where motor vehicles can go in Cape Hatteras park and give those cute little plovers and other wildlife a chance.

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**Correspondence ID:** 333    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:19:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form



**Correspondence:** Cape Hatteras is an important nesting spot for shorebirds and turtles and they should be protected. Their welfare should come before someone's "entertainment". Off road vehicles have no place on beaches where animals are nesting and eating. Beaches should be monitored and closed to people if necessary to protect the wildlife. Thank you, [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 334    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:19:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 335    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:20:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been visiting Hatteras Island since 1964 when Bonner Bridge first opened. I have raised my family visiting the Banks and to this day still come down annually. This year I have been down 1 week with 3 more weeks scheduled. Our primary reason for visiting is the ability to drive on the beach, find some privacy, and fish. While I understand the need to protect and control some aspects of beach access, I think that to so severely restrict access like has occurred in the last few years is a poor approach that will ultimately lead me to stop visiting the island.

For example, 2 years ago we attempted to drive on the beach to fish. The wind was from the NE moving us and everyone else to the South side. Because of the closures and the number of people fishing, we were unable to find a spot to fish and left the beach. Yet, just North of us toward the Hatteras Point were several miles of South facing pedestrian only beach with no one on it. I fail to see the harm in opening that and other portions of the beach to ORV use. All you have done by the current approach is to overcrowd the the drivable portions of the beach which further complicates high density issues like trash. Furthermore, as many times as I have visited the island since the inception of the access restrictions, I have yet to see more than a few people on that portion of the beach (and other similar pedestrian only portions) primarily because they're difficult to get to and people don't generally want to walk that far in sand.

Another point I'd like to make is that why are there pedestrian only sections during prime fishing seasons like spring and fall? The water is generally too cold to swim and the birds are not mating! Why not open it up? After all it is a recreation area! If it's pedestrians you're concerned about, there are more than 15 miles of non ORV beach just North of of Rodanthe.

I know that pedestrians have the same right to the beach that I do, but I fail to see why we cannot coexist on the same beach. It seems to me that the following would be a much better solution:

Create pedestrian only sections and access at all access ramps, perhaps 300 to 400 yards to both sides of the ramps. Then mark a drive lane around the pedestrian area for ORV access similar to what is done for wildlife closures. We can use the beach together! How many pedestrian are hit, run over, or otherwise affected by OVRs annually? I just fail to see why a buffer approach similar to the wildlife restrictions won't work for ORV use in pedestrian areas.

You can also restrict the beach adjacent to residential areas to pedestrian only use and closed to ORV use. Even adding some additional distance to this area of beach would be better than what you have now.

Fees. Please date the annual fees on an annual basis from the date of purchase. Also, I do not mind paying a fee to drive on the beach, but why don't pedestrians pay a fee? Why are only ORVs segregated out to pay a fee? Is that even legal to do?

It just seems ludicrous to me to close or severely restrict access to one of the most famous fishing areas in the world the way it's been done. I don't have to visit the area and unless something changes, I will stop. That over 40 years of use, economic impact, and family member directing their money elsewhere.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Correspondence ID:** 336 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 337 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:20:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 338 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:20:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 339    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom it May Concern:

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.

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

Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 and other shorebirds. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore and is 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 340    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:21:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 341    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:21:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I previously resided in and will soon return to north carolina. I have also had the singular pleasure of visiting the outer banks. It is my sincere hope that the extent of destruction that has been allowed will from here on be drastically reduced. Particularly with regard to beach traffic, a needless, environmentally unsound and privileged practice. There are many fine roads and no justification beyond laziness and entitlement to permit vehicles on the beach for recreational purposes.

Please protect this unique ecosystem for the creatures that depend on it and the people who cherish it.

Thanks

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**Correspondence ID:** 342    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:21:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles, which can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 343    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:21:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 344    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* Check the beaches for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. Do not allow ORV traffic until beaches are cleared.
- \* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Allow ORV traffic on areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes must be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; expand vehicle free areas to protect Red Knots and other shorebirds.

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

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

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that call it home. Cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffer zones, on the Seashore without peer-reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 345    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:22:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 346    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:22:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 347    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:23:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 348    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:23:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of 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:

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

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them

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**Correspondence ID:** 349    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:23:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 350    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:24:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 351    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

It is very troubling to me that our government would value a needless "hobby" like driving off-road vehicles over the protection of endangered living creatures.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! This land does not belong to only people.

Honestly, I would like to see the use of off-road vehicles banned completely. If it is considered so necessary to drive this monstrosities, the following actions at least need to be taken.

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 352    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. I support keeping and even increasing the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Sea turtles and nesting birds such the American Oystercatcher and the Piping Plover had been recovering. This year there were reports by staff of only 2 Piping Plover chicks having fledged! Does this not tell you that the driving restrictions helped and now that the restrictions have been relaxed, wildlife is suffering?

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! People do not need to drive on the beach to survive, but birds and turtles do the beach to survive!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 353    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:26:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please continue to enforce the current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 354    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:26:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 355    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:26:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please consider my comment on behalf of the birds and sea turtles of North Carolina that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 356 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:27:17

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I cannot believe that we have to fight so hard for protection of birds and sea turtles. In my opinion vehicles should not even be allowed on the beaches. Walk it will do you good. The Plovers will be extinct very soon and no one seems to care. We are losing so many animals every day. The past 15 years we have lost too many. Why do we not care enough. Now we are getting educated about trophy hunting also. No wonder people especially seniors want to go back because the world was a better place. We trap, poison and kill millions of animals every year and they will euthanize the grizzly in Yellowstone also. Environmental education is so important. We still have a beautiful country and many people are caring but we need to fight more to keep animals with us. We are going to be 12 billion people soon, too many for the size of this planet so we need a positive way to preserve, and exist with nature. Our Eco system demands it. So much I would like to say about oil leaks and even using oil. I live on the Gulf and it never will be the same as it was before the oil leak. The birds and turtles are so precious and so much better than the bottom line. What Government we have plays a big part for the future.

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**Correspondence ID:** 357 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:27:19

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** It's not difficult to see what a great loss our generation will have to explain, if we don't do what is right. Do, what is right to save these birds. this is THEIR place, not ours. It's time to start respecting Earth's animals and be the care takers that we are suppose to be, and not the destroyers!

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**Correspondence ID:** 358 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for taking my point of view into consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 359 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:27:25

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 360 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We need strong protections for all wildlife on our National Seashore.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Protect the current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
4. Continue all night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
5. 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 and other shorebirds.
6. Make the shore better for 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.

Cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 361 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:28:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 362 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 363    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 364    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:28:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Sir or Madame,

As a Ph. D. who studied common terns I am disgusted that a small stretch of beach cannot be protected from off road yahoos. The wildlife that use this beach have no where else to go. ATV operators can go anywhere. That they cannot be denied access to this habitat for a few months of the year is mind numbing.



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**Correspondence ID:** 365    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:29:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** To Whom It Concern:

It has come to my attention, through the Audubon Newsletter, a proposal that would drastically impact birds in the Cape Hattaras area. The work done to protect those birds has been commendable. Why in the world would you want to change the rules that would continue to help those many species using the Cape Hattaras area for nesting? All over our world the destruction of nature (outside our own back doors) has been unprecedented. We are seeing a part of our lives destroyed. WE CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT NATURE!!!! In the process we are destroying ourselves. We need the enchantment and beauty of nature to renew ourselves. There is nothing like it: no video, no pictures, no games, no entertainment that can compare to what nature in its natural setting gives us. If anything, expand the rules to protect even more of Cape Hattaras!

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**Correspondence ID:** 366    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:29:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 367 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:29:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 368 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:29:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I agree with The Raleigh News & Observer editorial that supports keeping the protections in place ("Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9).

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**Correspondence ID:** 369 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:29:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Do please keep the driving limits on the Cape Hatteras Seashore! Allowing vehicles to tear up bird nests and turtle nests and disturb and endanger our precious wildlife is not acceptable. There are many places for people to drive their noisy and destructive machines for their entertainment. Habitat is precious and easily lost. It must be vigorously defended.

Many of us humans actually prefer the peace of a seashore without vehicles on it. Many of us treasure the sightings of birds, turtles and other seashore dwellers. Please take responsibility to make sure that a valuable resource is not lost because of the whims and desires of one set of people. Please use science - real, peer-reviewed science - to guide your decisions. You are in such an important place at such an important time. We are counting on you to do the right thing.

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**Correspondence ID:** 370 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:30:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am both a financial supporter and avid user of the National Park Service. I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 371    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:30:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 372    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:31:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 373    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:32:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 374 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:32:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please save the wild live and DO restrict vehicles on the national sea shore. We have so little left, the birds and turtles can not talk for themselves! Be reasonable! There is plenty space were the ORV can go!

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**Correspondence ID:** 375 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:32:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please maintain the maximum protection you can for the wildlife inhabiting Cape Hatteras National Seashore. That means no O R V use in areas inhabited by wildlife. I am sure that the O R V people could care less about destroying wildlife but I for one do care. People are willing to travel and spend money to enjoy the wildlife. So why let selfish special interest groups get their way to destroy what belongs to all of us.



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**Correspondence ID:** 376 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:32:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 377 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:33:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I think that the human's have ruined enough land where animals and other wildlife make their homes. Once a species becomes extinct it can't be brought back. Every time we mess up the original balance of nature we create a new problem for other species that relied on the one that disappeared. I wish all mankind would quit being so selfish and learn to appreciate the natural world as it was intended to be.

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**Correspondence ID:** 378 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:34:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 379 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:35:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please continue to protect our national seashores. Instead of weakening protections, we should be tightening restrictions to ensure the health and safety of our wildlife - particularly the endangered sea turtles and avians.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 380 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:35:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 381 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

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**Correspondence ID:** 382    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:37:03

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Stop the madness at CHNS. I'm a birder and I believe in protections for birds, however the protections that NC goes to are far beyond what is necessary. Millions of dollars are being wasted with unnecessary protections that restrict what beach goers can do on the beach. Many more dollars are lost with vacationers going elsewhere other than NC beaches because of the madness. Who wants to visit somewhere that restrictions take the pleasure out of the vacation? Other states welcome these vacationers! Texas has the best birdlife in the country, however visitors have very little restriction on beaches. Other gulf states are similar. Since restrictions have been in place I have visited gulf coast beaches more than NC beaches. I used to spend 4-6 weeks on our coastline and now I rarely go.

Stop the media machine and the idiot activists from ruining our great state!

Open the beaches!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 383    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Protections are needed for Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches. The nests, eggs, and chicks are destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows.

Audubon and their partners pushed for a balanced, commonsense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days - encroaching on nesting season - and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a grim reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

I agree with those who specifically request that:

-It is urgent that the beaches be 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. Please limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

Americans count on the NPS to protect wildlife at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Please include the following:

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

\*Night driving restrictions: Please continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\*Our birds. Allowing more ORV access is not the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots and other shorebirds.

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



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

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that call it home, and want to protect them from degradation. Please cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your consideration and help on behalf of America's wildlife.

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**Correspondence ID:** 384    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Although I don't live on Cape Hatteras, I believe it is important to protect wildlife in order to protect the ecosystems in which these animals - and ourselves - exist.

The National Seashore belongs to ALL the people of the United States, not just to those who want to drive on the shore, consequently disturbing sea turtles and nesting piping plovers.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Observers have reported that ONLY TWO piping plover chicks have hatched this year. What was a recovery is quickly going downhill and the rules cannot be relaxed or they will be extinct.

Please listen to the public! We love our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. As a concerned citizen and a member of life on Earth, I ask you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Pressure from Congress is no excuse to push wildlife to extinction. Stand up to special interests on behalf of all animals that are affected. You are the Park Service - you must have taken this job because you love parks too!

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**Correspondence ID:** 385    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello:

I want the National Park Service to protect our coastal waters. I New Threats to Imperiled Birds at Cape Hatteras Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and our partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

The National Park Service is accepting comments on its misguided proposal. The full plan is available at the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment website. Comments must be submitted at the comments page by August 21, 2015. You can use the sample comments below:

Sample Comments

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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<b>Correspondence ID:</b>	386	<b>Project:</b>	59571	<b>Document:</b>	67586
<b>Received:</b>	Aug,14,2015 10:39:07				
<b>Correspondence Type:</b>	Web Form				
<b>Correspondence:</b>	I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.				

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

<b>Correspondence ID:</b>	387	<b>Project:</b>	59571	<b>Document:</b>	67586
<b>Received:</b>	Aug,14,2015 10:39:07				
<b>Correspondence Type:</b>	Web Form				
<b>Correspondence:</b>	I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.				

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 388    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:39:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Sincerely,

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 389    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:39:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 390    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:40:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** It's despicable that reductions to the shore bird buffers are even being considered when they are contrary to sound science. In my opinion, recreational off-road vehicles have no place in our national lands. Let them ride on private property.

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**Correspondence ID:** 391    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Before I moved to Colorado, I spend many vacations on Cape Hatteras. The natural beauty is what brought me there, not driving on the beach. My special interest is in preservation of natural habitat to protect non human species. Birds especially.

Please protect Cape Hatteras natural habitat!

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home.

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**Correspondence ID:** 392 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:40:30

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 393 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:41:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have enjoyed visiting the Cape Hatteras National Park many times. But, I have seen degradation from the driving public and the public that brings their pets to the beach. I urge you to protect the nesting shore birds from these two threats. The restrictions should be tightened. There should be areas that are off limits to even the public during nesting season and migration. I have seen birds trying to feed during migration and the dogs and off road vehicles continually keep them from staying in place and foraging.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

██████████

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 394 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:41:52

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 395    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

St Francis of Assisi says: "If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men." Are you that kind of person?

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**Correspondence ID:** 396    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to ask that you keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras shore. The fact that fewer piping plover chicks fledged this past year indicates that there is already a problem with protections for birds - please don't further limit those protections.

Specifically, the following should be ensured:

- beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning.

- ORV routes should not be extended, nor should spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds be extended. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

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.

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 and other shorebirds.

Scientific research has shown that these native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you.

**Correspondence ID:** 397 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. I am a member of Audubon and realize a world with only ATVs and no wildlife is a lousy world. WILDLIFE DESERVES TO LIVE AND DESERVES OUR HELP NOT OUR SELFISH AND DESTRUCTIVE PRACTICES.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them

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**Correspondence ID:** 398 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:42:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I live on the North Carolina coast (Perquimans County) and visit the Outer Banks as often as I can. I go there for the natural beauty and wildlife- -not to watch RV races or admire tire tracks.

This coastal area used to be one of the most unspoiled in our country: now it's in danger of becoming just one more Myrtle Beach. Anyone in my area who wants to go to Myrtle Beach can get there easily enough: but once you turn our natural coastal areas into a racetrack for RVs and destroy the habitat for local wildlife, it will take many decades to bring it back- -if that is even possible.

The average citizen is not going to be vacationing on another planet in the foreseeable future: therefore, doesn't it make sense to make a good-faith effort to preserve the planet we already have? I'm really disgusted with the path of destruction our state (and many national) "leaders" are attempting to blaze in our coastal region.

Please take steps to preserve our coast's natural beauty and abundance of wildlife- -much of it unique to this area.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 399 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife and for individuals and families who come to enjoy a peaceful, pristine natural environment.

Specifically:

- \* Please check beaches 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.

Please protect:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 400 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:43:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Because birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves, I am writing for them and on behalf of people who care about them.

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 401 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:43:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I know Congress has put pressure on the Park Service to reduce the area of Hatteras that is restricted to cars and other off road vehicles. Doesn't the Park Service have enough examples of cars ruining the park experience? Cars are everywhere. Calm beaches and nesting areas for shorebirds are rare and fast disappearing. The Park Service should be dedicated to these values and not to the intrusion of cars.

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**Correspondence ID:** 402 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:44:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am shocked to read about the easing of restrictions for off-road vehicles. These will impact endangered bird life and turtles. It is surely the duty of the national park service to protect wild life, not endanger it. Birds and turtles have a hard enough time surviving, without the unnecessary encroachments of noisy, polluting vehicles in a terrain that was never meant for them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 403 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been visiting Cape Hatteras since I was a child, and my parents spent many years volunteering at Cape Lookout, in part protecting sea turtles and other wildlife there. My father gave me, through these activities and many others, a love of wildlife and a responsibility to protect them. Now that he is no longer in this world, I feel even more strongly about protecting the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 404 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** pecifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 405    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:44:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 406    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:45:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

KEEP VEHICLES OFF THE BEACHES, PLEASE!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 407    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

\* 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 pay attention to scientific data and do what is necessary to protect and preserve wildlife. I wouldn't go to a National Seashore to see motorized vehicles on a beach. My purpose in going there would be to appreciate nature and wildlife.

Thank-you for considering my comments.

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 408    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Sincerely,

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 409    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:47:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** In a world where humans are steadily encroaching on wildlife habitat, it makes no sense whatsoever to lessen protection, in any way, for these birds, especially when politics is involved.

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**Correspondence ID:** 410    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:47:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To the deciding factors:

Please do not remove the environmental protective factors in place on NC Outer Banks parks and National Seashore...with the possible increase in infringement of bird sanctuaries and the increase of vehicle area and use on these shores, you are committing a breach in the promise of protecting our national treasures for the greater good as well as for future Americans.

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**Correspondence ID:** 411    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:47:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 412    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:47:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 413    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:48:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 414    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:49:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 415    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:49:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** At an arthritis 73, I can't walk as much as I used to, so am very happy to have a car to get around. But if I take it easy, I can still manage to walk through forest trails or along the beach. Why do I go to the beach anyway? To hear the surf and maybe take a dip, but even m I re, to enjoy seeing the wildlife there. I DON'T enjoy hearing the roar of motorcycles, dodging ATVs, or walking over tire tracks and oil slicks in the sand.

There's a place in this country for all of us to enjoy ourselves without destroying the chance for others to do the same. Restricting vehicles from sensitive areas benefits both the wildlife and the people who enjoy nature! And it does so with little cost of convenience (even my 94 year old sister manages walks with her cane!) I understand that (all too often) economic interests trump environmental concerns, but in this instance there aren't even any economic benefits to allowing vehicles in more areas... in fact, if people have to spend more time getting around on foot, they'll be spending more time at dining or drinking places to rest!

So please, do the right thing, which is also the smart thing and expand, rather than decrease, the protected areas.

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**Correspondence ID:** 416    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Sirs,

I am writing because I'm really concerned about the birds and turtles in Cape Hatteras.

Please protect the National Seashore for all wildlife!

\* It is urgent that the beaches are 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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.

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

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**Correspondence ID:** 417    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:51:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 418    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** On behalf of those who cannot comment, ie: the birds and sea turtles, I respectfully speak out, asking for the protection of our shores and all wildlife.

I stand in agreement with many, many others who are asking for the following protections:

\* Have the beaches 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.

\* 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.

We are 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.

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 419 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:51:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 420 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:51:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We live on the "Blue Marble" and MUST maintain wild areas for our coinhabitants. The playtime for homosapiens should NEVER be put ahead of the survival of other species. When are we going to "grow up" and become stewards of our planet? Stewards that understand the needs of all species and act accordingly...promoting clean air and water, management of natural resources that promotes clean renewable energy sources and moves away from fossil fuels. Hatteras is such a unique and beautiful place that offers the quietness of the ocean shore. DON'T RUIN IT BY ALLOWING VEHICLES MORE ACCESS. Wild places must remain so...DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT? There is no valid common sense reason to increase vehicle access. Don't ruin the beauty of this wonderful park...let Hatteras continue to be a place of sanctuary for all who live or visit there.

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**Correspondence ID:** 421 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:52:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 422 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I urge you to protect our National Seashore for all wildlife.

Specifically:

\* Ensure that 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 count 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. In addition, I call on you to protect:

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 423    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:52:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 424    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 425    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:53:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 426    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:54:10  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 427    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To the National Park Service per The Final Rule for off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! All life on earth must be protected from the devastating effects of climate change, but most importantly, humans must protect the habitat of all wildlife which are highly prone to death by human hands. Inevitably, we end human life when we do not protect the wildlife that share this planet with us.

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 428    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 429    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** PLEASE protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

To be exact:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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.

Please take the side of wildlife and those who care about the innocent creatures who just want to live their lives.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 430    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:56:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I urge you to consider the true voice of the people and not politicians with corporate interests. All of the money in the world can not bring us back from the tipping point we are standing on. The real cost of reducing the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers is beyond what even science can measure. Expanding vehicle access by any means is extremely irresponsible, we have enough space to "play", we need to let these species nest, raise young and SURVIVE.

No vehicle should be allowed to drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles. It's completely unjustifiable. Recreation does not trump our most basic environmental duties or the NEEDS of the creatures that absolutely depend on the land for survival.

I urge you to reconsider expanding access to these areas in all forms, ie: extended seasonal access, increased area, extended times etc. Expand protections not pocket books!

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**Correspondence ID:** 431    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Here in heavily populated and well-used coastal California, I have seen first hand that people and wildlife can coexist and flourish if strong protections and education efforts are in place.

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

I am counting on you to protect night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 and other shorebirds.

I am counting on you to protect 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 432    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:57:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 433    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

I am writing for future generations on American beach and ocean lovers.

I am writing for a whole and complete ecosystem with which mankind can support himself.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife and therefore the valuable resources we currently take for granted.

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 434    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:57:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do not roll back protections that were helping piping plovers and other imperiled wildlife make a comeback at Cape Hatteras.

I'm a native North Carolinian as well as a wildlife conservationist. I've spent many happy times on the North Carolina coast, and I'm hoping you'll reverse your plans to reduce the protective buffers that have been ensuring the safety of nests and chicks.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 435    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:57:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Off-road recreational vehicles are nothing but trouble. To allow them more leeway in disturbing, harming or even killing shorebirds, sea turtles and their nests and eggs is foolish. ATV's and dirt bikes have already scarred many acres of land in the West and Southwest near national parks and monuments, destroying natural features, wildlife habitats and even archaeological sites. Please restrict even further the land on our seashores on which these destructive vehicles are allowed to wreak havoc.

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**Correspondence ID:** 436    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:57:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 437    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:57:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Our animal partners need our protection from human abuse of their environment. Our indulgence of destructive habits is shameful and short-sighted. We can entertain ourselves in less harmful ways. Perform your job as stewards for the vulnerable of our planet. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 438    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:58:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Greetings.

Our family has vacationed in Hatteras Village for many years. We fish a lot, and drive out on the beach nearly every day. My Mom and I are also big bird watchers, so we are sympathetic to both sides of these topics. Many of the restrictions of recent years have been frustrating.

â€ We occasionally tag on a extra day or two to our break, so the 7 day pass has been problematic.

â€ I love fishing right at sunrise, so the 7am beach opening has caused me to be bend the rules a bit at times.

The rest of these proposed changes also make a lot of sense to me.

Thank you for your consideration.



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**Correspondence ID:** 439    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 10:58:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Reference the limits placed on off the road drivers at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, I really resent the attitude of off the road drivers who state in print that "I am an American and that I can go wherever I want, whenever I want and no can tell me not to".

These idiots need to be reined in by the Park Service. They are incredibly greedy thinking that the beaches are for them only. Their playground instead of sharing the sands with other Americans and wildlife.

I would urge the Park Service to place the most stringent of restrictions on these thoughtless mindless Americans.....

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**Correspondence ID:** 440    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:58:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 441    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Maintain some quality of life for present and future generations instead of bowing to pressures for immediate gratification.

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**Correspondence ID:** 442    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:59:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** This is irresponsible. The North Carolina coastline is already fragile. Not keeping buffers only weakens protection from storms, etc. wildlife keep the shoreline in check as well. Please reconsider this bad decision and give more thought and respect to a better decision and choice. Time is not on the coastline's side. We cannot afford to be foolish. Please!

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**Correspondence ID:** 443    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 10:59:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 444    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 11:00:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**  
New Threats to Imperiled Birds at Cape Hatteras

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 445    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 11:01:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I can't believe that I have to write this comment. There are nesting endangered species of birds on the Cape Hatteras shore and you are considering changing environmental rules that protect these nesting sites to assuage the desires of ORV backers who want to drive the beaches where the nesting occurs and for longer periods of time each year, shortening the safe breeding time for the birds. How can you even consider this? The roaring sounds of ORVs and crushing tires running over their nest will never allow this species to survive. The drivers of these vehicles don't even see these nests and many are drinking too much alcohol to pay attention, so they need sharply delineated safety zones to protect these areas. Please maintain the current regulations for the sake of these birds. There is plenty of room for the ORVs to drive under current restrictions.

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**Correspondence ID:** 446    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 11:01:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 447      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:02:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** You understand that when these birds are gone, it will be forever, remember the passenger pidgin.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 448      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:02:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Any legislation must consider ecosystems. That is, the environment in relationship to habitats. An ecosystem describes relationships between and among elements in an environment. An ecosystem also includes a boundary, a permeable boundary, wherein elements pass through the boundary, sometimes changed, sometimes unaltered.

Areas determined that protect species must include habitats and regional conditions, including weather - the day to day temperature, humidity, winds, etc. - as well as climate - weather conditions over time.

So, I ask, as Senator Elizabeth Warren has asked, though in a different situation: Did you fall on your head or something?  
If so, such a change might describe but not excuse nor permit such alterations when conserving wildlife and their habitats.

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**Correspondence ID:** 449      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:02:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Biodiversity and birds are more important than convenience to people and drivers. This proposed action increases the threats to our environment. We no longer have the luxury of simply using or degrading any natural resources. Earth is close to a tipping point, and unless each of us realizes our personal responsibility for the environment that we intend to pass on to our children and (now for me) our grandchildren, we are contributing to the anthropogenic suicide of plant earth.

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**Correspondence ID:** 450      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:02:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**  
Please reinstate the protections that will keep these birds alive and thriving in years to come. I implore you!

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**Correspondence ID:** 451      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:03:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Park Service Officials,

Please do not weaken protections for birds, turtles, and other wildlife on the beaches of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore (or any of our other wonderful public gems). Cape Hatteras is most wisely used as a natural habitat that people may visit but not destroy. There are many of us who do not want the intrusive things of town and city on the beach! It is Off-Road Vehicles, Jet Skies, and the like that should be corralled into appropriate areas. A business can build an "off-road park" and make money on it. Except for emergencies, no one needs to drive on a beach that has been designated as a natural destination for solace and wonder.

My grandmother worked for the Park Service during its early years. She wrote scripts for the "Farm and Home Hour" radio program describing the new national parks and urged Americans to visit these treasures. I'd say she did a pretty good job!

Cordially,

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 452      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:03:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please "PROTECT" our National Seashore for "ALL" wildlife!!!!!!!!!!!!!! "THEIR" lives matter TOO!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. PLEASE do the RIGHT thing!

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**Correspondence ID:** 453    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

- Correspondence:** The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
  - \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 454    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:05:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 455    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:05:14

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect endangered wildlife at our National Seashore.

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 456 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:05:15

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Part of our humanity lies in our relationship with other species in the animal kingdom. John Donne's poetic line- "No man is an island, When the bell tolls it tolls for thee" (or something to that effect)- applies also to the death of birds and their failure to procreate, in this case on Cape Canaveral. Why is it so important that vehicles be allowed on the beaches and areas close to the sea? I have been to many beaches in my youth- Carmel, California, Scientist Cliff, Maryland, Fregene, Italy among them. More recently - St. Augustine, Florida, Robert Moses State Park on Long Island, NY, and more. But on none do I remember vehicles. Why are they necessary now? Please prohibit vehicular traffic on Cape Canaveral beaches during the breeding, nesting, hatching and leaving the nest periods so as to allow for the growth and continued survival of the piping plover and other birds nesting on the beaches there.

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**Correspondence ID:** 457 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

New Threats to Imperiled Birds at Cape Hatteras

Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and our partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

The National Park Service is accepting comments on its misguided proposal. The full plan is available at the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment website. Comments must be submitted at the comments page by August 21, 2015. You can use the sample comments below:

Sample Comments

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 458    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:06:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
As someone who grew up in the Tidewater area and spent summers at Nags Head, I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 459    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:06:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 460    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form



**Correspondence:** After all the good gains in protecting wildlife since 2007 why is the National Park Service rolling back the protections for sea turtles and Piping Plovers which are under threat everywhere. Pressure from the beach hooligans?

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 461 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:07:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I want to urge the National Park Service not only to maintain current Cape Hatteras standards of protection of shorebird nesting areas from motor vehicle travel but also to expand those protections to match their greatest historical extent. The Park Service is not producing the most good for the most people when it favors motor-vehicle enthusiasts over all other park patrons, including those who favor top ecological protections for park lands and those who want access to a quiet beach for, shall we say, more pedestrian pleasures. Limiting motor activity during nesting season has brought significant and measureable results for bird populations in a world in which nesting areas have been greatly constricted by development on nonpark lands. If we don't protect parks for nesting birds, where will we protect them? Surely, beach-buggy aficionados can cool their engines during the few weeks of bird nesting, when solitude is essential for the birds, while motoring on the beach is a luxury for those who favor it.

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**Correspondence ID:** 462 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:07:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As an avid supporter of birds and other wildlife, I can't imagine why the Parks Service would roll back protections at Cape Hatteras for species whose very survival hinges on them. The bird and turtle populations in this area need every protection available, and the ability of beach goers to ride their ORVs should not be the primary concern here. When these animals are gone, they're gone. The time has come to step up for them once and for all.

I've given an extra monetary donation to Audubon in support of strengthening these protections.

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**Correspondence ID:** 463 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** PLEASE PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE. Since they are unable to speak for themselves. I am speaking for them.

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 and other shorebirds.

Please continue to extend the areas protected. DO NOT REDUCE protected areas. If anything the birds and turtles need our help more than ever before!!!!!!!

---

**Correspondence ID:** 464 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:08:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Re Cape Hatteras Natl. Seashore: I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 465    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I believe it is patently ridiculous to reduce protections for Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore so that reckless homo sapiens can run rampant over the shore in their ORVs, regardless of the environmental damage they cause. The National Park Service is suppose to PROTECT our natural environment and our National Parks, not give into Congressional pressure by those representatives who only represent those who make large campaign contributions!

People do not go to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore to listen to the sounds of ORVs racing around; they do not go there to see the beauty destroyed by overlapping tire ruts; families do not want to worry about being struck by a vehicle.

This is a NATIONAL SEASHORE for all Americans to enjoy ... not a race track for only special interests. Reducing protections for wildlife translates into a National Park destroyed for everyone else.

The National Park Service must protect:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the LAW states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 and other shorebirds.

Take the correct and moral action instead of the expedient one.

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**Correspondence ID:** 466    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:10:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** In the midst of the usual political pressures, my husband and I believe that no changes are warranted on our National Seashores unless and until each change is considered by juried, scientific reviews as to both negative and/or positive consequences to the shores themselves and to the animals and plants who inhabit these national treasures. Specifically, climate change alone will be the greatest challenge with much that can't be controlled. But providing less protection for these shores and their inhabitants at this time makes no sense at all. Let's preserve what we have fought for up to now. We are leaving less and less as our legacy to our children of the natural world. Accommodating the endless greed of commercial interests is grossly unfair - protecting the gifts we are given by nature is in everyone's long-term interest -The natural world must depend upon us for its voice. PLEASE !

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**Correspondence ID:** 467    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
  - \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife.

Vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots and other shorebirds.  
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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

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**Correspondence ID:** 468    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:10:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect the habitat of the Piping Plover and other wildlife on Cape Hatteras so they can make a comeback. Wildlife matters!

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**Correspondence ID:** 469    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

I am an avid birder and all around nature lover, former resident of North Carolina and former employee and current fan of the National Park Service. I am not a fan of Off Road Vehicles that wontonly destroy na tural wildlife habitat. You are kindly requested to take action at Cape Hatteras beaches to protect the nesting wildlife, in particular the piping plovers and sea turtles.

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 470    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:11:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 471    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles, which can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\*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 ensure that the beaches are monitored for bird and turtle nests, as well as for eggs and chicks. before the beaches open in the morning.

I am counting on you to protect:

\* The current plan. Ensure that any rule changes are supported by peer-reviewed science, as the law states, and that rule changes are not just based on convenience or community pressure.

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service. We count on you to protect Red Knots and other shorebirds by expanding areas prohibiting vehicle access.

\* Seashore visitors. When we visit a National Seashore, we do not expect beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts. Furthermore, such an environment is a safety hazard for families with young children, who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Both visitors and wildlife deserve protections. Moreover, scientific research has shown that the native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions in order to survive.

Please listen to the public, who love our beaches and the wildlife that call it home. We ask you to cease your actions that are destructive to wildlife, such as decreasing the size and time of buffers on the seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. Nature was there first and it is deserves to have you protect it under its designation as a National Seashore.

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**Correspondence ID:** 472 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 11:12:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Have A Great One

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**Correspondence ID:** 473 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please 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 the current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 and other shorebirds.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 474 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 475 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:13:05

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recent and first time visitor to the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and a nature lover, I was impressed with the natural beauty and warm hospitality I found there. My time on the water and in the nature preserves was rewarding beyond expectations. However, I was surprised by the scarcity of some of the very bird species I traveled so far to see.

I am deeply concerned that these natural resources are at risk and those entrusted to protect and preserve our fragile ecosystem, and the threatened wildlife that struggles to survive there, have chosen NOT to do so.

Please, reconsider your decision and protect the nesting Piping Plover and Black Oystercatcher for future generations. Surely, that is within your power and the responsible thing to do.

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 476 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:13:25

**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:

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

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 477 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public who loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

You do NOT have my permission to use my tax dollars for anything but the support of our wildlife, wildlife habitats, and other natural resources.

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**Correspondence ID:** 478 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** 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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 479 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:14:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 480 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:15:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 481    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:15:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please don't kill our birds for the sake of driving on the beach!  
Birds have got to have protected habitat in order to survive.

thank you for your consideration

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**Correspondence ID:** 482    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* Check beaches 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:

- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

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

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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 483    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:16:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** National Park Service will not be needed if it doesn't protect the parks. Four wheelers and such belong on the roads and not on nesting habitat.

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**Correspondence ID:** 484    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 485    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:18:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

THERE IS VERY LITTLE THAT NEEDS TO BE SAID IN DEFENSE OF THESE VULNERABLE BIRDS.

DO NOT ALLOW DRIVING ON YOUR BEACHES PERIOD!!!

I LIVED NEAR DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA, FOR YEARS, AND I BELIEVE THEY WERE THE FIRST BEACH IN AMERICA TO ALLOW DRIVING. AND GUESS WHAT,THEY HAD SEVERAL INCIDENCES WHERE PEOPLE AND SUN BATHERS WERE HIT BY THESE VEHICLES!!!

NO BEACH SHOULD ALLOW PUBLIC VEHICLES TO DRIVE ON IT, AS IT WILL ALWAYS POSE A DANGER TO PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE!!

STREETS ARE MEANT FOR VEHICLES, NOT BEACHES!!!



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**Correspondence ID:** 486    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:19:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am strongly opposed to any extensions on routes or times for ORV traffic on Cape hatters National Seashore. In fact, vehicle free areas should be significantly expanded for the safety of families and wildlife on the Cape. There is no reason that ORVs should be allowed at night on the beaches to endanger sea turtles and their nests and nesting birds as well as people who like to walk on the beaches. Please do not allow more ORV access but instead increase the vehicle free areas. This sort of protection is what Americans expect from their National Park Service.

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**Correspondence ID:** 487    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically:

\* The beaches should checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before they 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 the current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

I urge you to maintain night driving restrictions, continuing to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 and other shorebirds.

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 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. Cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 488    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:20:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form



**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 489    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 11:20:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I've been coming to the outer banks for 42 years and have very much enjoyed my trips but not as much in the past few years because of all the beach closure areas. We used to come to the outer banks three to four times a year but now with all the closures we only make one trip a year in the fall when the closure and restrictions are lifted I think beaches should remain open in the spring until April 15th and open by sept 1st in the fall. And should open by 6:00 am. I do not see that this opening and closing seasons will have an impact on wildlife, most of these areas from what I have seen has been vacated by the the wildlife or have not moved into these areas by April 15th. There are too many areas that are closed off, if these areas are not inhabited by wildlife they need to be opened for public access. If wildlife has been in these areas and has moved on these areas need to be opened asap. Some of these areas need to be reevaluated as some are not supporting wildlife and need to be open year round. I understand that buffer zones are important to protect wildlife but I think they are a bit extreme in some cases. I enjoy fishing on ocracoke island but because of the what I consider over closure of beach areas for orv access I only make one trip a year now. And because the beach driving permits are only seven days I cut my trip shorter. I'm allowed to take 10 vac days at a time i would like to see a 10 day permit put into place. If more beach areas are opened i would be visiting the obx more often if that would happen i would buy the yearly permit but i think it should be from purchase date to the next year same date. I visit Holden beach several times a year now and fish right beside turtle nest that have been taped off, they announce when turtles are to hatch, I have witnessed a multitude of people come out to see the baby turtles hatch the people even help dig trenches to the water to help the turtles on their way they even have turtle education seminars for kids and adults. People and animals coexist there just has to be a happy medium in there somewhere.  
Thanks for allowing me to express my comments

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**Correspondence ID:** 490    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

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

I urge you to continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks. 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 and other shorebirds. Additionally, 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Thank you for considering my comments.

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**Correspondence ID:** 491    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:22:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your time,



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**Correspondence ID:** 492    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:22:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 493    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:23:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as

nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 494 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:24:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect the nesting sites of piping plovers and sea turtles from recreation vehicles on the beach. Scientific recommendations should be strictly adhered so that this precious resource will be here for the next generation.

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**Correspondence ID:** 495 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:24:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I recently learned of the weakening of protections for nesting birds and sea turtles at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 496 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:24:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** keep cape Hatteras national seashore safe for nesting American oystercatchers, piping plovers and sea turtles. ban off road vehicle use wherever these birds and turtles nest and live.

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**Correspondence ID:** 497 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Wildlife can't be replaced once it's driven to extinction. Please don't put vehicular traffic on beaches when nesting is occurring. Please don't ignore our natural resources and allow vehicular traffic. Vehicles don't belong on beaches.

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**Correspondence ID:** 498 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Birds and sea turtles have no voice, but we can speak up for them! Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* We want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. We 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.

We are 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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive!

Please listen to the public who love our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them!

We thank you kindly,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 499    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug, 14, 2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** 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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 500    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug, 14, 2015 11:30:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 501    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Vehicles should NOT be on beaches. There are many other places that people can speed around like crazy.

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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

thank you,



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**Correspondence ID:** 502    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 11:32:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 503    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 11:33:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Sirs:

This letter is being written on behalf of the birds and sea turtles which can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 504    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:34:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 505    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:35:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** A former resident of both Virginia and North Carolina and a frequent visitor to the Outer Banks even now, I am interested in seeing the current protections kept in place for birds, turtles and other wildlife on the beaches. I don't go to the Outer Banks to watch ORVs plow up the sand. I go there to enjoy my own feet making tracks in the sand amid the peaceful lulling of the waves, to SHARE this tranquility with the birds and animals who call the area home.

The Outer Banks will lose its attraction for me as a vacation destination when it becomes an ORV track. If I want to see sand dunes criss-crossed by ORV tracks, I can go to several desert areas in Washington and nearby states. I am willing to travel across the country to visit the Outer Banks because the NATURAL BEAUTY of a landscape filled with sky, sea, sand, birds and other wildlife, calls to me. Please don't silence that call by destroying inhabitants of the land, ocean or air. Keep the current ORV rules intact.

In closing, I respect your joint mission to protect and preserve for the enjoyment of the citizenry. Just remember that a vast portion of the citizenry either does not care for ORVs or at least does not want to use them to the detriment of wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

██████

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**Correspondence ID:** 506    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:35:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Hello,

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 507    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:35:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep driving limitations on Hatteras. Maintain safe environments for birds, turtles and animals who live and breed there. Beach driving is NOT a priority at all. Thank you, [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 508    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:35:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** It is beyond my comprehension that the USPS would rescind its decisions to provide more protected areas for two iconic marine bird species. Your people work in our parks (in this case a coastal park), and you all surely know perfectly well the ecological devastation & destruction, which off-road vehicles - - dune buggies in this case - - bring to any extremely fragile area like dunes. So WHY IN HEAVEN did you reverse your policies??

As is usually the case - - what other answer could there be but corruption by MONEY?? It has been my experience that people who work for the USPS actually seek out work there, because they are great lovers of Nature. So my guess is that some local state officials "on the take" have muscled enough political "clout" to reverse the USPS's policy of reserving these nesting areas for 2 endangered species. Do the promoters of this disastrous change think that the general public can't figure this out? Think again!

Please listen to the voices of the experts: ornithologists, geologists marine scientists, etc. and resist the pressure of corrupt politicians and their supporters and restore all of the areas correctly set aside for nesting sites for these two species. After all this park is of NATIONAL, EVEN GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE, and this decision will effect visitors from all over the world.

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**Correspondence ID:** 509    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:36:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 510    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:36:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 511    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:37:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Writing on behalf of my family, all of whom travel and camp around beaches on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and are urgently concerned about survival of endangered birds and sea turtles. We beg you to protect our National Seashore for all wildlife. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

We believe that beaches should be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. We are sad that you allow ORV traffic at all, but at least the beaches should be checked for wildlife and nests before vehicles are allowed on the beach.

Further, please 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 DO limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

We hope you protect the current plan: Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience/community pressure.

Ditto night driving restrictions (i.e.,continue to prohibit night driving on beaches entirely, as it endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

In fact, the possibility of allowing ANY 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 and other shorebirds.

Plus, beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore, nor do we appreciate fear of being hit by a vehicle. Our wildlife deserves protection, and scientific research shows that 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.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 512    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:37:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Multiple generations of our family visit the Outer Banks every year. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 513    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:39:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a several times visitor to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and as a Michigan Conservation Steward I urge the NPS to do as much as possible to protect the regulations put in place for protection of sea turtle nesting areas, Piping Plover nesting areas and the general well being of the seashore's wildlife.

My experiences at Cape Hatteras have been generally excellent. One exception was watching a toddler try to walk to the ocean through the deep ruts left by off-road vehicles.

I have noted with interest the increase in successful nest attempts of the Piping Plover after the ORV restrictions were put into place a few years ago and with consternation that the successful nest attempts plummeted to two this year after some of the restrictions were relaxed. The Piping Plover has a small population here on the Michigan great lakes beaches that we are struggling to increase, notably at Sleeping Bear Dunes NP and Hiawatha national Forest. As a Michigan Conservation Steward, and long time observer of the harmful effect of human activities on natural habitats, I note that protecting our wilder areas is easier where our population is lower and gets much more difficult where people numbers increase. The US east coast is an area of high and increasing human population. The important natural areas and eco-systems will require more stringent protection efforts, not a reduction in protections.

**Correspondence ID:** 514    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:39:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect the birds!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We are running low on them!

**Correspondence ID:** 515    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:39:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 516    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:39:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 517 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 518 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:40:05

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 519 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:43:06

**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. Let the pleasure seekers from out of state cause havoc where they live, not in our state. And those who live in North Carolina should guard what is precious here.

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**Correspondence ID:** 520    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:45:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife, it is your job!!!!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 521    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:46:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 522    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:46:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access is not the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots 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 is 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive. This is THEIR home, they have nowhere else to go. ORV users do.

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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 523    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:46:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I honestly believe that there is enough places for ORV's without taking the precious places that our birds need to breed and nest, please leave this small space for the birds

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**Correspondence ID:** 524    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:46:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 525    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The human species is extremely slow to learn that we MUST begin to respect the rights of other species to continue to exist alongside us. Our selfish and deeply harmful ways will not only drive all other life-forms to extinction - - but how is it possible that we keep MISSING the fact that we also endanger ourselves at the same time?

The following letter was formulated by The Audubon Society and very aptly sums up my concerns. - -

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as

nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 526    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:47:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Your proposal seems to be oddly misguided. Your agency role is to PROTECT native creatures and habitat. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE do that! Humans have a huge responsibility to take care of the one and only earth we have, and that we share with all other living creatures. Be smart! Care! Now!

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**Correspondence ID:** 527    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:47:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear Sir or Ma'am,  
I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

They deserve our help and protection! Thank you. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 528    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:48:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 529    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.  
PLEASE IMMEDIATELY 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 & FALL CLOSURES ON ANY AREAS 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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. I AM STRONGLY ASKING YOU TO IMMEDIATELY CEASE FURTHER ACTIONS affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 530    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 11:50:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do not roll back protections even more. These birds are already threatened.

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**Correspondence ID:** 531    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 11:50:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. My family has been going to the Outer Banks for 20 years. It's always an attraction because of the wildlife and free from motor vehicles.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 532    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 11:50:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

Piping plovers have been on that seashore long before the Wright brothers, colonial settlements, etc. It's not right to force them out just because someone in a monster pick-up wants to drive there.

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**Correspondence ID:** 533    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 11:52:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We truly enjoy our visits to the Hatteras area and would hope it could be protected, especially birds and turtles !!!!

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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 534    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 11:53:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing in behalf of the Birds and Sea Turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife. Please check beaches for all bird and turtle nests as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning, before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach, prohibit night driving. Do not extend ORV routes or Spring and Fall closure times on any area beaches that affect Sea Turtles and Birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't Good Stewardship, it not only endangers the wildlife but is a hazard to Families and young Children who want to enjoy the beaches without fear of being struck by a vehicle. 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. Our wildlife deserves these protections. These Native Birds and Sea Turtles need Beach Driving Restrictions to Survive, instead of reducing restrictions they should be expanded to protect the Red knots and other shorebirds. Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls them home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers on the Seashore without Peer Reviewed Scientific Research to support them. Thank You, Sincerely [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 535    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 11:53:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

THANK YOU!

**Correspondence ID:** 536 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:54:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please reinstate the driving limits on the beach - - it is a necessary buffer for these birds. They are so easily disturbed during nesting season.

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**Correspondence ID:** 537 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Yes, the following comments have been copied and are not my own original thoughts but fully express my sentiments except for the fact that my preference would be to allow no ORV on beaches that have seabird or turtle nesting sites.

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 538 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:58:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am strongly opposed to putting at risk healthy, viable populations of shore birds and turtles for the convenience and pleasure of off road vehicle (ORV) use of beaches. It is the NPS's duty to protect our National Seashore for all wildlife, and only make motorized access legal where this will not adversely affect wildlife populations.

The provisions within the wildlife management plan for the National Seashore must be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, and must not be written solely for convenience or community pressure.

Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks, so prohibition of night driving must be a requirement of any acceptable plan.

The non-ORV public deserves to enjoy the presence of viable wildlife populations and freedom from ORV vehicles and tire ruts when visiting our National Seashore. These powerful machines are a safety hazard for families with young children, and they, too, deserve to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by vehicles.

Do not extend ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds, or risk the safety or joyment of non-mechanized citizens.

Lastly, make it a requirement that all authorized ORV routes are checked each morning for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks, before the beaches can be opened or ORV use each day.

Viable wildlife populations require these protections, for scientific research has demonstrated that native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to thrive.

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**Correspondence ID:** 539 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 11:59:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 540 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:00:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 541 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:01:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 542 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:02:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I understand the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections on Cape Hatteras which are already insufficient due to previous reductions, by expanding the areas of human encroachment and the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

This is a all very bad idea. You have done too much to accommodate human use and endangered the species and habitat.

Stop! Don't allow politicians and greed to decide what you protect. Parks with almost no wildlife are not what we need.

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**Correspondence ID:** 543 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:02:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I urge you to everything possible to protect shorebirds and sea turtles from ORV traffic on beaches. Thank-you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 544 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:04:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 545 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves to ask that this organization please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. As good stewards, we must do more (especially now) to protect the creatures under our care. I urge you to help us with the above actions.

Thank you.



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**Correspondence ID:** 546    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:06:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I may not live in North Carolina but this plan to allow more vehicles on Cape Hatteras beaches seems totally OUT OF BOUNDS!! The delicate and endangered wildlife like Piping Plovers and Turtles are just trying to SURVIVE and are already ENDANGERED!!

This plan is not only "ill-advised" it is downright "SADISTIC" towards innocent Wildlife.

Please, why not try to think clearly and regain some HUMANITY!!

Might be better in the long run, don't you think so??

Thanks for your time.

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**Correspondence ID:** 547    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 548    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:07:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 549    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:08:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 550    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 551    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:10:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello,

I love Cape Hatteras. I've summered there before and expect to visit again! For this reason, I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

A few specifics:

I ask that you see that the beaches are 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 that you 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.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife for those living now and for posterity!

Best,  


**Correspondence ID:** 552    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:10:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Friends:

I am adding my comment here because plain and simple -- the beach should not be a roadway. I ask that you keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Please think -- how much damage to the shoreline, the wildlife, the grasses, and to the beach itself can we tolerate? Sadly, when people come to shore areas, they leave garbage, waste matter, and destruction behind them. Why? Because they often don't live in the shore community and feel that it's theirs to destroy because they are on vacation. What about the year-round inhabitants? What about the wildlife?

Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches--and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving.

By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras reached historic lows. Audubon along with other groups successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days--encroaching on nesting season--and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

Thank you for your time.

██████████

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 553    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Enough already, protect wildlife!

We have a people problem. We're overpopulated and devastate wildlife habitat. It's time to stop giving in to selfish people and maintain, if not increase, protections for wildlife.

Specifically:

- \* 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 ORV traffic not be allowed on the beach, but if it is, all wildlife are cleared and their routes strictly controlled to protect wildlife.
- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. People suck, and don't care about the harm that they cause. They are THE problem and must be controlled.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 554    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:11:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.



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**Correspondence ID:** 555    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am a great supporter of the National Parks System and am dismayed to find that you are considering opening up the driving limits on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Please 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 the sea turtles and birds that live there and call this home.

Personally living near sea turtle nests on Topsail Island, I am fully aware of the consequences of night driving and request you continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 and other shorebirds.

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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and wildlife. If we can't depend on the National Parks Service to do the right thing, who can we depend on? We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for all that you do to help preserve our natural resources to be enjoyed by all for now, and for the future.

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**Correspondence ID:** 556    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:13:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please keep those protections for sea turtles and shorebirds such as Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher and others in place which will help these creatures to survive on the Outer Banks. Do NOT allow extended routes and longer hours on the beaches to ORVs. Wildlife which depends upon the National Seashores deserves the kind of protection which wildlife experts have recommended.

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**Correspondence ID:** 557    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been watching for many years as the piping plovers, and other shore birds, have been harassed and their numbers devastated by allowing ATV's to drive on the beach, particularly during nesting season. It is an unnecessary and ridiculous pastime that should not be allowed when the birds are present. Why must the men with engines always win out over those that love nature and want to protect the wildlife? This mentality makes me sick.

And so, I am writing to let you know how I feel.

Last year only 2 piping plover chicks hatched. The dead, those run over by ATV's, and the harrassed, those that left because they were unable to be in peace while trying to nest, can't speak for themselves so, I am writing for them.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 558      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:14:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Vehicles on beaches? More and more development on Hatteras? It is unthinkable. At least, you can retain the driving limits that were in place before this recent bad amendment to the rules. With new bird counts down, pay attention to protection of waning populations of birds and turtles, and limit the dune buggies on the beaches of Hatteras.

**Correspondence ID:** 559      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:14:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 560      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:14:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Piping Plover chicks are already at risk, as are Ostercatcher chicks. Please keep in place the protections they deserve. You have the authority and the responsibility to do this as guardians of our fabulous US natural treasures.

**Correspondence ID:** 561      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:16:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 562    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:16:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to urge you to protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 563    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:17:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 564    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak up for themselves.

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.



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

Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 and other shorebirds.

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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

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**Correspondence ID:** 565 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:18:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 566 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

And please ignore pressure from the anti-environmentalists in Congress!

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**Correspondence ID:** 567    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:19:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 568    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:20:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 569    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:20:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I'm I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 570    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:20:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 571    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:21:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello,

I am writing to request an increase in pedestrian-only access to the Outer Banks National Seashore and a decrease in ORV vehicle access. The natural beauty of this area and the shelter it provides to wildlife and the refuge it provides to pedestrian visitors is clearly in jeopardy and being harmed by the rapid increase in ORV use in the area. Furthermore, the air quality degradation from idling vehicles and fumes is harmful and disruptive to visitors, and the erosion associated with such rampant ORV use is damaging to marine and land ecosystems.



**Correspondence ID:** 572    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

I live in Oregon and everywhere there is ORV access there is drastic loss of habitat for wild animals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, etc., as well as the very real loss of safety for people. Most folks who drive ORVs do so in a reckless manner and anybody who has taken the time to observe them can honestly testify to this. We all know it. Stop being weak-kneed and crumbling to pressure from one group of people. The other side comprises a much larger and varied group. Wake up! Get rid of ORV access entirely!

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**Correspondence ID:** 573    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:22:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 574    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please save the birds and wildlife.

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\*Work to extend the protections to what they were before the most recent reduction.

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. This has already been overridden by the existing current plan, which should be scaled back to what it was before the most recent changes.

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 575 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:25:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** PROTECTING THE FLORA AND FAUNA SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER HUMAN "RECREATIONAL" ACTIVITIES.

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**Correspondence ID:** 576 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:26:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** All wild animals are under stress from climate change and extreme weather that has resulted. They need bigger buffer areas than previously.  
Our know-nothing Congress seems not to care about our wonderful natural world and denies science.

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**Correspondence ID:** 577 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:26:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect the birds and the turtle nests - - Do NOT increase speed and traffic on their territory. Thank you for reading this, but more importantly, for acting upon it.

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**Correspondence ID:** 578 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:26:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a disabled senior I believe that the the length of time that areas sre closed would severely restrict my ability to use the resource. I have not been to CHNSfor 2 years first because of permit times and fees' last year because of stroke. have down every year since 1975. because ofmy situation i cannot commnt on the vfzbut longer open times ie villageds open earlir ,close later by at least 4 weeks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 579 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Wjhom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today to address some of the issues around the Cape Hatteras area. I thank you in advance for taking the time to consider the following concerns.

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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

██████████  
██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 580 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:29:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 581      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

My family and I love to visit the beach and would like this area and its wild life protected from harm. Thank You for your attention to the concerns listed above.

Please take action to permanently protect wildlife. These creatures are precious.

Please remember that once this wildlife is destroyed, IT'S GONE! Please act in the best interest to protect these creatures and their habitat.

**Correspondence ID:** 582      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:30:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 583    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:30:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 584    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:33:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have driven on the beaches in question for many years. I also work to protect ground nesting birds on the beach were I now live. The numbers of Piping Plovers are so small that they do indeed need protection. The long tradition of driving on the Cape Hatteras beaches leads some folks to look on it as a right when it is indeed a privilege. I urge you to protect the birds and turtles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 585    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:33:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 586    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:34:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* The beaches should be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks BEFORE the beaches open in the morning, and 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 587    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:34:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles on Cape Hatteras beaches.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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 NPS 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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* Birds & Sea Turtle protection. 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves NC beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 588    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:38:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect Cape Hatteras from further ORV traffic. Extending the times ORV traffic is allowed is a sure recipe for environmental and wildlife disaster. We need to be more responsible for the health and well-being of our environment. Protecting wild areas to insure a balance between conservation and recreation is increasingly important.

Do the right thing and limit ORV traffic in this precious area.

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**Correspondence ID:** 589    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:38:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear NPS,

I am writing on behalf of 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 590    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically: Check the beaches for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. No ORV traffic unless beaches are clear.

- \* 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.

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

Prohibit night driving. This is a no-brainer.

Expand, don't reduce car-free areas. That's what the NPS should be doing for our wildlife!

I am sick of being bullied by ORV's when I come to the beach.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers (shocking!) on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 591    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 12:39:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 592    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 12:39:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 593    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:41:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing concerning the East Coast Beaches particularly those in the off shore islands near Cape Hatteras. My husband and I drove there a couple of years ago with our motor home and found a camp ground away from the Beach Area.

I am a bird-watcher and nature lover - I take care of our environment the best I can, and I totally understand that beaches should be very protected where nesting birds occur. However I was amazed at how all sorts of cars, campers, trailers etc. were allowed to enter beach areas up and down that coast! It was early in the year for nesting birds, but close to the migration time of March and April.

There are few people in our world that understand what are avian fauna need - only those of us that are dedicated to observing birds, and other creatures that are mingled in our lives with us.

Humans take a large toll on our animals all over the world - we have hunted, eaten and depended on them since we started inhabiting the earth. Surely however, nowadays we must account for our actions in a more sustainable manner. Thus educating our children from an early age in school and through the media is our first priority - rather than giving them a gun and tell them to go hunt the creatures!

Our beaches can be enjoyed without driving our big cars and trucks, though there would be need for car parks near the beach but no vehicle should be allowed on the beach. If nesting birds are observed it would be good to fence off the area and maybe invite people from the neighborhood to watch from a distance. Societies such as Audubon, or other Wild-life organisations may be asked to help educate the visiting public - but certainly cars should be restricted from beaches.

Thank you for allowing me to post my comments [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 594    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:44:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 595    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:44:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 596    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Your mandate is to protect wildlife so any consideration of actions that clearly threaten bird or turtle habitat is unconscionable. There are areas not critical to wildlife that can be used by ORV folks so there is no need to encroach on dwindling habitat.

Using words from Audubon Society, I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 597    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:45:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 598    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 12:46:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I [REDACTED] endorse this message:

On behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 599    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 12:46:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 600    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:48:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 601 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:50:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 602 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:50:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Cape Hatteras National Seashore - 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Also there is no sound reason that anyone needs to drive on a beach. It's terrible, please stop the ORV traffic, ticket with hefty fines those that break the law. Show the political machines that we only have one planet earth, cherish it before it's destroyed.

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**Correspondence ID:** 603 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:50:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have always loved the Outer Banks and remembered the sand dunes from childhood so that I could take our daughter to them. With all the vehicle traffic on the beaches and next to the sand dunes, I feel that it is not even a pleasurable experience. Please limit vehicular traffic as much as possible. Protect this North Carolinian jewel before we lose it.

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**Correspondence ID:** 604 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:50:37

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please keep current protective measures in place. We need peer-reviewed science to verify changes, GOOD science, and not cave to pressure from other sources or take the easy way out. The nighttime driving restrictions are important. Driving on beaches at night is terrible for all manner of wildlife, but especially nesting birds, sea turtles, and sea turtle nests. Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 605 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

The issues at stake are much greater than just one or two species becoming extinct. The entire ecosystem is connected. We can not destroy parts of it without serious ramifications for human beings.

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**Correspondence ID:** 606 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:51:24

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 607 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am concerning the changes proposed for the beaches at Cape Hatteras.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

I love observing wildlife at the beach and it has always pleased me to see that restrictions are in place to protect it. Please cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer-reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 608    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 12:54:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Relaxing the rules that are in place to protect wildlife is not only irresponsible but ill-advised. If we continue to destroy the natural world and all of the species that make our ecosystems work and stay balanced then we are slowly but surely wending our way to our own destruction.  
**KEEP THE PROTECTIONS AT CAPE HATTERAS IN PLACE!**

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**Correspondence ID:** 609    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 12:54:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 610    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 12:55:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The mission statement on the NPS website states:

"The National Park Service preserves UNIMPAIRED the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System..."

With that in mind, extending access for ORVs, specifically in the Cape Hatteras NP, would severely impair the natural habitat for nesting birds, turtles and other wildlife. It is this wildlife that makes CHNP such a valuable asset in the NP system. Destructive human recreational activities should always be secondary to preserving habitat. I am calling on you to tighten restriction on ORVs rather than weaken. Your mission statement does not direct you to give in to misplaced public demand for activities that contradict your mission to "...preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources..."

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**Correspondence ID:** 611    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 12:57:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 612    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:58:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to express my support for maintaining the current protective buffers for beach-nesting birds at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Providing protected areas that are not subject to disturbance is critical to maintaining populations of birds and other species, such as turtles.

Critical items that I am most concerned about are:

Maintaining night driving restrictions. Driving on beaches at night endangers nesting birds and their chicks, as well as sea turtles and their nests.

As active shorebird nesting areas are identified, buffers need to be expanded to provide protection.

Any modifications to the current management plan rules must be supported by peer-reviewed science as required by law.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 613    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 12:59:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Sample Comments  
I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 614    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:01:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to you as an off road vehicle owner and nature lover. America's threatened beach nesting birds and sea turtles need all the help they can get. I would never consider driving my buggy in an area where there were nesting animals. Unfortunately there are many people who do not feel the same and have no problem disturbing wildlife, destroying nests and outright killing animals with their vehicles. ORV access is not a "right" and should only be allowed where it is prudent to do so. Changes to existing regulations must be based on real science and not driven by short sighted special



interest groups. We need more vehicle free areas to safeguard wildlife.

Our venerable shorebirds and turtles need protection and Americans expect our National Park Service to be more responsive to our threatened species than to off road vehicle owners. The birds and turtles that build their nests on beaches cannot nest anywhere else - they need safe and secure beach nest sites. Their only chance for survival is to keep buffers in effect and keep ORVs off the beaches. Without the buffers Piping Plover nests, eggs, and chicks will be destroyed by being run over, or will be driven away by the chronic disturbance. Sea turtle other beach-nesting wildlife are also crushed beneath these vehicles and driven off by the disturbance.

Where off road vehicles are allowed, it is very important to not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that could affect sea turtles or birds. Animals move around and therefore it is imperative that the beaches be checked for bird and turtle nests, eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. For the safety of the wildlife this needs to be done prior to ORV traffic being allowed on the beach. Night driving should be strictly prohibited as this causes significant disturbance to turtles trying to nest on the beach and will keep them from coming onto shore. Those that have come onshore risk being injured or killed.

Please consider my comments. I truly believe that the majority of Americans would prefer our National Seashores free of vehicle traffic and full of scenic beauty and wildlife.

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**Correspondence ID:** 615    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:04:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 616    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Some of us who live in the West grew up on the Eastern seaboard or have traveled there extensively, and we know how precious those beach areas are for wildlife habitat.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your attention.

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**Correspondence ID:** 617    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:05:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as

nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 618    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:07:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 619    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:08:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 620    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:09:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 621    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:09:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 622    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I'm writing to urge you to act in the interest of wildlife and not to cave to pressure from people advocating for driving on beaches. In my opinion there is no contest, the survival of multiple species vs the fleeting and fully optional "pleasure" activity of driving on a beach? Have we no limits on how much we will infringe upon sensitive habitats of species other than our own?

Thank you for the incredible work that you do to maintain wild lands for all of us. And thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my opinions.

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 623    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:13:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 624    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. "Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!"

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.
- Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your time.



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**Correspondence ID:** 625    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of other park visitors, and the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for the enjoyment of visitors and for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 and other shorebirds.
- \* SEASHORE VISITORS! Beaches riddled with noisy 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. ORV use should be banned entirely from all National Parks, but especially from sensitive seashores, as it severely decreases the enjoyment of regular park visitors to this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 626    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:17:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 627    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:19:55  
**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.

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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you

**Correspondence ID:** 628 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:20:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Why are off-road vehicles even allowed in nesting areas? It is the same as allowing off-road vehicles racing around in a human maternity ward.

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**Correspondence ID:** 629 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:20:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**  
Please keep the driving restrictions...these birds are precious!

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**Correspondence ID:** 630 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:21:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

PLEASE protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for doing the right thing!

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**Correspondence ID:** 631 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:22:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** National Parks are to benefit all citizens by preserving habitat such as for shorebirds and turtles, not for the destructive use by a few ORV drivers. Please preserve or strengthen the current rules at Cape Hatteras Seashore so that future generations may still enjoy the natural world. As a Kansan, I especially enjoyed a recent week at the beach and can't understand why people are willing to trash such a treasure and the wildlife it supports. Thanks,

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**Correspondence ID:** 632 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I live in Sarasota, Florida and have vacationed in Avon and Hatteras for a number of years and am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect the turtles and seabirds and all wildlife on your beautiful National Seashore.

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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.

Do not let your beach become another Daytona! Where I live now, in Sarasota, sea turtle nests are protected, people are not run over by cars while relaxing on the beach. Both people and wildlife need to be protected on your Seashore. Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 633    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:24:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 634    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:24:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I'm writing on behalf of the birds, sea turtles, and wildlife who can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore.

The beaches should be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks, before the beaches open, and they should be cleared before ORV traffic is allowed. Furthermore, ORV routes should not be extended and spring and fall closures should not be extended on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds.

In addition, night driving should continue to be prohibited. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks. Vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots and other shorebirds.

I'm asking 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. Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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. I'm asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 635    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:25:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 636    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:26:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 637    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 638    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:26:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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



\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 639 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:31:09

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please keep the people and wildlife safe. We are the stewards of the earth and it is our responsibility to see to it that we do not destroy or make extinct species that are on the brink. All animals need protection and it behooves us to see they are kept safe from harm. Is that really too much to ask, nay, I say DEMAND protections for those who cannot protect themselves.

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**Correspondence ID:** 640 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:31:12

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I strongly support setting aside more lands to act as protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers. The science behind these protected lands is solid and we have an obligation to set aside lands for these fragile populations. In the big scheme of things, this amount of land is minuscule - but it is critical for these beautiful birds and the National Park Service must step up to the plate for Mother Nature!

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**Correspondence ID:** 641 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:32:19

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 642 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:32:20

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of 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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 643    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:32:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Why do you even consider vehicles on more of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore beaches and for longer time periods? There should be no vehicles there at all. It's a National Seashore! Protect the birds and turtles, and people can still enjoy the beaches and ocean without any vehicles at all! Return to full restrictions on the beach. Let those who want to degrade the sand and beaches go degrade the topsoil on the mainland instead.

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**Correspondence ID:** 644    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:34:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 645    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:35:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** "I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them."

WE the people have spoken.....

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**Correspondence ID:** 646 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:35:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a child, I loved to walk on the Beaches of NC and watch the shore birds scatter in front of my steps, sometimes taking to wing to wheel back to the same spot they had just left as I passed by. Those days and that experience were magical and instilled in me a life-long love of shorebirds, wildlife, and the free and open beaches we have here in NC. The proposed rule changes for ORV use on the Outer Banks threaten everything about them that I love, and for what? To satisfy the desires of a few people who could drive their vehicles elsewhere, in less-sensitive areas? This makes no sense and smells like "someone" is being paid off to cater to those few beach-hogs. I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife and for beaches safe for families of all varieties!

Specifically:

\* 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. The beaches should be CLOSED when evidence of nesting is found and only cleared for opening when there is none. Beaches should be verified as "open" before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.  
\* Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall availability to ORVs on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended ORV use only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect:

\* The current plan, even though the pathetic few plovers that fledged this year reflects the fact that last years' rule changes that shrank buffer zones did harm to their recovery, but the current plan is better than loosening the current restrictions. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science, as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. Do not give in to rich men who have other options for fun while imperiling our wildlife.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 and other shorebirds.  
\* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore. Vehicles are a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit.

I urge you to:

\* EXPAND buffer zones between nests and areas for human use, according to the optimal distances for the most sensitive species nesting there, to be determined by scientific consensus, not by wishful thinking.  
\* close additional areas to ORV use when evidence of new nesting or expansion of current nesting areas is found.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, because peer-reviewed scientific research will never support that.

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**Correspondence ID:** 647 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:36:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I urge you to protect our National Seashore for all wildlife. Specifically, I'd 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. Please do not extend the ORV routes, or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affects sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife. Protect our wildlife by preserving the current plan and continuing to prohibit night driving.

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**Correspondence ID:** 648 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:36:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a former resident of Cape Hatteras, N.C., I saw, firsthand, the damage and devastation ORV use caused to our beaches and wildlife. We moved from Hatteras in 2003 to Oregon, and that was, in part, because more and more pandering was being done by the National Park Service to ORV associations against the wishes of the other residents, like us, who just wanted to enjoy the peace and beauty of the area and tread as lightly as we could on the beaches, as we tried to view the dwindling populations of wildlife. But, we could see that the special interest ORV groups were richer, louder,

more aggressive, and obnoxious, in my opinion, in their efforts to "take over" more and more of our natural resources, such as Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

It is your responsibility to safeguard the birds and other wildlife who make Cape Hatteras Seashore their home or their nesting grounds! What is happening is disheartening, to say the least, regarding the plover nests, or lack thereof. It is up to you, to continue to advocate for a species that is so close to extinction that it is imperative that measures be undertaken to insure their survival and if that means the ORV "people" need to go elsewhere for the nesting times, then so be it. They already have destroyed portions of our national forests and other public lands, so perhaps, they can just ride all over their own properties and tear up their own land around THEIR houses instead of our public beaches!

I strongly urge you to take whatever measures are necessary to protect the snowy plover, sea turtles, and other wildlife habitat on Cape Hatteras National Seashore; otherwise, you will be left only with the rowdy, raucous, and destructive crowd of ORV users, as future tourists! Sadly, then, it will only be a short time, thereafter, when Cape Hatteras National Seashore becomes a ripped up barren landscape. That's the main reason we moved away. We couldn't bear to stay and see the area destroyed. If you allow the ORV associations and their lobbyists destroy the gem that is Cape Hatteras National Seashore, then the responsibility lies directly on your shoulders.

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**Correspondence ID:** 649    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:38:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore

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**Correspondence ID:** 650    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:38:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Just finished re-reading "Hatteras Blues" by Tom Carlson; received a call from Nags Head, a friend was having Wahoo for dinner, one of my favorites; my brother in law is sending vacation pictures from Frisco daily. I miss fishing the point. I haven't been down in over ten years, no access to the point, no access to the beach at night. I understand the need, I'm also a birder. How could a serious surf fisherman not be in touch with nature but there have to be less onerous ways to protect the birds and allow fishing. I could always drive down in the fall by myself :but, in defiance, I'll stay up north, fish Montauk for blackfish and cod, they taste better than drum anyway. But I do miss fishing the surf, the point, Hatteras beaches at night.

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**Correspondence ID:** 651    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:39:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 652    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! I volunteer on our beaches on the west coast of Florida to protect nesting shorebirds, and know how catastrophic human carelessness is to the chicks of these birds. Who enjoys running over baby chicks and turtles?

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 653 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:40:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 654 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:40:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 655 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:41:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 656    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:42:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a frequent user of beaches, I urge you to remember that some of us do so to seek the solace of Nature; to observe wildlife undisturbed by human interventions; to escape the frenzied and loud atmosphere beach driving and similar activities create. Wildlife have no voice, yet they are the creatures who will suffer the greatest harm from man's endless pursuit of transient pleasures. They and people who appreciate quietude and peace have rights, too.

Please do NOT reduce the restricted areas created for beach nesting creatures. Leave space for both them and for folks like me who want to observe and enjoy them as they struggle to perpetuate their species.

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**Correspondence ID:** 657    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:43:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 658    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:43:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The birds and sea turtles of Cape Hatteras National Seashore need more protection, not less.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 659    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 13:44:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear National Park Service for the Cape Hatteras area of North Carolina:

My family has vacationed along the Outer Banks of North Carolina (Cape Lookout) since I was a child. My mom's family was from this area and were part of the original settlers who came there in the 1600's. We are most familiar with the wildlife that exists on Shackleford Banks, as well as the Cape Lookout National Seashore - namely, the wild ponies that have been there for many generations. President Clinton enacted a Wild Ponies protective act when he was President, to help preserve the Shackleford Banks herd, and allow the ponies to live and thrive there as they had for centuries. The National Park Service also does a good job of protecting Cape Lookout as well, and that includes the beaches where seabirds nest as well as sea turtles. These wild, beautiful beaches are part of our heritage, and part of the history of our country, as well. Likewise, so is Cape Hatteras, and it is just as important to protect Cape Hatteras' beaches from too much vehicular traffic that apparently is destroying seabirds' and sea turtles habitats and nesting areas. So I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore in North Carolina for all wildlife! We live in an age where there are many environmental threats, and cannot afford to watch as our sea creatures and land birds are driven to extinction due to careless policies and practices on the part of people and their vacationing habits. Part of what makes our beaches beautiful to visit are the seabirds that nest and populate the areas, as well sea turtles and fish in the ocean. We must do everything we can to preserve these creatures who also share our planet, and deserve a healthy, safe home in which to live just like humans do. In connection with the Audobon Society, specifically I would like to see the following:

- \* To have 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.



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**Correspondence ID:** 660    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 and other shorebirds.  
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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public that appreciates our beaches and the wildlife that call it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 661    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 13:45:27

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 662 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:45:39

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please keep all the protections for shorebirds and turtles. The wildlife need to be protected, especially the shorebirds . The Otr vehicles need to be limited to protect birds .

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**Correspondence ID:** 663 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:45:52

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Are you kidding me? It angers me that the Park service caters so much to the people who feel a need to drive their vehicles on the beach. As a long time visitor to Cape Hatteras, I know how much beach they already have for their beach driving vehicles. But its not enough for them. Is this generation so selfish and lazy that it can't protect the beach for nesting birds and sea turtles? The Park Service is caving to pressure from Congress, to drastically reduce the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists believe necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

I applauded the Park Service when it first set the buffers in place. Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

Don't cave in to the selfish beach drivers and their political allies. Do what's best for the environment and do not reduce size of the protective buffers!

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**Correspondence ID:** 664 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

I am a resident of Raleigh NC and have lived in NC for almost 40 years. My family and I have visited Cape Hatteras several time and we are deeply concerned about the National Seashore being protected for all wildlife.

We are very concerned about the beaches being 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.

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

There must be night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

Birds must be protected! 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 and other shorebirds.

Everyone loves the beach, but a National Seashore is NOT the place for ORV which destroy wildlife and the beach experience.

NC wildlife and the precious resource of ALL wildlife deserve these protections, and scientific research has shown that these native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.



We call on you to please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We ask you to stop further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 665    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 13:46:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do not cause further damage to shore bird and turtle habitat along the North Carolina coastline. It is important that we preserve our coastline and our wildlife.

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**Correspondence ID:** 666    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:47:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I was greatly saddened to read that only TWO Piping Plovers fledged this breeding season, which greatly threatens the birds.

Our National Seashore needs protection first for all wildlife. Human recreation must come second.

Specifically, I feel the National Park Service must:

- check the beaches for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks, before the beaches open in the morning
- make no extensions of the ORV routes or spring and fall closure times on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds
- support rule changes by peer-reviewed science as the law mandates
- put wildlife first by making no rule changes based on convenience or community pressure
- continue to prohibit night driving on beaches as a requirement
- expand vehicle free areas to protect Red Knots and other shorebirds.
- assure safety of visitors by restriction of ORV routes to areas with buffer zones that segregate both bird/turtle areas as well as walking beach goers

I ask you to remember the National Park Service's mission: its "purpose is 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."

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**Correspondence ID:** 667    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:48:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** This is my personal request that the NPS keep in place all of the protective measures for Cape Hatteras and it's wild life. I refer to the proposed changes that could allow: How and when wildlife such as birds and turtles are accounted for including their eggs, nests, movements etc. Also to Not allow any extensions of nighttime driving or extended hours allowing beach usage. As you well know there are numerous negative changes that would cause detriment to the wildlife and habitats of plant and animal life if people are given anymore access to the beach areas than they already do have. Commercial advocates local or otherwise seek to increase profits that can destroy the very reason that people want to visit the areas, to see and experience the wild beauty of nature's own making. People do not want evidence of and impact of the destructive behavior that comes with allowing more access, longer hours of access and extended access such as night time driving on the beach. There are no positive reasons for endangering this area. Please keep all of these protective measures in place, which is your responsibility to enforce in mind, when you consider any changes to the Cape Hatteras area.

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**Correspondence ID:** 668    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:48:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 669    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:49:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I ask you to protect the current plan, ensuring that any rule changes are supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

I ask you to continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks. Allowing more ORV access isn't appropriate; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots and other shorebirds.

Citizens and visitors to this country do NOT want to see our National Seashore riddled with vehicles and tire ruts. These are a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Our wildlife, seashore and those who enjoy them deserve these protections. Scientific research has shown that these native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

I ask you to cease any further actions that will impact birds and wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, or failing to consider all peer reviewed scientific research.

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**Correspondence ID:** 670    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:50:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 671    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:53:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been coming to Cape Hatteras Recreational Seashore so some 20 odd years. The Final Rule adopted by the park official has done more damage to the seashore than can be realized. The basically shut down the most popular fishing spot on the East Coast when they shut down the point at Cape Hatteras. There need to be alternate routes when it is closed for any species of birds or turtles. The NV zones need to be open to traffic as most have little or no foot traffic. The areas in front of the villages need to be open at least 6 weeks before 1 Nov. and closed on Memorial day week end for the season. All monies should be from permits should only be used to improve beach access and nothing else. Permits on the yearly basics should be good for a year from the date of purchase or price adjusted each month remaining in the year. Two week permits should be available for those wishing them.

Those in charge need to remember that this was given to the NPS by the citizens of North Carolina to manage. Not to be swayed by some bunch of lawyers with deep pockets. This beach belongs to me as much as them. Give us what was promised, no more and no less.

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**Correspondence ID:** 672    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:54:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

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:

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

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 673    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before they open in the morning. The beaches should be cleared before ORV traffic is allowed.

\* Do not extend the ORV routes or spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affects sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

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.

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 and other shorebirds.

\* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts are not the experience we expect 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.

Wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions for survival. The birds and turtles deserve priority in setting rules; human ORV driving can take place in other places.

Please listen to us. We love the beaches and the wildlife that live there. Halt any further actions that would affect wildlife on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 674    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:56:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** PIPING PLOVERS failed to reproduce but 2 chick !

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.

Before the beaches open in the morning check beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks. Insure that beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

I am counting on you to protect:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science.

Expand protection to the once-plentiful and now dangerously endangered RED KNOT SPECIES.

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**Correspondence ID:** 675    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 13:56:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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**Correspondence ID:** 676 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:00:34

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** In late 1980s and early 1990s as a volunteer for the US Fish and Wildlife Service I help collect data on migrating shorebirds and as a resident in Southwest Florida I was well aware of the piping plovers wintering in that area. I know that their survival was precarious due to beach development and usage by humans. Likewise, I also monitored sea turtle nests on a barrier Island.

The nesting periods for both of these creatures do not require protection year around, but their nesting period deserves adequate buffers and isolation. I strongly urge the National Park Service to resist the pressure to reduce the nesting buffer zones.

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**Correspondence ID:** 677 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:01:15

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 678 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:01:25

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Correspondence ID:** 679    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles. The National Seashore should be protected for all wildlife, and we have to stop destroying our wildlife's food and shelter, especially for reasons of entertainment or financial profit.

Specifically, it is critical that we share. For example, ORV traffic can wait to use beaches until the beaches have been checked for bird and turtle nests and eggs and chicks.

Areas of beaches with sea turtles or birds should be closed to ORVs during critical nesting and hatching times.

Please protect the current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states. The law is meant to provide protection from poor decisions made for convenience or because of a community's pressure.

This means continuing to prohibit night driving on beaches, which endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

More ORV access isn't the stewardship we should be able to count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots and other shorebirds.

Non ORV National Seashore visitors should not encounter beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts. It makes a degraded experience and poses a safety hazard for families with young children.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 680    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:03:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as

decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for reading my comments.

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**Correspondence ID:** 681 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:05:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your considerations.

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**Correspondence ID:** 682 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:05:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.  
Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 683 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:05:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
The current plan should be honored and strengthened. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not politics, especially a right wing state legislature or congressional delegation. Night driving should be continued to be prohibited Driving on beaches at night endangers nesting birds and their chicks as well as sea turtles and their nests. 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 and other shorebirds.

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

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

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**Correspondence ID:** 684 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:07:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:** 685 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:07:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 686 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:07:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 687    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:07:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** This country is losing bird species at an alarming rate, so please ditch this plan.

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**Correspondence ID:** 688    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:08:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

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**Correspondence ID:** 689    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:09:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I do not think that ORV should be allowed at all on our beaches. They ruin the beach for people trying to enjoy the beauty of nature with their noise and foul smelling fumes. They are also pretty alarming to both seniors and families with small children. Their utter disregard for wildlife and the serenity of nature is unforgivable.  
Allowing ORV on the beach is pandering t the few while ignoring the majority of citizens who go to the parks to restore their souls.

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**Correspondence ID:** 690    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:11:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to urge you to protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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 wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 691    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:14:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 692    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 14:15:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of our earthly partners, the birds and sea turtles who can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 693    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 14:17:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing about the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 694    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 14:18:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.



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**Correspondence ID:** 695    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:18:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 696    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:21:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Deeply disappointed and rethinking usefulness of agencies when they 'back-track' on their purpose under uneducated government 'political' pressures. The very purpose of such agencies is to be the intelligent voice to protect the future of our parks and wildlife. Intelligent is the key adjective; intelligence is not political or have an agenda.

The buffer zones on critical bird habitat are the only thing keep populations even in existence. The recent decisions are as close to a 'death/genocidal' sentence for these bird species as there is.

Curious which corporate interest lead the charge of greed that forced your agency to make the initial decision to destroy habitat.

Disturbed and concerned with agency track record in protecting our parks and wildlife.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 697    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:24:13

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not weaken the protection of Cape Hatteras National Seashore beach habitats that are crucial for nesting turtles and birds an valuable places for family recreation.

The current plan makes adequate provisions for ORV use.

This vital habitat and the animals who depend on it belong to all of us.

Should you be concerned about comments from the other coast, please note that the local people in North Carolina feel the same. (Raleigh NC news and observer, August 9, 2015.)

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**Correspondence ID:** 698 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:25:22

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing to encourage you to give more protection to shore birds during nesting season at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Please listen to the wildlife biologists and not the off road drivers.

I have experienced walking on a beach in Florida where folks are driving and it is not safe for people let alone birds. I especially feared for the safety of my friends child as she gathered shells.

When I go to a National Seashore I want to hear the waves and see the wildlife, not hear vehicles and see tire tracks.

I have seen plovers at Cape Cod seashore and in Florida, I enjoyed watching them at the waters edge, but they did not want any spectators to get too close.

They would very much be frightened away by vehicles.

One of the reasons we have National Seashores is to protect the wildlife, not frighten them off.

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**Correspondence ID:** 699 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:25:33

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Re: Cape Hatteras : Please restrict all vehicular traffic around and near nesting turtles and birds! The seashore should not be a road!! I do not come to the seashore to see racing vehicles!!! I come to see wildlife and ocean, to experience beauty and quiet, to know there are areas safe from what plagues so much of the country!!!!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 700 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:27:56

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** There is no justice in preferencing four-wheel enthusiast who can four-wheel for fun at a vast number of locations over some birds who are limited in their biologically required nesting areas. Is this related to industry money? Please choose better protections for the nesting shorebirds. No for this new plan.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 701 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:30:06

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** 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.

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 702 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear NPS,

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your time,

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**Correspondence ID:** 703    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:35:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 704    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:35:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do not expand the number of days and hours vehicles can enter Cape Hatteras beaches. There are many endangered birds and wildlife that need to be protected and they need more protection than already exists, not less! I have visited Cape Hatteras a number of times and know how important it is to protect the wildlife there as well as beach-goers from vehicles riding up and down the shore.

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**Correspondence ID:** 705    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:35:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 706    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:38:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 707    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:39:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I urge the National Park Service to increase the driving restrictions on Cape Hatteras National Seashore to what they were before your office reduced them earlier this year and by no means should NPS reduce those restrictions even more.

I am a surf fisherman who feels the protection of sea turtles and their nests and nesting shorebirds are far more important than my being able to drive on the beach.

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**Correspondence ID:** 708    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:41:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 709    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:42:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Sir or Madam,

Keep the protections in place for shorebirds like the piping plover and oystercatcher. Instead of reducing the protected area for these birds, expand it to help

them survive.

Thank you!



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**Correspondence ID:** 710    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:45:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. It is time to balance recreational "wants" with adequate conservation measures.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 711    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:46:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect all species from roadmaking.

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**Correspondence ID:** 712    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:47:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The beach should not be a roadway. That would seem to be an obvious statement to anyone who has ever stretched out on a beach towel. But it's also essential to wildlife that lay eggs and nest along the sandy stretches in a pattern established thousands of years before the arrival of the internal combustion engine.

The beach is no place for any car, jeep, truck, 4-wheeler, 3 wheeler or whatever you can think of. Why is there this mad rush to do everything & anything a person can think of that kills some type of wildlife, be it chicks, egge, wolves, bison, mustangs, bees, butterflies, the list could go on & on.

Keep the beach the way nature intended and protect our wildlife.

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**Correspondence ID:** 713    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:52:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please maintain driving restrictions on Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Many of the wild birds & turtles nesting areas are threatened by vehicular activity & the # of new births of species who are already endangered is tipping ever lower.

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**Correspondence ID:** 714    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:54:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to urge NPS officials to keep in place the ORV rules that have been in place since 2004. The resulting increase in shorebird and sea turtle productivity was measurable and obvious. This agency owes concerned citizens the obligation to protect these rare and threatened wildlife resources. The ORV rules that have been in place have produced these results in addition to providing a safe enjoyable beach environment favored by many recreationists.

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**Correspondence ID:** 715    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom It May Concern:

As a visitor to the Outer Banks of North Carolina for the past 34 years, I am writing to ask that you protect Cape Hatteras National Seashore for all wildlife, especially the sea turtles and nesting shorebirds.

The following protections are particularly needed:

1. The beaches must be cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach. They must be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning.
2. 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 urge 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.

It is necessary to continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 and other shorebirds.

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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the National Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for considering my views.

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**Correspondence ID:** 716    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:58:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 717    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 14:59:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as

nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. STOP THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ANIMALS NOW!

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**Correspondence ID:** 718 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:01:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a visitor to Cape Hatteras, i urge you to please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 719 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:01:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 720 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:02:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The existing decrease in protective buffer area has already had significant negative effects on nesting birds at the Seashore. Proposed expansion of off-road vehicle access into nesting season and for expanded hours would do further harm to the nesting birds and sea turtles. In turn, many visitors to the park come in search of natural settings, whether specifically for birdwatching or just to generally enjoy an unspoiled natural area. Already far too much of the coastline is severely altered by human activity. Protections for bird and turtle nesting must meet established scientific evidence about the needs of the animals, rather than antienvironmental political pressure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 721 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:03:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to ask that you please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Without protection many of the native animals simply will not survive. The push to lessen the protective restrictions is purely in the interests of profits at the expense of nature. Mankind will go on without ORV beach time, but our threatened wild life could disappear forever.

Thank you,

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 722 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:03:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:



- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 723    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:03:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 724    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:04:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** My comment is short & clear. You know what the science studies reported. You know the positive effect restricting human impact had on the wildlife at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. You also know how quickly & drastically that progress was reversed and even more significant damage was done by your recent reversal of some of these protections. STOP acting on behalf of special interest groups and failing to protect our parks for us.

**Correspondence ID:** 725    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:06:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** In my opinion off road vehicle access to the Hatteras beaches is not nearly as important as protection of wildlife there. Sea turtles and nesting birds cannot achieve normal reproduction success when vehicles are allowed to disturb them. Any change being considered for the size of the area where off road vehicles are prohibited should only be how much to increase the area.

**Correspondence ID:** 726    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:07:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do not reduce protection for fragile populations of oyster catchers and piping plovers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Thank You

**Correspondence ID:** 727    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:07:49

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 728    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:08:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 729    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:09:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** It is imperative that the buffer zones for beach nesting birds and turtles be kept in the designated areas as suggested by good science.

With only two piping plovers fledging, the effects of diminishing those areas is already having an impact.

If the pressure is coming from those who want to drive on the beach, it just does not make sense. Saving these areas are a priority in order to continue to provide safe nesting areas. It is very troubling that cars, ATV's and foot traffic on the National Seashore are more important than conservation issues. I have been to Cape Hatteras an walked, swam and observed wildlife. i had more than enough room to enjoy my vacation. I would not like vehicles to be allowed where I am sitting enjoying the beach. It is such a beautiful place. Do not succumb to the pressure to take more beach away from the birds and animals who need it in order to survive. If the beach nesting has been so successful, why the change in direction? Isn't it the purpose of the designated National Seashore to protect the incredible beauty and viability of that area. Please do not allow the pressure to give up these areas prevail.

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**Correspondence ID:** 730    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

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**Correspondence ID:** 731    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:10:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I Strongly advise you to rethink your policy of reduced protection for the endangered specie, piping plover. One would think that more protections are in order..

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**Correspondence ID:** 732    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:11:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 733    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:13:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Maintain protection for shore birds -don't diminish the protections as the current proposal suggests.

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**Correspondence ID:** 734    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:14:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 735    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:16:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We must protect the American Oystercatchers, Piping Plovers, and sea turtles in this area from ORV's that will destroy their habitat. With large buffers in place, and enough rangers to insure success, the populations can regain the losses that they have suffered this year. I would urge you to expand rather reduce the size of the buffers and to not allow ORV's in this sensitive area.

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**Correspondence ID:** 736    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:17:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 737    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:17:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** DO WHAT IS RIGHT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 738    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:18:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep all the wildlife safe from harm. Please do all you can to protect our environment. Thank you!

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**Correspondence ID:** 739    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves, and people who care about our preserving our national environmental heritage,

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as

nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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. The noise and disruption by ORVs is not enjoyable to the majority of people who would prefer a relaxing day with family and friends.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 740    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:20:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Off-road vehicles should be heavily restricted and banned outright from sensitive bird nesting areas and from any dunes. Parks, in general, should heavily restrict all motorized transport from areas other than designated beaches for swimming when parking for those beaches is an issue.

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**Correspondence ID:** 741    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:21:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please consider the following as you develop any modifications to the Cape Hatteras ORV management plan:

Morning Beach Openings: Please keep the beaches closed until after the clearing by the staff. Part of an effective management plan includes minimizing enforcement issues and allowing vehicles to follow the staff would increase enforcement issues.

Vehicle Free Areas: The drop in piping plover chick production suggests that the VFA's are already subject to too much disturbance. Please maintain or increase the buffer between human activities and bird and turtle nesting activities.

Access Improvements: In order to better enforce the VFA's, please make certain that improved access does not increase disturbances in the VFA's. Just as ORV and foot traffic needs to be balanced, so does the needs of the endangered species that have few of the alternatives open to humans.

Permits: In order to minimize enforcement issues, please do not allow the 3-day permit option. Short-term users are much less likely to know the rules and regulations, weakening the intended protection.

Thank you for taking my concerns into account,  
[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 742    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:21:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 743    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:21:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 744 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 745 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:22:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Living in wildlife-rich Sierra Foothills, our group does what it can to protect wildlife and rescue and care for when necessary (all-too-often). Human activity, much of it at the 14 year-old boy level such as off-roading (the noise, dust and speed brigades), the associated loss of habitat, millions of feral/pet cats (an introduced and invasive species), the 100k plus chemicals now in our environment not to mention toxic mining residue, etc. are ALL causing our wildlife to decline! When we CAN protect something as precious as these birds, my belief is we should use REASON and compassion to protect God's other creatures rather than cower to those who would lower the bar and cause destruction for their own selfish activities! We have family in both Virginia and North Carolina, have lived in Virginia and it is sad to see the bar continually lowered to favor the destructive over the constructive! Where does it stop? When all God's other creatures are history and we get in each other's way even more than it seems now? Those who really CARE about life mean ALL GOD'S LIFE not just unborn humans. Birds are the most colorful, diverse life forms of the animal world and our natural pest control. Reverence for LIFE includes these birds as well!

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**Correspondence ID:** 746 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:23:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves, so I will have a voice to assist them.

Wildlife require are protection!! The National Seashore is for all wildlife...please assure it's protection!

Please:

Check the beaches for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. Clear the beaches before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

IMPORTANT!:

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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 747 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:23:56

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 748 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please limit ORV driving on beaches: We expect a park to be a nature experience not a roadway.

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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 749 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:27:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** A slower speed limit saves lives of animals and people! Additionally, for those that care, saves gas and therefore cost. It is a win for everyone. Plus with a speed limit, local revenue could go up catching speeders!

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**Correspondence ID:** 750 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:31:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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.

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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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 751 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 15:32:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** PLEASE use science and not misinformed public rhetoric when establishing and reviewing habitat buffer zones and dates. The species MUST PRODUCE ENOUGH OFFSPRING to sustain themselves. Human populations will continue to rise, so will the pressure to minimize buffer zones. Not the birds' fault we can't manage OUR population.



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**Correspondence ID:** 752 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 15:33:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My family vacations every year for 2 weeks in North Carolina. We have rented homes often in Topsail and sometimes Cape Hatteras area. We stopped going to Topsail for 2 years because they passed a law allowing Jet Skis. It was loud, noisy and smelly. They reconsidered and we returned. We will not go to a beach that people can drive on. I go to enjoy the sand, the quiet, the nature, the beauty and the safety for my child and dogs. Allowing this is a loss for everyone. You want to drive on a beach, go to Daytona - ps -which is disgusting!

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**Correspondence ID:** 753 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:37:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 754 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. I am outraged that not enough is being done to ensure the well-being and proliferation of these fragile animals. They are literally the canaries in the coal mine. We allow them to die off then a richness of life will be gone forever and we as human beings will not be far behind.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.



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**Correspondence ID:** 755 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 15:38:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I strongly and emphatically believe that the proposed reduction of protection for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore birds and other wildlife will add to what several scientific reports recently identified as the sixth great extinction in our planet's history. So I urge your agency to reject the proposed protections for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore because during this sixth great extinction period every living organism in each ecosystem is essential for there to be life as we know it, especially our own species. If your agency, with federal legal powers and authority, charged with environmental protection does not protect, in this case essential, endangered wildlife then who or what else have the ability to protect our, the people's environment and the wildlife within.

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**Correspondence ID:** 756 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 15:38:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Is there not enough ROADS to drive on that we need to use the beach? Who will be responsible when cars get stuck? What happens to the idiots who drive into the water? Seriously? This is a reason that I will no longer vacation in Hatteras!

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**Correspondence ID:** 757 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 15:39:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect the national seashore for all wildlife. Do not extend ORV routes or extend the spring/fall closures for beach areas that involve sea turtles and birds. Please check beaches for eggs or nests before beaches open AND before ORV traffic is allowed. Protect the current plan. Changes, if they occur, should encompass peer-reviewed science as the law states. Do not permit public pressure to influence your decision.

Thank you.

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 758 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 15:40:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect the national seashore for all wildlife. Do not extend ORV routes or extend the spring/fall closures for beach areas that involve sea turtles and birds. Please check beaches for eggs or nests before beaches open AND before ORV traffic is allowed. Protect the current plan. Changes, if they occur, should encompass peer-reviewed science as the law states. Do not permit public pressure to influence your decision.

Thank you.

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 759 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 15:44:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please keep current protection for these birds in place. Scientists have declared we are currently in an extinction period which means we must practice restraint as a species to allow other species on the planet survive.

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**Correspondence ID:** 760 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 15:47:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My family has been vacationing here for over 10 years, our daughter & niece know this as our annual extended family vacation. My Dad who is particularly disabled can enjoy the beach because we are able to drive him out. He cannot even get in the ocean but enjoys being out there. My husband & brother were unable to come until mid-week this year, it would of been nice to of only had to buy a 3 day pass.

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**Correspondence ID:** 761 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 15:48:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

How National Parks are our treasures...Treat them as such.

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**Correspondence ID:** 762    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:49:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** "...THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE...DRASTICALLY REDUCED THE SIZE OF THE PROTECTIVE BUFFERS FOR AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS AND PIPING PLOVERS BELOW WHAT SCIENTISTS THOUGHT WAS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE NESTS AND CHICKS."

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further....

In the evolutionary scheme of things - which ranks highest in importance? Joy riding on the beaches with resulting severe loss if not extinction of oystercatchers and piping plovers - - - - - OR - - - - - continued existence of oystercatchers and piping plovers with the resulting loss of a few hours of thrill riding the beaches?

Do scientific findings matter? Or, does the National Park Service (who I've respected over 60 years of hiking, backpacking, canoeing) base its goals these days on opinions and emotional sentiment?

Do the Right Thing - Right Action - restore the protections to these birds and their nesting domains.



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**Correspondence ID:** 763    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:50:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

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.

There should be night driving restrictions as driving at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks. 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 and other shorebirds.

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

Thank you for your time.

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**Correspondence ID:** 764    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 15:51:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Motorized vehicles do not belong on beaches! Period!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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.

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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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 765 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:00:12

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** \* please protect the most beautiful beaches in the country and the wildlife that depend on them!

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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 766 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:01:56

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We are writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* We 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.

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\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 767 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:03:14

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 768    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:09:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please continue to protect American Oystercatchers and piping plovers. Please do not let hard won conservation gains Be lost. Please protect our birds. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 769    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:12:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am distressed to hear that nesting habitat on Cape Hatteras has been reduced. Studies have shown that piping plover populations along the entire East Coast are rising, while those of other birds are declining, specifically because protections have been strictly enforced. A period of education for the public is necessary, but most people are happy to comply in the end.

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**Correspondence ID:** 770    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. I am particularly concerned about reductions in protections for these animals from ORV traffic. ORVs are not necessary for the enjoyment of beaches. They are dangerous to animals and pedestrians. Some birds nest on beaches and eggs can be easily killed or damaged. These birds provide enjoyment to many visitors.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 771    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:14:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 772    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Please keep your current restrictions in place for birds and turtles on Cape Hatteras. Please follow the advice of your scientists with regard to the safety and well being of these and all the wild life at the Cape.

Specifically:

\* 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. ORV use not only endangers wildlife, it also takes away from members of the public who choose not to drive ORV's (because we think it is utterly irresponsible behavior) to enjoy the beach and because ORV use is one more source of carbon emissions.

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.

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support t

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**Correspondence ID:** 773    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:18:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 774    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:18:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Friends,

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 775    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:24:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect the birds and sea turtles along our National Seashore. This ORV nonsense is destroying what little wildlife is remaining along our shores. There are many of us who enjoy the beaches and all of the natural wonders without vehicles roaring around . You are the protectors...PLEASE PROTECT !!! Thank you !

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**Correspondence ID:** 776    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

New Threats to Imperiled Birds at Cape Hatteras

Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and our partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. The article above lays out reasons why the National Seashore needs more protection- not less.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 777    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 16:27:10  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am against any expansion in off road vehicle access to the outerbanks in nc. That's time or sq ft. They have to much access now. My wife and I just returned from a wk at Corolla, NC and the traffic night and day was way too much. We have been going for 10 yrs and it has increased significantly. Not only does it impact mother nature, but it was less safe in the day time and not safe at night to walk north. You have to be there to understand. And there were turtle nest, so what happens when they hatch. Especially at night. Good luck turtles, good luck mankind. And good luck is not enough. So no more off road access. Actually, if you think about it there should be less.

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**Correspondence ID:** 778    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

While ORV operators should have the opportunity to enjoy the beaches, reasonable limitations on ORV operations should be imposed to protect the rights of those other citizens who treasure unspoiled beaches- -to include the wildlife that should naturally inhabit those beaches.

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**Correspondence ID:** 779    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 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.  
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- \* 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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 780    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:33:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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.

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\* 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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 781    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:34:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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**Correspondence ID:** 782    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:35:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** What's good for the animals is ultimately good for us! Please ensure protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers at levels that scientists know are necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks. Please do not further reduce, but please increase the protections.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.



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**Correspondence ID:** 783    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 16:36:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
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**Correspondence ID:** 784    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 16:39:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 785    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 16:40:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect and save our wildlife, environment and keep this planet alive!

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**Correspondence ID:** 786    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 16:41:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** its hard to understand the following: Why are the National Parks Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, BLM, Dept. Of The Interior the agencies tasked with PROTECTING AND PRESERVING WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES the very forces that destroy and degrade them? This ridiculous reduction of protection buffers for beach wildlife to make room for REDNECKS ON ATV's is a perversion of mission, a direct statement saying "The hell with wildlife." Why does this agency exist? Just give up any pretense (because that's all it is) of any mission to protect and "manage natural

resources" for "everyone's enjoyment. Just sell sections of the beach to corporations and re-name them? "Intel Off-road?" "Verizon Bird Squisher?" "Monsanto Turtle Smasher?" I hope citizen suits are being filed.

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**Correspondence ID:** 787 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:44:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 and other shorebirds.
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**Correspondence ID:** 788 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:45:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 789 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:46:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 790    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of birds and sea turtles that are now at the mercy of human activity & encroachment on all of America's national seashores. Please protect our National Seashores' wildlife with a special focus on those species that have been struggling for decades now.

\* 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 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.

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.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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. Please don't allow yourselves to be bullied simply for political reasons or by a small group of thrill seekers. Currently, Cape Hatteras National Seashore is at risk of ruination by the aforementioned people.

We ask you to cease further actions affecting wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. Research has shown that native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please consider my thoughts as well as others that enjoy our national seashore treasures and the wildlife that call these beaches home.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 791    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:48:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 792    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 16:48:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 793    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 16:49:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Regarding Cape Hatteras but applicable elsewhere, too:

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 794    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 16:49:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 795      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 16:50:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 796      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

New Threats to Imperiled Birds at Cape Hatteras

Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and our partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

The National Park Service is accepting comments on its misguided proposal. The full plan is available at the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment website. Comments must be submitted at the comments page by August 21, 2015. If you submit a comment, please let us know through this simple form. It's the only way we have of tracking our efforts. You can use the sample comments below:

Sample Comments

(IMPORTANT: Comments must be submitted at that National Park Service Planning site:  
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=67586>)

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

On a personal note, I have visited Cape Hatteras for many years and I would hate to see these magnificent animals harmed by humanity. Please do all you can to preserve and help them.

██████████

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 797    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:51:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I want to make a plea for the wildlife, birds and turtles, that need to be defended from the reckless endangerment that is proposed to be made legal on the beaches of Cape Hatteras. Allowing vehicle traffic on a beach is a threat to all of the wildlife that calls those beaches home. Imagine if vehicles were allowed to drive on school playgrounds. People would be outraged!! Well, this is the same. People are being allowed to destroy valuable wildlife that makes those very beaches as beautiful as they are. Give nature a chance. Drive the vehicle on tracks or roads where they belong.

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**Correspondence ID:** 798    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:54:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 799    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:54:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The Outer Banks are one of the most treasured parts of North Carolina. They are also an extremely fragile place, home to endangered species like sea turtles and the piping plover. There is already enough ORV access to beach areas. Please do not expand access for ORVs along our beaches. Some places are simply too precious.

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**Correspondence ID:** 800    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 16:57:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 801    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 17:05:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect Cape Hatteras for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 802    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 17:08:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We must continue to protect birds from encroaching human activity while the nesting activity takes place. Every nesting beach area needs to be protected.

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**Correspondence ID:** 803    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 17:10:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles; please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them

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**Correspondence ID:** 804    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 17:11:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I understand the political and other pressures to increase the permitted times and areas for off-road vehicles at Cape Hatteras. However, the national parks system was established not to further increase our human footprint on the land, but to allow all citizens the experience and enjoyment of NATURE. Such activities that threaten the local endangered species such as piping plovers or sea turtles will decrease both future enjoyment we Americans are entitled to and the health of the ecosystem. In addition, these activities greatly detract from the enjoyment of the national parks by others, particularly those who enjoy nature, relaxing, or anything that benefits from not having a lot of noise.

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**Correspondence ID:** 805    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As the interpretive specialist for the NPS Southeast Region, I had the privilege and duty to visit Cape Hatteras several times. Its beaches are certainly one of its prime features, and the wildlife on them must be protected in accordance with the National Park Act of 1916 and NPS Management Policies of 2006. Specifically,

\*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 uphold and protect:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 806    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 17:15:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.



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**Correspondence ID:** 807 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 17:19:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

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\* 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.

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

I used to live over there. I loved going to the beach, and seeing all the marine and avian wildlife there. Their survival must continue.

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**Correspondence ID:** 808 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 17:22:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** First you caved in to politicians and completely ignored the science behind giving protection to the birds. You made it easy for politicians to further line the pockets of the corporations and Koch brothers types who own them.

Now, you are getting ready to fall to your knees again. Why are you in the NATIONAL (not BIG BUSINESS) Park Service if you are going to let millionaires, billionaires and crooked politicians do whatever the hell they feel like at the expense of wildlife and the environment?

Shame on you for your cowardice and your lack of ethics.

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**Correspondence ID:** 809 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 810 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 17:26:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please 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. Otherwise, you are negating the purpose of a wildlife park, that is not allowing it to flourish and to be enjoyed by visitors. In addition, vehicles are a safety hazard creating ruts for potential falls and injuries and also people young and old could be hit by cars.

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**Correspondence ID:** 811 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing to express my concerns in regards to the rollbacks recently proposed by the National Park Service to cut back wildlife protections on Cape Hatteras.

For years conservationists have been working to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were being destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle (ORV) driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Finally, a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife while establishing areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches, was enacted. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

I am deeply disappointed that now the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Reducing these protections would be a serious blow to the environmental soundness at Cape Hatteras and undo much needed progress that has been made in these areas.

I urge the National Park Service to reconsider making these cutbacks and to instead focus on the need to rehabilitate the already imperiled and fragile ecosystem at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Specifically:

- \* The beaches should be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. The 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.

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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 812 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 17:27:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* We want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. We 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.

We 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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* Your 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 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.

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

Please listen to the public that loves your beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 813 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 17:35:16

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.



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**Correspondence ID:** 814 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 17:37:46

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** TO ME, IT IS PAINFULLY OBVIOUS THAT WE ALL MUST DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO SAVE WHAT IS LEFT OF AND ON OUR EARTH.  
THANK YOU

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**Correspondence ID:** 815 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 17:39:09

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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 traffic is allowed on the beach.

\* Do not extend the off-road-vehicle 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:

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

\* Night-driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access is not the stewardship that we count on from the National Park Service. Vehicle-free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots and other shorebirds.

\* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience that 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 those protections, and scientific research has shown that these native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public: we love our beaches and the wildlife that call it home. I am asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer-reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 816    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 17:40:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Since when do the juvenile activities of a bunch of rednecks take precedence over endangered species? Don't you people have the backbone to stand up to this bunch of morons who get their jollies out of destroying the environment?

Your continued rollbacks of protected areas on Cape Hatteras makes me sick.

Those four-wheeling freaks should be kept out of the area, period.

Let them tear up their own lawns.

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**Correspondence ID:** 817    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** New Threats to Imperiled Birds at Cape Hatteras

Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and our partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks. Please restore the protections for these birds and sea turtles!

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**Correspondence ID:** 818    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 17:45:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 819    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 820 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 17:48:36

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Reducing protections at the Cape Hatteras is a terrible idea because it further endangers the Piping Plovers, other beach nesting birds and sea turtles. To further lower protections in this area is not feasible and should not be allowed. Please reconsider this plan.

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**Correspondence ID:** 821 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 17:54:57

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not reduce the protections on Cape Hatteras beach for the plovers, oystercatchers and sea turtles. Do not reduce the size of the protected area or time period for their protection.

As a wildlife biologist, I am very concerned to hear that just 2 young plovers fledged this year. Nesting habitat is Essential for the health of avian populations. Birds and turtles face a myriad of threats in the modern world. This is one threat you can reduce.

Please maintain the protections for these migratory birds and turtles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 822 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect the wildlife at NATIONAL Seashore for all of us. All-terrain vehicle use benefits only a few, but ensuring that snowy plovers and sea turtles can continue will benefit millions of Americans, those alive today and those who will be born. I am so sorry that I never had the opportunity to see a Passenger Pigeon or a Carolina Parakeet. I would never want to think that iconic species went extinct on my watch and later generations will mourn the carelessness and rapaciousness of my generation.

I don't live on the East Coast (but I once did) - - but I feel that these creatures belong to all of us, not just the locals. There are some clear measures that you can take to ensure that we all can enjoy the unique wildlife of the coastal US. A vocal minority should not win in this instance.

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 823 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 18:00:55

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please forbid all Off Road Vehicle traffic at National Seashores - - and for that matter, National Parks and other wildlife habitat.

Humans have plenty of forms of entertainment to choose from, without having to harm or even disturb America's wild mammals, birds, reptiles, and other vertebrates.

The challenge of this century is not to obtain cheap thrills - - but rather, to elevate ourselves as a people, restraining our appetites to make a better world for children and other living things, now and into the future.

**Correspondence ID:** 824 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Political or civilian pressure has no place in conservation planning. Your experts explicitly formulated the details for the shore bird rehabilitation. These standards must be protected and returned to the planning. Our birds, turtles and animals are having a hard enough time surviving, if they are granted protection it must be meaningful. Do not allow special or private interests to alter or diminish the original protection plans for any reason. The hatching of only TWO chicks proves this years reduction was a mistake, do not allow for any reason this pressure to prevent you from legally protecting these areas.

I am counting on you to protect:

- \* The original plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

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**Correspondence ID:** 825 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 18:08:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please restore the former buffer zones for imperiled Cape Hatteras birds based on sound science. We need to think of our future and preserve our natural resources for ourselves and future generations. Nothing is more important.

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**Correspondence ID:** 826 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 18:09:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please make every effort to protect the nesting areas of Cape Hatteras from commercial interest and miss guided recreationalists who only want to make a profit or satisfy their selfish personal pleasures.

ORVs Have no business being in beach nesting areas that are critical to threatened species. Base your plan on scientific evidence produced by Legitimate recognized scientists.

Why life lost can never be regained!

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**Correspondence ID:** 827 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 18:10:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Keep the driving limits. Save the birds.

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**Correspondence ID:** 828 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 18:11:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** we must increase protections, in a changing climate, increasing population, more must be done to protect the diversity of species. The lowest number of chicks hatched should tell us we need MORE protection, not less- listen in the world and learn to do better!  
REDUCE the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 829 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 18:22:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 830    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 18:23:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Cape Hatteras National Seashore is a park that belongs to all the people of the United States, including me, [REDACTED] I live in Oregon but I am deeply committed to and connected with all the National Parks, including Cape Hatteras. What happens there is of great concern to me. I am deeply upset that the Park Service has significantly reduced the protections put in place for wildlife over the past decade of so. There is plenty of beach for everyone, including the birds and turtles that call it their home. Vehicles should be prohibited in those areas which Park scientists think is necessary for native wildlife.

I for one strongly object to reducing even further the protections that are currently in place to safeguard wildlife that depend on this areas for their existence. If anything, the protections that were in place, and recently have been removed, should be restored.

Please do not damage even further this National Park that belongs to ALL Americans, not just those who live in the immediate vicinity of the park.  
Sincerely [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 831    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 18:26:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am concerned about wildlife conservation and I want to see all 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.

Actually, I would prefer that there be NO such traffic on any beach! Why should wildlife be put at risk so some people can spend their time tearing around on the public's beaches?

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 832    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 833    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 18:27:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 834    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 18:27:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 835    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

To the National Park Service

Please protect our National Seashore for the plover and all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive. I live in an area that where the public land management agency finally closed the land to all off-road travel. It was a controversial decision but it is restoring scars from years of abuse and wildlife is returning.

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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. Vehicles do not belong on beaches ever.

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**Correspondence ID:** 836    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 18:29:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I received my first pair of binoculars when I was 12 years old, and I will celebrate my 80th birthday in a month. During all those years I have been an avid bird watcher and conservationist, and have been fascinated and delighted by the diversity and abundance of native wildlife in our National Parks and other protected areas of the country. Now as I witness the disappearance of many species that were plentiful in my childhood, I am deeply concerned that my grandchildren may never ever see some of the animals that were once so abundant.

This is why I am writing now, to urge you to adhere to the strictest possible standards regarding the presence of motorized vehicles on beaches where birds, turtles or other animals feed, rest, or nest. The Cape Hatteras beaches in question should be carefully checked for nesting species of shorebirds, including the remarkable American Oystercatchers and tiny Piping Plovers, as well as endangered sea turtles, before vehicles are allowed access. The beaches should be closed to vehicles at night, and the hours and seasonal access of vehicles to the beaches should not be increased. Please make sure the beaches are monitored at all times, and that those who violate the rules are held fully accountable. We must learn that if we constantly prioritize the interests of humans at the expenses of all other species, we will inhabit an unrecognizable, depleted and impoverished world, and not one of us wants that.

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**Correspondence ID:** 837    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 18:42:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 838    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 18:46:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 839    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles and all other wildlife that cannot speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Last month I visited cape hatteras, it was beautiful except for the disgusting signs posted throughout my drive. Who can be so selfish to let endangered species not be protected. The beach is their home, their nesting grounds, where they find food. As humans we should not be so selfish. Let's compare the wildlife's home to our own. We wouldn't want strangers running over our kids playing in the streets would we? We wouldn't want people coming into our homes to destroy it, would we?

There are many changes I would like to see done to help our wildlife thrive, and not disappear.

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 840    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 18:55:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

Dear Decision Maker,

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your consideration. Please protect wildlife for future generations.

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**Correspondence ID:** 841 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 18:58:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The birds and animals all play a part on this earth. If we keep destroying these precious creatures we will in the end destroy ourselves.

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**Correspondence ID:** 842 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I value the native wildlife that depends on the seashore for habitat more than the motorized recreation experience. The current problem is the result of the National Park Service not doing its job to protect rare and threatened wildlife and allowing damaging ORV use to become established. I urge the NPS to attempt to correct its past errors and fight current political pressure.

Please manage the seashore to optimize habitat for rare and threatened wildlife including sea turtles and beach nesting birds based on the best available science. ORV playgrounds do not belong on NPS managed national seashores.

I want to see all beaches used by or potentially used by nesting birds or sea turtles to be closed to ORV use and the response of turtles and birds monitored and used to fight any attempt to reopen the beaches. Let people walk - its good for them and good for the wildlife.

I am counting on you to protect wildlife and restore the pre 2014 management plan.

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

\* Maintain night driving restrictions. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* Protect our birds. Vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots and other shorebirds.

\* Protect the public. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts are not the experiences we expect when we visit a National Seashore and are hazards for families who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle. Ugly churned up beaches are witness to wildlife habitat destruction and destruction of the beauty and peace that should be available to national seashore visitors.

Our wildlife deserves protection, and scientific research has shown that 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 them home. Please restore protections in the previous final plan and do not change them without a science based reason.

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**Correspondence ID:** 843 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I'm writing on behalf of birds, sea turtles and all the wildlife that can't speak for themselves. They need to have our National Seashore protected. Here are details about how that can happen:

1. 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. Beaches should be cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

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

I also support night driving restrictions and continuing to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks. Are people that selfish that they are ok with destroying habitats so they can drive on the beach at night? Get out there and walk!

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 and other shorebirds. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts are also 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 844 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:04:39

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.



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**Correspondence ID:** 845    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:07:52

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a lover of our national seashore, I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 846    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:10:36

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for requesting and accepting our comments!

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**Correspondence ID:** 847    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:12:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As you well know earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks. Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further. This could prove to be disastrous for these species. The public does not need access to their breeding grounds year round and should accept and respect a momentary closure. The Park Service is doing a disservice by reducing protections and placing these sensitive nesting birds in peril. Use common sense to make your decision. I'm counting on you to do the right thing.

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**Correspondence ID:** 848    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:13:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves, specifically NPS plans to roll back protection for fragile habitat for birds and turtles at Cape Hatteras beaches.

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 849    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:19:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 850    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:21:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 851    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:22:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 852    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:22:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Our wildlife needs and deserves protections, and scientific research has shown that these native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive. A world without the enrichment that wildlife brings to our lives would be a sad place indeed.

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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 853    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* Beaches should be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks, before the beaches open in the morning.
- \* ORV routes should not be extended on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

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

- \* Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement.
- \* 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 and other shorebirds.
- \* Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 854 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:29:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am aghast that the NPS has reduced protections for nesting birds at Cape Hatteras, and that you are actually planning to reduce them further!

Please reverse this terribly misguided trend and instead:

1. Check beaches for bird and turtle nests each morning BEFORE allowing vehicles on them.
2. Do not expand areas where ORVs are allowed, and do not allow more traffic in spring or fall in areas where there is nesting.
3. Make peer-reviewed science determinative for any rule changes, not political pressure.
4. Continue to prohibit night driving.

Please INCREASE protections by DECREASING the amount of ORV access to Cape Hatteras beaches!

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**Correspondence ID:** 855 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:30:19

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect the Cape Hatteras sea shore and especially the Piping Plovers and other wildlife!

thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 856 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:30:32

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 857 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:30:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I feel the proposed is a very bad idea for the Plovers and other local wildlife. Please do not reduce the buffers or the protections for these animals. Please do not listen to Congress because they only care about their wallets and not the welfare of the wildlife and the environment they live in.

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**Correspondence ID:** 858 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:30:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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████████████████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 859 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:35:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 860 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:36:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.



Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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<b>Correspondence ID:</b>	861	<b>Project:</b>	59571	<b>Document:</b>	67586
<b>Received:</b>	Aug,14,2015 00:00:00				
<b>Correspondence Type:</b>	Web Form				
<b>Correspondence:</b>	Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!				

- \* 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.

- \* 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 and other shorebirds.

- \* Check the beaches 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.

- \* Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

- \* 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.

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

Please cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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

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<b>Correspondence ID:</b>	862	<b>Project:</b>	59571	<b>Document:</b>	67586
<b>Received:</b>	Aug,14,2015 19:40:08				
<b>Correspondence Type:</b>	Web Form				
<b>Correspondence:</b>	I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.				

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 863    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 19:41:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 864    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 19:49:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Sir or Madam,

I urge you to reconsider your intent to open up more of the Cape Hatteras beaches to ORV'S. I am also very concerned that you intend to extend the time that these Vehicles can use the beaches. Wildlife is under great stress fom human encroachment. We really need less use of these beaches, not more.

Thank you for your considertion.



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**Correspondence ID:** 865    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 19:50:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do your job and the will of the majority of the american people and adequatly protect the wildlife at our national seashores.

Thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 866    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically,I want the beaches checked for turtle and bird nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. The beaches need to be cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach. Do not extend the ORV routes or fall and spring 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 the current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law dictates, not just community pressure or people's convenience. For night driving, continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Night driving on beaches endangers sea turtles and their eggs, nesting birds, and their chicks. 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 and other shorebirds.

For us seashore visitors, beaches filled with vehicles and tire ruts is not what we expect when we visit a National Seashore and, more importantly, 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 sea turtles and shore birds need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the public, like my family, that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to halt further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 867    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 19:52:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please be kind to the birds at Cape Hatteras.

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**Correspondence ID:** 868    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 20:01:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 869    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 20:12:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** i would like to see the offlimited areas for orv's continued especially during birds nesting seasons

thanks for consideration

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 870    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 20:12:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am aprofessional biologist with a long career invested in conservation, much of it on the Outer Banks. I coauthored the book "Ribbon of Sand...." I am appalled that the protected areas for wildlife could be reduced to accomodate ORVs. Do not do that!

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**Correspondence ID:** 871    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 20:14:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**  
I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you,

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**Correspondence ID:** 872    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**  
New Threats to Imperiled Birds at Cape Hatteras

Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and their partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 873    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**  
New Threats to Imperiled Birds at Cape Hatteras

Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and our partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

The National Park Service is accepting comments on its misguided proposal. The full plan is available at the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment website. Comments must be submitted at the comments page by August 21, 2015. If you submit a comment, please let us know through this simple form. It's the only way we have of tracking our efforts. You can use the sample comments below:

Sample Comments

(IMPORTANT: Comments must be submitted at that National Park Service Planning site:  
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=67586>)

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them

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**Correspondence ID:** 874    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 20:22:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 875    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 20:23:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 876 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 20:23:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 877 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 20:36:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers have been drastically reduced below what is necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks. The protections must not be reduced any further. The number of days, and the times, when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles must not be expanded. Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost. The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

The NPS proposal is misguided.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

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**Correspondence ID:** 878 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 20:39:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Protecting all wildlife should be the first priority in ny policy change. Stressors are increasing with climate disruption and science must be the deciding factor for change. The use of any Federal property is not a right but a privilage and should be guided by the precautionary principle. Wheeled vehicles or any human disruption to the natural habitat must be prevented in nesting areas.

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**Correspondence ID:** 879 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 20:47:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 880    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 20:51:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* 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 and other shorebirds.
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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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 881    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 20:53:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
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**Correspondence ID:** 882    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 20:55:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to participate in this review process. I live and work on Ocracoke Island and have always enjoyed the early morning on the beach. This is the most beautiful time to experience the beach. It came as a shock the first time I was asked to leave the beach because I had ventured out too early (around 6:45 AM). As a full time resident and contractor on the island one of the only times I can access the beach is between 6 AM and 7 AM because of my work schedule.

I wonder if it is not possible for the turtle patrol to check the areas that are closest to the village first and allow vehicle traffic on the beach at 6 AM instead of 7 in those areas.

Thank you for your consideration.



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**Correspondence ID:** 883    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 21:00:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
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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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 884    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 21:04:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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- \* 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 and other shorebirds.
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Thank you for taking the time to understand the importance of this and for acting on this responsibly.

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**Correspondence ID:** 885 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 21:10:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
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**Correspondence ID:** 886 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 21:20:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Why would you continue to destroy the buffer that is keeping the Piping Plovers and American Oystercatchers populations from being decimated? Your proposal is against the experts' advice and is sure to doom the future of these species.  
Stop making decisions based on the bullying tactics of Congress. What the hell do they know about the preservation of nature anyways?

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**Correspondence ID:** 887 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 21:20:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 888 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to request that you protect the wildlife of Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Birds and other wildlife cannot speak and their well being depends a great deal on human actions.  
Please protect the current vehicle plan and do not allow more ORV access; there should be expanded vehicle free areas. Do not allow night driving; as you

well know this would place sea turtles, their nests, and nesting birds as great risk. I am one of the beach goers that believes the beach is no place for vehicles other than emergency vehicles. And I believe that very little beach driving should be allowed. It mars the beauty and serenity of our beaches and definitely endangers our precious wildlife.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 889    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 21:23:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 and other shorebirds.
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Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 890    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 21:29:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please save all the animals on this planet they are so important to all of us and to the planet itself and to the environment.

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**Correspondence ID:** 891    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 21:31:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We live in Virginia but own a home at Frisco, N.C. which we live in during the summer. We love the beach and love the birds and other wildlife on Hatteras Island. We have been coming here since 1989 and have seen what a mess so many tourists and others have made of the shoreline through total disregard for wildlife. It had become worse in the last few years but since park service has enacted the new restrictions (roping off the nesting sites,etc.) we see what an improvement has resulted. No only do the restrictions save the animals but they help keep the trash and tire ruts off the shore. Please do NOT change anything! We think the restrictions are not too much but are helping!

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**Correspondence ID:** 892    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 21:41:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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- \* 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 893    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 21:42:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** What is with all these government agencies limiting parks, softening lists protecting wildlife etc.? Do you have nothing better to do? Maybe you had best get out from behind your computers and take a walk in the park. If it's not something you would choose to do, then resign your position and let a True Conservationist fill the position.

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**Correspondence ID:** 894    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 21:47:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

This should NOT be allowed to happen. Please protect this wonder place that is home to so many of God's creatures.

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**Correspondence ID:** 895    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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. Use some common sense, don't listen the BS coming out of Washington!

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**Correspondence ID:** 896    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 21:50:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of 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.
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**Correspondence ID:** 897    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 21:51:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

New Threats to Imperiled Birds at Cape Hatteras

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.
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**Correspondence ID:** 898    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 21:59:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

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**Correspondence ID:** 899    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 22:10:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras to protect nesting shorebirds such as Piping Plovers and American Oystercatchers.

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**Correspondence ID:** 900    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 22:16:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Stewardship should be a priority in caring for our environment. To reduce protective barriers for turtles and plovers is irresponsible.

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**Correspondence ID:** 901    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 22:23:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the wildlife like piping plovers that nest unprotected on Cape Hatteras and up to Long Island.

I am respectfully requesting that these beaches be monitored for both plover and turtle nests prior to beach opening in the morning, and the appropriate cages and perimeter markers placed for protection during nesting season.

Please continue to prohibit night driving, as you know a most vulnerable time for turtles and nestlings or hatchlings.

Red Knots migrate for thousands of miles, nonstop, and are in dire need of their stopover feeding areas to migrate.

Respectfully submitted

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 902    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 22:25:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect the National Seashore for all wildlife. The National Park service should protect habitats for wildlife, and the responsible enjoyment of our citizens. Off road vehicles are noisy, polluting, and destroy habitat. They should not be allowed for "recreation" within the national parks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 903    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 22:29:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** keep the protections for these great birds.

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**Correspondence ID:** 904    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 22:36:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as

decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your time & consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 905    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 22:39:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 906    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 22:41:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:


- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you,  


**Correspondence ID:** 907 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 22:48:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am a frequent visitor to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore-I visit about 8 weeks per year-and very much appreciate the recreational, scenic, and nature opportunities it provides. Favorite recreational uses include windsurfing, centered on "The Canadian Hole" (or Haulover area) just south of Avon, but also other sound-side and ocean-side locations on Hatteras Island, nature and landscape photography, swimming and hiking. I have been ORV permit holder for the past three years.  
All of these activities, which were touted when the CH National Seashore was established, are possible only with reasonable access to the ocean beaches or the sound, but:

- 1) General restrictions on pedestrian access- notably widespread limitations on walking the beach below the high-tide line- are excessive and do not appear to be supported by studies that are available to the public for review. Hiking and taking pictures below the high-tide line generally is not a high impact activity.
- 2) Limitations on ORV access (ramp and beach closures) at times seem arbitrary and counterproductive. They force users to use more round about routes (having larger negative effects on the environment) to access beach uses. Both Ramp 23 and 34 should not be closed to pedestrian and ORV access merely because of a change in the Season. Access should be restored year around.
- 3) The ramp to the sound-side beach at the Haulover was eliminated in the recent renovation of the parking because of storm erosion concerns. During the summer this location is congested by both families with children and windsurfers, creating safety concerns. Restoring a ramp to the beach would make it easier for windsurfers to launch from the area to south-away from the family congestion. A ramp from the southeast corner of the parking lot, heading southeast before curving west to the beach, would generally be secure from storm erosion.
- 4) Sound-side beach access also was restricted at kite point. Reopening this access point would address safety issues created by numerous cars that are often parked along Hwy 12 at that location, and would provide an alternate route to the beach south of the Haulover.

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**Correspondence ID:** 908 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

I strongly urge you to Protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:


- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Do your job-Protect Our Public lands, waters, wildlife, health & future!

Your attention to this most urgent matter would be much appreciated by all present & future generations of all species.

Thank you  


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**Correspondence ID:** 909 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 22:53:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep beaches safe for people on foot and animals and birds, restrict off road vehicles!

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**Correspondence ID:** 910 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 22:53:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 911    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 23:03:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 912    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 23:07:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my thoughts.

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**Correspondence ID:** 913 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 23:14:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 914 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I work in conservation on the west coast, where similar species face similar threats. It is outrageous to me to make a discretionary decision that would impact imperiled wildlife for the benefit of recreation.

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 915 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 23:42:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I want you to protect the current plan of Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Any changes should be by peer reviewed science only as the law states! This a National Park not an ORV play ground. Birds need places to raise their young and humans like to enjoy the beach without having a roadway in the middle of it. There is no need for ORV on the beach. Please protect our beaches, protect Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

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**Correspondence ID:** 916    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We have this issue in the county where I live on the West Coast. So I am aware of what needs to be done:  
\* 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.

Protect:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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.

Scientific research has shown that these native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 917    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.14,2015 23:51:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I live near Tolowa Dunes State Park, a seashore in the far corner of Northern California, where snowy plovers were extirpated because of off road vehicle riding. The last nest observed had a tire track running through it. The Park changed its policy, and now restricts vehicle use in this area, but it is too late. We have not had snowy plovers return. And vehicles continue to routinely violate the rules.

So, don't be stupid and let vehicles ruin the natural beauty and abundance of your park.

Thank you, [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 918    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,14,2015 23:52:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 919    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:01:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 920    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 00:25:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My wife and I visit national Parks and National Wildlife Refuges every year. We bird and wildlife watch.

We enjoy those areas where wildlife prevail and human activity is kept at a minimum.

Protecting wildlife areas is important to us. I urge you to reconsider this decision.

I would be happy to send you pages of our 'Passport' books showing the places we have visited for the past 20 years.

We are not done yet!

Please help us and others who enjoy this kind of activity.

Remember those words "I speak for those who cannot speak".

thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 921    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 01:11:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

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**Correspondence ID:** 922    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 01:30:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 923    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 02:51:44

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 924    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 02:58:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** New Threats to Imperiled Birds at Cape Hatteras

Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and our partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

The National Park Service is accepting comments on its misguided proposal.

The National Park Service should NOT roll back protections that were helping Piping Plovers and other imperiled wildlife make a comeback at Cape Hatteras.

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**Correspondence ID:** 925    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 03:03:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for listening to me.

Respectfully Submitted,

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 926    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 03:06:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thanks for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 927    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 03:21:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 928 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 03:55:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not reduce the restrictions in place to prevent human interference with wildlife. Turtles and birds need a safe place to nest. There should be nighttime driving restrictions and the beach should be checked for nests, eggs and young offspring before it is opened to the public. ORVs should not be permitted on the beach at all, expanding their territory is ill-advised and harmful to nature.

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**Correspondence ID:** 929 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 04:44:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Specific changes I support include:  
- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;  
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;  
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;  
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;  
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;  
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;  
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;  
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

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**Correspondence ID:** 930 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Protect the Wildlife of Cape Hatteras!

Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and its partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

WHY CHANGE THE WORKING STATUS QUO?

Earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now that the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles, the situation will degenerate.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

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**Correspondence ID:** 931 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 04:55:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 932    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 04:59:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 933    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 05:11:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Why are you not protecting the habitat of our birds and animals.

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**Correspondence ID:** 934    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 05:17:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to urge you to maintain the current rules providing buffers for nesting shorebirds and turtles at Hatteras National Seashore. This is one of the few nesting sites left for Piping Plover, and these buffers are critical for the survival of this species. I urge you to resist the pressure being exerted by this present Congress and apply scientifically valid measures to protect our wildlife resources. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.



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**Correspondence ID:** 935    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 05:29:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 936    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 05:30:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
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- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 937    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 05:31:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.



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**Correspondence ID:** 938    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 05:37:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please keep strong the regulations that protect the nesting sea turtles and piping plovers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Surely the off-road vehicles can use areas that aren't so critical. Since sea turtles lay their eggs at night, do not allow ORV access at night. Nobody wants to use a beach torn up by ruts left by these vehicles. We'd rather be able to observe the wildlife quietly, from a safe distance.

Species' Lives Matter.....how many rivets do we want to lose out of spaceship Earth?  
Thanks for listening!



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**Correspondence ID:** 939    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 05:53:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Allowing automobiles on the beaches will ruin the experience for those that choose to use the area on foot. Trash will increase and become a problem also ruining the experience. Please do not permit automobiles access to the beach!

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**Correspondence ID:** 940    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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- \* 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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 941    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 05:59:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have personally visited national seashore to observe piping plovers, red knots, and sea turtles.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 942    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 06:01:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

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**Correspondence ID:** 943    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 06:01:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Below are my comments for

Morning Opening of Beaches:

I think NPS should do what is necessary to open the most used beaches as soon after first light as possible. These should include ramps 23, 25, 27, 38, 44, 55, 70 and 72. I also feel that the entire issue of night driving restrictions needs to be revisited to determine if there is really a tangible benefit.

Seasonal Open / Close ORV Access Dates:

I think seasonal closures in front of the villages should be changed to Oct 1 - May 15. This would allow maximum usage and access without encroaching on the higher occupancy tourist season.

Seasonal closures not in front of villages should be opened no later than Sept 15, and close no earlier than May 15. These areas generally do not see a lot of non ORV activity outside of June, July and August.

Vehicle Free Areas:

I feel that the current number of VFAs is excessive and causing overcrowding on the sections of beach that are open to ORVs. I feel that the VFAs see very minimal use by pedestrians at ramps 23, 27 south to 30, 34, 45, and 59 see very minimal use by pedestrians and should be eliminated with some becoming seasonal closures and others returned to yearly ORV routes. AN ORV route thru VFAs to allow passage thru or the dropping off of people in the VFA would also be beneficial.

Permits:

As far as permits, the annual permit should be good for 1 year from the issue date or the charge for the permit should be prorated based on when during the calendar year it is purchased. Also, I feel there should be some avenue for the permit to be used on other vehicles with the same owner or additional permit available at a reduced rate.

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**Correspondence ID:** 944    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 06:06:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Open the beaches,stop the nonsense.

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**Correspondence ID:** 945    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 06:13:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect the Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* The 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 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.

Wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,




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**Correspondence ID:** 946    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 06:16:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** While I understand why some people staying in the camp ground at Cape Point might like a vehicle free area in which to walk, I don't understand why the area known as the hook is vehicle free all year. I would suggest that vehicles be allowed in this area when the camp ground is closed. Also, I think ramp 34 could be open all year. Perhaps allowing drivers to only go north from the ramp during peak tourist season. We visit the seashore twice a year and these are two of the places we liked to go before the present rules were put in place. We visit in the Spring and the Fall. Fishing is our primary activity. Thank you for your consideration of these ideas.

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**Correspondence ID:** 947    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles on our National Seashores.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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. It is absolutely necessary that ORV traffic be strictly regulated in all bird nesting areas, so that no traffic occurs during nesting seasons. This seems little to ask - share the beaches for our birds and sea turtles during nesting season!
- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 948    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 06:36:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 949    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 06:39:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Keep these protections for birds in place! Can't you value anything except money?

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**Correspondence ID:** 950    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 06:43:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** do not reduce the size of protection. your previous decision has already caused significant declines in successful nesting. send the vehicles off road where there is no wildlife habitat destruction.

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**Correspondence ID:** 951    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Sirs/Madams,

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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 952    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 06:48:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** please don't loosen driving restrictions on cape hatteras. there are too many species that would be hurt by this change.

beaches need to be monitored for bird and turtle nesting sites frequently. the damage to breeding populations is too high a price to pay for the convenience of fishermen. I fish myself, and do not think this change is smart or necessary.

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**Correspondence ID:** 953    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 06:49:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect the piping plovers

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**Correspondence ID:** 954    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 06:56:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 955    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 07:05:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 956    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 07:06:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please amend your proposal to recognize the concerns expressed by the National Audubon Society: Maintain present limits on the hours cars are allowed on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

P. S. The "Organization" spot on the form above is unclear as it does not allow me to enter the name of the organization. I am a member of the National Audubon Society.

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**Correspondence ID:** 957    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am a former National Park Service seasonal interpretive naturalist and have a BS in Environmental Studies. I lived in or near, and volunteered in, five additional NPS areas where my husband worked as a resource manager and supervisory biologist. One of those areas was Gulf Islands National Seashore. For three decades, I worked as a professional freelance photographer and nature writer. Included in the 15 books I've authored are two that include information/experiences relating to National Seashores, including Cape Hatteras. I am submitting comments based on my educational and work experiences, but also on behalf of birds, sea turtles, and other marine creatures that cannot voice their own opinions.

In summary: Please invoke the highest levels of protection possible for our National Seashores and their wildlife.

These items are of specific concern:

\* I do not feel it is biologically wise to allow ORV use on any beach areas in seasons when sea turtles or nesting birds are present. ORVs should only be

operated in areas and seasons that do not adversely affect wildlife. Current regulations should not be weakened.

\* Beaches should be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks, before the beaches open in the morning. Beaches should be cleared of potential impacts upon protected wildlife species before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

I hope you will continue to protect the beaches in question by:

\* Upholding the current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science, as the law states, not unduly influenced by convenience or community pressure.

\* Continue the requirement prohibiting night driving. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks, and smaller invertebrate species, such as ghost crabs, that are important links in the overall ecology of these beaches.

\* Stand firm in protecting our birds. Allowing more ORV access is not the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service, whose mission includes protecting the seashore and its wild inhabitants for this and future generations..

\* Vehicle-free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots and other shorebirds such as nesting plovers, whose populations are declining drastically, and which use the beaches at very critical times in their migratory and nesting cycles.

\* Consider the sensory experiences of human seashore visitors. Beaches constantly traversed by vehicles and riddled with tire ruts are not what we expect when we visit a National Seashore. These vehicles also present a safety hazard for individuals - and especially 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 the native birds and sea turtles in question must have beach-driving restrictions enforced in order for them to survive.

My husband and I have retired to North Carolina because of its beautiful natural resources and wildlife diversity. Please listen to the comments of state residents and the admiring public from the rest of the US and worldwide. We are people who love these beaches and the wildlife at home on them. We're asking you to cease further actions that detrimentally affect the wildlife on the Seashore, such as decreasing the size of buffers without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you,

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**Correspondence ID:** 958    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 07:15:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear National Park Service,

Please continue work to protect birds and wildlife. Specificaly:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 959    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

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.

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 960    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 07:22:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would think everyone would want to maintain our wildlife population !! Go find somewhere else to destroy the habitat ! There must be money involved here again ! Most politicians are truly corrupt!!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 961 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 07:25:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 962 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 07:25:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:


- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you,  


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**Correspondence ID:** 963 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 07:34:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Sincerely,



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**Correspondence ID:** 964    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 07:42:38

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not reduce the protected areas of the beaches that are set aside to protect the nesting areas of the piping plovers and sea turtles. It is everyone's best interest to ensure that these creatures be able to have enough protected area to ensure their survival. Please do not make any further reductions to their habitat. People on both coasts are working very hard to protect wildlife from disappearing from our shores. Please help us all by not reducing protected areas that have been thoughtfully set aside for them. Thank you for allowing me to comment.

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**Correspondence ID:** 965    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 07:48:46

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** PLEASE don't increase access either by expanding times, dates or decreasing the VFAs. The fishing that is done on the shore is of a recreational nature and not of a "survival" nature. Wildlife in fact are there not at their leisure, but to perpetuate their kind. Without humans recognizing the ever-increasing encroachment on shore species we'll effectively and with frightening efficacy obliterate these shore creatures.

The current access parameters seem plenty generous, and if I could have my wish would be further curtailed.

Thank you for seeking public comment.

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**Correspondence ID:** 966    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 07:55:20

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** New Threats to Imperiled Birds at Cape Hatteras

Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and our partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

PLEASE HELP - NOT HINDER - THESE PRECIOUS BIRDS ALIVE!! SAVE THE WILDLIFE... SAVE THE WORLD!!

Thank you



**Correspondence ID:** 967 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 07:56:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not allow ORBs more access. There is room enough for everyone and everything on the beaches. We humans need to get over thinking we can have whatever we want regardless of the impact on the environment and other living creatures.

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**Correspondence ID:** 968 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

The National Park Service is accepting comments on its misguided proposal. The full plan is available at the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment website. Comments must be submitted at the comments page by August 21, 2015. If you submit a comment, please let us know through this simple form. It's the only way we have of tracking our efforts. You can use the sample comments below:

Sample Comments

(IMPORTANT: Comments must be submitted at that National Park Service Planning site:  
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=67586>)

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 969 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 07:57:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect our national seashore for all wildlife. Please check for bird and turtle nests before opening up beaches. Orv traffic would best be nonexistent, but if not, should be very restricted. The current plan should be kept and possibly improved on. Thank you for considering my comment.

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**Correspondence ID:** 970 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 07:59:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 971      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 08:01:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.



**Correspondence ID:** 972      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 08:02:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello,

I don't need to list a lot of talking points. The rolling back of protection for our Beach nesting birds and other wildlife by allowing free range for ATV's, cars and foot traffic is a death sentence. For years concerned citizens have fought for stronger measures and some were put in place with good results for our nesting birds, bouncing back from harm

PLEASE DO NOT UNDUE ALL THESE NECESSARY PROTECTIONS FOR SAFETY OF FUTURE GENERATIONS OF NESTING BIRDS. There are places for ATV's, cars, etc to enjoy their hobbies, don't let them take away the areas of protection.

I am a long standing supporter and Legacy Member of NPCA and I am ashamed that my organization is even considering listening to "a few groups and lobbists" in favor of sending the beach dwelling wildlife to a death sentence.



**Correspondence ID:** 973      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 08:03:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank You,



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**Correspondence ID:** 974 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 08:09:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** INCREASE the driving limits; better, eliminate ALL DRIVING on the Outer Banks Seashore. Those TOO LAZY to walk may watch with binoculars from afar!

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**Correspondence ID:** 975 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am an attorney in Spokane, Washington. I am a former chairperson of the Washington State Bar Association's Animal Law Section. My comments are my own and do not represent the views of either the Bar Association or the Animal Law Section.

When I was in law school I was taught that the role of governmental agencies such as the National Park Service and the Department of Fish and Wildlife was to protect the environment and wild animals. I quickly learned that many of the employees of fish and wildlife agencies do not like animals, and they see their mission as promoting hunting, fishing and trapping in order to produce revenue. Private interests, such as gun makers, ammunition suppliers, and other companies that profit from killing animals work with fish and wildlife to help kill animals. The National Park Service has actively worked to kill bison in Montana and to kill deer in Rock Creek Park. And just recently, NPS was going to round up and kill wild horses.

You may be familiar with the series of articles by The Sacramento Bee titled, The killing agency: Wildlife Services' brutal methods leave a trail of animal death. This investigation demonstrated that fish and wildlife agencies are really killing agencies, using taxpayer dollars. Here is the link to the article: <http://www.sacbee.com/news/investigations/wildlife-investigation/article2574599.html>

No wonder so many Americans no longer trust the government. I oppose your proposed rules that would further endanger animals on North Carolina beaches. Specifically,

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.

I want NPS to put the interests of the environment and animals before those of commercial interests.

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, community pressure, or those who want to make money at the expense of animals and the environment.

Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

Allowing more ORV access isn't in the interests of the environment or the animals that NPS is charged with protecting. Stop selling out to big-moned interests. Vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots and other shorebirds.

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 ORVs is a reckless use of vehicles and your agency is encouraging it.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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 and stop pandering to special interests. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. No wonder so many Americans no longer trust the government to do the right thing.

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**Correspondence ID:** 976 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 08:12:18

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 977    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 08:15:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** These are my suggestions;

Beach restrictions in front of villages should from May 15 - Sept 15.

If you really think a night time restriction needs to be enforced, then the hours of closure should from 11:00 PM - 6:00AM.

ORV access should be expanded in the areas of,

1 Cape Point to Ramp 49. As I see it, this area for all practical purposes is presently permanently removed from use to ORVs and pedestrians.

2 Ramp 59 from the ramp around to the ferry docks should be re-opened to ORV access again.

3 Ramps 43 & 44 all the way to Cape Point should never be closed being that area is the premier surf fishing on the east coast.

Beach permits, which I don't think I should have ever had to purchase, would be better for visitors if issued annually from date of purchase and a 10 day permit.

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**Correspondence ID:** 978    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a person whose family settled in North Carolina before the Revolutionary War and who appreciates the unique natural beauty and diversity of flora and fauna of this area, I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 979    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 08:20:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 980    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 08:35:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect all wildlife along the coastline. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 981    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 08:40:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 982    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 08:47:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 983    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 08:59:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 984    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 09:02:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please reconsider your plan to reduce driving limits along the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. This area is critically important to a variety of species and should be protected from disturbance.



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**Correspondence ID:** 985    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife. I am writing on behalf of the wildlife that cannot speak for themselves.

The beaches should be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. ORV traffic should NOT be allowed on the beach if eggs and chicks are present.

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

Continue to prohibit night driving. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 and other shorebirds.

Be mindful of 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Keep in mind that any progress made in greater numbers of hatchings in one season can easily be wiped out in one storm-an event that cannot be controlled. That is why it is so important to focus on what can be controlled: limiting motorized vehicles on the beach for the sake of the birds, sea turtles, and conservation-minded seashore visitors.

Please cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 986    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 09:16:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 987    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 09:17:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 988    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 09:26:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear People,

Protecting the habitat of birds and animals is our Number 1 job as stewards of the planet. If they don't survive we don't survive. And they count on us to protect them. Let's find alternative sources of energy and stop this expansion into areas that need to be sacred. Thanks, [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 989    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for placing the broad public good ahead of specific interest groups and doing the right thing in spite of pressure to the contrary.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 990    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 09:40:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** It has come to my attention that the buffers in this area for the birds that are in danger of being pushed out of their environment are going to shrink if the government allows these buffers to shrink. Clearly the environment in this area is sacred to birds and other wildlife and because of the warming climate all over the world these birds need as much room to thrive as they have in the past. To shrink these buffers which will allow less places for these birds to raise their families and thrive in this overpopulated area is short sighted and wrong. Our native creatures are losing more land and water every minute because of humans taking their land for recreation or housing. We cannot continue to allow this to happen or we will see more endangered animals and birds or extinction becoming more common. With each extinction our environment is more polluted which causes more harm to every species on this planet. I say do not shrink this area and keep the buffers as they are now and forever.  
Thank you for your consideration in this important area for the birds and other creatures to thrive.

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**Correspondence ID:** 991    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 09:51:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 992    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 09:51:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing in regard to Cape Hatteras and the damage to imperiled wildlife that will increase if current ORV rules are relaxed. This is pathetic - we are talking about species survival versus recreational destruction. Why in the world should people be able to access even more of the beach with their motorized vehicles?

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.

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 and other shorebirds.

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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. Otherwise it looks like the moneyed interests rule in park service decision making.

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**Correspondence ID:** 993    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 10:01:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 994    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 10:10:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 995 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 10:10:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 996 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 10:11:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

Please do not reduce the protected habitat lands of these endangered birds. We must encourage their ability to thrive . All species have an important place in the whole of life. Please continue to protect this important species.

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**Correspondence ID:** 997 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing because you are charged with protecting wildlife and it habitat, so that my grandchildren, and their grandchildren, will be able to enjoy and respect the natural beauty and creatures of America.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 998    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 10:20:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing for the sake of all the wildlife, specifically birds and sea turtles, that live on beaches such as Cape Hatteras.

Please do not further roll back on protections for wildlife on our National Seashore.

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 999    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 10:26:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1000    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.15,2015 10:35:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I want to express my concerns for the new policy to expand the beach area for vehicles and take it away from nesting birds and turtles. I feel that this policy would undermine severely the current population and negatively affect all that we have tried to do in the past. Please take another look at this situation from both sides. Thank you for listening.

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1001    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 10:36:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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 expecting on you to protect:

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- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them

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**Correspondence ID:** 1002    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 10:40:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** "I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

"Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

"Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support" such actions.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1003    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 10:52:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**  
New Threats:

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1004    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 11:14:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1005    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 11:15:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** good afternoon, mr. nps. this is my fourth submission to you all. i have tried to convey thoughtful, respectful, and forthright comments in my previous three emails. i, as well, as hundreds, if not thousands, of surf fishing enthusiasts continue to be perplexed and angered by the seemingly arbitrary and almost spiteful policys/decisions that continue to keep cape point closed. no one wants to desecrate or destroy that which we hold so dear. hatteras island and the point itself is a national treasure. we all know that. it is also the fabric of a very important part of my family, and thousands of others like mine. we cheerfully pay for our access sticker, we pick up trash left behind the thoughtless, we fish, we hang out, we revel in the midst of one of the most unique and beautiful places in america, if not, the world. there has to be some middle ground which all can agree on. the closures are clearly on the side of a group(s) with some kind of misguided agenda.

this is the united states of america, NOT AMERIKA. please consider any and all possible alternatives that can give everyone interested and involved at least a piece of this incredible pie. no one wants or needs it all. share and share alike. respect for all. comply by the law. do the right thing.

i want my grandchildren to have the opportunity to enjoy the luxury that i have had along with my wife and children. hatteras is the first place i take out-of-state friends to. they are staggered by the raw beauty, power, and spectacular nature of the island and the point itself.

you all are in a very unique position. you have a very difficult decision to make. the purpose of the national park service is, absolutely, to protect. remember, though, it's a resource which can be used, nurtured, and yes, closed down when necessary.

i hope and pray that political correctness has not poisoned the sound minds of your administration. i have faith in your organization, and i still believe in the foundations our country has been based upon.

weeping, sniveling, self-loathing behavior of most who oppose us never have been on the island. they have never seen a sunrise or sunset on the beach. they have never watched porpoises arc out of the water. they have never seen the joy on a child's face as they pick up a scotch bonnet out of the surf.

the land on this island was sold by the owners for pennies on the dollar for the express reason that it was a national seashore for all to appreciate and enjoy. surfers, windsurfers, shellers, birders, lighthouse-climbers, and yes, surf fishermen all have a place in this paradise.

please, for god's sake, make a reasonable decision and allow all to enjoy this place. put common sense guidelines in place; people will comply cheerfully. arrest those not compliant, and haul 'em off to manteeo. don't punish those who love and respect this place. the vast majority of us are not ignorant monsters who only think of themselves.

i hope you have read, and have carefully, thoughtfully considered, my comments in my previous three emails. if i didn't care and feel passionate about this, i wouldn't bother.

i recognize that right now, you all have a tiger by the tail. this whole fiasco is very politically charged, and unnecessarily so. political correctness is neither. it spells the end to the spirit and nature of our nation.

i pray that you consider the things i've said today. i respect and appreciate all that the nps does to protect and preserve our parks and resources across the country. the nps is very necessary, and it should function in the spirit and purpose that it was created.

teddy roosevelt started the whole thing after his hikes with the great environmentalist, john muir. what would teddy say today if he saw all this going down?

i think you all know the answer.

thank you again for your thoughtful consideration. i know this is somewhat of a manifesto, but, hey, i'm pissed.

i hope you all have a great weekend. please feel free to contact me at any time. i'll be glad to offer my two cents worth. with this being my 32nd upcoming school year as a high school teacher/coach, hell i'd consider a job offer.

be well.

respectfully,

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1006    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1007    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 11:34:51

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I live right at the edge of the southern Outer Banks. I find it appalling that again it is proposed that our wildlife is being endangered further than already allowed for the sake of tourism dollars. I am at a loss as to why we would wipe out entire species and ruin the natural beauty of the Outer Banks for the petty reason of allowing people to drive on the beach. I agree wholeheartedly that the National Audubon Society's recommended protections are a fair and reasonable way to protect wildlife under the current conditions. All measures should be taken to protect North Carolina's natural treasures. Specifically, nests should be identified and protected prior to opening the beach to vehicles. I worked with the Camp Lejeune wildlife department previously achieving this very goal. Also, in no circumstances should night driving be allowed. This would not only endanger wildlife nesting at night, but would also be a nuisance and danger to people. I personally don't agree with how lax the current regulations are. Any further allowances would be detrimental to wildlife and the natural beauty of the OBX. People go to places like Myrtle Beach to have the typical tourist beach experience. The OBX is special for its natural beauty and should remain that way.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1008    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

I am writing as an advocate on behalf of the birds and sea turtles.

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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
 \* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1009      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 11:36:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves on the Cape Hatteras shoreline. 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 the current plan, night driving restrictions, our birds, and seashore visitors.

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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1010      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 11:37:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have been traveling to Cape Hatteras for over 30 years in the spring and the fall for surf fishing on the beaches. I have fished from Corolla all the way down to Ocracoke. I come with a group of 6 others and have contributed tens of thousands of dollars to the local economy over the years. I just want to be able to drive on the beach to Cape Point and at Ramp 34 and fish in the surf. I respect the environment, and other than tire tracks in the sand I leave no trace. The restrictions placed on beach access by the NPS have caused me to question whether or not I want to continue vacationing at the Outer Banks . We plan these trips 6 months in advance and for the last 6-7 years the portions of the beach with ORV access has gotten smaller and smaller each spring. I don't mind if you block off the dunes where the birds nest, just open up access to the beach!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1011      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 11:45:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1012      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 12:00:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
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Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 1013    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

The National Park Service is accepting comments on its misguided proposal. The full plan is available at the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment website. Comments must be submitted at the comments page by August 21, 2015. If you submit a comment, please let us know through this simple form. It's the only way we have of tracking our efforts. You can use the sample comments below:

Sample Comments

(IMPORTANT: Comments must be submitted at that National Park Service Planning site:  
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=67586>)

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 1014    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Specifically, 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. Please 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:

- (1) The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- (2) Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- (3) 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 and other shorebirds.
- (4) 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Once again, please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1015    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 12:04:10  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am distressed at the reduction of protections for nesting birds on the Cape Hatteras shore area. The desire to drive motor vehicles along the shore is not more important than protecting wildlife populations. People need more exercise, not more destructive power.

Please restore protections to the previous levels as recommended by wildlife experts.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1016    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 12:06:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1017    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 12:20:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1018    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 12:24:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please retain current protections to this fragile area and nesting ground.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1019    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 12:33:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please maintain restrictions on vehicles in areas where endangered birds' habitats are disturbed or destroyed; this is a case where increased freedom for some has a detrimental effect on birds and nature lovers. So many birds and animals are threatened by climate change-why not help them survive with this restriction? Let's keep and increase areas that are not invaded by the noise and pollution of vehicles. When a species becomes extinct we lose richness and variety in our world.  
I don't understand why the NPS would not support the protection of these birds.

Sincerely,

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1020    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Āĭ

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1021    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 12:35:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of 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.

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\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Respectfully,

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1022    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 12:36:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1023    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 12:38:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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Please cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1024    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 12:39:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.
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**Correspondence ID:** 1025    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 12:39:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello.

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1026    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 12:42:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I watch the plight of these birds in southern New Jersey. Avalon & Stone Harbor have made huge strides to enable their life cycle and are active in supporting Sea Watch and other migratory bird aid. How can North Carolina not continue to be a haven for this migrating species - --stop erasing their protection.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1027    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 12:58:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
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- \* 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1028    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 13:01:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

New Threats to Imperiled Birds at Cape Hatteras

Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and our partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1029    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 13:02:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1030    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 13:09:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.
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**Correspondence ID:** 1031    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 13:12:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The proposed policy to further endanger this little bird is a virtual death sentence. Apparently, the Park Service has been able to somehow twist the facts to allow your decision. Gee...are you worried that car? Let them use our national highway system until we build a substitute another habitat to replace the beach that sustains these imperiled birds.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1032    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 13:16:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing this on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

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- \* 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.
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Please listen to the public we who love our beaches and the wildlife that call it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1033    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.
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- \* 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 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.

If people are too lazy to walk a reasonable distance from their parked car to the beach, perhaps they are also too lazy to walk AROUND a marked bird nesting area. Perhaps people with so little regard for endangered animals should just go to a public pool instead!

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1034    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 13:37:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1035    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I can't imagine that the National Park Service would not take a more active role in ensuring that some of our creatures that we treasure are protected from humans who take their own recreational pleasures to a level that is detrimental to the creatures. I don't live on or near Cape Hatteras but understand that areas there are critical habitat for many birds and reptiles. These creatures cannot fight for themselves. They rely on the intelligence of humans to help them survive. I am a concerned US Citizen and am using my right to voice my opinion.

As you know, we have over 7 billion human beings on this planet. Our collective intelligence should be enough to realize that we have to help our fellow creatures that have been impacted adversely but human encroachment to their living habitat. We cannot afford to not be concerned about helping certain birds and reptiles survive.

I urge you to not roll-back protections and buffers for these creatures and ensure they have a fighting chance to survive. Please do not reduce protections by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of their nesting areas.

More specifically please accept the following:

- \* 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 closure timeframes 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:

- \* The current management plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. nesting birds and sea turtles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1036    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 13:38:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I live in Alaska where ORVs have ruined miles of trails and turned them into boggy morasses that are no longer walkable. We actually moved to another part of Alaska where there are more effective regulations against them. They have a very effective lobby and speak only to their rights and not to their responsibilities to not destroy habitat which effects other people's enjoyment who want to see the birds and not hear the noise.

Please do not weaken the regulations that protect the habitat of nesting plovers and oyster catchers. There are too many ORVs and not enough plovers and oyster catchers. The drivers of these vehicles have a responsibility and not a right.

Please protect the birds who don't have a voice. we have oyster catchers in Alaska and I love to watch them . I am grateful that I don't have to worry about ORVs as they are not allowed, period.

Sincerely,



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**Correspondence ID:** 1037    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 13:45:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Save the nest beaches for animals that use them. The current regulations are good protections are working.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1038    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds, sea turtles, and other wildlife that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for ALL wildlife!

I urge you to NOT extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Please limit the closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I expect that the National Park Service should check the beaches every morning 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.

I am counting on you to protect the following things:

1. THE CURRENT PLAN: Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
2. NIGHT DRIVING RESTRICTIONS: Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
3. OUR BIRDS: Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship the public counts on from the National Park Service. Vehicle-free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots and other shorebirds.
4. SEASHORE VISITORS: Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience the public expects when we visit a National Seashore. Too much ORV access creates 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 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. I urge you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife such as decreasing the size of buffers on the Seashore without peer-reviewed scientific research to support them. As a taxpayer, I expect the National Park Service to protect wildlife for all Americans now and for future generations.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1039    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

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:

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



\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1040    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1041    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 14:04:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1042    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 14:09:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank You,

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**Correspondence ID:** 1043    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 14:09:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1044    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 14:14:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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 and pays the taxes that support the NPS. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my thoughts.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1045    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 14:26:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1046    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am a concerned environmentalist writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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 am asking that the beaches be cleared before any ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

\* It is crucial that you oppose any extension of current ORV routes; moreover, no narrowing of the time of spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds should be allowed; these creatures must have time to reproduce in order to survive. Only areas that place no wildlife at risk should be considered for any extended (expanded) closure.

I am absolutely counting on you to protect:

\* The current plan. Any and all rule changes must be supported by peer-reviewed science, as the law states, not just for convenience or local community pressure.

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit all night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night particularly endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access of any kind is not the stewardship we completely rely on from the National Park Service, and current vehicle-free areas must be expanded to protect Red Knots and other shorebirds.

\* Seashore visitors. Beaches sliced open by vehicles and tire ruts are not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore, and are also 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

Please listen to the broad national public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls them home. I am now asking you as forcefully as I can to cease all further actions negatively affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without strong, peer-reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1047    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 14:37:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect the wildlife that depend upon our beaches to nest and raise their young. Surely, man and his machines can be restricted to other beach areas. We need to protect wildlife - not destroy it for our recreational pleasures. We can live with restrictions, wildlife cannot live without them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1048    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 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. Only their dead bodies speak a language that most humans pay any attention to: they should not have to use it to get through to us.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1049    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a kid in the 1960s and 1970s, I spent many summers on the beaches, dunes, and small towns of the Cape Hatteras area, including in the national seashore. Though I live far away now, this remains a very important place to me.

I am concerned about the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. ORV use is not consistent with the wild values of this remarkable area and its wildlife.

Please protect our national seashore and its wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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 maintain, or enhance, wildlife protections in the current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law requires, not just convenience or political pressure.

Do not water down night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 and other shorebirds.

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

Please listen to the public that loves Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I ask that you cease further actions that endanger wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

I appreciate your consideration, and ask that you inform me of your decision.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1050    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 14:53:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1051    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 15:02:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** It is obvious that shore-nesting birds need protection. There should be no vehicles on the beach during these months. No all that long ago there was no driving on the beach, but fishermen managed to get to the shore and fish. Please do all in your power to keep vehicles off the beach regardless of pressure from the House of Reps. Thanks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1052    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 15:20:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1053    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 15:50:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The area protected for wildlife at our beaches must not be further curtailed! What is more important: the preservation of that wildlife's habitat or the gratification of some off-road enthusiasts who more often than not destroy areas and cause trouble. They make the beaches noisy and littered. Their areas should become more restricted. The wildlife needs enough protected areas to mate, have their babies and live in peace. The alternative is eventually extinction for some of them. The answer to the question of which is more important - the wildlife or off-road riders - - should be evident. Wildlife. A word of caution to those who would further restrict the wildlife's habitat: a voter's memory is long-lasting!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1054    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 15:52:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please, protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1055    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am dismayed that almost on the heels of a number of national alerts about declining numbers of wildlife, species in peril (unable to be listed because of Congress's footdragging and reluctance to fund the agencies), the NPS is now considering lowering protections- and for what reason? I'm at a loss to understand why.

So once again, I am writing on behalf of the coastal creatures that can't speak for themselves. When I visit the coasts (where many members of my extended family live, and where I once lived too, and learned to cherish the Chesapeake), I expect to see protections in place.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1056    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Birds, turtles, and other wildlife are part of our national heritage and identity. They must not be destroyed by poor planning.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as

decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1057      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 16:13:25

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing as someone who enjoys fishing at the Outer Banks, but who also wants to write behalf of the sea turtles and birds who nest there. Current ORV access to the beaches is enough, and should definitely not be extended in the spring and summer on any beaches that would affect wildlife. Please keep the current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just for convenience or because of community pressure. Night driving on the beaches greatly endangers hatchling turtles and nesting birds and should not be allowed, especially during nesting seasons.

Jekyll Island, Georgia is doing an excellent job of protecting sea turtles and nesting birds, working closely with developers to ensure that visitors have access to the beach that is both convenient and protective of the wildlife there. ORV's are not allowed at all. ORV's wouldn't be an issue on the Outer Banks at all without pressure from a handful of fishermen who want no restrictions at all.

Surely a National Seashore should have as its priority the protection of the wildlife there. Most of us who visit expect that, and appreciate all efforts and restrictions to that end. Those with ORV's who want to run roughshod over the beaches are in the minority. They might be louder, but if most visitors to the Outer Banks were aware of this issue, I'm sure they would join me in saying, "Protect the sea turtles and birds. The ORV's have enough access already!"

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**Correspondence ID:** 1058      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 16:18:26

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing to ask the NPS to protect the Piping plover and other beach nesting birds at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. These great little birds deserve to have their nesting areas protected from vehicles for the whole nesting period. Do not increase off-road vehicle usage or routes. Please prohibit night driving on the beaches to also protect sea turtles as well as birds and their chicks. The Red knot also deserve a place to rest briefly in the long migration. Most of us want to enjoy beaches without vehicles destroying the beauty and peacefulness, and see the wildlife that has always needed the beach, especially shorebirds that need to make a come-back. Vehicle use benefits very few. Thank you very much for attention to this matter.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1059      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 16:20:40

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1060    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 16:31:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Short and sweet. Please save these wild animals, and their habitat.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1061    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 16:34:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1062    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

In short, keep full protection for these birds.

Keep all wheeled vehicles or sporting vehicles off this protected area.  
Do not decrease the buffer areas, they need to be increased.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1063    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 16:52:44



**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have loved the Outer Banks and Cape Hatteras region for over 50 years. The beaches there ARE NOT HIGHWAYS. An existing paved highway already allows vehicles access to Ocracoke and further reaches of the Hatteras region.

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON TO PERMIT VEHICLES on the Outer Banks beaches. Only in an emergency should they be permitted.

The whole area is rich in wildlife of both resident and migratory species, because it has been protected from encroachment by development and vehicular use. It is only a short walk from the existing paved road to the beaches for any recreational uses.

TO OPEN THIS MAGNIFICENT SHORE TO CARS, ORV'S, TRUCKS OR OTHER VEHICLES WOULD BE PURE FOLLY. PLEASE DO NOT PERMIT IT. YOU ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN PROTECT THIS FABULOUS BEACH REGION.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1064 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 17:14:11

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1065 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 17:19:46

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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.

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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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1066 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 17:21:05

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing as someone born and raised in NC on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 and other shorebirds.
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Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1067    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 17:35:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1068    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 17:41:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hi,

Please don't buckle under pressure and take away the safety of nesting birds in Cape Hatteras. My family has had the pleasure of vacationing in this area over the years and it's a wonderful historic and nature trip.

Don't let the crowds take over and keep building massive vacation homes. If you take away too much of the animal's habitats, it won't be worth the time or money to drive to the cape anymore.

Please be fair in protecting our wild life areas. We depend on your good judgment.

Sincerely,  
[Redacted]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1069    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 17:53:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** When our family moved to North Carolina fifty years ago, we cherished our annual trips to the Outer Banks. Now with the

outrageous, out of control development and continued desecration of the National Park area by ORV, we no longer bother to visit. It breaks my heart to see that this group of ORV morons have so intimidated the Park Service and local conservationists to use this beautiful coastline as their private sand highway.

When our base desires allow us to disregard the life and well-being of God's natural creation then we are doomed as species. Our self-centered behavior is destroying the planet and the native inhabitants that struggle to survive. The beaches should be closed when turtles and birds are nesting, PERIOD. This mechanization of our National Parks runs counter to the experience families and individuals expect from a trip to our once beautiful coastline.

I would not only urge you to support the current plan, but to make it more and more restrictive to ORV use. If ORV want to use the beaches, let them do it on private property, not the property of ALL U.S. citizens.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1070      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 17:56:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1071      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 18:04:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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- \* 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 and other shorebirds.
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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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1072      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 18:13:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I would like to urge the NPS to protect the National Seashore at Cape Hatteras for all wildlife, particularly imperiled species like Piping Plovers.

Please uphold the current plan, and maintain night driving restrictions and limited ORV access. Night driving endangers the nests of sea turtles and birds, as well as spoiling the quiet and solitude that attracts so many visitors to the National Seashores.

Rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just community pressure. I encourage the NPS not to extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. I also 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 - the safety of young children on the beaches deserves consideration.

I have had several wonderful vacations on the Outer Banks - please continue to be responsible stewards of the beaches and wildlife that make it such a beautiful place to visit.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1073    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 18:18:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The NPS at Cape Hatteras National Park, and the so called people who we have voted into office have done the citizens of the U.S. a real disservice to the people who have every right to use the National Parks that were set aside for the people to use! I have been going to Hatteras Island for the past 35 plus years. We were up the last week of May 2015, and the whole place is ruined because of unreasonable closures and heavy handed tactics from the NPS and other special interest groups!! I would love to introduce my grand daughter to a place I hold dear to my heart, but what's the use if she can't see or walk to where some of the most interesting places to be are? You can let the NPS shoot anything that might harm a so called endangered bird, and not one of the ones being protected are known to nest there in any substantial numbers at any time in the last 300 years, because some idiots who belong to an assine group want to ruin someone's right to enjoy themselves!! I know more about the OBX's history than all of them put together. Why? Because I have word and driven the beaches of Hatteras, and read just about every book written about the history of the OBX and still read books that I have read years ago! Someone who might read this, please be HONEST for once and do the right thing!! Open the beach back up to off road driving like it was meant to be when the park was established! Open access for all the people, not just a privileged few! Just check on the historical nesting range of the birds that are shutting down the ORV use there and you will see the honest to GOD truth!! The turtle nests were always protected from the beginning of the first day I drove on the beach, and I never saw a soul drive through one or purposely mess with any! Just do the right thing for once and give the Ian's back it's identity please!!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1074    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 18:20:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

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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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1075    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 18:21:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1076    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 18:31:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Re: Cape Hatteras and plover chicks, and other wildlife

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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



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**Correspondence ID:** 1077    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 18:39:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1078    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 18:44:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please continue the current protections (or more!) for wildlife at Cape Hatteras! These precious animals are worth so much more than another route or expanded hours for off-road vehicles. You are really engaging in short-sighted thinking to think that temporary fun for a few people is more important than maintaining / protecting our wildlife.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1079    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 19:12:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Best regards,

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1080    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 19:50:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 and other shorebirds.
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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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1081    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**  
Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

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- \* 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.

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nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1082    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 20:05:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Cape Hatteras Seashore

Do not decrease even further the protection of endangered bird species habitat. There is no reason why humans cannot give adequate space for these birds. There are plenty of other places for humans. How self centered we can be. Shame on us as a species!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1083    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

New Threats to Imperiled Birds at Cape Hatteras

Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and our partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

The National Park Service is accepting comments on its misguided proposal. The full plan is available at the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment website. Comments must be submitted at the comments page by August 21, 2015. If you submit a comment, please let us know through this simple form. It's the only way we have of tracking our efforts. You can use the sample comments below:

#### Sample Comments

(IMPORTANT: Comments must be submitted at that National Park Service Planning site:  
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=67586>)

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them

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**Correspondence ID:** 1084    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 20:31:18

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Let's keep it simple. STOP putting our environment and the inhabitants in peril, PLEASE!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1085 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 21:12:06

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not reduce the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists recommend as necessary to ensure the safety of nests and chicks. Do not bend to the pressure of Congress. They do not have the expertise to make such decisions. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1086 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 21:34:28

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a long time ocean front resident, I feel that driving on any beach is unnecessary and will create more harm than good. People enjoy the beach for it's untouched beauty and wildlife. I recommend that any changes to the restrictions to off road use of beaches on the Cape is a huge mistake.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1087 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 21:38:47

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** It is unbelievable that the National Park Service would cave to pressure from off-road vehicle enthusiasts to reduce the size of the protected areas near Cape Hatteras which protect nesting plovers and turtles, and other wildlife. How could this happen? Now the plovers and turtles are more endangered than ever -- all for the sake of the right to drive motorized vehicles in National Park areas, such as beaches? This is shameful.

We must protect endangered wildlife, and not the right of off-road vehicle enthusiasts to ride motorized vehicles in sensitive areas of our National Parks. The endangered wildlife -- all of our wildlife -- belongs to all Americans, not just the off-road, motorized vehicle enthusiasts and those who are rooting for their right to ride motorized vehicles in sensitive areas of our National Parks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1088 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 22:34:49

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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.

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I am counting on you to protect:

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\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 and other shorebirds.

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Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1089 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

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\* 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 your consideration and for protecting our wildlife and our national parks for future generations. We need to do everything we can to prevent more species from becoming extinct because of man's need for recreation.



We all share this planet and I know you'll do the right thing.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1090    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 22:57:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** AS PARENTS, AS VOTERS, AS TAXPAYERS, WE URGE YOU TO DO MUCH MORE TO PROTECT ALL WILD CREATURES ON OUR BEACHES. ESPECIALLY PLEASE PROTECT ALL BIRD NESTS AND TURTLE NESTS. AND PLEASE.....PLEASE!.....KEEP OFF-ROAD VEHICLES OFF ALL BEACHES!!! WE VALUE THE ANIMALS THAT NEST ON OUR BEACHES. PLEASE DO NOT WEAKEN THE CURRENT RULES. TO THE CONTRARY, PLEASE ENFORCE THESE RULES MORE FORCEFULLY.

YOUR GRANDCHILDREN.....AND OURS.....WILL THANK YOU.

RESPECTFULLY,

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1091    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 22:58:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

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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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1092    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,15,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**  
New Threats to Imperiled Birds at Cape Hatteras

Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and our partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

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Sample Comments

(IMPORTANT: Comments must be submitted at that National Park Service Planning site:  
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=67586>)

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1093    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 23:40:25

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1094    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,15,2015 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.

Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affects sea turtles or birds. Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

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

Continue to prohibit night driving. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 and other shorebirds.

Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore. Neither do we expect 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 native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

I am asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1095    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,16,2015 01:18:03

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.
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**Correspondence ID:** 1096    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 04:50:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.
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**Correspondence ID:** 1097    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 05:12:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Our National Parks were set up to protect critical habitat and allow the people access to these special places so their beauty and wildlife can be enjoyed. There needs to be a balance, and in some cases a concession by the public, of human activities so that the protective goals are met. Running motorized vehicles on beaches that are critical nesting sights is not showing wise stewardship for the land we as a nation have set aside to protect. Please put protection of the wildlife and their homes at a higher priority than human activities that are enjoyable to some but are environmentally destructive.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1098    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Cape Hatteras National Seashore

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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 1099 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 05:49:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** It is sad that people find it necessary to drive on what should be a clean safe place for people and nature. By using the word safe, I'm including some basic needs. The need to not be harmed...yes, but also the need to be in a beautiful place free from noise and exhaust. Too much of the country is already drivable, vehicles don't need to be on the national seashores where the land is too easily stressed.

Please do not allow you're already loose limits to be eroded further.

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1100 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 06:26:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I ask the NPS NOT to decrease the size of the buffers at Cape Hatteras National Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support this action.

Please have regard for the wildlife for which the seashore is essential.

It is not essential to drive on the beach.

Thank you.  
[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1101 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 06:34:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service

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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1102 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 06:35:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I fully support the positions of the Cape Hatteras Preservation Alliance and the North Carolina Beach Buggy Association. Vehicle access should be enhanced wherever and whenever possible.

I particularly support opening seasonal ORV routes earlier and closing them later in the visitation season. Vehicle access in front of Avon village, and other villages, should close May 15 and reopen September 15 in future years.

Most importantly, I support the relocation of turtle nests the could block vehicle access for an extended period. If a nest location could result in significant portions of vehicle access areas being closed, said nest should be excavated and relocated to a safe location in a vehicle free area. The nests are already excavated to document size and insert devices. They can be moved when vehicle use could be compromised. ORV permit fees already pay for significant manpower and it can be used to help vehicle access, not always restrict it.

Finally, denying access to Cape Point for the period of April 1 through most of August is a stain on the reputation and mission of the National Park Service. To exist for the purposes of providing the tax and fee-paying public access to natural wonders of our country and then to have a very small number of birds take that resource away from us is a misguided and distorted exercise. The NPS is managing the wrong resource at Cape Point. Visitation hours should be managed, not a very few birds that would find another location to nest. Something has got to be done to restore this resource to people during the summer visitation months. The NPS should use the ORV Plan and regulations to serve people at Cape Point, not an immeasurable few birds.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1103 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 07:06:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I just read the story from the Audubon Society about the decimation of shore birds and turtle nesting sites due to ATV use on the beaches. I was under the impression that your purpose, The National Park Service, was to PROTECT our natural environment for future generations to enjoy. Why are you allowing off-road vehicles on beaches that are so very fragile? Do "boys and their toys" (and girls) have the right to destroy natural habitat that is essential for wildlife to survive? Get those off-road vehicles OFF OUR BEACHES NOW! When I visit the seashore, I want to see wildlife flourishing and little bird footprints not tire tracks in the sand! Get your priorities straight. This is my seashore too and I want the wildlife to have a fighting chance to survive!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1104 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 07:19:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles who cannot speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1105    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 07:31:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not roll back the environmental protection along the NC coast. This endangers the habitats of the Piping Plover and other birds that reside and nest in this area in NC. It is all too obvious that the work of EPA and volunteers is lost if this action is taken. More importantly the loss of habitat to wildlife is unconscionable. The loss of trust in business and government occurs daily due to this type of action. It is our job to be stewards of the Earth and that means business and government organizations as well.

[REDACTED]  
PS

Thank you Audoubon Society for your strong presence on this agenda.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1106    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 07:33:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1107    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 07:45:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please keep the current plan in place and protect our precious wildlife. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1108    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife and also for quiet use! It is a shame that bullies with ORVs are causing so much damage to wildlife, a treasure to our seashores under the guise of "it's a free country!" All this motorized use also contributes to global warming. It is truly selfish behavior to drive on the beach and run over nests-a typical American like behavior-do whatever you like no matter who or what it harms. The protections for wildlife should be expanded, not reduced. I am dismayed that the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles. This is a misguided proposal and I urge you to abandon it and strengthen protections instead, and don't fall prey to the loud aggressive few that want to drive anywhere, anytime.

-Specifically I want to see less days for driving on the beaches and bigger areas protected. People on foot and dogs should also be excluded from the protection 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. Do not open any beach with nests, birds, or turtles. 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.

-Don't allow any night driving on the beaches, ever. These are just partiers anyway. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1109    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasin

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**Correspondence ID:** 1110    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 08:31:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

Our children are the third generation that has grown up visited the Outer Banks as a yearly summer vacation. The most recent changes have influenced their opinion of the NPS, and "special interest" negatively. Our children (ages 22 and 20) grew up listening to their grandparents talk of "tree huggers" and we, as parents, tried to explain what the grandparents were speaking about all the while giving both sides of the argument. When the bird enclosures started and the loss of access began they often wondered and asked why? We tried explaining, but their questions often were difficult to answer. We even spoke to park rangers and park employees and their answers were more confusing. "I just enforce the rules." or "They don't tell us anything having to do with bird enclosures." When we spoke to the locals, nothing but anger to the NPS and their words are not worth repeating.

As time has progressed and the enclosures have grown I still have yet to hear the foundation for the closures. I can't explain, nor can the NPS to me, how birds that are not on the endangered or threatened list take precedence over access for ORV. How one or two chicks of a plover or oyster catcher can

impact policy. Ask any fisherman that spends anytime on the Outer Banks how they would solve the problem and 9 out of 10 would produce a workable solution that provides ORV access and helps birds.

We need more ORV access so my grandchildren are given the opportunities our children had 15 years ago. The present system seems to be influenced by special interests. The NPS is a four letter word to the locals and those that spend anytime on the Outer Banks. It's time for common sense for all not for the special interest groups to take over. We require more ORV access.

On a final note, my "in-laws" started visiting the Buxton region in the late 60's and made 2-4 trips per year. They have not been back in over 10 yrs. because of the restrictions. I doubt they will return.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1111      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The plan that has been in place since 2007 to protect shore birds, turtles, and other animals whose numbers had been severely reduced by human activity is working. It has resulted in the rebounding of numbers of many species. More recently, because of interference from political forces, science has been set aside and the amount of land allowed these species has been reduced, producing the predictable result that the health of these species has been impaired. Now there is a further proposal to reduce even further the amount of land set aside for these species. Such a change now would be even more deleterious to these fragile species, particularly to allow motor vehicles to pass close to nesting areas during the reproductive season.

As an American who values our native species I urge you to please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. Please act responsibly to protect these species from the harm caused by human interference.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1112      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 08:38:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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 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:

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\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Respectfully -  
[REDACTED]

**Correspondence ID:** 1113 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 09:06:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1114 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 09:10:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** My family traveled from Wa State to Buxton, NC in June 2015 to enjoy the OBX. Seeing the birds and turtles protected was our favorite park of daily long walks on the beach. I cannot believe it is a consideration to allow cars in these currently protected areas. Maybe we should be allowed to drive to the door of the lighthouses? If the wildlife isn't continued to be protected the OBX will lose tourism along with precious wildlife. Please keep these areas protected and do not allow driving on the beach.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1115 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 09:19:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Its a national park, bring back the senior citizen passes

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**Correspondence ID:** 1116 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 09:32:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1117 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 09:35:10  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing about proposals to increase ORV access to ocean beaches: the many marine birds that nest on ocean beaches need more protection from ORV, not less! I am particularly concerned about piping plovers, which are the most vulnerable. Please do not expand the areas available to ORV, nor the hours of permissible driving. In particular, ban night time driving. I would also be in favor of more fencing around active nests.



Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1118    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 09:38:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please re-open ramps 23 and 34 for ORV use. I realize that there may be temporary closures for birds or turtles and that is certainly acceptable. As I stated in the Kitty Hawk meeting, there is little or NO use of these areas by anyone which seems like a waste of wonderful beaches. Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1119    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 09:39:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** To all concerned: I have watched, with great dismay, the diminished of Off Road Vehicle (ORV) access on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CHNS) for too many years. It is my personal belief that certain interests have negatively swayed the regulating bodies responsible for management & oversight of this precious natural resource. It is also my personal belief, and one shared by the vast majority of anglers, that the processes for formulating rules and regulations concerning access to CHNS have unfairly impacted the responsible and resource-conscious angling community. Protecting wildlife (endangered species or not) can easily be accomplished with a collaborative, cooperative set of solutions that would minimize environmental impact and allow for reasonable ORV access. The current state of affairs is grossly in favor of the former at the considerable expense of the latter. The concerned angling community has no issue with ORV Use Fees, as long as those funds are relegated to support the resource and maintain open and reasonable access. Unfortunately, overzealous restrictions of Buffer Zones, limited beach access times, and requirements to walk "in the water" to Cape Point constitute a serious limitation to the angling public's access. I applaud all those who have represented the angling community regain expanded, reasonable access, however well-funded special interest groups have clearly swayed the regulatory bodies. One would easily surmise that "their" main goal would be to eliminate ORV traffic, thereby ending a valuable and highly enjoyable right to responsibly enjoy CHNS in its prime. I have been visiting Cape Hatteras Sea Shore Since 1989 and it has been one of my favorite spots to share with family and close friends. Teaching all of them about respect for the beach and conservation of the resources has been my goal. Now, at 40 years old, it is with utter amazement that I witness the current state of affairs. Surely, reason and logic will take precedence as future decisions are made in this regard. I support expanded access for the angling public and expect that to occur sooner than later.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1120    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 09:53:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1121    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 09:54:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I urge you to do all in your power to appropriately restrict ORV use on Cape Hatteras, and elsewhere on the Outer Banks. These barrier islands are a national, natural treasure and should not be overrun by ORV and other large truck-type vehicles, which present one of the most damaging uses on these fragile eco-systems. Not only are these islands vital habitat for numerous species of wildlife, including many rare and threatened creatures, they are a critical first line of defense from the impacts of hurricanes and major storms, which are increasing in frequency and intensity due to climate disruption. These lands are also a beloved vacation and recreation destination for, I would wager, millions of Americans - - many more than the handful who prefer ORV use over other uses.

As a federal agency, your first duty is to ensure the protection of the lands in your care for all Americans, not just a special-interest group. I trust you will do the right thing.  
thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1122    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 09:58:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1123    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 10:00:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1124    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 10:06:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The National Park Service should keep the driving restrictions at Cape Hatteras. Our NATIONAL natural resources should not be sacrificed for the recreation of locals!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1125    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 10:31:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** When we protect the natural world, we protect ourselves. We cannot live without it.  
I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1126    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 10:34:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1127    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 10:40:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I live in South Florida, one of the worst states to protect its coastal waters and its water inhabitants. Since 1966 when I arrived here for college I have witnessed our precious mangroves decimated to builders. I can't understand why decisions would be made to approve this when it is KNOWN that these trees and other flora protect the coastline from disappearing from high tides. The coral reefs have died. What used to be a heaven is now a pure hell. I have been also diving for 50 years, yes 50 years. I cry every time I go to the Keys and see dead reefs, disoriented tropical fish looking for a home that no longer exists, fish populations depleted to almost nothing, and so may species of coral and other living creatures gone forever. But stupid Florida still allows the destruction of the reefs with the lobster mini season. You should see that a reef looks before and after this yearly massacre. It's beyond my comprehension how this can still go on.

I have watched the beach traffic allowed on Daytona Beach wipe out any turtle and bird population. This latitude had the highest turtle population in this hemisphere. I have seen this decline severely since my arrival to this state. The filth from cars with oil, soot, exhaust, and other toxic byproducts pollute the waters that eventually flow deeper into the ocean. Of course, people do not see this and will absolutely deny this happens. The beaches there have become ugly without natural flora growth and other species that inhabit the coastal beaches in that area. The sand is so toxic it is unfit to walk on without shoes. Now what about any creature that is walking around trying to find food? If they do find something from digging in this filth the food is so poisonous it kills many creatures who eat their finds of what they thought was an innocent morsel of nutrition.

Now, shall I talk about the ugly high rises right on the beaches?? Not only do these ugly buildings destroy the beach, they destroy the habitat that is most important and secondly, for those who what to walk the beaches where do they go? Many of these beaches are private not allowing entry for anyone other than the condo dwellers.....who mostly know nothing about environment and its creature inhabitants.

The islands off of the Carolinas are some of the most precious dwellings for the flora and fauna in this country. It is in a zone that should be protected at any cost. How about if we start charging the government officials to pay for their health policies, their fancy parties, their 1st class travel, and other unfair freebies and start looking at our real situation from a grass root point of view from people who REALLY see the ramifications from their blinded decisions.

Let's start to respect those who make decisions for our land and get educated enough to make the right decision. In this case the only right decision is to not allow cars on the beaches. This area belongs to the birds and their nests not for our cars.

The regulations have helped increase the population of sea turtles and sea birds by restricting night driving during the summer sea turtle nesting season and banning motor vehicles from nesting areas. Since the changes, sea turtle nests have increased to record numbers.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1128    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 10:42:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1129    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 11:07:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 and other shorebirds.
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**Correspondence ID:** 1130    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 11:11:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We have been coming to Cape Hatteras for many years. One of the main reasons is to enjoy the beauty of the point. It is crazy how we are letting one or two birds and some turtles take away the peoples enjoyment of the area. If the National Seashore was developed mainly for human enjoyment. Closing areas also has a negative effect on local businesses who exist on tourist dollars. All these dollars will be spent somewhere else and will put these locals out of business.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1131 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 11:37:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We own a home in Hatteras Village on the Oceanside. We are at the home twice monthly for a few days and eight weeks a year, the home is not a rental.

At this time we are satisfied with the current beach access for vehicles and fishing guidelines. We understand and support the beach closures and limited access due to the wildlife nesting areas.

We are concerned with the fishing among swimmers, as the bait attracts predator fish and the hooks create hazards for swimmers and walkers.

We don't support closing water ways or fishing areas that local residents use for income or their business is based on.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1132 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 11:46:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** On behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves, please do the right thing for the greater good!

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1133 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 11:47:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please continue to protect the wildlife at Cape Hatteras, for these animals depend on us to keep them safe and from becoming extinct. For we all enjoy going to the seashore we need to remind ourselves it's their home as well as it bring joy and beauty for all to appreciate.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1134 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 11:54:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have live on the Outer Banks for 10 years now and vacationed as long as I can remember. I feel that closing access to beaches is unconstitutional.... Our beaches are Federal Land, run by the NPS...if it is Federal..IT BELONGS TO ALL... we should all have a vote.

We once were a free beach...camp on the beach...get up at 3am and drive on the beach. Best fishing is at night. People come here for that. People are going to go elsewhere to do the fishing, driving and freedoms that should not be restricted on beaches.. Beaches are not buildings..man made...they are God's creation. No one should be charged to drive on a beach... Our economy has been negatively impacted with all the ridiculous rules and permits required to enjoy basic beach rights...

I am all for preserving wildlife, but what is going to happen when the OBX loses it's people due to financial ruin... People will move elsewhere..tourist will go elsewhere to fish, vacation, because what once was a free open beach, favorite fishing area no longer exists. Where will the NPS get money to protect the wildlife.... It's wrong to charge to go to a national park beach. EVERY AMERICAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE BEACHES HERE. The permits are ridiculous... just another way for greedy government, and said wildlife advocates to get money...

This decision is detrimental to the OBX community!!! WE are trying to preserve the OBX free beaches.. To restrict our access to our own community's beaches is to take away our freedom and our pursuit of happiness.... I feel they are ways to preserve the wildlife and our way of live as well... No one loves our wildlife more than we do!!!

MAKE OUR BEACHES FREE AGAIN... [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1135 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,16,2015 11:54:33

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been visiting Hatteras Island regularly since 1964. I love being in the water, on the water, and near the water. I actively windsurf, surf, standup paddle board, on occasion will go fishing. The Outer Banks incorporate many square miles of uninhabited beaches and salt marshes that are very remote, and are well- suited for wildlife nesting.

If you scan the aerial view from Google Earth or any satellite view, it becomes obvious that the shore areas of Pea Island, Hatteras Island and Ocracoke Island are very small portion of the nesting opportunities. It seems unfair to restrict vital accesses from the public which has paid for the land and upkeep over generations, and give it to creatures that have many other better options as to where they may nest.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1136 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,16,2015 11:55:16

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Unbelievable. Destructive behavior by thoughtless humans are to be rewarded for their "fun". Stop the nonsense. If you really adhere to this, you should retire and go work for the entertainment industry.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1137 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,16,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Greetings,

I am writing on behalf of all birds and the turtles who do not have a voice to protect their survival future. Frankly, I am appalled that the great nation of the United States of America is turning its back so drastically on our natural resources and treasures. Teddy Roosevelt would be boxing someone's ears!!!

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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1138 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,16,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of wildlife: birds and sea turtles that cannot speak for themselves

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and baby chicks before the beaches open in the morning. The beaches should be cleared before ORV traffic is permitted/allowed on the beach.

- ORV routes should not be extended including Spring and Fall when it will impact turtles and birds. Therefore limiting the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

I am counting on your agency 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.

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 'Native Birds and SeaTurtles ' need beach-driving restrictions to survive!

Please listen to the concerned public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that is so appreciated. This is their home. We must protect them with sound stewardship; nothing less will do.

Please we implore you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them

I and my husband [REDACTED] sincerely hope wildlife will be given a fair chance for survival. PLEASE PROTECT THEM.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1139    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 12:12:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Greetings #2,

I submitted comments a minute ago but I want to add that I am a longtime contributor to the NPS and believe our Congress should support you at a much higher level. I visit many national Parks each year and hold them dear to my heart. I am also a student of Theodore Roosevelt history, specifically his environmental work and I am disappointed our leaders in Congress are so disconnected from the natural world.

I support your work 100%.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1140    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 12:13:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do not remove the existing driving limits on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Limited natural resources need to be maintained at their current levels.  
Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1141    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 12:18:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do not further reduce protective buffers for for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers. We are responsible to protect them. You have already reduced buffers to less that what scientists believe is acceptable to the birds, and now you want to lower them again? Please think of the future. We want a world with plenty of birds!

Please do NOT REDUCE the protective buffers. Thank you for thinking of the future.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1142    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 12:39:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1143    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 12:44:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have been visiting the Outer Banks of North Carolina my whole life. Some of my greatest memories from my childhood and adolescent years are the weeks we spent in Avon, Buxton, and Frisco enjoying fishing on the ocean and a sunset on the Pamlico Sound. We took trips like these every year, often two or three times a year to celebrate Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, and even Christmas on the Island. I believe this island is so special to myself and my family because of our long standing heritage on the Outer Banks. My family has called this amazing place "home" for many years, although no one from my family has lived on the Outer Banks since my grandfather, who boogied at The Casino, drank water from a cistern full of mosquito larvae because it was the only source of fresh water in Avon, and never missed a Fall day at The Point when the Drum were running. It's stories

like these that make this place special for me, This year I was moved to tears as I told my own son these stories as we were driving South down Highway 12, past the closed beach access to the Point and South Beach, a place I fear he may never visit or experience as I did as a child, and as my mother and grandfather did. I wonder if he will ever know Hatteras as I have; a town full of excited fisherman from all over the world there to experience the best fishing on the East Coast, vacationers in laid-back mode set-up on the beach with their families in tow, and locals, always there to give friendly advice on the best places to eat or what's "bitin" on what bait that day. It is heart breaking to see business after business close each year due to the decline in tourist dollars and dwindling local economy. This year our visit was very special because we were able to locate the gravestone of my grandfathers's great grandfather. This is my sons four-times great grandfather. He is buried in the Miller-Gray Cemetary in Old Kinnakeet. It was an amazing moment to see my son with his four-times great grandfather and imagine what life was like hundreds of years ago on this incredible place, unlike any other in the world. What would he say if someone even dared to mention the closing of the beach that was his home and restricted access to protect a species of bird. I am asking you to reconsider the closing and restrictions of the beach access along the Cape Hatteras National Seashore so that my son, and hopefully his own children, can visit and come to love this place and learn our family heritage on the Outer Banks as we all have.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1144 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 12:58:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1145 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 13:22:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** If the beach is opened further then the turtles will die... this is sad. Turtles are beautiful creatures that are extremely important to the marine ecosystem. The more area made available to trucks the less area left for turtles to breed. The populations of turtles is already suffering, making it harder for them to reproduce is not in our best interest.  
we do not inherit the earth from our ancestors we borrow it from our children ~Native American Proverb  
Many animals have already gone extinct, let's not take more away from our children.  
Thank You for your time.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1146 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 13:36:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Although I am currently a resident of Washington, DC, I grew up in North Carolina, and continue to visit the Outer Banks at least once every year.  
I was dismayed to learn that the National Park Service is considering extending the times and areas that vehicles are allowed to have access to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I feel quite strongly that such access is already excessive, and if anything, should be scaled back. There are plenty of places for motorists to drive; far fewer are areas that are truly protected from the noise, pollution, and physical disruption caused by motor vehicles.  
Cape Hatteras National Seashore should be especially shielded from motor vehicle traffic due to the nesting activities of sea turtles. My understanding is that the regulations adopted in 2012 have had a positive effect on the number of sea turtle nests. Surely that is a rebound that we want to maintain rather than reverse.  
Roads are for cars. Beaches are for people and wildlife.  
Please don't relax the current regulations.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1147 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 13:43:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The protections for wildlife must be under consideration as you reconsider a change in the ruling allowing driving of vehicles on the shore of Hatteras Island. Your previous ruling limiting vehicles must be reinstated. Success has been proven in turtle nesting and piping plover chicks survival. This area is a national seashore not a highway!

As a minimum keep the previous restrictions in place.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1148    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 13:52:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

- \* Beaches should be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks, before the beaches open in the morning. Beaches need to 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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.

Wildlife, as part of the entire community of life, deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1149    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** 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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1150    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** 1.) Restore access to the sound side beach just south of the Haulover (Canadian Hole). which has been enjoyed by Family's and Watersports enthusiasts for many years. The area is shown to be "ORV open" on the NPS maps but there is no access since they put up the fence at the hole parking lot. Two specific suggestions:

- a.) easiest and quickest solution would be to lift the No ORV stakes at kite point and allow ORV to access sound side shore line south of the hole from kite point, not ideal..but would be quick and easy and low dollar.
- b.) build an ORV access point from the SE corner (not SW) or the parking lot where it would not be prone to wash out from storms (which is why we lost the original access point). An "S" shaped access point would be far less likely to wash out than a straight ramp.

2.) Restore to year around both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 34 which is 500 yards north of Avon village and Ramp 23 which is 500 yards south of Salvo village. Currently most of the year there is no access. Only in the winter are they open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the villages forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness area (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? Now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least have ORV access 1000 yards to the ramp and 100% pedestrian access year around.

3.) Build a parking lot at Kite point. Rt. 12 in this area is a huge safety issue. People enjoy using kite point. Build a parking lot for them so they won't have to park along Rt 12. (note: This issue has been caused by requiring a beach driving permit to access kite point now people park on route 12 to avoid the beach driving permit fee.)

4.) Make Sound Side beach driving access free. If sound side beach driving access was free it would solve the safety issue of cars parking along all of Rt 12 instantly. Now you could safely and legally pull off Route 12 and park in a safe area. Use the current beach camp fire permit as a model. Sound side beach ORV access would free but you'd still have to get the permit so the NPS can "educate" the public about safe soundside beach access. Or make the sound side beach access ORV fee very affordable.. say \$15.. so everyone would comply. This would immediately stop the insanity going on Rt 12 all up and down the Cape Hatteras Seashore.

5.) Make it so that when you buy a yearly Beach driving permit that it actually is good for a year. Yearly beach driving permits would last one year from the date of purchase.

6.) Beach walking below the high tide line anywhere in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore should not be a crime. There are currently large stretches of shoreline in which you are not allowed walk. Open those beaches and change the law.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1151    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 14:17:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Sir/Madam:

Plovers and turtles and other wildlife cannot speak to you, so I will speak for them.

All wildlife deserves the chance not only to live, but to thrive. Allowing ORV's on beaches where wild creatures live is inviting their demise. Human activity that is not absolutely essential for living should NEVER take precedent over protecting our natural world.

Please do not allow ORV's, or any other human activity, in areas that would adversely affect our wildlife or wild lands.

Thank you,

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1152    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 14:23:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please review and change the proposed regulations on driving on the beach in Cape Hatteras. Driving on the beach at all is an outdated practice. We know now what damage that does even to just the sand itself, not to mention plants, microorganisms, crustaceans, etc., but especially to nesting birds and nesting turtles.

Please expand protected areas, instead of reducing them.

And please reconsider any vehicles being permitted on any "protected" public beaches. I visited Island State Park in New Jersey in the winter. It was empty of people and empty of vehicles. That is what a seashore should look like, especially supposedly protected park areas.

Thanks for your work. And thank you for the opportunity to comment.

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1153    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 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:

1. The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
2. Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
3. 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 and other shorebirds.
4. 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1154    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 15:49:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our Cape Hatteras National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 and other shorebirds.
- \* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts are 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 these native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1155    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 15:53:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please please do all you can & MUST do to protect all wildlife at Cape Hatteras & other wildlife places. Beaches MUST be protected & checked for turtle & bird eggs & hatch-lings. NO ORV OR ANY OTHER VEHICLE TRAFFIC DURING NESTING/BREEDING TIME...PLEASE.

Do not allow more ORV driving. Keep rules strictly enforced. Protect all enclosed areas from people who don't care. Fines for these interlopers.

All our wildlife including birds & turtles need protection from humans.  
Protect these areas that wildlife needs to live.

please...please

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**Correspondence ID:** 1156    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 16:10:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** What happened to the science that we assume you base your land-use decisions on, in particular human use of Cape Hatteras? Wildlife numbers are down, including those of the piping plover and oystercatcher and sea turtles, and yet your plan is to imperil these animals even more by allowing expanded use of their nesting areas by humans. What's more important, letting people destroy beachside land with their ATVs, or allowing birds and other animals to survive the only way they know how? Do you really expect the animals to find alternative places to feed and nest? Or don't you care what happens to them? It is our moral obligation to let these animals survive the only way they know; people should be clever enough to find other means or places to enjoy themselves.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1157    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 16:13:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1158    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 16:34:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand how fragile nesting areas have become for many birds. Reducing the protected areas at beaches and other highly vulnerable locations is unacceptable. Look at the statistics showing the major reduction in chicks surviving with the initial area

reduction. Why would you be comfortable knowing approval of a smaller protected area is highly likely to drive these birds to a zero survival rate.? You have to be smart enough and caring enough to do all you can to help wildlife, not hurt them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1159    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 16:38:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please give us our beaches back.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1160    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 17:10:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO RAISE THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF HUMANITY.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1161    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and its partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* I want the beaches to be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. ORV traffic should not be allowed on the beach if bird or turtle nests, or eggs or chicks are found there.
- \* Do not allow or expand ORV usage on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds.

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.

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1162    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 17:26:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 and other shorebirds.  
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**Correspondence ID:** 1163    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 17:30:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Sincerely,  


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**Correspondence ID:** 1164    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 17:33:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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.

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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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1165    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 17:47:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

good evenin', all. i think that fdr only really delivered 12 fireside chats during his presidency. he's in the top three in america's presidents in my opinion. this is my fifth fireside chat in almost the same number of days.

well, by now, if you have taken the time to read my emails, and give 'em some thought, i hope that people are talkin', considerin', and realizin'. there alot of really decent people in carolina, and the country, who consider hatteras island a religious experience. perhaps that's extreme, but for families like mine it was, more importantly, still is.

mr. hallec sounds like a man with a soul and backbone. i understand that he's in a very delicate situation, but, it can be successfully handled with prudence, thought, and down right common sense.

yes, i, and my whole family, are surf fishermen. we love it, we live it. if you cross reference my earlier emails, again, we pick up more trash, help stuck people, do for others, than we catch fish. we are not saints. don't claim to be.

that beach, that island, that ocean, belongs to no one. it belongs to all.

again, yes, it needs to be policed to a point; understandable. let's continue in the spirit of teddy roosevelt. bully for us! teddy is the great curator of the nps, but i preach to the choir.

mr. hallac, i would be more than happy to sit down with you and have a congenial discussion in regard to these matters. i understand that you are probably under considerable constraints in this regard. however,i think you have figured out my state of mind on this whole issue.

my wife and i hope to head on down in october. can't wait. please help us. no one needs it all. just do the right thing. you know what i mean.

best wishes and intentions,

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1166    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 17:52:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We must share land responsibly with all forms of life. Further, leisure activities should never outweigh survival.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1167    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 17:55:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** People come to the Outer Banks to fish, swim and enjoy nature. Beach closures make it increasingly difficult for people to enjoy the beauty of this area and they will elect to vacation elsewhere if they do not have access. Businesses will suffer if people leave. Consider cleaning up

overgrowth of vegetation where birds used to nest and make dune areas more attractive to the birds. They won't then expand to the beach areas and perhaps we can have improved access to the beach.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1168    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 17:58:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not change the ORV rules for the Hatteras Seashore. There is no significant reason to do so economically. Those that want the rules changed are ignorant and selfish. The impact on wildlife, already under stress, will be significant, and the cost of continuing to ignore that their lives do depend on an ORV free landscape to live, breed, rest is simply good stewardship of the world and all that share it with us.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1169    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 18:02:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1170    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 18:15:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Thanks to everyone who loves the seashore. Now, will each of us think about how much less we can depend upon cars and trucks to enjoy it?

Find a balance of competing interests? Why must there be any vehicles on the beach? Is more parking along the highway sufficient? How can a government, entrusted with the safety and health of its people, conscientiously barter away the protection of nature? Who among us wants to be a part of that?

Like it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and is the strongest ally of each competing interest in this matter. Accordingly, the Park Service is not a broker to balance of the needs of the public. Its focus must be upon the needs of nature. The law requires that it be nature's advocate.

Congress in 1937 understood this. Recent congressional direction that the Park Service make areas blocked off for wildlife as small as "possible" must be acted upon by the Park Service in terms of nature's needs, not man's. Congress has not revoked the original purpose of the 1937 legislation that designated Cape Hatteras as a national seashore and which still declares that, except for certain portions deemed "especially adaptable for recreational uses," the 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."

The Park Service must act as the voice for nature as Congress in 1937 expressed it. That will - in the long run - be a fair application of the law and will serve the interest of us all. Beach parking does not preserve the seashore's physiographic condition.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1171    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 18:38:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a professional hydrogeologist with over 30 years experience who happened to spend much of my youth at the Outer Banks, I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1172    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 19:00:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am counting on the National Park Service to maintain its integrity and not be coerced by selfish, thoughtless people who think that they are entitled to despoil anything they can get to. Cape Hatteras should be protected for the benefit of all living creatures, not just those with the demented idea that plowing over baby chicks is fun. Such people are a danger to everyone, for research has shown that those with no regard for the lives of animals often have no regard for the safety of humans. Please maintain rules for keeping ORVs off the beach during nesting season. The lives of many creatures depend upon it, as does the integrity of the National Park Service.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1173    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 19:01:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
Dear Sirs,

I support stronger protections during the nesting season for turtles, piping plovers and oystercatchers. Protections should exclude vehicle traffic from the area and also where necessary pedestrian traffic as well. These animals have the unfortunate life cycle which requires them to nest on the beach. It's the only place they have to nest and some, the turtles, are particular to the Cape Hatteras beach. They need protection, Vehicles can drive somewhere else-like on the highways.

Thanks for adding my comment to the "greater protection" column,  
[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1174    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! A National Seashore implies a place where wildlife can flourish, it is not a place where ORV should be allowed to go anywhere they want to. ORV's are not wildlife.

Specifically:

- \* 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. If such nests, eggs or chicks are present, then ORV traffic should not be 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; in fact, vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect Red Knots 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1175    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 19:47:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. Reduced buffers cannot support species such as the piping plover, on the edge of extinction.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1176    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 19:53:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1177    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 20:55:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1178    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

DO NOT reduce the protections already in place by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles. There are other places these idiots can go play!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1179    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 21:20:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** take action to preserve our birds and by doing so save ourselves and our children. [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1180    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 21:30:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1181    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 21:32:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** PLEASE KEEP ORV AWAY FROM WILDLIFE!! I am calling upon you to protect the innocent birds and turtles who cannot speak for themselves! They were here before humans with their machines of death and destruction! We are meant to be Caretakers of this planet, not destroyers of it!! So, someone cannot ride an ORV in an area that is protected, that won't kill the person, but it most certainly would kill the small birds and turtles who are trying to survive if that protected area is open to humans!! PLEASE! DO NOT OPEN AREAS WHERE THESE YOUNG AND HELPLESS CREATURES OF GOD ARE TRYING TO START THEIR LIVES!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1182    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,16,2015 23:59:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been coming to the Park since I was a kid, we loved fishing with my Dad at the point. I want to give those character building memories to my grand children, in fact my just turned 7 year old grand daughter is excited as she caught several this summer. This place is special and unique, and needs to be protected as a treasure for people as well as for nature. I strongly support reduced buffers, and increased access. You have all the power to make a wise decision, and I hope you will. Thank you!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1183    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:28:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have visited Cape Hatteras and other coastal habitats. These are national treasures- -please protect them.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1184    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have vacationed at Cape Hatteras and enjoyed the beach a great deal. I would hate to see the wildlife suffer for a few noise/air polluting people. Please help keep our shores pristine.

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 1185 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 04:19:13

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** 1. Night driving restrictions ; should be eliminated or access to open areas should start at 0500 hours an extend to 2300 hours

2. Closures area should be made smaller an optional ways around them be established to allow fishing more beach area.

3. Vehicle free areas should be eliminated except for the seasonal village closures an a small area between the old light an new light house sites.

3. Yearly ORV permits should be pro-rated from the purchase date.

4. Pre nesting closure should be limited, start later in the year, and only established when birds are seen exhibiting breeding behaviors and then follow my #2 comment

5. Ramps 23 and 32 should not be closed even with the addition of ramps 25 an 34. These are the closest an historic ramps for fishing for Avon an Tri villages.

6. Cape Point should be assessable to fishing all year long.

I am a Disabled American Veteran who moved to Avon in 2003. I retired here to fish an hunt as I had done in the past while on active duty. It is hard to surf fish without a vehicle to carry your equipment and all the closures have almost eliminated fishing area. I understand the need for some closure an their resource management procedures, however current closures an their management are extremely excessive an unwarranted. I am a seasonal employee ( maintenance)for the NPS in Buxton, have a Masters in Environmental Science/Field Ecology an have worked on Endangered Species projects at Ft. Bragg, NC in the past.

Thank you for the opportunity to have some small input on this matter, an I like seeing the more positive attitude from the current superintendent an his staff. In the past, it felt like local people were completely ignored an forgotten.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1186 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 08:15:40

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am a property owner in frisco NC. I prefer that ORV access to the beaches in front of the villages not change. At times there is very little beach depending on the weather patterns which make pedestrian access combined with ORV access problematic form a safety standpoint.

For beaches outside the villages I think access should be opened as soon as possible after birds have fledged but NLT Sep 15. This would minimize impact to avian species and maximize access for ORVs during the fall

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**Correspondence ID:** 1187 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 08:24:34

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1188 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 08:26:39

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1189    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 08:30:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1190    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 08:33:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We count on you to protect our park lands and all within it

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**Correspondence ID:** 1191    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 08:39:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am concerned about your decision to decrease the amount of protection for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers. While I understand the importance of people being able to enjoy our beaches we are the only voice for the animals. These types of measures will only contribute to extinction. Please reconsider this decision.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1192    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 09:06:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1193    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 09:15:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of Sea Turtles, Red Knots and other shorebirds that obviously can not speak for themselves. I urge the National Park Service to protect our wildlife. We are counting on you! Please do not extend the ORV routes. Limit the ORV's to areas that do not affect wildlife. ORV's driving on the beach is not the beach experience I want to have. I want to experience the wildlife and birds in our parks-not vehicles. Please don't decrease any valuable buffers. Show the public your scientific research if you say it doesn't harm our wildlife. And lastly- Enforce the night driving restrictions as this is when sear turtles are out. Thanks!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1194    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 09:33:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1195    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 09:34:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1196    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I vacation in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and appreciate the fact that there are protections in place for endangered wildlife such as the piping plover. I have never enjoyed the fact that ORV or driving is allowed to such an extent on the seashore, mainly out of concern for my own personal safety. I have heard that the piping plovers have recently benefitted from added protections, and reductions in the amount of driving in the park, and I am saddened to hear now that even with the successes due to the restrictions, that Congress is pressuring and forcing the park to loosen those beneficial restrictions. I strongly oppose these pressures and want to see that the higher restrictions on driving in the seashore, etc., remain in place. If they are removed the continued viability of endangered species breeding areas is in peril. Besides this, isn't the idea behind the endangered species act to do what is possible to protect species on the list?; so why would we remove protections that appear to be helping?

Here are some more specific items I would like to see:

\* 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. In addition, 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1197    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 09:55:06

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1198    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 09:55:43

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Cape Hatteras Beach Access Reform

- 1.) restore access to the sound side beach just south of the Haulover (Canadian Hole). which has been enjoyed by Family's and Watersports enthusiasts for many years (at least 35 years), the access point was recently removed when a fence surrounding the haulover parking lot was constructed. To restore access I suggest one of two options. a.) the easiest and quickest solution would be to lift the No ORV stakes at kite point and allow ORV to access sound side shore line south of the hole from kite point b.) build a simple ORV access point from the SE corner of the the parking lot where it would not be prone to wash out from storms. An "S" shaped access point would be far less likely to wash out than a straight ramp (previous designs).
- 2.) Build a parking lot at Kite point. due to a permit being required to access sound side beaches, Rt. 12 in this area is a huge safety issue. people enjoy using kite point. build a parking lot for them so they won't have to park along Rt 12.
- 3.) Make Sound Side beach driving access free. If sound side beach driving access was free it would solve the safety issues of cars parking along all of Rt 12 instantly. Now visitors could safely and legally pull off Route 12 and park in a safe area. Use the current NPS beach camp fire permit as a model. Sound side beach ORV access would free but you'd still have to get the permit so the NPS can "educate" the public about safe soundside beach access. Or make the sound side beach access ORV fee very affordable.. say \$15.. so everyone would comply. This would immediately stop the insanity going on Rt 12 all up and down the Cape Hatteras Seashore.
- 4.) Make it so that when you buy a yearly Beach driving permit that it actually is good for a year. Yearly beach driving permits would last one year from the date of purchase.
- 5.) make beach walking below the high tide line legal anywhere in the park. beach walking below the hi tide line anywhere in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore should not be a crime. There are currently large stretches of shoreline in which you are not allowed walk. Open those beaches and change the law.. beach walking is not a crime.
- 6.) Make it so that when you buy a yearly Beach driving permit that it actually is good for a year. Yearly beach driving permits would last one year from the date of purchase.
- 7.) stop shooting and trapping the indigenous wildlife of Cape Hatteras National seashore. playing god and killing one species to "protect" another doesn't fit with the NPS line of "let nature takes its course" seems NPS wants to have it both ways. shooting foxes, raccoons, opossums and ospreys to "protect" its natural prey is flat out arrogant and is out of control pseudoscience, right up there with burning books.
- 8.) Restore at least some ORV access to Ramp 34 (the closest ramp to the village of Avon.) year around. 1000 yards of ORV access would go a long way. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness area (to other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? to force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into wilderness areas that typically saw little traffic compared to the ramps closer to town. Add At least ORV access 1000 yards to the north and 100% pdestrian access year around to Ramp 34
- 9.) same as #8 but for Ramp 23 the closet ramp to Tri villages.
- 10.) The designated VFA areas are not a success. Visitors are not using these areas as intended. This is self evident with a quick survey on any given summer day. For instance, Ramp 34 will have one or two cars in the parking lot with two or three people on the beach while Ramp 38 parking area is jammed packed and overflowing onto the grass and along route 12. Why are pedestrians flocking to the ORV access points and not using the NPS designated VFA areas? #1 is signage. It is not clear at all that Ramp 34 is open to pedestrians, with all the existing signs scaring away most everyone that pulls it. Just imagine yourself as a typical park visitor who is not familiar with all the changing details of the beach closures, to anyone it looks closed, just look at all the ropes and signs with No this and No that. It certainly doesn't say that it is open! It is clear that visitors are confused by the vague signage.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1199    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 10:01:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep the restrictions on vehicles driving on Hatteras Island beaches! Many of us that live there do NOT want to see vehicles on the beach....ever!! When we walk over the sand dunes we only want to see beautiful Mother Nature, not a parking lot of trucks!  
 Thanks You

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**Correspondence ID:** 1200    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**  
 Please accept my comments from the 600 members of the Northeast PA Audubon Society on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as



nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

As a visitor to Hatteras some years ago, I was appalled by the cavalry way in which fishermen and drivers of ORVs have access to the beach. Their presence and destruction is not an attraction for other vacationers and wildlife enthusiasts who spend money in the area also. You cannot let a group of vocal and politically connected individuals influence the manner in which the Department carries out it's mission. Wildlife, birds and sea turtles are under a tremendous pressure, as it is, along the Atlantic coast, please do the right thing to protect these creatures for all to experience.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1201    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

Please accept my comments from the 600 members of the Northeast PA Audubon Society on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

As a visitor to Hatteras some years ago, I was appalled by the cavalry way in which fishermen and drivers of ORVs have access to the beach. Their presence and destruction is not an attraction for other vacationers and wildlife enthusiasts who spend money in the area also. You cannot let a group of vocal and politically connected individuals influence the manner in which the Department carries out it's mission. Wildlife, birds and sea turtles are under a tremendous pressure, as it is, along the Atlantic coast, please do the right thing to protect these creatures for all to experience.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1202    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 10:08:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The beach should not be a roadway. That would seem to be an obvious statement to anyone who has ever stretched out on a beach towel. But it's also essential to wildlife that lay eggs and nest along the sandy stretches in a pattern established thousands of years before the arrival of the internal combustion engine.

Please keep the Cape Hatteras beaches clear of 4 wheel vehicles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1203    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 10:10:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1204    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 10:16:16  
**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.

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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1205    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am concerned about the wildlife that is dependent on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

I believe the following steps are important.

Specifically:

- \* The 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.
- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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. My family and I have long avoided Beaches that allow this sort of activity.

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1206    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 10:33:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please don't diminish protections for nesting birds at Cape Hatteras. I lived in North Carolina for several years, love the wild beaches, and want to see them and the wildlife they support protected for future generations. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1207    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 10:38:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been visiting Cape Hatteras since I was 5 years old. My family would come to enjoy the recreational area and all it had to offer but I one activity in particular linked me to the area and that was fishing. My father would take my brother and I to the point to spend the week together. Back then there were no issues with resource management as the park service used common sense approaches to protecting both the rights of the park goers and the equally important protection of the wildlife. My father taught my brother and I to leave the beach cleaner than how you found it and to always respect all of the inhabitants in the area.

Sadly, this common sense approach has been diluted by environmental interest groups that feel that park goers are not smart enough to preserve the park. Add the threat of lawsuit against the park service and we have our current situation of unnecessarily restrictive buffers and all out closures. We need only look south to see that other coastal parks have practices that have been working that take the public and the wildlife interest into consideration. These parks utilize actual science, not scientists paid to slant data in the direction of those who commissioned it, to determine how everyone can coexist.

Myself and every other fisherman that utilize the park agree that buffers are needed and that at times closures are needed to protect the wildlife. We get it and respect it. We even police ourselves when someone acts out of line. The flip side to the argument is that those that fall on the environmentalist side don't even use the park but have the greatest say in how the park service is to manage it. That is disappointing and really speaks to the state of affairs in our great country.

So here we are. On the cusp of making some real common sense changes to how the park service administers their preservation practices. The 2015 National Defense Authorization Act has provided the Park Service with an opportunity to finally make some things rights for the ORV users. Additional ORV routes, earlier hours to access the recreational area, access improvements at ramps, all of these things will help. My fear, and the overwhelming fear of most users of the park is that somehow, someday, this is all going to end in no changes and a continued adversarial environment for all those involved.

Please don't let this happen. The law was passed and you have your plan. Don't let those the weal the power of environmental lawsuits determine how the park is to be utilized. We can all work together to protect our land but the NPS has to step up and start to push back. Manage the park like it was intended. Use other parks practices to determine alternatives including less restrictive, yet effective, management practices. Don't just restrict because it is easier and you wont get sued. I want to share this park with my children and grandchildren. I want to pass one what my father instilled in me. Do what is right, not what is easy.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1208    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please SAVE the birds and sea turtles in our National Seashore.

-Protect the beaches and check for bird and turtle nests, and eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the AM.

-Do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of beaches affecting sea turtles or birds.

-YOU MUST PROTECT

the current plan. Any rule change should be supported by peer-reviewed sciences, not just convenience.

-Night driving restrictions. Prohibit night driving

-Our birds.

Our wildlife DESERVE these protections. They MUST have beach-driving restrictions.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1209    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom it May Concern,

As a citizen of North Carolina, I have taken advantage of the natural heritage protected by state and federal agencies for decades. I, along with many other North Carolinians travel, spend money locally and plan my vacations around the scenic beauty and wildlife spectacles that our incredibly diverse state offers. I am writing today to tell you that I want the fullest protections for wildlife enacted at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Reducing buffers for wildlife protection without peer reviewed science to support it is appalling! Making the goal of the NPS to allow least restrictions for ORV drivers is not the priority that I understand to be a part of the NPS charter - recreation second to wildlife and natural heritage protection. Specifically, I want the beaches checked for eggs and nests BEFORE the vehicular traffic is allowed on the beach not as the traffic drives behind the park staff checking the beach. I want beaches checked before opening in all cases (regardless of opening time). I want people who kill sea turtles caught and prosecuted to send the message that the NPS actually does value wildlife. I do not want ORV routes extended or 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. The current plan is reasonable and balanced. Stop changing it! Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. You MUST prohibit night driving during nesting seasons for all wildlife. I am in favor of expanding vehicle free areas for the enjoyment of those of us who come to experience the beauty of the seashore - not more traffic!

Protect the wildlife and the natural heritage you are charged with protecting. Do not cave to the economic incentive of more traffic translating into more revenue for the park service.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1210    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 10:48:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1211    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 11:03:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello NPS,

My name is ██████████. I just wanted to drop you a little note to ask that you please free up the access on our Outer Banks beaches. My wife and really enjoy what little time we have there but it makes it very hard with the limited access. We as fishermen do our part to protect and preserve what is there and will continue to do so. Thanks for giving us the option to express out thoughts.

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1212    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 11:10:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I attended the NPS meeting in Hampton on 12 August and would like to thank Dave Hallac and the other members of the Park Service for their time and energy used to discuss more answers for better usage of our National resources.

In reference to the questions asked I would like to submit the following replys.

Morning Beach openings. I find the 0700 time to open beaches too late and because it is so late one of the best times to access the beach is missed. To improve this I suggest that the beaches are opened somewhere around "first light" or about 30 minutes before sunrise. This of course will be after a qualified Park Ranger has had time to survey the beach for nocturnal activities from the evening before such as new bird nests or turtle crawls. This could also be done by allowing ORVs to follow the Ranger to the beach of their choice as long as they are clear of any Resource issues. Once the beach has been surveyed and approved for ORV usage a green flag could be used to signal the open beach (or a red one to declare the opposite) which would be posted at the vehicle ramp. This should be done on a priority basis considering the most popularly used beach as first on the list to be surveyed for opening. My vote for the first ones to be surveyed would be Ramp 4 to Bodie Island, Ramp 44 to the Point, Ramp 55 to Hatteras Inlet and Ramp 72 to the South Point and Ocracoke Inlet.

Seasonal ORV Routes. I'm assuming that these restricted routes have the Human species in mind, rather than the birds and turtles, being that they're primarily in front of the Village beaches that are frequented by the seasonal cottage users. With that in mind I think those beaches should stay open 6 weeks later in the spring season and reopen 6 weeks earlier in the fall season because the number of tourists during that time are considerably smaller than during the summer. The exception is south of Ramp 4 to Bodie Island and I don't think that should be closed for seasonal usage at all.

Vehicle Free Areas. I feel that there are too many miles of beach that are designated VFA's. The beaches for pedestrian use only are very seldom used and the beaches that are allowed for ORV useage are too crowded causing potential safety issues with too many vehicles in too small of areas. In addition the beaches that are for pedestrian use only have the parking lots directly next to the ORV ramp accesses to the beach which creates a safety issue with pedestrians trying to access the beach in the same small area as the vehicle ramp. In my opinion the VFA's should be increased in size at the cost of shrinking the Pedestrian use only areas. In addition the Pedestrian use only beaches should have separate parking lots with ramps/walk-overs similar to the

walk-overs in Nags Head, Kitty Hawk and Kill Devils Hill areas with a separate parking lot and dunal walk-overs near the center of those Pedestrian use only areas rather than combining the walk-overs with the vehicles ramps on the ends of those areas. The areas that I would like to see more ORV usage are all beaches from Ramp 23 south to Ramp 34 in addition to the south beaches in the "Hook" area from Ramp 44 to Ramp 49. When/if the area from Ramp 44 to the south needs to stay closed I think consideration should be given to a secondary road to the point from Ramp 45 even if it's an interdunal road so long as there is more than one way to access the point in case the current route from Ramp 44 needs to be temporarily closed for Resource issues.

Permits. I think the current system for permits is too restrictive. The yearly permit should be good for a one year duration from the time/date it's issued rather than the current time period from January 1st to January 1st similar to how fishing licenses are regulated. In addition there should be 3 day and 10 day permits made available for purchase. I think consideration should be given to night permits that would allow a ORV to remain on the beach in the same spot after dark and not move until sunrise with low or no light restrictions put in place to help with night time turtle activity.

In addition I think the practice of "Predator Reduction" should be left up to God himself and we as Humans should not be the ones to decide which animals will live and which should not. If this practice should continue I would like to see a science based study as to why this should be allowed.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1213    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 11:13:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1214    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 11:15:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Thank you for allowing me to comment on one of our most precious seaside National Parks in US - Cape Hatteras.

At one time I used to be a frequent visitor at the Cape but due to the various issues I had with other visitors and the residents, I stopped. I almost got run over by a truck that was speeding down the beach & parked 30 feet from me blaring his radio. Then the cooler with beer and total disregard to what was around him set me off. I had, when I went onto the beach, noted several birds which appeared to be nesting near me. I thought it was a unique experience but for this fisherman; they were not. I started noting the experiences of other beach goers and chose to start educating myself on the unique qualities of this Park and seashore.

From that I learned how critical this Park was to beach-nesting birds as well as sea turtles. I also learned about how nasty many of the other users were about sharing this space with not only the wildlife but visitors such as myself. From that experience, I have formulated my views.

First and foremost is the safety of people using the beaches with their children. Having 4-wheel trucks and ORV, driving all over the beaches is not the experience one looks forward to having when visiting a national park and a seashore with sounds of the waves.

Our national parks, are public shared open spaces and the National Park Service needs to formulate rules based on science not convenience or community pressure and the changes to the existing rules should also be made in the same manner.

I strongly believe the beaches should be checked for bird and turtle activity especially nests, and chicks before they are open to the public every day which included ORV traffic. And, I realize many of these ORV s are using the beaches at night as much as during daylight hours. Many turtles use the night hours to get to the sea before avian predators start hunting.

Night driving restrictions should be in place if not for human safety, the safety of the nest sites.

The National Park Service (NPS) has an obligation to preserve this Country's wildlife on their regulated lands. Scientific research has shown beach birds

and sea turtles need restrictions to survive.

When visiting a National Park, taxpayers do not like to see lax stewardship on the part of the regulators, NPS. A majority of the public can be educated to the values of respect for the delicate balance of human and wildlife use.

I have read that NPS wants to extend the ORV routes and times of the year for spring and fall closures. This makes no sense to me at all. First, you have spring migrating birds flying north along the sea shores followed by many nesting birds as well as turtles using these beaches. Then, you have fall migration again with many birds using these same shorelines for food as they fly to southern parts of US as well as S. American countries. And, you now push the conflict into a very small period of time. Humans do not like change and if suddenly confronted with restrictions being critical within days or a couple of weeks, you will get lots of pushback. If you are going to do this, do it on lands "not" used by wildlife.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this beautiful and fragile area.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1215    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 11:27:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear Sir,  
My comments pertain to open beach access fro off-road vehickles. Vehickle free zones that are only reachable by ORV should be opened for said vehickles. Having closures simply for closures sake is not productive, inteeligent or best practice management.

Since the majority of ORV users are vested in protection of our resources, our concerns and ideas should be sought out rather than dismissed as in the past. As a lot of users enjoy the beach at night and in the early am, it is imparative that access be granted from as early as possilbe to as late as possilbe. The science behind light on turtle hatch success is suspect and there are better practices in parks throughout the US.

Since the users of "Cape Hatteras Seashore and Recreation Area" have a vested interest in protecting our beaches from improper use, killing of our wildlife and destruction of habitat I hope our feedback is weighted more that robo responses from certain Eviromental Groups that thinks they know what is good for everyone. The users of this park are more educated on its overall health and protection than groups that continually sue from 3 thousand miles away.

Our Island is a small strip of land and all that appears to be sound management is not necessarily so. As we know bird nesting and other wildlife on dredge spoil islands is not reflected in the park count, and as our tiny island rose out of the Atlantic and migrated north and west nothing here is truly native.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1216    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** E-mail

**Correspondence:** For the sake of brevity, I wish to simply state that a large cross section of users of the resources of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area are first responders, to include law enforcement, fire fighters and EMS providers.

Hatteras Island offers the respite from the pressures and daily stressors of the public safety job. These are responsible and conscientious stewards of the Island's many resources.

As one of the 3800 member of the North Carolina Beach Buggy Association, I simply would suggest that the use of the Hatteras Island beaches be returned to as closely as it was prior to the intervention of the federal court. Certainly, conservation and preservation has to be woven into the overall management plan.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1217    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 11:35:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1218    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,06,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter

**Correspondence:** My comments are useless unless you first understand that the current plan was not done through science, need, or any other rational thought process. Past NPS management saw an opportunity to eliminate a weekend user group and so they did. Every excuse generated by the anti-ORV crowd was accepted as fact while every suggestion made by my community was laughed at and discarded. There is little wonder that Congress stepped into this issue with guidance.

#### Morning Beach Times-

This subject has to be looked at first for the right times to begin night time closures. By the time May 1 is upon us approximately 80% of the beach is already closed for birds. This then means that only 20% or so need to be opened. Resource management can look at the last 10 years of data and see that less than 1% of turtle nest occur in May. There is an 80% chance any nest laid in May will be in an already closed area. Turtle nighttime limitations should begin the Monday after Memorial Day weekend. Go back for 10 years and you will only be looking at a very few nest if any which nested in open ORV areas. Already discussed and agreed upon is that after early August any nest laid will have no success with hatching because of cold weather. Hence, night time restrictions should be lifted August 15. In partnership with the state of North Carolina any turtle nest laid after August 15 should be excavated and moved to the NC Aquarium where an incubation room should be set up.

The 7 am opening of the beaches means that a full 2 hours of fishing time has been lost. Again only 20% of the beach is open. A 6 am opening is easily possible and only means proper management of staff and areas to be inspected. Mornings in June and July can begin at 5 am for NPS employees and there is plenty of time for inspection of the little beach left open to ORV use. I have heard the excuse that NPS employees cannot hook up a trailer or unload a 4wheeler in the dark and this is just bogus.

#### Seasonal ORV Routes-

The present rule again is just an example of something which was not broke yet was changed. My suggestion is seasonal ORV routes should go back to the way they were for 50 or so years. September 15 until May 15 makes perfect sense. Prime cottage rental season as attested by numerous real estate groups falls within that time frame. Again, the participating real estate groups were ignored.

#### Permits-

For various reasons I would issue an 8 day permit which would replace the present 7 day permit. Cottage rentals and vacation times are often a Saturday through the nest Sunday event. The annual permit should be one year from the date issued. On line sales should be considered for repeat visitors and the price should remain the same. By doing on line sales there would be considerable savings in time for NPS employees which mean fees would remain the same. Since permit fees are so one sided, a complete reconciliation of fee money spent should be made available promptly after each year. A question should be added to the permit application asking if you are using your vehicle to access a vehicle free area.

#### Vehicle Free Areas, Routes for ORVs-

The basic concept that a vehicle free area is accessible to everyone is wrong. By far and above everything else most people have kids, disabilities, are too old, or simply have too much stuff to get into vehicle free areas. It really seems that NPS has set up this seashore for only the very athletic with very little thought for the majority of Americans.

#### Bodie Island-

Oregon Inlet spit back north until ramp 4 should open to ORV use year round. From ramp 4 to ramp 2 should be open year round.

#### Ramp 23-

The parking area at ramp 23 should be moved up to the dune line. The walk from 23 to the ocean is simply too far for most folks.

#### Ramp 27 and Ramp 30-

This area should be open to ORV use. There is little or no pedestrian traffic between to 2 ramps. There is no ocean side parking and to park along side of the road is unsafe and it is a considerable walk to the ocean.

#### Ramp 30, 32.5, and 34-

Again, this area is not supported with parking or easy access. Ramp 34 is located approximately 1/2 mile north of the village of Avon and this gave a good vehicle free area to the residents of Avon. Only by building ramp 32.5 will there be any parking at all between these areas. Again, the closure of ramp 34 was done as a penalty to our community.

#### Ramp 38

This ramp highlights exactly what is wrong with the present day plan. Mike Murray promised that from ramp 38 to sound side ramp 60 would become an open ORV area. Like all of his promises he simply did not have the integrity to keep them. Basically from the haul over south to Buxton has become a resource closure with no resource within the boundary. This is neither a pedestrian area nor ORV area; simply 2 miles of beach wasted.

#### Ramp 43-

Ramp 43 should be open to ORV use for another 1/2 mile north. There is no pedestrian parking and the area remains unused.

#### Ramp 44 to Ramp 45-

Ramp 44 should remain where it is and several hundred yards over the ramp a new bypass entrance should be made (ramp 44a). The existing opening to the present bypass (ramp 44b) and then the present exit (44c) would be added on to with a new exit (44d) which would exit 40 yards onto Cape Point. In other words 44d would be between the discharge from the salt pond and the beach. This is an easy alternate route which would give NPS the ability to divide the ramp 44 area into 3 sections.

The area between ramp 44 and ramp 45 would revert to an ORV area with the traditional exit on the spur road and the salt pond road. The vehicle free area

from the south side of Cape Point down to ramp 45 is unused year round by the pedestrian community. There is no parking and there is no access except by ORV. My community tried to explain to NPS that if you eliminate ORV use in this area there will be a drastic increase in ghost crabs and the same with vegetation. Both ghost crab predation and vegetation are detrimental to piping plover chick success. By utilizing the spur and salt pond roads you can access Cape Point if the east side of the cape needs closure.

Ramp 45 to Ramp 47 1/2-

The construction of an interdunal route continues. This VFA at the present time has neither parking nor pedestrian use. The area should be open to ORV and the behind the dunes route should have bypass ramps coming over the dune line every half mile or so. This would allow NPS to close 1/2 mile parts of the beach when needed for resource reasons. This particular route was pretty stupidly done by NPS. Those in support of same simply do not understand the environment on the back side of the dunes. Those folk have never walked that area. To open up the inner swamps of this seashore to an uneducated public is ridiculous, perilous, and allows for an invasion into what has forever been an inaccessible part of the area. This one route will take full time law enforcement.

Ramp 49-

More parking areas should be placed at both ends of this area. In conjunction with Dare County a southern parking area should be created. This could be at the southern end of Frisco airport with a road coming off of highway 12.

Ramp 55-

The vehicle free area at Hatteras Inlet spit is ridiculous again. No parking, elimination of a traditional fishing area, and totally inaccessible to pedestrians sums it up. The spit should be open in order that recreational fishing is made sustainable.

Finally,

the present plan is a failure. To equally divide this seashore area into two groups, enviro and access, and to then penalize only one side of the group is and was wrong. Not only has the ORV group stepped up to the line with financial help to NPS they also are the leading conservationist. The vast environmental vision has been a failure. Massive closures, massive predator removal, and wasted dollars spent and nothing to show for success except having Congress step in and tell NPS how to run a recreational area. It just did not work. Odd is it not that the environmental community seems to only be out there somewhere and not here doing what we all do, take care of our seashore. Already we hear that visitors come here not in ORVs but in other vehicles. Really? Their arguments in resource management were wrong and so is this concept. If people are not going to use the seashore beaches then get rid of the park and pave the whole thing like northern Dare county is. Let us begin to do what we did in the past; take care of our beaches, our resource, and make our beaches accessible to all.

PS

Based on a recent News and Observer article the enabling legislation for the seashore seems to be a choking point for many. I have been in wilderness areas in the west where we went on horseback. It made perfect sense there because off road use would leave permanent tracks. Here, that is not the case. Sand being driven on or across will be trackless in a day or two. If ramps and parking areas and bath houses are not to be made available then what is the use of having a seashore? Cape Point is the number one recreational spot in the seashore yet is off limits for almost 1/2 of the year.

I'm pretty well tired of hearing about turtle nesting success due to the great plan. After all these years of being protected under the ESA you would expect to see an increase. Also it is a time of global warming where a species such as turtles would be expected to have a northern shift in nesting along with the warming. NPS should be looking at hatch rates and what can be done to put more hatchlings back into the water. Nest alone don't stand for much in my opinion whether it is plovers or turtles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1219    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 11:46:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear Sir,

Why are we closing beaches to off-road vehicles for birds that are not on the ESA list? This does not seem to be in the best interest of cooperation between user groups.

Sincerley,



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**Correspondence ID:** 1220    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter

**Correspondence:** 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, spiritualness 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1221    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 11:52:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form



**Correspondence:** Please protect the seabirds and sea turtles! Please don't extend the hours vehicles can enter the beach. We vacation often at Cape Hatteras and don't want to see it more commercialized and ruined.

Please protect the Piping Plovers and others! Keep it as natural as possible.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1222      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Park Form

**Correspondence:** Adaptive/Proactive Resource Management-  
The current padlock management does not provide access while protecting resources. If 2015 breeding success if any indication, we are in trouble. Rather than static management, i.e. caging the nest, closing the beach, killing predators, how about being proactive with habitat creation, labor intensive resource management that ensures access while protecting resources.

Night Driving-

There are solutions other than closing the beaches to driving at night to mitigate any perceived negative effects to nesting sea turtles. I would also like to add no problems existed when the beaches were open to night driving and any threat was perceived. No nesting females were hit and no hatchlings were driven over.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1223      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Park Form

**Correspondence:** Wardens at the Point and Spits-  
Wardens would go a long way to fulfilling the dual mandate of protecting resources and providing access. This idea could be funded with ORC Permit money. In regards to the CWB utilizing the area for breeding/rearing, suitable habitat exists in the interior ponds at cape point. Birds should be encouraged to utilize the highest quality habitat, not the open beach where weather and predation are a problem for productivity.

Habitat Management/Enhancement -

The interior ponds area of Cape Point has historical productive breeding habitat. Vegetation management would give prime nesting area and pond level draining would give prime foraging area. This would also encourage the birds to utilize highly productive areas while hopefully allowing access to the open beach and prime fishing/recreating areas, another dual mandate fulfillment.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1224      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Mar,23,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** E-mail  
**Correspondence:** Hello again Mr. Kowlok:

While I sometimes drive on the beach I am mostly a pedestrian. Since 1992 I've lived full time on Hatteras Island and local NPS employees may know me as the old guy who runs to The Point. Several thousand miles have been run on this Buxton beach .... It seems reasonable to legally not have people in front of a turtle nest after sundown and to not frighten non flying bird chicks which are found to be feeding at the water's edge. A commitment to protecting wildlife from probable harm might be more acceptable by a public which has been provoked by the excesses allowed by a policy of protecting wildlife from POSSIBLE harm .... Going naturally on foot on public land is a simple basic right. This is especially true below the high tide line on a beach. It is also important to note that there is not a more dynamic convergence of ocean and land on the East coast of North America than that found at Cape Point. More than a place it is an on going EVENT which the public has a special interest to witness .... Had there never been a culture of beach driving on the Outer Banks it is unlikely that people like me would now be having to work to decriminalize beach walking. Driving a vehicle on or off road is a privilege inherently subject to regulation. The excitement over vehicles on the beach resulted in an overreach which, perhaps out of convenience, gave little consideration to the inclusion of the pedestrian in nearly all beach closures. The proven benefit to nesting birds was minimal at best. The cost to the pedestrian was absolute and with "no exceptions." A basic right was sacrificed by exaggerating the impact of the pedestrian in a program initiated by ORV regulation. . . . As the population in general becomes more dependent on vehicles those passionate about physically participating with nature have a smaller voice and less influence. With law makers in Washington looking on now is a good time to time for the US through the NPS to correct mistakes and again be unique in its support of a deserving and quiet minority which leaves only temporary foot prints on the way to Cape Point.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1225      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 12:02:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scoping to consider changes to the Off Road Vehicle (ORV) rules for Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area. We at the Coastal Conservation Association North Carolina represent over 3,500 members and volunteers here in North Carolina who are vitally interested in the protection of our natural resources but also in the best use and access to those resources by the citizens of North Carolina. As such, we want the most open access to CHNSRA consistent with scientifically valid protection. Below are our comments on the major areas of potential changes to the ORV access rules.

- Morning Beach Openings. We believe the earlier opening of beaches of high priority at 6:30 AM provides the best use of the public ORV routes. While all ramps and beach areas are of ultimate interest, there is a clear priority for ramps 44, 72, 49 and 55 particularly in the fall and spring fishing season.

- Seasonal ORV Routes. We believe opening an additional four weeks in the spring and fall would be very beneficial as these are not high vacation times for the villages and the campground. If a choice needs to be made the priority should be given to the fall season.

- Vehicle Free Areas. The use of VFAs is the most restrictive designation for many areas of CHNSRA as they are generally very underutilized and are in several cases nearly inaccessible by pedestrians. The VFAs for Oregon Inlet (south end of Bodie Island), Hatteras Inlet (south end of Hatteras Island and

north end of Ocracoke Island) and Ocracoke Inlet (south end of Ocracoke) require that users either walk several miles in the sand to access them or, as is usually the case, the users drive an ORV up to the access point and walk a few steps from their ORV. These VFAs should be eliminated and be open ORV routes. A further recommendation is to designate the first 100 yards in each direction from all ramps as pedestrian only areas with an ORV corridor around them. Consistent examination of usage indicates this provides a significant improvement for both pedestrians who would not have a conflict with ORVs at the bottom of the ramps and also provide better access to ORVs beyond the 100 yard buffer. This approach would spread the pedestrian and ORV users over a larger expanse of CHNSRA and eliminate much of the crowding that currently occurs in restrictive areas particularly during holidays. This may well minimize the need for multiple ramps to avoid resource closures. Finally the VFA south of Cape Point should be designated a seasonal VFA that would be open October 1 to May 1 to ORV usage but be a designated VFA for the rest of the year when bird activity is highest. The spring and fall seasons rarely see any usage of this area by pedestrians. We would hope the road that is proposed to provide access to this area can be extended to improve access to Cape Point as well.

- Access Improvements. Expanding the parking facilities at ramp 43 could well benefit pedestrian access to the beach. If NPS chose to implement the above proposed pedestrian only areas at each ramp, several of the parking areas might well need expansion. It appears that wind surfers and kite boarders could benefit from access to the sound north of Avon opposite ramp 30 - 34 as there are often vehicles parked on highway 12 at peak times. Obviously, access to Cape Point needs to improve particularly in the spring and fall. The road extension mentioned above could provide this access.

- Permits. We believe a 3 day permit for less than \$50 would certainly be attractive to weekend users. A 14 day permit would only be useful if it is less than the cost of 2 weekly permits. The NPS should continue to investigate the application of technology to improve and ease the purchase of permits. The use of the Internet to view the movie, if it is thought necessary, and then purchase the permit would make imminent sense.

CCA NC believes these changes will help improve the visitor experience to CHNSRA. We emphasize that CHNSRA was established as a recreation area. It is not a wilderness area. Pea Island is a wildlife sanctuary that provides many miles of pedestrian only access. These changes will maximize access for all users.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1226    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 12:02:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** First of all there needs to be a access road put in place through the camp ground out to the point from the south side just on the northern part of the Pedistrian only area to gain access to the point while nesting is process.Since ramp 44 and 45 get shut down as soon as a bird wiggles its tail in the spring for nesting.Also this would help on access with the narrow area going to the point from ramp 45 at high tide.

Next the fee for permits to drive on the beach are too high in cost....25 dollars a week seems more reasonable.And leave the yearly at \$120

Also the permit should be valid for 365 days on the day of purchase..not a calendar year as it is now.

The pedestrian only area is too long just south of the point.Pedestrians do not contribute to the cost of using the beach as due orv.So I would suggest to either have a pass to walk on the beach or shorten the area somewhat to allow beach access for orv.

Stop the killing of wildlife to protect the nesting birds.This a natural area and should be left natural.

Also if a bird is not native or is a migrant species that is not known to the area then it should not be consider for beach closure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1227    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Regarding Seasonal ORV closures:  
The seasonal closures should be put back the way it was. In the spring when the NCDOT lowers the speed limit in the villages, close the village beaches to ORVs. In the fall when NCDOT raises the speed limits in the villages, open the beaches in front of the villages to ORVs.

Also, in the Tri-Villages area an ORV can be used to get a person/s with handicaps out to the ocean beach adjacent to the house they are renting (with permission from NPS), but with Ramp 23 closed to all vehicles, it can't happen. This is also a problem in Buxton with no place to enter the beach legally to get a handicapped person out to the ocean beach.

In Avon handicap access is by Ramp 38. There is not any place to enter the beach north of Avon Pier for handicapped access. Most of Frisco can be accessed by Ramp 49. Hatteras can be gotten to, for handicapped access at Ramp 55.

Vehicle Free Areas;

NPS receives absolutely nothing from pedestrians for use of the beach. Anything done for pedestrians comes off the ORV permit fee. Pedestrians should pay their own way. Vehicle free areas should be a premium attraction costing real money for access to it. If the pedestrian doesn't want to pay for access, they don't get access, that's the rule for ORV users, and should apply to all users equally. The free areas a pedestrian can go are in front of the villages and the ORV areas.

Permits;

Permits should be for a full year from date of purchase, or pro-rated for a year ending 12/31. All the fishing tournaments have trouble getting judges because of the way permits are sold. The tourneys are usually 3 days so a 10 day permit is needed, but that is only one tournament. What if the judge wants to judge more than one tournament?

Look at what I do, I judge 2 tournaments, the NCBBA in mid October and the Cape Hatteras Anglers Club tourney the first week in November. A ten day permit doesn't work for that. With my handicap I have to use my own vehicle.

There should be a judges permit good for 3-4 days and be made available to the groups putting on the tournament. As an example, Nags Head charges a \$25 fee for ORV access off-season, but for the spring tournament they make available to the sponsor a very low cost temporary permit good for the tournament only.

At one time there was talk of making a trail/boardwalk to facilitate pedestrian access to the north side of Oregon Inlet at the Bonner Bridge, Bodie Island Spit. This was to go through the middle of the Spit from the Ramp 4 near where the signs are and go to the bridge. As a side note, this will also improve access for the trappers.

[Picture 1 here]

A red line shows about where the boardwalk/trail should go.

[Picture 2 here]

In the area of the Point depicted above the red circled area should be cleared and made into a premium bird feeding habitat. If there were many swales cut into the area more shoreline would be created increasing feeding habitat. I don't think it would be a waste of ORV money to spend some to improve some of the bird habitat, if it frees up some of the east beach.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1228    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,05,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** The Board of Directors of the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Civic Association requests your consideration of two changes for beach driving access near our villages.

Currently, three-tenths of a mile of national seashore beach from the Salvo Village line to Ramp 23 is designated Seasonal "Off-Road Vehicle Route" and closed from April 1 through Oct. 31. For 1.5 miles south of Ramp 23, the park service beach is labeled "Vehicle Free."

The effect of the seasonal designation is that Ramp 23 is closed seven months of the year. No boardwalk is in place for people who do not own or rent oceanfront property to walk to the vehicle-free area. Only a small sign says pedestrians are welcome.

After due consideration, the board requests that the three-tenths of a mile between the Salvo line and Ramp 23 and one-half mile south of Ramp 23 be marked a Year-Round Off-Road Vehicle route.

This portion of national seashore beach is the traditional area where people in Rodanthe, Waves and Salvo drive to the beach for outings, community beach fires and recreation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1229    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Park Form  
**Correspondence:** 1) Move Turtle eggs to allow more ORC access and assure survivability of eggs

2) Provide ORC access from Cape Point to Ramp 49-year round best, or at least from 15 Sept to 15 May.

3) Make the northern-most point of restricted area of The Hook as far south as possible and do not move it based on location of Cape Point.

4) Make the \$120 beach access permit - prorated based on the month permit is purchased. That way the decal could remain the same for everyone and make it easier for park rangers to enforce and more economical for the visitors.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1230    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 12:17:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1231      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,03,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter

**Correspondence:** Over the years the NPS has developed many plans, policies and regulations that have built an administrative box that CAHA has found very difficult to climb out of. Under the prodding of the SELC the administration of CAHA has used beach closures as their primary resource management tool. Protection of wildlife has been equated to the prevention of human disturbance. The goal of the ESA is more broad than that. It requires federal agencies to conserve the listed species. The ESA is not concerned with how many specimens nest in one area but in the degree of success of the progeny from that nesting. Thus CAHA must be working toward the recovery of the listed species. That is the meaning of "conserve". It would be fine if the CAHA "protection" was adequate to conserve the turtles and plovers but that has not been the case. With plunging plover fledge rates the CAHA has been doing more than its share to drive the species to extinction. CAHA has a catastrophic 35% to 40% annual loss of turtle nests. CAHA does not determine what rate of hatchlings enter the water. The more turtles that nest on our beaches, the greater is the damage inflicted on their survival. CAHA can keep closing beaches all the way to their Manteo front lawn but their resource performance will not improve. Mother Nature works with shot guns and probability. Man has intruded into this process but man has evolved into a thinking creature. We can observe, analyze and adapt to achieve great things, even here.

By now it is apparent that the choice of beach closure has been the wrong variable for CAHA to control. The National Defense Authorization Act has given CAHA the opportunity to break out of the box and fully correct the mess that its preceding administration has created. I hope CAHA will rise to the challenge.

**GENERAL:**

A. ORV ROUTE OPEN TIMES: Patrols should be on beach before sun rise, as soon as there is enough light for safe travel. Those beaches to be used for ORVs should be inspected first with priority to points and spits. ORVs should be allowed on beach as it is cleared by patrols but should stay back 100 yds and not interfere with resource personnel. Beach closing time should be at 10 PM for predictability and ease of law enforcement.

B. SEASONAL VILLAGE OPEN: Current opening dates should be extended 6 weeks on each side. This would be Sept 15 to May 15. These were the dates of NC12 speed limit changes by NCDOT based on traffic volume. These dates served satisfactorily for many years. There is no valid data to justify other times. Non village seasonal at Oregon Inlet should use same dates based on 50 yard buffers and corridors for AMOY and CWB. Pre- nesting closures should not be used since they entice plovers to non-productive areas.

C. ORV PERMITS: Temporary permits should be for 10 days to allow for full week and holiday weekends. Annual permits should be issued from date of sale instead of calendar year. This will increase revenue for CAHA.

D. LATE TURTLE NESTS OF AUGUST: are still a problem even if relocated or by-passed. They are a loss of resource and should be incubated for off shore release.

E. NIGHT DRIVING: This should be allowed on the same dates as seasonal use; Sept 15 to May 15. Resource nesting is done. Late turtle nests should have been relocated or removed for incubation by Sept 15.

F. PEDESTRIAN ONLY BEACHES: These should be located near campgrounds, bath houses and villages or have parking lots built just behind primary dunes instead of NC 12. One Way Road which was south of Ramp 38 was an ideal example. This was formed of the old NC 12 road bed that was nestled against the back of the primary dune and ran for nearly a mile. This black top could accommodate over 200 cars with parallel parking and was a favorite public area. This lot could be easily rebuilt.

G. CAMPGROUNDS: Beaches in front of Oregon Inlet, Frisco and Ocracoke campgrounds should be seasonally open for ORVs. The summer campground operation should provide a safer visitor experience.

H. FUNDING: Construction and maintenance of pedestrian facilities must not be financed by ORV permit fees. The present administration of fees is abominable. Additional funding can be obtained through entrance fees to the seashore. Electronic tag readers can facilitate traffic flow at the choke points of Whalebone Junction and the Ocracoke ferry terminals. Annual passes could be available for vendors and residents.

**VFA:**

**A. DISCUSSION:**

The value of VFA alteration is impacted by resource buffer closures. This is an important consideration since these coincide with the tourist season that is the engine that drives the economy of Hatteras and Ocracoke islands. An ORV Route that can be closed for 6 months by any buffer is not really an ORV Route. Buffers and VFA changes to routes are inter woven and cannot be divorced. Some accommodation between public access and resource protection should be made especially in high value beaches such as Oregon Inlet, Cape Point and the Ocracoke spits. Understand that public access for us is synonymous with ORV use. I am 85 years old and my wife is in her late 70s. We both have various health issues that preclude slogging through hot deep sand or even cold deep sand trying to carry equipment to fish or just a chair and book.

There were two purposes initially argued for the creation of VFA:

- 1) Provide a wilderness experience for pedestrians.
- 2) Provide bird protection.

These were later defined on p. 41 (comment 54) of the Final Rule to be a vehicle free experience for park visitors and to provide for resource protection for wildlife.

VFAs should now be evaluated and adjusted according to their historical performance in meeting these objectives.

**PEDESTRIAN USE:** The excuse by NPS for a pedestrian wilderness experience was the result of a few strident voices. This need has not been validated by our subsequent observations. There has been no great flocking of the public to those beaches. This was not surprising since no such attendance ever occurred at the Pea Island Refuge which was our first 13 miles of VFA prior to the ORV Plan.

We used to enjoy South Beach between Ramps 44 and 49. Now we frequent between 47 and 49. We have never seen a pedestrian hiking with back pack, water or binoculars coming from the Ramp 45 direction. They would also have needed shoes for the scalding summer sand. Everyone has arrived at the beach by ORV from Ramp 49 or horse then walked east past the closure line in search of shells or fishing those tantalizing holes visible on the other side of the barrier. The South Beach VFA is under utilized by pedestrians and on that basis should revert back to an ORV route.

The Buxton VFA between the lifeguarded swimming beach and Ramp 43 is also under utilized. For many years as part of an Anglers Club "Fish With A Ranger" program we used that beach to teach park visitors how to fish. This was a very popular program and I can recall that a woman from Ohio came up to me and explained that her mother had brought her to this program many years ago and now she in turn had brought her little girl to continue the tradition. Unfortunately that program was terminated due to the massive closures. During those years of "Fish With A Ranger" we saw very few pedestrians use that beach. After the VFA was formed there has been no change. If not eliminated, this area should at least be designated for seasonal ORV use.

Like other old folks we must travel NC12 "up the beach" for doctors, church or shopping about 4 to 6 times a month. Along with this we frequently drive up and down Hatteras Island to recreate on the beaches. We pass a lot of ramp parking lots. They are seldom full and half of them are ORVs whose passengers have opted to save the permit fees and car pool to the beach. On days when the parking lots are full we can drive to that beach and visualize transposing the cluster of parked cars onto the beach before us. They simply become lost. There must a 10 to 1 or as high as 50 to 1 ratio of sand travelled vehicles to pedestrian parked ones. This disparity represents a poor stewardship of the CAHA administration of a recreational area.

The VFA at the south end spit of Hatteras Island is of special concern. Years ago this spit was almost as popular as Bodie Island spit for recreational fishing. The pedestrian rationale to establish the south Hatteras spit as a VFA was the most ludicrous of all. To get to the inlet a pedestrian must first ride in an ORV along the ocean front or down Pole Road from the ferry to a postage stamp sized parking stub. The pedestrian could then walk to the inlet spit. There he could observe charter and private boats working through the inlet along with NCDOT ferry boats shuttling between the islands. At times he would be forced to make room as commercial fishermen ply their trade of mullet netting. This was touted as a wilderness experience. At the present time this VFA is moot. Erosion has taken the spit and parking stub. Its brush and trees are now scattered over the nearby Pamlico Sound. Soon after this VFA was created it became apparent that it actually was established only to provide spring nesting for AMOY and an occasional CWB group. Once nesting began here and at other VFAs the pedestrians were prohibited entry. These species require only 50 yard buffers to protect nests and chicks in the Gulf states. Non nesting AMOYS need only 10 meters and CWB only 5 meters from ORV travel (see chart of flushing distances). Year round public exclusion of this spit has never been warranted. When future accretion occurs the VFA should not be reinstated.

**BIRD PROTECTION:** Examine the history of protection afforded birds by the VFAs. First realize that a full 2 mile segment of beach is not required to protect an isolated AMOY or colony of terns/skimbers, nor is a full year closure necessary for the 2 month procreation cycle of these birds. Initially the NCWRC offered that non ESA birds needed only monitoring rather than a full protection. Recent studies at Ramp 27 by Borneman, Felton and Simons indicated that only 25 meters was adequate as a buffer between nesting AMOYS and vehicles. They measured heart rate, flushing, departure from nest and nest success. Most importantly the study was done here on Hatteras Island. Gulf states require only a 50 yard buffer (not 50 meters which is 54.7 yards) for nesting/fledging AMOY and CWB. Texas (endorsed by FWS and Audubon) does not always rope off a 50 yard buffer from each nest but provides cautionary signage that human recreation maintain a minimum distance of 50 yards from a nesting bird. A \$500.00 fine is posted for killing any migratory bird and volunteers along with staff are used as observers. In spite of our VFAs and loss of large areas of recreational beach in CAHA, the breeding success of AMOY has been declining since 2010 and CWB nests have been in decline since 2012.

Piping plover is the species of major concern nesting in CAHA and is listed as threatened under the ESA. A fledge rate of 1.5 chicks per nesting pair of plovers has been set as the standard of performance to recover the plover species. The CAHA system of VFA and closures has produced an average fledge rate of only 0.63 chicks per pair over the past 10 years. This period includes both the Consent Decree and the ORV Plan. This fledge rate is not even half that needed for recovery of the species. This year of 2015 without storms or human interference has yielded a fledge rate of only 0.1 chick per pair which is the worst performance over the past 10 years. By their annual establishment of pre-nesting closures CAHA has intentionally lured plovers to many non-productive beach areas to nest that yield zero fledging. Cape point has the best mosh for forage and has the highest average fledge rate (1.1 fledge per pair) but needs to be improved as habitat. Ocracoke South Point is the only other area that fledges plovers but the average fledge rate results of 0.2 chicks per pair over 10 years is miserable. CAHA policy has contributed to the extermination of the piping plover. This puts them in violation of the ESA. This condition does not have to be.

Cape Point presents a real conundrum. With the present regulations and buffers this place is closed to the public the entire spring and summer. Closure starts with pre-nesting followed by plovers, AMOY, CWD and usually a few turtles. The ORV PLAN economists predicted a negligible impact to the public. However there are a lot of people who visit or live in Buxton who have been damaged and are rightfully angry. Wildlife haven't done too well either. Just ask the dead raccoons, opossum, otter, mink, fox and piping plover chicks. The mammalian species are part of the original fauna to be preserved by the 1937 Enabling Act.

With the large pre-nesting closures piping plover nests have been scattered along the beach front from Ramp 43 to South Beach. The only productive area has been near the mosh of the Dredge and Salt Pond drainage. Those chicks all have to travel there to survive and the quality of mosh has had a lot of variation depending on natural conditions. Lack of forage and the hazards of the long travel (think tooth picks for legs) to forage have contributed to the death of many chicks. The plovers are struggling in CAHA and the public is gnashing their teeth to get to all those fish waiting at the tip of Cape Point. Maybe it is time to think outside the box. There are solutions but they will require willingness for change and a creative or open mind:

1) Manage the forage area. Enlarge and improve its quality and duration.

- 2) Manage the plovers. Concentrate plover nesting closer to the forage area.
- 3) Provide an ORV Route to be open year round to access Cape Point.

Here are some avenues to place these 3 concepts into practice:

**FORAGE AREA:** Good mosh forage requires a large flat expanse of sand with a layer of fine detritus hospitable for insect life. A constant or regulated flow of fresh water over the fledge season is critical. Rearrangement of the present topography will be necessary. Use of mechanical equipment (CAMA permits) would be needed because of the long CAHA policy of natural neglect. Vegetation control will probably be an on-going problem. If engineering appears as an obstacle, CAHA may consult with FWS or check out the plover habitat project at Cape May, NJ. Fortunately the present ponds offer a good reservoir of water that can be replenished by drainage of storm water from the surrounding land. Ocracoke lacks this feature. A benefit of drainage could be the control of flooding at the campground. Weirs or pumps will be important to control water flow such as practiced in Cape May.

**PLOVER MANAGEMENT:** Pre-nesting closures must be restricted to encourage nesting to be near the forage area. The South Beach VFA must be changed to an ORV ROUTE to extend well past Salt Pond road and ORV operation encouraged reducing the ghost crab population. Consider re-location of those plover nests that are too far from the forage area. Yes, this is possible and has been successful in New York

**OPEN ORV ROUTE:** A corridor can be established along the east coast from Ramp 44. A partial dune line already exists but will need fill and building further to the point to serve as a separation barrier in lieu of the standard distance buffer. CWB and AMOY buffers may need changing to the Gulf states 50 yard distance to accommodate ORV corridors at both Cape Point and along South Beach.

It is anticipated that the lessons learned at Cape Point can be transferred or modified for Ocracoke South Point where the greatest loss of plover chicks has occurred. Most of these projects can be handled through adaptive management and the superintendent's discretionary powers. Provisions for such latitude should be written into all regulations.

The purposes for which the VFAs were established have not been fulfilled. Birds have not been conserved to conform with the ESA nor has there been adequate utilization by pedestrians to warrant the continuation of most VFAs.

#### B. INDIVIDUAL VFA CHANGES

- 1) Bodie Island Ramps 1 and 2: Change VFA to ORV Route. This beach is close to heavily populated towns and should be open for complete public use.
- 2) Bodie Island Ramp 4: Change VFA to ORV Route. Reduce non-ESA buffers to 50 yds. No prenesting closures to lure plovers to non fledging beaches.
- 3) Hatteras Ramp 23: Change VFA to ORV Route. This is the first ramp available from Oregon Inlet after driving the 13 miles of the Pea Island Refuge VFA. There is no need to have year round closure just for summer nesting AMOY and CWB that require only 50 yds buffer. There has been no observed pedestrian presence at this ramp to warrant a VFA. NPS signage prohibits pedestrians at entrance.
- 4) Hatteras Ramps 27 to 30: Change VFA to ORV Route. Similar to Ramp 23 this VFA was created for summer AMOY and CWB nesting which should only need a 50 yds buffer and otherwise be open year round. A few pedestrians have been observed to use the wooden walkway which dumps them out onto a 20 yard width of beach. On the south is a pedestrian prohibited bird closure and to the north is the entrance to the ORV Ramp. Quantity of pedestrians observed does not justify VFA.
- 5) Hatteras Ramp 34: Change VFA to ORV Route. There has been no history of intensive pedestrian use. This is another VFA created for summer AMOY and CWB nesting.
- 6) Hatteras Ramp 38: Change VFA to a seasonal ORV Route. This VFA could have been an excellent pedestrian beach if One Way Road was rebuilt.
- 7) Light House swimming beach south to Ramp 43. This segment should be open to ORVs on a seasonal basis. There is a high density of pedestrians near the light house in the summer time but they do not extend closer than a mile from the ramp. This beach is noted for its excellent sloughs and holes for fall and winter fishing especially with artificial lures for trout, reds and stripe rs.
- 8) Hatteras Ramp 45: Change VFA to ORV Route. Alternately the portion from one half mile east of Salt Pond Road to tile point could be designated for seasonal ORV use. Much will depend on how CAHA improves the plover breeding at the pond areas. Corridors and 50 yds buffers may be needed for AMOY and CWB. Pedestrian use of this VFA has been negligible. Pedestrian access from Cape Point campground paths and Salt Pond Road has been blocked by CAHA signage which informs them to use Ramps 43 and 44 for beach access. It is possible to access Ramp 45 by foot from the campground west exit.
- 9) Sandy Bay: Ocean side VFA should remain. With bathhouse and good parking this beach is very popular. The sound side AMOY closure is of interest due to its small buffer in the cove. Both east and west ends have over 100 yards distance between Pamlico Sound and NC12. The AMOYs do not choose to nest near the ends but closer to the middle where there is only 30 yds. Between NC12 and the sound. Average distance in the cove is about 50 yds. This places the AMOY nest between 25 and 50 yds from NC12 which is a 55 mph highway. This distance agrees more with the 50 yds Gulf states and 27 yds (25 meters) recent studies compared to the 219 yds (200 meters) buffer chosen by CAHA for all the other beaches.
- 10) Hatteras Inlet Spit. VFA which extends from ocean to sound side should be changed to ORV ROUTE. At present this is moot, see earlier discussion. After accretion this area could again become a popular public beach.
- 11) North Ocracoke Spit: Change VFA to ORV ROUTE. There has been zero plover fledging here. Prenesting closures should not be set since it would only entice these birds to increased extinction. AMOY and CWB can be protected with 50 yds buffers and ORV corridors. We frequented this spit for many years because of its excellent fishing, crabbing and shelling opportunities. It was our favorite winter trip to picnic and shell after a storm. Since CAHA has closed this beach we now visit Ocracoke only twice a year. In view of this decreased visitation I do not feel qualified to comment on the VFAs in the middle of the island.

12) Ocracoke South Point: Change the VFA to an ORV Route. The village is located at the southern end of the island thus there is a heavy demand for access at the inlet. Operation of ORVs will depend upon how CAHA develops a plover friendly habitat to conserve the plover species which is required by the ESA.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1232    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,11,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Park Form  
**Correspondence:** I feel that the cost of the permit to drive on the beach is too high. I think the cost is resulting in lost revenues to the NPS because more people are refraining to pay the current fee. Consider one (1) modest fee for all access.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1233    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 12:45:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1234    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 13:10:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1235    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I would like to urge the NPS to protect the National Seashore at Cape Hatteras for all wildlife, particularly imperiled species like Piping Plovers.

Please uphold the current plan, and maintain night driving restrictions and limited ORV access. Night driving endangers the nests of sea turtles and birds, as well as spoiling the quiet and solitude that attracts so many visitors to the National Seashores.

Rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just community pressure. I encourage the NPS not to extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. I also 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 - the safety of young children on the beaches deserves consideration.

I have had several wonderful vacations on the Outer Banks - please continue to be responsible stewards of the beaches and wildlife that make it such a beautiful place to visit.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1236    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 13:21:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to express my support in NOT easing restrictions on vehicle closures to the Cape Hatteras NS. Being from NC I grew up visiting the area, and still go to Portsmouth Island yearly. I am more than willing to modify my recreation if it means the continued survival of the nesting birds on NC's outer banks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1237    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 13:22:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1238    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 13:41:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

I visited Cape Hatteras as a young teen and remember seeing fences up to protect areas of the beach. At first I didn't know what they were there for but after learning what they were protecting I felt bad for being on the beach. I was confused why the beach was even open for the public?? I understand there is pressure to please all parties but someone has to protect the wildlife that depend on this beach. People will go elsewhere if an area is closed but where are the animals going to go?

If the area is opened even more it will be an even harder fight in the future to close off sections. I would think that the local population of birds and turtles would decline due to less habitat availability and more chances to get run over if the area was opened further, so I am confused why that is even being considered?

People want to go to the beach to enjoy nature and that I am happy for, but we also need to be responsible and ethical in our decisions to protect the little habitat that our species have left. We can't take it all from them! Especially when the only gain is to benefit the drunks that want to drive their trucks on the sand. To me that doesn't justify putting a species further at risk...

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**Correspondence ID:** 1239    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 13:51:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** It seems there is little data on the human dimensions of the ORV restrictions. It would make sense to ask people about their on-site activities (whether they plan to fish, surf, swim, etc) when they buy permits. This information would give the Park Service a better sense of what human



uses look like.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1240    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:05:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Let nature be!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1241    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:05:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Birds and wildlife matter. Birds and wildlife deserve protection.

Extinction is forever.

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

--Mahatma Gandhi

As the N&O so eloquently stated:

"Nature was there first and, under protections of a National Seashore designation, has a right not to be run over."

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**Correspondence ID:** 1242    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:06:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Urging you to please protect the current plan and prohibit night driving in these areas. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks. They were here first and they need our help. Then all of us can enjoy this lovely shore.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1243    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for the future. Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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

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**Correspondence ID:** 1244    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:07:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I agree with the Raleigh News & Observer:  
"Nature was there first and, under protections of a National Seashore designation, has a right not to be run over."  
PLEASE PROTECT THE HABITAT OF OUR WILDLIFE!  
It is an invaluable asset to ALL OF US.  
thank you!



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**Correspondence ID:** 1245    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:08:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our wildlife at cape Hatteras and all beaches. We are their guardians.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1246    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:10:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please,please save our beaches. What can be gained by autos interrupting life in these special places?

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**Correspondence ID:** 1247 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** 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. Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks. 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1248 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:13:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The National Seashores are a treasure that our nation needs to preserve for wildlife as well as human visitors. There is plenty of designated space for vehicles, and expansion will have a negative effect on wildlife as well as on the beach itself. Surely drivers understand that beach erosion is caused by them?

We need more vehicle-free ares, not fewer.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1249 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:13:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear NPS - I find it hard to believe that you would consider any expansion of ORV use within Hatteras. The duty of NPS is to protect resources, and not provide entertainment options to a special interest group that thinks only of themselves. Please continue with the current plan, and drop any consideration of expanded seasons for ORVs on the beaches of Cape Hatteras. Continue to disallow night driving on the beaches. Support science based decision making and not interest group demands.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1250 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:13:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep the common sense limited restrictions on beach driving to protect bird and sea turtle nests. Humans have to learn to live with other species so that the whole ecosystem can remain sustainable.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1251 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:13:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a long-time supporter of the National Parks, I'm counting on you to protect the piping plovers, oystercatchers, and other birds on Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

When driving restrictions were put in place, bird numbers increased dramatically and immediately. Removing those restrictions will inevitably reduce the numbers of these endangered species.

Night-time driving restrictions will help not only the birds, but endangered sea turtles as well.

It is trivially easy for other beach-goers to continue to use the beach without their vehicles crushing the birds and their nests. We count on the National Parks Service to protect our wildlife.

Please continue to implement beach driving restrictions on Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1252 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:14:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

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

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1253      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:14:08

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing because I'm very concerned about plans to reduce the buffers for birds nesting on our beach areas. I've always worried about ANY people driving on the sandy shorelines, and now I'm especially concerned about our wildlife.

PLEASE follow the advice of SCIENTISTS and NATURALISTS and take the right actions to protect our birds and sea turtles. Every beach should be checked every morning before it's opened to the public, to make sure eggs and chicks are protected!! And PLEASE don't 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 so much!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1254      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:14:58

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would like to thank the NPS for soliciting comment on the proposed options for new ORV regulation at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area. I want to emphasize that CHNSRA was established to assure all citizens would have access to the beautiful beaches of CHNSRA. I truly hope the NPS carefully evaluates the input from actual visitors to CHNSRA and not overvalue input from those who couldn't find Cape Point with a GPS and SIRI! With that said, I would like to state I have visited CHNSRA for over 35 years. My entire family has visited as well, including my 80 year old (at the time) mother who rode out to Cape Point in my Explorer. I cannot overemphasize the role CHNSRA has played over the years in our enjoyment of the area. I also want to state I am an active member of several conservation and fishing organizations all of which strongly value the wildlife and outdoor resources of North Carolina. My comments on the areas under consideration for this scoping effort are below.

Morning Openings - I am in favor of opening our beaches to ORV usage as early as reasonable consistent with the protection of endangered wildlife. It only makes sense to prioritize the opening of those areas first which best serve the most beach visitors.

Seasonal Openings - I believe the areas in front of the villages could be opened from earlier in the fall around October 1 and stay open until May 1 without effecting any visitor experience. The non-village areas could open even earlier and stay open later. I would prioritize the fall season.

Vehicle Free Areas (Pedestrian only) - The NPS needs to evaluate its strategy for VFAs to better serve the vast majority of beach visitors. My experience is that while there are many visitors to CHNSRA throughout the year, many never use the ocean beaches but rather go to the Canadian Hole to wind surf, the Wright Brothers Memorial, Bodie Lighthouse and Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. Approximately 95% of the ocean beach users are ORV users not pedestrians. One need only see how few cars are parked at ramps 23, 27, 34 and 59 throughout the year while thousands of ORV users are restricted to 50% of the beaches. Several VFAs are actually accessible only via ORVs. Does that make sense? I have two proposals. The first is to make a pedestrian only area at the base of every ramp that provides appropriate parking from highway 12 and eliminate all others. These areas could be 100 yards or so in each direction with an ORV corridor around them. In my brief observation over the last couple of years, that is the primary place these pedestrians use. It is rare that a visitor would take their family and all their beach gear and choose to walk several miles to choose a spot on the beach. They of course could do this if they wanted as the ORV open areas are open to all. Those who wish to have some sort of "wilderness" experience have the entire length of Pea Island Wildlife Sanctuary which of course abuts CHNSRA.

Finally, I would like to address the VFA south of Cape Point. I suggest this area be treated as a seasonal closure area from May 1 - October 1. The access roads proposed to this area could be extended to provide more regular access to Cape Point as well.

ORV Permits - First of all, the ORV permits are badly overpriced and discriminate against only one class of users. Pedestrians pay no additional fee to use the beaches. Kite boarders pay no additional fee to use the facilities at Canadian Hole. Half the fees for ORV permits might be more reasonable. ORV users pay federal taxes too. I have only one comment on an additional permit. A three day permit makes for a weekend user priced at 50% of the weekly fee. A 14 day permit would only make sense if the price was 80% of 2 weekly permits.

I sincerely hope the NPS at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area listens to the actual users of the ocean beaches and the local people who have had to suffer under the current draconian ORV rules.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1255      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:15:36

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I oppose any relaxing of rules for driving on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The existing regulations are a compromise formed after years of negotiations and are already too lax to protect nesting birds and turtles. I am a landowner in Dare and Hyde Counties and also enjoy fishing on the outer banks. But there are miles of places to fish with good access without needlessly harming the wildlife we share our beaches with.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1256    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:15:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for the wildlife. Not only is right for the health of the planet, but restricting ORV usage is good for the tourism industry.

I am counting on you to prohibit night driving on the beach. This is ruinous for the birds and sea turtles and would discourage me as well as many other people, especially those with young children, from wanting to vacation near the North Carolina coast.

Please consider the longterm results of what happens on our beaches.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1257    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:17:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** It is our responsibility to protect our natural resources! Our wildlife must be protected in their own right as inhabitants of this world. We benefit from their beauty and depend on nature to sustain us. As a side benefit of lesser importance to their right to life is the economic resources we gain from tourism as people travel to our beautiful state. We need to protect our future.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1258    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:20:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:  
• 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:

- The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1259    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:20:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:  
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:  
The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1260 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:21:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Keep present access and driving limits in force to ensure at the Hatteras Seashore to ensure future generations have the opportunity to experience this marvel of nature. With the sea levels projected to increase due to climate changes any stress on the ecosystem will be magnified. I am a hunter and fisherman who has enjoyed this natural resource for many years.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1261 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:22:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep the driving restrictions on the beaches. That is part of the charm of the place. Let's not look like everyone else and for protect our wildlife. WE have taken enough of their natural habitats everywhere else.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1262 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:23:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do not reduce the buffers for wildlife in Cape Hatteras National Seashore by modifying the morning opening of beaches, extending fall and spring seasonal off road vehicle routes, and changing the size and location of vehicle-free areas. Birds and sea turtles depend on buffers between them and vehicles and if we do not protect them we will lose them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1263 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:24:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Protecting the plants and animals that live on our beaches - -whose natural habitat is those beaches - - is more important than letting people drive down the beaches running over grasses that hold the dunes in place, running over nests, and scaring birds, not to mention people. This doesn't even take into account the invertebrates that live in that sand. Those invertebrates are food for animals higher on the food chain. Motor vehicles should be kept off beaches; barriers should certainly not be made smaller.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1264 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:25:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please consider the needs of birds and other wildlife as you potentially revise rules for vehicular use at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Beaches should be monitored for bird and sea turtle nests each morning during the breeding season, prior to being opened to ORVs. Also, to protect wildlife species that rest and feed on beaches at night, nighttime ORV access to beaches should be restricted.

Threatened and endangered bird and sea turtle species depend on the presence of safe, clean, habitable beaches, and appropriate habitat is lost every day. These animals have no voice of their own in our political system; thus, conservationists are depending on you to keep the needs of wildlife in mind as you consider ORV rule revisions.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1265 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1266 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:29:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

The main concern should be for the safety and preservation of the wildlife that rely on this area. They were inhabitants here long before humans arrived.

It is time to stop the human population from over running this habitat for our wildlife. There is no reason to adopt more invasive rules to humor the human population.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1267    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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.

Don't cave in to people who are interested only in their own pleasure or economic interests and stand firm. Strengthen your protections, don't weaken them

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**Correspondence ID:** 1268    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:29:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Save our national parks and increase funding for them. We Americans (and tourists from other countries) want to see the beautiful parks that we cherish.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1269    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 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:  
\* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you in advance for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1270    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:30:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect the beach and hatteras area from off-road vehicles since they will destroy the wild areas and cause erosion. They will also destroy natural habitat and the environment needed for the local wildlife. I would like to be able to take my children to a wild area that has not been destroyed by man.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1271 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:32:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Use of public spaces requires balancing of the competing claims to that use. Here the conservation use is challenged by the satisfaction of private recreational use, the latter having caused the need for the former. The 2012 regulations should remain in place.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1272 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:34:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We are writing to request that you protect the birds, sea turtles and other wildlife that use our beaches to survive. We recently spent time in Cape Hatteras and resented the ORV's making huge ruts in the sand and using the beach as a highway.

We ask that you check the beaches for bird nests, baby birds and turtle eggs before opening in the morning so these areas can be protected from beach goers and ORV's. Please do not extend ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures and, please no nighttime ORV's allowed on beaches. When our sons were small they were flying a kite on the beach at Hatteras and an ORV drove close by and the kite string caught the ORV's side mirror. We yelled and ran after it, finally the driver stopped and we were able to unwind it, but one of the boys could have been injured. From that time on we've always felt beaches are for wildlife and people, and trails on packed dirt are for ORV's.

Please do not make any changes due to pressure from the community but by peer-reviewed science.

Thank you for your consideration.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1273 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** My family and I wish to speak up for the birds and sea turtles who cannot speak for themselves; please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

The majority of our citizens who, like us, enjoy our beaches and the wildlife who live there, far outnumber those who would destroy these special places with their noisy, polluting and killing machines.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1274 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:38:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Let's hope that our seashores are kept in mind when we invite people to come and enjoy the beach. people need to know that we can do both. we can enjoy nature while still respecting animals homes and habitat. whats good for animals is good for us too.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1275 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:40:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We need to keep protecting the marinelife and wildlife who survive/thrive off our beautiful coast. The past couple of years have shown an increase in the survival of the populations of marinelife and wildlife. We need to keep protecting them. We have too many animals that are endangered.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1276 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug.17,2015 14:41:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not reduce the space between nesting birds, turtles and other wildlife for ORVs. Your mission is to protect wildlife and keep pristine areas for the public, not make roadways. Areas for nesting birds need to be protected and checked in the morning before people are allowed to drive on the beach. Many of these drivers also make the beach a dangerous place for even people enjoying the seashore on towels and blankets! The idea of allowing night driving is even more ridiculous!! We have been members of the NC Beach Buggy Association for many years and seen how careless so many of the people in SUVs are on the beach. Many are from out of state and have no regard for our seashore. Please stand up to the lobbyists and do the right thing. Go back to the original guidelines that have resulted in increased sea turtle and plover populations. You do not have the manpower to monitor the beach effectively with smaller distances between cars and wildlife. Please protect the seashore and its animal inhabitants for future generations! Live up to your own mission statement. Thank you for what you do but please don't do less!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1277    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.17,2015 14:42:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Enough is protected. Keep the beaches open for public use!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1278    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.17,2015 14:44:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1279    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.17,2015 14:46:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please reconsider opening up precious breeding grounds to ORVs and the public. These birds and turtles have been nesting and laying eggs for thousands of years in the same places that they were born. To deny them the opportunity to complete their reproductive cycles will annihilate these species.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1280    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.17,2015 14:50:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** 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.....

"Nature was there first and, under protections of a National Seashore designation, has a right not to be run over."

AGREED!!!!!!!!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1281    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.17,2015 14:50:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am counting on you to protect our National Seashore! Any changes to the current plan should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not by convenience or community pressure. Night driving on beaches should continue to be prohibited as it endangers sea turtles and nesting birds. Thank you in advance, [REDACTED]



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**Correspondence ID:** 1282    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:50:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please conserve the nesting grounds of sea turtles and shore-nesting birds. Protect our wildlife by keeping present limits on ORV traffic. Please make your decisions on the basis of peer-reviewed scientific research. Our coastal wildlife areas are a precious heritage for the people of North Carolina, and visitors from the whole United States and beyond.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1283    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:51:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Vehicles are not as important as wildlife. Leave the National Seashore to wildlife.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1284    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:53:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The National Seashore belongs to all Americans, not just people who drive on the beach. But people who swim, walk, surf, and just enjoy the beach, and let me tell you it is not easy when huge trucks are going back and forth so they can fish. The beach, the birds, the turtles, the fish, even the ocean does not really belong to us, we have been given these gifts to enjoy - not destroy. It is our duty as good stewards to protect all of this for future generations, not to cave in so some fisherman can drive right down to the water.

The locals complain that it hurts tourism, but as a tourist who goes down to Hatteras several times a year, and never drive on the beach, we have not noticed much difference and find the truck free beaches a pleasure. People are still on the beaches, still in the hotels and still eating in the restaurants.

The ban on driving on the beach during nesting season should stay in place, there is plenty of other times that people can drive on the beach. Not sure why they feel the need to drive on the beach, but they have plenty of times other than nesting season. As we have all said, these beautiful creatures were here first and deserve all efforts to keep them safe. Please, please keep the ban on beach driving in place.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1285    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:54:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Protecting our natural wildlife should be a priority !

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**Correspondence ID:** 1286    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of birds and sea turtles. Please protect our National Seashores for all wildlife. You can do this by restricting human activity, especially activity involving ORV's on the beaches.

Before ORV traffic is allowed on beaches the beaches must be checked for turtle and bird nests as well as eggs and chicks. If any of these are on the beaches, ORV's should not be allowed. And ORV's should not be allowed during Spring and Fall if sea turtles or birds are present.

I support you keeping the current plan and not succumbing to community pressure for more access. Also, there should not be ORV's on any beaches at night.

Vehicle free areas should be expanded, not contracted. Survival of native birds and sea turtles in part depends on restrictions to driving on beaches.

Sincerely,

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1287    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Gentlemen;

The current buffers and driving bans on our great National Seashore beaches should be left as they are. The National Seashore designation was meant to protect the wildlife that live and reproduce on those great natural beaches. Allowing more people to drive where ever they want and whenever they want will just destroy the wildlife that relies on undisturbed beach areas.

There are already plenty of places for people to enjoy the beaches. They do not need to have unrestricted access to every square inch of sand and beach. Giving in to the politicians and businesses who only think about lining their pockets even more would be a travesty.

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.

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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.

DO NOT REDUCE THE CURRENT RULES GOVERNING THE USE OF OUR NATIONAL SEASHORE.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1288    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:57:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1289    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 14:59:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am greatly concerned about the impact of expanding human access and human contact with coastal and water environments because of the danger that they will speed up coastal erosion and endanger marine and other wildlife who were in these areas first.

I do not want to spend any future tax dollars to make whole a wealthy individual who causes damage to occur in such areas and wishes to get some bailout from public funds for a mistake that we can prevent here and now.

Our indigent and resident marine and wildlife deserve to live their lives in peace and undisturbed by expansion of the human presence into their environment. This has a potential to disrupt feeding and reproduction of innocent species that cannot speak for themselves, just to appease people who wish to get a foothold on their territory for recreation, for profit, or both. This is irresponsible and not an accepted practice for management of our environment, our parks, and our wildlife.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1290    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

⌘ 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:

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

⌘ Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

⌘ 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1291 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:00:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** There is absolutely no good reason to have driving on the beach. There are many good reasons to have it banned. Please protect our environment.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1292 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:01:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hatteras is a very special place. Let's keep protecting the endangered birds and also protect the turtles by not allowing more SUV's and other vehicles there.

I have relatives that live in Massachusetts that have been going to Hatteras National Park for many years.

Let's keep this a special place for it's inhabitants for many years to come.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1293 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I couldn't put it any better than the N&O did:  
"Nature was there first and, under protections of a National Seashore designation, has a right not to be run over."

Please help protect our wildlife and their natural habits.

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:

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

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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

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**Correspondence ID:** 1294 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:07:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please don't change the current plan, which took years and much hard work for the 2 sides to settle on this compromise. Protect our beach wildlife first. ORV drivers and fishermen have access under the current plan, and some birds and turtles are being saved. Why change this to allow the death and destruction of animals who were there first. Some humans are so selfish. Would not think the NPS would be like that. Forget the politics; stay with the science.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1295 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:10:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I believe the Park Service has been overly reactive in limiting beach driving.

The birds pay no taxes.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1296 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:11:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** All of the requested elements represent the bare minimum of reasonable requests.

I used to drive on the beach and it was great fun. I have since grown up and fully realize that the impact of ORVs on the beach is not nearly worth the negative impact on wildlife and humans alike.

Please do thr responsible thing and act in the interest of the greater good.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1297    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:15:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Why is it necessary for general public automobiles to drive on the beach? It is convenience or laziness? Allowing automobiles to drive on the beaches destroys habitat. Take a look at the sand some early morning and see the joy ride "wheelies" dug by careless drivers. North Carolina beaches have been abused by human activity with little respect for what was there before them and is trying to survive now.

Coastal shorelines are not roadways. They are the special ecosystem between vegetation and the ocean. There is a whole living system, part of the natural environment, that inhabits this area of our coastline. It is a home, a stop overt feed and rest refuge, a pathway, and nesting ground.

We can enjoy water edge activities of walking and relaxing / sunbathing, picnicking and fishing on the beach. That is activity enough. Our daily use of this land affects what lives on and under the sand. We have managed to live mostly in harmony - now the harmony is eroding due to the greater and greater numbers of human visitors and their pets. We have also left our marks - trash. We have discarded into this ecosystem everything from cans, bottles, food and medication containers to fishing gear, cigarette filters and disposable diapers. What affect does this have on the sandy beach? A critical problem - not just for the natural world that must "tolerate" this problem, but a problem for our future use of this natural gift.

Look at the beaches further north and south or on the west coast that are respectful and protective of their treasured shoreline ecosystems. Don't let North Carolina "Variety Vacationland" become the "I don't care" state.

We are blessed with the natural gate to the ocean. We are all connected in this natural world. Care for what is important - and protect our shore line as a treasure. Have communities have better shore line access parking if you care about the people having the opportunity to have the wonderful experience of the ocean. Taxpayers deserve this opportunity.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1298    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:17:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do not increase the amount of land available for off-roading. Let's leave the animals more safe space, not less.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1299    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:21:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have just returned from a week on the Outer Banks, during which I had the opportunity to ride in a four wheel drive vehicle on the beach. While it was fun to see much of the Outer Banks most visitors never do, I was amazed at the volume of traffic and the tracking all over the beach. There are many life forms in the sand there that are an integral part of the ecosystem, including nesting birds and sea turtles, and including threatened species.  
I am strongly in favor of limited access for vehicles and prefer the 2012 rules versus the proposed changes.

Thanks!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1300    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:25:45  
**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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1301    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:28:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hi,

\*I am writing to the national Park Service because I am a regular visitor who previously greatly enjoyed the wildlife conditions I found in the cape Hatteras region. Please don't change your current policies: if anything, tighten them against nighttime driving and present ORV open areas. PLEASE!

\*When we began visiting and walking into approved areas on foot 8 years ago, there was a great deal of wildlife to quietly view. Now, the vehicular traffic and ruts have made it a scary trip for my family and other families from my town who have recently traveled there for our vacations! Some never want to go back! Myself, I was dismayed at the development in the main OBX towns to the North extending down the beaches further and further to the South. It seems to be squeezing the wildlife off down to Hatteras, and now the ORV traffic has simultaneously increased. What bad planning! You guys have to pull back and protect the shore regions FULLY. Or what good are you as an organization?

\*Also, As tourists we'd like to be able to learn more about bird and turtle nests without going in and disturbing them: you professionals could do that for us, the tax-paying public.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1302    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:28:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** People's feet alone degrade most any natural environment. People and their machines? Horrible. This is no mystery. Go anywhere people have been and their foot print, and often a lot of trash, can be seen. People driving any kind of machine over and through natural areas cause severe degrading of the environment. You in the National Parks Service have to deal with this all the time. Even foot trails that are also open to bicycles suffer extreme erosion from all those tires, and at times have to be closed. Motored vehicles on the beach? Yeah, restrictions must be sustained, not weakened or lessened.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1303    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:28:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do not open more of our beaches to drivers! North Carolina's and America's natural resources like those of The Outer Banks and it's beautiful wild life should be Protected not ruined! Also this is an economic resource of great value. It would be criminal to destroy more of our coastline and it's natural inhabitants.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1304    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles inhabiting or visitng Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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 the US National Park Service (NPS) 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.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
Our birds. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the NPS; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect red knots 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 urge the NPS to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1305    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:29:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep all motorized vehicles off the National seashore. Vehicles have no business on the beach whatsoever. They do nothing but destroy birds nests and turtles nests and it is a crime against nature.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1306    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I would like to speak 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.

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, such as decreasing the size of buffers on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you very much.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1307 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:35:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1308 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am asking you as strongly as possible to please protect our National Seashore for all our wildlife, especially for our native birds and sea turtles!

Specifically, I'm requesting that:

- \* Check our beaches for bird and turtle nests, as well as the presence of eggs and chicks prior to our beaches opening each morning. It only makes sense if we're protecting the nests sites and offspring that our beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed onto the beach.
- \* Please 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:

- The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

It is important to take steps now to minimize harm to our wildlife. North Carolina depends on our natural resources to enhance tourism and support ongoing environmental and health research. Consider the facts that take time to gather (nature works on her own time frame, not at the convenience of man's economic seasons) and ensure that they are the basis for decision making. It may take some creativity and collaboration, but we can work together to achieve goals that are mutually agreeable! It takes courage, too, so don't forget the founding mission of the Park Service: "...to promote and regulate the use of the...national parks...which purpose is 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."

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**Correspondence ID:** 1309 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:38:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do not reduce the size of buffer zones or increase permitted driving in Seashore Natl. Park or other beach areas. People really need to learn that we are just one of many species inhabiting the planet and we are not at the top of any pyramid. It's a circle.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1310 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:  
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:  
The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

Thank you for your consideration.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1311 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect the birds, turtles and other wildlife and Cape Hatteras itself.

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.

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

Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

We have a responsibility to protect the creatures which cannot protect themselves from us.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1312 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:46:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do what you can to protect these unique birds! My husband and I have volunteered with Audubon this summer on the south end of Wrightsville Beach monitoring a colony of Least Terns, Black Skimmers, and Oyster Catchers.

The parents are so dedicated and work extremely hard to protect their chicks, but when the young chicks start venturing out a little, they are so well-camouflaged that it is almost impossible to see them when you are just walking near them, not to mention driving close by!

Please help these beautiful birds by assisting their parents in protecting them.

A big big thank you!



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**Correspondence ID:** 1313 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:46:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** PLEASE do not submit to community pressure to extend open hours for driving on the beach. Wildlife was on the Outer Banks long before people. People have deleted and lessened animal and bird habitats for years from ignorance or selfishness. It's past time to stop this.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1314 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:47:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have been visiting the Outer Banks for years, and I beg you to leave well enough alone and stop this call for expansion. Our shores are already being threatened by the possibility of off shore drilling. We don't need traffic on the beaches. We need to respect the fact that we share the beaches with other creatures. You are suppose to be looking out for both humans and the environment. Please do so

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**Correspondence ID:** 1315 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:55:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have been surf fishing along the Outer Banks for over 45 years and for most of those 45 years, driving two times a year from Central Ohio to do so. In addition, I was a long time member of the NCBBA. When I was a member of the NCBBA, I found that they made an active attempt to have their members be responsible beach goers and to respect the rights of other people to pursue their own interests while on the beach and not to drive in places where wildlife was evident. Of course, not all members lived up to these ideals. However, when the Audubon article came out blasting all beach drivers as irresponsible killers of all thing wild, the NCBBA membership became incensed, turning into mob of angry, hot headed anti anything governmental or scientific people who ONLY cared about their own interests.

I attempted to reason with the NCBBA leadership at the time, but eventually I had to let my membership expire. Then, as now, I feel that ALL people should have the right to participate in appropriate recreational activities on the outer Banks. Appropriate indicating that one's activities DO NOT infringe upon the rights of others to pursue their choices of activities nor cause harm to the of the creatures that inhabit or otherwise use the environment to ensure the survival of that species future. If to best ensure those goals means some groups at some times and places on the Cape need to avoid certain actions and places, then so be it!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1316 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:55:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect all wild life. Please have the beaches checked for wildlife each morning before the beach is open to more than pedestrian traffic.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1317 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 15:55:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our vulnerable wildlife in the Cape Hatteras region that is so rich with bird life. There is too much human encroachment, and it must be contained or we will lose so much of our most at risk animals, birds and fish. We depend on local wildlife agencies, state and federal programs, and cannot as citizens do this alone. I will be watching what develops, and reaching out to my friends, colleagues and organizations to do likewise.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1318 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 16:00:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Man's influence on this area should be diminished greatly. The reason the area is so popular is its natural beauty and wildlife. Keep the humans at bay, and let nature do what it does. No driving on the beach by anybody. Tell the lazy jerks to walk or go home.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1319 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 16:01:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I realize especially since the film industry has withdrawn from spending billions in North Carolina in exchange for the \$10,000,000 incentive offered the legislature feels we have need of increasing revenue. So far the 2 biggest efforts are detrimental to the fragile environment of North Carolina. One is seismic testing/fracking. The other is expanding the areas and months where orvs can drive on our heavily bird-populated beaches.

Did you know that only 2 piping plover chicks were successfully hatched this nesting season, that we are aware of? This may sound trite, insignificant. These birds, as are many others, are selective in their nesting sites. They can't just go "find another strip of sand". While these beaches were protected they afforded so many different species pristine nesting sites. And not only birds, many sea turtles, some highly endangered, also nest on these beaches. Kemp's Ridley, leatherbacks, green, loggerhead, and others.

These beaches, protected national seashore, allow for nature to continue what it has done long before orv, atv, jeep or any other form of vehicle existed. The harm is done when these vehicles drive over and crush precious nesting sites and the fragile eggs hidden there.

Please, keep these vehicles off the beaches, at least during nesting season, March - October.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1320 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 16:01:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I realize especially since the film industry has withdrawn from spending billions in North Carolina in exchange for the \$10,000,000 incentive offered the legislature feels we have need of increasing revenue. So far the 2 biggest efforts are detrimental to the fragile environment of North Carolina. One is seismic testing/fracking. The other is expanding the areas and months where orvs can drive on our heavily bird-populated beaches.

Did you know that only 2 piping plover chicks were successfully hatched this nesting season, that we are aware of? This may sound trite, insignificant. These birds, as are many others, are selective in their nesting sites. They can't just go "find another strip of sand". While these beaches were protected they afforded so many different species pristine nesting sites. And not only birds, many sea turtles, some highly endangered, also nest on these beaches. Kemp's Ridley, leatherbacks, green, loggerhead, and others.

These beaches, protected national seashore, allow for nature to continue what it has done long before orv, atv, jeep or any other form of vehicle existed. The harm is done when these vehicles drive over and crush precious nesting sites and the fragile eggs hidden there.

Please, keep these vehicles off the beaches, at least during nesting season, March - October.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1321 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 16:05:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form



**Correspondence:** Please protect the birds and turtles that depend on this area for nesting. Do not change the rules to allow more ORV usage. Thanks

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**Correspondence ID:** 1322    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 16:11:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore. Its wellbeing, and the wellbeing of all the living creatures that depend on it, are in your hands. Please do not reduce buffers. Please survey areas for nests and help keep them safe.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1323    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
AMOY-and-check.jpg

The Park Service has reduced buffers well below the research-based recommendations to just 50 meters for Piping Plover nests and 25 meters for American Oystercatcher nests.

We need you to submit comments to protect our Seashore.

Submit a comment

Dear Audubon Advocate,

In the past week, we've gained some major allies in our fight to protect wildlife at Cape Hatteras National Seashore (Seashore). The Raleigh News & Observer Editorial Board has taken our side in the fight and covered the story. Read the stories here:

Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore  
Beach driving restrictions at Cape Hatteras open for debate  
Now, we all have an opportunity to tell the National Park Service that birds and wildlife matter. Tell them that birds and wildlife deserve protection. As the N&O so eloquently stated,

"Nature was there first and, under protections of a National Seashore designation, has a right not to be run over."

The Park Service is evaluating the special regulation and considering modifying morning opening of beaches, extending the length of fall and spring seasonal ORV routes, plus modifying the size and location of vehicle-free areas. Public scoping will help inform the development of alternatives that will be analyzed in an Environmental Assessment (EA).

Take a moment right now to submit your comments in your own voice. We have included some points at the bottom of this email you may find useful. It's not too late to make a difference for our birds and wildlife.

COMMENT BEFORE AUGUST 21: Go to this website and fill out the form with your comments.

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POSSIBLE COMMENTS - Please make this comment your own, but here is a start:

I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1324    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug.17.2015 16:13:15

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect our seashores from motor vehicle traffic. We need to preserve our natural heritage for our children and grandchildren. It is our responsibility. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1325 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug.17.2015 16:15:02

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, I'm concerned that: 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: The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1326 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug.17.2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please: Keep the current plan.

Any rule changes follow the mandate of the law (supported by peer-reviewed science). Community pressure and convenience are not legal reasons to change.

In particular, please keep restrictions on night driving near beaches and restrictions on ORV access. Night driving endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

Allowing more ORV access would be harmful to shorebirds. Tire ruts on beaches further are a danger for young children on the beaches, and just is not something the public expects in a national seashore!

Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1327 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug.17.2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

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

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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, such as decreasing

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**Correspondence ID:** 1328 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug.17.2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

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

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1329      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Protect our National Seashore for all wildlife, with buffer zones to meet - or better yet, exceed - recommended limits!

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.

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

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement.

Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks. It must not be allowed.

Vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect red knots and other shorebirds.

Seashore visitors need beaches without vehicles and tire ruts, and assured protection against being struck by vehicles.

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

Cease further actions affecting the wildlife that are not done without peer reviewed scientific research recommending the procedure. And cease it NOW.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1330      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 16:25:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1331      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 16:27:10

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

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

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1332 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Specific to the scoping questions, I have the following comments:

Morning Beach Openings:

The beaches should be checked for both bird and turtle nests as well as eggs and chicks before they are opened in the morning.

Seasonal ORV Routes:

Do not extend the ORV routes and do not extend the spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles and birds. Limit any extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

Vehicle Free Areas:

Continue with the current management plan. Any rule changes from the current plan must be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law requires, not just convenience or community pressure.

The National Park Service does a remarkable job across the United States in providing recreation while protecting wildlife for future generations. I am counting on you to do the same at Cape Hatteras by:

1. Continuing to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

2. Allowing more ORV access is not the stewardship I expect from the National Park Service. Vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect red knots, recently listed as an endangered species, and other shorebirds.

3. Providing a beach for vacationers to enjoy without vehicle disturbance. A beach with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience I expect when visiting a National Seashore.

Scientific research has shown that North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive. We know that visitors continue to enjoy the Seashore and data shows that tourism has not been impacted by the current plan.

The consensus management plan in place is working for both people and wildlife. As someone who loves both the beach and wildlife, I am asking you to stop further actions affecting the birds and turtles on the Seashore unless you have substantial scientific research needed to support your actions.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1333 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 16:31:22

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The health and well being of nature's eco-systems are interdependent, and between human inhabitants and the natural world. Please, take NO actions to the detriment of N.C.'s creatures of the land, water, and air under current conditions and the future for citizens. I support this petition and urge your support for it. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1334 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 16:32:38

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a resident of NC and a longtime lover of the Outer Banks, I have been greatly bothered by the rampant use of ORVs on the beaches there. The beaches can certainly be enjoyed without use of a motorized vehicle. The wildlife and vegetation so crucial to the health and stability of the beaches is threatened by the ongoing use of ORVs. I hope the persons in charge of deciding the fate of the beaches, the birds and all of the nature sheltered so precariously on the beaches of the Outer Banks will consider all the facts, not just the lobbying by the manufacturers and owners of ORVs.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1335 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

⌘ 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:

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

⌘ Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

⌘ 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 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, like me, that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them. There are ample places for people to drive vehicles of all kinds. The last thing we need is more pollution and noise from vehicles of all kinds, off-road and others. Please, act to protect wildlife and the environment.




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**Correspondence ID:** 1336    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 16:37:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please extend every protection possible to wild life on the outer banks. It is unfortunate that many humans have little respect for other species and that is why we need to protect those creatures who cannot protect themselves.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1337    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 16:41:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Sadness. People suck. I was visiting the Outer Banks in NC when the local 4WD idiots were fighting Audubon years ago. Between the entitled population and government, I fear trying to save anything for the next generation, never mind the next century is a losing battle. Greed and ignorance will win with political backing. Even with a Democrat in the White House I feel defeated. Look at the GMO clause in the international trade agreement with Europe. Now Shell is now about to drill in the Arctic. Money wins at the expense of the environment and native species. Humans are the most invasive species on the planet and unfortunately the only species that supposedly has a conscience.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1338    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 16:42:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hatteras Island and the entire Outer Banks are treasures we should protect with our lives. Protect our Seashore for the sake of our planet and its inhabitants.




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**Correspondence ID:** 1339    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 16:45:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect these valuable areas, the habitats and the animals that live and nest there. Thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 1340    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 16:46:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear NPS,

Please do not allow any more access to nesting bird areas of the Outer Banks National Seashore than already exists. There is and will be more serious risks to already endangered bird life and other wildlife there.

Thanks very much




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**Correspondence ID:** 1341    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 16:58:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 1342    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:04:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 1343    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:07:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** These coastal areas are part of an EXTREMELY FRAGILE Eco-system. I fail to see how legislators can justify the relaxing of driving/recreational restrictions in such areas. DESTRUCTION of animals, plants, the very beaches themselves--as well as EVEN WORSE POLLUTION of the coastal sea--will be the horrible consequences of such 'relaxing', & quite possibly they will be irreversible. The people who want this have PLENTY OF OTHER PLACES they can use for their 'fun', WITHOUT despoiling the beautiful, delicate environment of coastal beaches!!!The Tourist industries will be impacted, too. NO ONE wants to spend time in places that have been laid waste by selfish goons on their loud, nasty 'toys'!!!!PLEASE DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN!!!! :(

**Correspondence ID:** 1344    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:10:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do the right thing and give wildlife the space they need.

**Correspondence ID:** 1345    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:12:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please think of the birds first and continue driving restrictions at Cape Hatteras.

The birds and other wildlife are having a tough enough time and thanks to changing weather, that is going to get worse even without cars.

We people can see enough beach without having to drive on it.

**Correspondence ID:** 1346    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:14:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a 26-year resident of New Bern, NC, I have spent plenty of time at the seashore- -long enough to have noticed its inexorable, and sometimes sudden, decline. Among the numerous assaults against the coastline, the ravages of automobiles are among the worst. Even as laws stand, they are frequently violated, eroding the sands, digging up plantlife, destroying nesting sites of turtles and seabirds. These laws need stronger enforcement far more than a loosening of regulations! People enjoy themselves at the beaches; they also bear responsibility towards them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1347 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:15:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We need to keep the restrictions up to preserve and protect nesting of sea turtles. These turtles only have the shores for producing next generation turtles.

People have lots of choices for recreation that does not harm wildlife.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1348 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:22:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing to request that you protect all forms of wildlife on our national seashores. My specific requests are listed below.

First, please check the beaches before they are opened each morning, not only for the bird and turtle nests, but also for eggs and chicks. This should be done before ORV traffic is allowed on the beaches.

Secondly, please do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures in any areas of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Extended closures should be limited to those areas that do not affect wildlife.

Thirdly, I would like to ask that you protect the current plan. If any changes are deemed necessary, these changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science, as required by law. The plan should not be changed for the sake of convenience or as a result of community pressure.

Next, the prohibition of night driving should be continued. Sea turtles, their nests, nesting birds and their chicks are all endangered by individuals driving at night on beaches.

Lastly, we do not need to provide more ORV access on our beaches. There should be more vehicle-free areas to protect all the shorebirds as well as to allow all individuals, including families with young children, to safely enjoy the beaches.

To conclude, 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 them home. I am asking you to stop any further actions that will affect wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers on the seashores without peer-reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1349 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:23:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not yield to the pressure to relax ORV regulations at the expense of wildlife and other visitors to the national seashore. It is a wonderful national resource - a preserve for nature and it's bounty. Strive to be good stewards for the land, wildlife, and the people who visit. ORVs and their accompanying hazards are not the priority or what needs to be protected at Cape Hatteras.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1350 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:23:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We have just returned from a vacation at the Outerbanks and witnessed how beautiful it is and at the same time the effect we have on the wildlife. There is a record number of turtle nests and numerous colonies of birds calling these shore their only home. Some of the species are endangered. At the same time people demand to claim more beaches to drive their trucks for convenience and fun. We need to respect Nature to be able to enjoy its beauty for many years to come. Let's not give in to politics and act with responsibility and comparison.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1351 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:24:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Certainly, the big, beautiful beach is large enough to share with our native wildlife!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1352 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:27:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** please keep buffers high enough to protect American Oystercatcher and other protected birds nests.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1353 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:28:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** To Whom It May Concern:

I write to speak for those that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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 urge you to protect the current plan and not implement any rule changes that have not been supported by peer-reviewed science as the law requires.

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.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1354    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:31:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The birds and turtles and other wild creatures deserve natural beaches..not beaches riddled with Traffic and tire tracks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1355    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:33:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am opposed to reducing the buffer zone below that recommended by research for piping plovers and oyster catchers. I do not see an advantage of increasing available area for beach driving. These opportunities should be extremely limited given the high impact to the area. Our north Carolina beaches are a beautiful resource to be enjoyed in their pristine state and a great part of their beauty are the birds that prefer this habitat.there are enough roads for drivers to enjoy, the beach need not be one of them or be spoiled by the corresponding pollution.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1356    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:38:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Thank you for allowing me to comment on new rules for Cape Hatteras Seashore.

I am concerned about these new rules for the Cape Hatteras Seashore. This area is made available for the enjoyment of our citizens, but care must be taken that creatures that inhabit our beaches are protected. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach and, while I realize that ORV owners have rights too, they shouldn't be at the expense of other visitors or the wildlife. This wildlife gives great enjoyment for visitors to the beach. I also urge you to please protect the current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. While I know that there are people who have the money to demand special privileges, it should not be a determining factor.

I'm also concerned about driving on beaches at night. This puts sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks in danger. Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect shorebirds. 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 North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive. Someone navigating a vehicle on the beach might be unable to see these creatures, and they deserve to be protected.

I urge you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1357    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:39:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** PLEASE save our beaches for pedestrians & wildlife. We don't need motorized traffic to damage nature.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1358    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:50:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Save the wildlife by restricting/limiting the vechiles on the dunes and beach

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**Correspondence ID:** 1359    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586



**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:57:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Park Service,

I have been visiting Hatteras with my family since 1970. We camped at Frisco and showered with the cold pump shower outside. We walked over the dunes daily to fish for pompano and flounder to supplement the vegetables from our Chapel Hill garden. Since then, through travels to other beaches from Georgia, through SC, and NC, I have become increasingly aware of the critical habitat that these beaches provide for wildlife of all sorts. I have also concluded that the Hatteras National Seashore is one of the most important in those respects.

We people are numerous. We are greedy for our pleasures. However, we are not all privy to the information that would inform us - if we took the time - of how critically those "pleasures" rest on the wellbeing of the birds, turtles, and other wildlife that first had claim to these places. I rely on the Park Service to attend to the recommendations of the excellent peer-reviewed science that so clearly identify the boundaries that must be maintained for the survival of wildlife. We should ALL be stewards, but YOU, the PARK SERVICE, should be the GUIDING STEWARDS!

I have looked at the suggestions for "points" to mention to you all, and I must conclude that YOU KNOW ALL OF THIS! Please act responsibly on behalf of all the current and future visitors - human and other - to protect this treasured area in the most stringent fashion possible! People who MUST romp about on motorized, track-leaving vehicles can go to amusement parks. Hatteras is NOT an amusement park! It is a national treasure and will continue to be if YOU act responsibly. Alas, all prospective visitors are not so responsible. BE OUR MODEL! DO YOUR BEST!

I leave below all the suggested "talking points" with some embarrassment. I know that you know!

ACT RESPONSIBLY to save a unique part of our world. You know how tenuous the connections are in this remarkable web of life of which we're all a part. Do not fray a one of them!

PLEASE!

I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

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

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1360 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:58:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I love the beach but I don't love it when there are vehicles zooming in the sand. I want to protect wildlife and I also want a peaceful gas free experience when I vacation on N C beaches.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1361 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:58:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Cape Hatteras Beaches - Keep the current plan! Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. Please don't destroy the progress that's been made to protect these beaches. I'm counting on the National Park Service 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 these shorebirds.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1362 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 17:59:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on access to the beaches of the Outer Banks. I am a resident of Falls Church VA and come to Buxton NC about 6 times a year, and have an annual ORV permit, and use it when I visit. I enjoy the dark skies for my hobby - photography, astronomy, and astrophotography. The Outer Banks represent the darkest skies on the East Coast, and the ORV access allows for me to utilize these dark skies like nowhere else nearby.

Here are my thoughts on the various aspects of the proposals:

**MORNING BEACH OPENINGS**

I would like to suggest opening the beaches to ORV access at 7:00am or as early as the National Park Service has marked the beach as clear. This will give people early access for fishing before the normal tourists come to the beach for swimming. It is a reasonable time to support the access, and the beaches should be marked as being ready for use by the NPS.

**SEASONAL ORV ROUTES**

For the seasonal ORV access dates, I would recommend that six (6) weeks be added in both the fall (opening about September 15th) and spring (closing about May 15th) seasons. This represents access in good weather and not getting in the way of the off-season tourists visiting the beach.

**VEHICLE-FREE AREAS**

I feel that the current rules for vehicle free areas are mostly sound, and should be preserved. No vehicles directly in front of the villages, beaches clear of turtles, areas where there are lifeguards, and major parking areas for beach goers are the correct spots to keep vehicles away. This supports a very good balance in my opinion.

**ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS**

I do not have any suggestions on additional areas where new access is needed. I do suggest that Cape Point be accessible as much as possible as it needs ORV for access and provides the is the best spot for fishing.

**PERMITS**

I suggest that ORV Permits be available for 3, 7, and 14 days as well as all calendar year.




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**Correspondence ID:** 1363    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:06:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I support keeping the current restrictions on vehicle use on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Fishermen in vehicles can surely wait until beaches are cleared daily and seasonally. Certainly don't allow night driving. The C. H. National Seashore should be managed for wildlife and people, not vehicles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1364    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:12:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please check the beaches for bird and turtle nests, eggs, and chicks before opening beaches in the mornings.

Protect the current plan. Keep night driving restrictions.

Protect our beaches as nature made them so visitors (tourist dollars) can visit our wildlife in a beautiful natural setting and safe for their continued nesting.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1365    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:18:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1366    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:21:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am commenting on your proposal to loosen driving restrictions for Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Some years ago, when you were considering tighter restrictions to beach driving there, my husband and I both sent comments.

It concerns us AGAIN for several reasons.

#1- - We have both been involved in piping plover and other shorebird surveys and protections, sometimes for governmental agencies, sometimes for environmental organizations. Thus, we have experienced firsthand the need for human restrictions at those shores where birds- -and I might add, sea turtles- -rest and nest. Shorebirds and sea turtles in general are not in substantial numbers; human beings are! Some of us know a great deal about shorebird and sea turtle needs, others of us don't know anything (or very little)! The American public counts on federal agencies, in this case you, the National Park Service, to do what is scientifically best to manage beaches where shorebirds and sea turtles nest. As you have already loosened restrictions and have witnessed extremely poor reproduction results, at least with piping plover, how is it good science to loosen restrictions even more?

#2- - My husband and I have visited Cape Hatteras National Seashore, a very lovely and well-deserved-to-be-protected part of our country. What is the point of national seashore protection there if people are allowed to do nearly whatever they want to do?

Please! Do reconsider! Don't loosen restrictions even more! It is essential to be good stewards of our lands and waters. Of course, you are under a great deal of pressure from Congress, from the American public that does not understand shore wildlife needs, and particularly from ORV drivers and organizations. Still, you have a mission statement, you have responsibilities, you have scientifically educated staff. In short, future generations of people, the health of the planet and many of us alive today are counting on you to "hold the line", and even work your way back to the more enlightened restrictions that you moved to a few years ago.

Thanks for your consideration of my comments.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1367      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:21:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** No vehicles should be allowed on these beautiful beaches that are filled with wildlife.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1368      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:23:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The Public shouldn't be allowed to drive during the critical nesting period

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**Correspondence ID:** 1369      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:23:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Looking at the maps in the planning document, there is already a reasonable percentage of the park open to ORV use. Unlike pedestrian traffic, ORV use precludes most other uses. Ruts make the beach difficult to walk and sliding vehicles often driven too fast make it unsafe for families with children.

Opening the beach to ORV traffic even earlier in the morning makes careful clearance of the beach impossible. Having vehicles follow the staff at a given distance during this clearance increases pressure on the staff to work quickly rather than effectively and is impossible to adequately regulate. Night driving is especially problematic, being even more dangerous to birds who are often feeding at low tides, and to bird and turtle nests.

Extending the season for ORVs on seasonal routes or lengthening these routes puts additional pressure on bird and turtle populations to meet a "need" that is already out of all proportion compared to other uses. Like vehicular traffic everywhere, the perceived need is never satisfied. Our beaches are not roads and no one has a "right" to use them as such. The primary goal should be to preserve the beach habitat and the wildlife whose lives depend on it.

I love bird watching and am very interested in native plants but I willingly stay out of protected areas where my presence would damage ecosystems. I expect fishing enthusiasts to be held to the same standard. They are vocal, but they are nowhere near a majority of the people who love the Outer Banks. Please ensure that any changes to the existing rules are made using the best and most objective science as the base so that we pass to succeeding generations beaches that are alive with birds and sea turtles. Turning habitat into roads and parking lots is not in line with the mission of the NPS.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1370      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:27:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically:

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

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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1371      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:27:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** NO off road traffic. For MANY reasons.It should not HAVE to be explained.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1372 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:28:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I strongly support reasonable regulations for vehicle traffic on the outer banks including Cape Hatteras. By reasonable I mean putting putting nesting birds and sea turtles first. We must protect these wild species if we have to shut the whole beach down. I realize that we don't have to go to that extreme but any regulations should put preservation of wildlife first.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1373 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:30:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** save our coasts!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1374 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:33:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**  
Please protect our precious wildlife. One of the reasons that people go to the beach is to leave the city and enjoy nature and the beauty that it brings to enrich our lives.

We have already lost so much of our animal and bird life and should take precaution to keep and nurture what we have left.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1375 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:36:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do the right thing and protect our wildlife.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1376 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:37:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am President of a local Audubon Chapter in NC. I am also Director of the Little Cumberland Island Sea Turtle Project, the longest, continuously running nesting sea turtle survey in the world.

There is no justification for allowing ANY public vehicles on a National Seashore beach. Nesting and hatchling shorebirds and sea turtles have no other alternative habitat; they can't just move somewhere else. Shorebirds stopping off to rest and feed on their epic migrations. The ribbon of beach at CHNS is more precious than many of your visitors ever consider. Surely, this narrow, tattered ribbon of interface between land and sea should be afforded all the protection and peace that we can possibly afford.

As a National Seashore administrator, you know better than to abandon what has been intrusted to your care to special interest groups who clearly don't know the beginning of the ecologic damage they willingly pursue. It is your job to 1.) educate about preserving habitat when you can and 2.) take a firm stand against habitat distraction when education doesn't do it.

I understand that dealing with equally uninformed politicians is not as simple as just saying 'no'. However, you are the guardians of some of the most unique habitat in the world. Many of us stand behind you when you do the right thing. Thank you for doing whatever you can to limit or ban public driving on National Seashore beaches.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1377 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:42:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Some areas are critical habitat for the survival of wildlife. The Cape Hatteras National Seashore is one of those. As responsible inhabitants of this planet, we have no right to engender the existence of other species (who were here before us). Please do not allow the opening of the seashore to ORV or other activities that would endanger the wildlife depending on that critical habitat for their existence.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1378 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1379    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:53:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

National Parks ar the playground of American so no drilling in them!

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1380    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:53:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom It May Concern:

Human activities are destroying our planet all too rapidly. Valuable species are becoming extinct almost daily. We allow species to be endangered just so a very few people can have a little fun. Every species is important. The birds are part of a larger picture. We humans are so short sighted that we too often can not see what we are doing to our environment 20, 30 50 years down the road. We need to do something NOW to stop further destruction. Every little bit helps to protect our environment. We all need to protect our beaches for our children and grandchildren to enjoy in a self-sustaining way.

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1381    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:54:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras Narjonal Seashore. Off road vehicles have no place on the breeding grounds of birds and turtles. They are also a hazzard to people!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1382    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 18:58:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing as an ecologist and educator. I urge you to please protect Cape Hatteras from vehicles on beaches. Soil and sand compaction is one of the most damaging things one can do to plant communities, and vehicles can contribute to compaction and erosion if the soil shifts as sand does. In addition, allowing vehicles on beaches will cause immense amounts of damage to wildlife nesting on beaches. Rare birds nest on Cape Hatteras, as well as invertebrates that depend upon open sand. People do not need to drive on beaches to enjoy them- -walking is much better for beaches and for people alike. Please restrict or prevent vehicles from accessing the beach.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1383    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 19:00:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear sir,

I am giving feedback on your proposal to expand Off Road Vehicle access to our delicate and priceless shores on the outer banks. Both my wife and I are very much against any regulation that takes away the protection of these shores for wildlife and those of us. Who frequently visit to observe these areas in their natural state. I cannot comprehend how our National Park Service would even consider such action. We have enough people caused noise and other pollution and should be very protective of the few remaining areas that are wild. Please do not allow expansion of ORV access to these locations. We moved to N. Carolina several years ago because of such wonderful nature.

Thank you for looking out for us!

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1384    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 19:00:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** please protect the sea turtles and birds. Please limit nighttime driving to beaches so as not to disturb the sea turtles and birds. Please do your job of protecting nature, so there will be nature for our children to enjoy.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1385    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Not just people, or pleasure, or profits - we need to share the world, not just consume it for ourselves. 100 years from now, do you think folks would like to see a plaque showing a depiction of formerly local, or even extinct species? (But it was worth it, because folks got to tear around the beach in these cool gas burning vehicles in an exorbitant display of American ego superiority over, well, over anything that was in our way...)

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1386    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 19:04:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have always thought of the National Park Service as being on the side of conservation of special land and protection of threatened wildlife. I am stunned and disappointed that you would consider removing valuable protections for our National Seashore in North Carolina. Where can our birds and sea turtles that currently use these beaches find safe habitat? Please do not give in to big business by allowing more time for ORVs and others to disturb nesting places. People have other places to thrive while many of our wildlife have few or no other choices. Please do the right thing and do all you can to preserve a pristine and protected National Seashore.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1387    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 19:07:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep the driving limits at Cape Hatteras and help save the piping plover.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1388    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 19:18:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** FOR GODS SAKE KEEP IT NATURAL AND ESPECIALLY THE STUPID MOTOR VEHICLES. ENOUGH ALREADY!!!! NEXT YOU WILL WANT TO START HUNTING AND KILLING STUFF FOR FUN. DONT BE HILLBILLIES!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1389    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 19:23:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Since many creatures need to nest and/or lay eggs on the beach following instincts of millennia it is simply common sense to give them adequate protection for them to function according to the demands of nature. There is more than enough space remaining for those who wish to drive on the beach. We are supposed to be the superior animal so it would be a good start to conduct ourselves with prudence, decency and intelligence so that other creatures may continue to exist. It is supremely arrogant for us to behave as if we were the lords of creation.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1390    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 19:24:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** It is on us to care for all of God's creatures, and we are doing a dismal job.

Where in fact, we should always take all measures to protect all life because it is precious and priceless.

It is INSANE to allow ORVs into areas these creatures live unless there is a life and death matter where the future of mankind depends on it, that would be the only reason.

I pray it is not just so some good ole law-abiding folks can go out and have some "fun", because that would put you so low on the evolutionary chain. That is us at our best? Turn the other eye and allow killing of beautiful innocent creatures so you enable some dark soul somewhere to get more money?

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**Correspondence ID:** 1391    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 19:31:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am absolutely against any changes to the existing plan that would allow expanded ORV traffic on our National Seashore. I want to see the beaches checked every morning for vulnerable wildlife, including and especially nesting birds and sea turtles, eggs and hatchlings. Beaches should remain closed to ORV traffic until ALL wildlife is safe from harm. This is the proper way to manage our National Seashore for the benefit of all concerned, humans included.

If anything, I would like to see the vehicle-free areas EXPANDED to protect ALL wildlife. I want to see the ban on night driving upheld and enforced.

The National Seashore is home to many species of wildlife. It is not our sandbox. We are just visitors there and we should respect the lives of those who call it home. When I visit, my dearest wish is to catch a glimpse of the seashore and its inhabitants as it was meant to be - not to be accosted by more of the same four wheel traffic, noise and pollution that I face every day in MY habitat. My own habitat has been pretty much trashed in recent decades to make way for expanding hordes of humans and their vehicles. My habitat is mostly covered in rooftops and asphalt now. Human greed is infinite. Our natural resources are not. Please, let there be some small corner of our world that is still wild and free of traffic!

As it stands now, we all have the same access to the National Seashore and that's the way it should stay. Those who insist that they need and deserve special access for themselves and their vehicles represent the selfishness and greed that is all too typical of human interaction with Nature. If you think you can accommodate them and their demands, you are mistaken. They will never be satisfied.

As for me, if it were determined that even foot traffic and any human presence at all were detrimental to the wildlife, I would gladly forfeit my own "rights" to visit there because the truth is I have no intrinsic "rights" to negatively impact these creatures in one of their last remaining refuges. For me, it is a privilege to visit the National Seashore, not a right. It is a privilege to spend a few hours in a wild world, where humans are few in number and their vehicles are nowhere to be seen. But my needs are secondary. My overwhelming concern is for the wildlife. Their lives take precedence over the desires of humans for exploitation and recreation. I would take comfort and satisfaction just in the knowledge that they are protected from harm.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1392    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The National Park Service is rolling back protections that were helping Piping Plovers and other imperiled wildlife make a comeback at Cape Hatteras. (Photo: Venu Challa / Audubon Photography Awards)

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New Threats to Imperiled Birds at Cape Hatteras

Audubon has been working for years to protect Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, other beach-nesting birds, and sea turtles at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The birds and turtles build their nests on the beaches-and nests, eggs, and chicks were destroyed by chronic disturbance from unmanaged off-road vehicle driving. By 2007, wildlife at Cape Hatteras had reached historic lows. Audubon and our partners successfully pushed for a balanced, common sense off-road vehicle management plan that provided science-based protection for birds, sea turtles and other wildlife, and established areas where vehicles could be used responsibly on Cape Hatteras beaches. The new protections resulted in a rapid recovery of birds and record-breaking numbers of sea turtles on the seashore.

But earlier this year, the National Park Service, under pressure from Congress, drastically reduced the size of the protective buffers for American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers below what scientists thought was necessary to ensure the safety of the nests and chicks.

Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

The National Park Service is accepting comments on its misguided proposal. The full plan is available at the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment website. Comments must be submitted at the comments page by August 21, 2015. If you submit a comment, please let us know through this simple form. It's the only way we have of tracking our efforts. You can use the sample comments below:

#### Sample Comments

(IMPORTANT: Comments must be submitted at that National Park Service Planning site:  
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=67586>)

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1393    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 19:35:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please let the birds and turtles live at the beach and keep the cars on the road...

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1394    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 19:35:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As an annual visitor to the Outer Banks, I beg that you 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.(I found a dead adult turtle two summer ago...)

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support

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**Correspondence ID:** 1395    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 19:36:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do whatever it takes to insure the safety of the sea turtles & birds that may be harmed by ORV's speeding around areas they nest. Wildlife continues to be threatened by human encroachment, it's time to provide the protection they deserve. Keep them safe.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1396    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 19:37:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I would like to see the current limits on ORV continued on NC beaches. Hatteras, the Outer Banks and many of our other beaches have a wealth of marine life nests for turtles, birds and other animals. One of the greatest attractions these beaches offer is the continued presence of wildlife and undeveloped beach areas that attract more animal life.

We currently have areas that allow ORV access and we also have beach areas that are already heavily built with residential and commercial structures. These are places to continue human recreational activities while we continue to protect adequate space to support marine animals and birds. WE should not change the current ratio or restrictions.

I have been going to NC beaches for over 40 years. The key reason I return is that we have preserved many spaces of beauty and natural habitat.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1397 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 19:38:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** To the National Park Service: You can't be serious. You allow vehicles on the beach in this sensitive wildlife area? How did this all start? You should make it your duty to reverse this thoughtless situation or at the very least, do not allow it to expand. Let's show respect for these creatures and their habitat. Then you should go into the schools and teach the children WHY and HOW you are thus providing this protection. We've paved hundreds of thousands of miles of roadway in our country for motorized vehicles. That is where they belong. Not on the beach destroying natural habitat and degrading the area for children and sunbathers. Seems like a no-brainer.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1398 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 19:50:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please leave some space open for the plovers and turtles, they have a right to live on this earth too!

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1399 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 20:01:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect the birds and turtles by reducing the speed or the ability of cars driving on the beach.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1400 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am counting on you to preserve:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1401 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 20:04:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear NPS

I urge you to keep the buffers for bird and turtle nests at Cape Hatteras National Seashore in tact and base any changes on real science rather than whims and desires of a few who wish to 'drive everywhere.' There is no need for night driving by ORV. People who wish to experience this beautiful place that is a resource for people and wildlife can and should walk on it. The birds and turtles there are a valuable part of the eco system and of course cannot speak for themselves. Those who want to fish are welcome to bring their gear ON FOOT and fish to their hearts content. Protect the National Seashore and limit driving and keep the buffers

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**Correspondence ID:** 1402 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 20:08:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect the wildlife on the beach by restricting the vehicles which can hurt turtle nests, bird nests and their young, the esthetics of the sand, and the pristine beauty of the sound of the waves. Vehicles do not belong on the beach. They belong on places that are constructed for their thoughtlessness toward other creatures, a track, a road in the sand. I understand the thrill of driving in the sand, but now where other creatures are hurt or destroyed. Your job is to protect the park from being damaged. It is not to give in to those who want it for their own use regardless. . . . Please

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**Correspondence ID:** 1403 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 20:12:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please retain adequate protection for the wildlife nesting on Hatteras. This area is important ecologically. It should not be asking too much to provide protection for wildlife in the area. Motor vehicles and foot traffic can disrupt the reproduction cycle.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1404 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 20:23:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1405    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 20:34:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am submitting a comment to support the continuation of protection for our National Seashore for all wildlife. Specifically, I'm concerned about any changes that would affect sea turtles or birds. Please do not make any changes that are not peer-reviewed science as the law states, and please do not make changes just for convenience or community pressure.

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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1406    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 20:41:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Nature was here before anything else. What makes you want to endanger more of the wild life that sustain us and our way of life. You need to protect our coastal areas and other national parks for those who would destroy our quality of life.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1407    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 20:58:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We have so much to lose if we do not preserve sufficient beach habitat for nesting birds and other wildlife. We have a good idea what it takes for recreationists to coexist with the wildlife, and there's no reason why the basic guidelines recommended by ornithologists can't be followed. If we allow vehicles to take over the beach, we'll have great cause to regret it in the future. Even from a purely (human) recreational perspective, this makes no sense.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1408    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 21:01:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them

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**Correspondence ID:** 1409    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 21:10:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1410    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 21:17:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Designate specific uninhabited habitat or unused breeding/nesting grounds for driving to fishing sites therein only. Do NOT allow beach driving ANYWHERE else!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1411    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 21:24:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Maintain present protection for bird and all affected wildlife. Their protection is up to us. And inevitably we are responsible to the care of nature around us. Be responsible. Now and in the future.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1412    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 21:35:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1413    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 21:39:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife, especially the birds and turtles. We must protect these vulnerable species.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1414    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 21:43:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To whom it may concern,

I have been traveling to the National Seashore for as long as I can remember and have seen the area slowly become more and more restricted as the years have passed. I have recently turned my family trips away from this area to other parts of North Carolina due to this and will continue to as long as these

restrictions stay in place. My family visits North Carolina at Corolla/Carova, Duck, Nags Head, Cape Lookout, Sunset Beach, Hatteras Seashore and Ft. Fisher every year and the Hatteras Seashore has become the most restrictive out of all these beaches. The same land, the same birds, the same turtles and areas with the same population densities during the busy seasons.

All of the non-federal lands have conservation efforts that are practiced by citizens, volunteer organizations and sportsmen/women and still allow access on a daily basis throughout the year. The only places that we visit that completely restrict access to vehicles and pedestrians at any time of the year are the federally run lands of Cape Hatteras Seashore and the North and South Core Banks (with the Core Banks soon to be even more restricted). While I realize that the federal rules are well meaning, I am baffled that the rest of the state and local beaches can be run so well with constant open access while still respecting and caring for wildlife and land. Due to these restrictions and the new ones soon to be exerted on the Core Banks, we will be spending more and more time away from the federal lands.

This is not what the people of Hatteras that gave control of this land over to the government ever envisioned when the agreement was made that it would be managed for the enjoyment of the people. It is the exact opposite and if they had known then what was happening now, they would have never made the agreement. I know that what has happened over the past few years cannot be erased, but it can be corrected. The National Park Service has an obligation to honor the intent of the original agreement and fix what has clearly been an attempt to mostly ignore it.

Below are my comments as related to the major issues with respect to the original agreement between the people of Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the US Government (this applies to the Core Banks also):

-Morning Beach Driving

Driving should not be restricted in areas that are away from the immediate villages. Other areas of North Carolina have no restrictions throughout the year (Carova, Ft Fisher). Turtle nests can be protected by moving those that are in danger away from driving areas. If nesting occurs in such an area and the nest cannot be removed there should be a drive around option available and the restricted area should be as small as possible. Perhaps further developing sand roads like the core Banks behind the dunes with more access points could be an option (it surely could not be expensive).

If early morning nesting of birds and turtles is a concern, perhaps the NPS can go out pre-dawn as the volunteers do in other parts of the Outer Banks and rest of North Carolina to physically protect the animals prior to formal restrictions.

-Seasonal Routes

I am in favor of seasonal routes being extended for the entire year outside of the villages of the seashore. As for the rest of the populated areas I would like to see the six week extension for both the spring and fall.

-Vehicle Free Areas

Should be limited to the Villages and a reasonable distance only.

"Locations of wintering shorebirds" should not be considered VFA's. If an area of the seashore is being enjoyed by a large population of people due to fishing conditions, the birds will not likely drop out of the sky and die due to a particular part of the beach having human activity. They will move to another, safer area. If NPS continues to close off beach sections because of "pre-nesting activities" and pre-emptive closures due prior year data of pedestrian restricted areas- of course more birds will potentially nest on empty beaches.

-Access Improvements

I would like to see a sand road created behind the dunes in any area outside the villages with more drive overs and potential parking (like the Core Banks). Specifically behind ramps 43 down to just past 49. This could allow for less potential traffic on the beaches, closer walks to desired fishing spots when restrictions must be in place and MUCH safer exit options in the event of an emergency (tides or human emergencies).

-Permits

Annual permits should be available for a year after purchase. They should be printable online (just like Virginia's fishing licenses are) with the colors and the available dates clearly visible to NPS Officers (and a second in the glove box). The printouts could be barcoded for simple NPS verification. This would save the government the cost of printing stickers, would save the NPS man hours to issue permits and would save citizens from having to spend hard earned vacation time watching videos and waiting in line at the offices. Maybe it would make sense to have to get your first permit in office, but online with require video updates after that initial permit.

Permits should also be linked to the owner of the automobile with the ability to assign that permit to any vehicle that owner is registered to. I should not have to pay an additional amount of money for a new permit if we decide to take my spouses car to the beach instead of mine.

I hope that these comments are seen as ways to make the Seashore more enjoyable for all people visiting. I hope that the NPS seriously consider the comments of all well meaning sportsmen and sportswomen who, like myself, care passionately about the seashore wildlife, environment and people who have built their lives there to provide such a great experience for people from all over this country. Most of all, I hope that everyone involved in making these changes re-read the original agreement between the well meaning past citizens of Hatteras and the federal government. I hope that you will read it and act with honor and truth to what was agreed upon.

**Received:** Aug,17,2015 21:59:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Wildlife of all kinds must be protected. Compromise once started will be hard to stop. This pattern is the history of interaction between commercial interests and nature.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1416 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 22:37:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** NPS should take steps to open priority beaches as soon after first light as possible. Cape Point is a high priority as it is a great beach for family outings as well as for fishing. Seasonal beaches in front of villages should be reopened earlier in the fall and longer in the spring. Those not in front of villages should be opened no later than September 15. The number closures are detrimental to the visitor and resident experiences. Our boys grew up playing in the tidal pools at the Cape Point while we cooked dinner and enjoyed the beach until well after dark. It is sad that this is not possible. More year round access is needed to provide family and fishing access. Reducing the vehicle free areas can be planned so as not to increase risks to natural resources or affect visitors who want a vehicle free area. Permits should be valid for a year from the issue date.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1417 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 22:42:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Wildlife and our environment comes first and the time to protect it is NOW! So much damage has already been done. NO MORE!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1418 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 22:54:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Will you please consider restricting the use of cars, trucks and other off road vehicles during mating, egg laying, incubation and the time period of newly hatched birds. This is not a long time period of restriction. The gain is the success of survival of the shore birds. We do not have the right to interrupt nature during these times just because we can. It is so important to help the shore birds survive. Please consider the ban.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1419 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1420 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 23:26:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Restore the original protections for the nesting shorebirds at Cape Hateras National Seashore. Do not reduce the protections further. I know you are under pressure from politicians and have to think of the future of the whole park service, but find a way to protect the birds with roped off areas etc.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1421 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,17,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Protect our National Seashore from the impacts of ORVs.

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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.

Scientific research has shown that these native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.

I strongly urge you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1422    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:06:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for wildlife, and for those who wish to have a low-impact experience.

Please keep the current plan with regards to ORV use. The East Coast of the US is completely overdeveloped, and there are few places where people and wildlife can live without the disturbance of modern society. ORV's have an abundance of opportunities up and down the coast, but quiet beaches are extremely limited.

Please keep current protections in place for wildlife, especially birds, including night driving restrictions.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1423    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:09:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I want the animals protected but at the same time I don't want to lose the only beach that we still have the freedom to drive on without a million restrictions. I don't see why we can't have both. Designate an area for research and leave the rest of the beach alone.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1424    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 01:17:10  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1425    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** \* WE want to see the beaches thoroughly checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning. WE prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach or better YET, not to allow anyone on the beach till nesting season is WELL OVER.

\* 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.

WE ARE 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.

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 1426    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 02:17:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** please save pliping plovers

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**Correspondence ID:** 1427    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 02:28:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** It is time that we put animals like birds and turtles first when it comes to their nesting habitat! If we don't give them the priority over "human fun" then we will lose a significant number of them. I don't know why this is even up for debate. If you have no birds or turtles there you will lose tourism dollars plus a lot more.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1428    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am appalled that extensions of ORV routes are even being considered at the National Seashore. My family and friends go to the beach to get away from the traffic not to walk on the beach as traffic drives by. What a public eye shore! There are plenty of spoiled beaches for those who want to drive their vehicle can go to. The more traffic allowed on the beach the more litter there is which is a hazard to beach goers as well as wildlife.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

Any rule changes to the current plan should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 and other shorebirds.

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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1429    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 02:39:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** "Nature was there first and, under protections of a National Seashore designation, has a right not to be run over."

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**Correspondence ID:** 1430    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 03:17:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** FOR GOODNESS SAKES ! PROTECT OUR BIRDS !

They belong to everyone and enrich our lives immensely.

We'll be watching what you do.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1431    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1432    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 04:01:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am here 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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1433    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 04:41:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am deeply concerned about opening our national seashore to vehicles. There are many places to drive, and beaches should not be one. We go to the beach for peace, beauty, to connect with nature, walk for miles, sea wildlife, watch our children play in the sand. We see birds and turtles nesting, crabs burrowing, dolphins fishing. Cars and noisy vehicles make this just another road. I've seen beaches open to cars, full of ruts, litter, noise, bad smells, looking like parking lots. People can and should walk to the beach!

All the aesthetics above are not as important as ruining sea turtle and bird nesting areas.

Keep our beaches pristine, please!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1434    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 04:49:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as



nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1435    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 04:59:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Motor vehicles doesn't belong on the beach. If you can't walk there and enjoy the sound of the waves, don't go there and disturb other peoples peace.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1436    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 05:07:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** In the beginning, God tasked Adam (humankind) with naming and PROTECTING the animals He gave for our enjoyment and benefit. Allowing vehicles on the beaches where birds are nesting and raising their chicks, goes against the responsibility assigned to us. IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT BIRD SONGS!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1437    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 05:09:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Birds & wildlife deserve continued protection

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**Correspondence ID:** 1438    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 05:19:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1439    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 05:23:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Keep the beach pristine and keep driving restrictions on.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1440    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 05:26:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect our wild areas. It is a question of respect and consideration for each other.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1441    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 05:28:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Two centuries of encroachment on forests, prairies & wetlands has considerably reduced space for Native Wildlife and plants. The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1442    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 05:32:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The wild Outer Banks is one of my 'spiritual homes'. I have been visiting there since 1973 when we moved here from Maryland. I am an avid fisher person and have done so in the surf all up and down that coast. I have fished Cape Hatteras [Cape Point] many, many times. I've seen the hoards of people there, shoulder to shoulder with large numbers of 4 wheeled vehicles. Far too many of these souls act like animals there, driving every where to get fish. Many run a muck up and down the shores caring little for the wonderful wildlife there.

I am an avid birder and wildlife enthusiast, also. This area, our Cape Hatteras National Seashore in particular, must be protected for wildlife first, people second. Breeding seasons are characteristic of sea turtles and birds. I fully believe that these places can be shared intelligently. Soo many people come down from up north to take advantage of the fishing. A great deal of money is thusly reaped by the economy. This fact alone drives this controversy.

I am an avid photographer and will be there soon in September. I will be visiting our Cape Hatteras National Seashore again, in particular the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge and the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. I will be [once again] enjoying the annual Wings Over Water Program which spans from Columbia to Ocracoke Island. As you might imagine, I have helped the economy there over the 42 yrs I've been here. I fully believe that the present rules should be sustained.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1443    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 05:40:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** You must not allow misguided special interests to vacate the protections in place along the barrier beaches. The use of ORV's and 4x4's are a disaster for the animals which use this area, and that includes me. Science studies and the results of the impositions placed on beach use have proven that these areas must remain off limits to the mechanized vehicles which disturb and destroy the beach environment. There is no need to allow ATV, ORV and 4x4 activity.

Look to the science not the special interests.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1444    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 05:42:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello,

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Respectfully yours,

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1445    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 05:48:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** ORV's entertain a handful of individuals. However, their use at national seashores, like Cape Hatteras must be contained so families enjoying a passive day of pleasure and escape at the beach aren't placed in danger or exposed to noise pollution these vehicles pose. Just as importantly, endangered and threatened sand nesting wildlife including piping plover, redknots, oyster catchers and turtles require our protection from the destructive damage of ORV's.

Limit the areas, hours and seasons of these devices or a day at the beach will be a stressful noisy experience and wildlife will be tragically impacted!

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1446    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 05:50:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I read with concern the proposed changes in ORV access to the beaches. I did not see any mention of how wildlife that currently uses these beaches for nesting would be protected or any mention of the science that backs up the proposed changes and how it would benefit wildlife and the pristine nature of this area. These are very important considerations as it speaks to the very heart of the area. We are visitors to this area and it is important that in doing so, we impact minimally what is there.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1447    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 06:04:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect our wildlife and our beaches by not allowing vehicles to drive on them!!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1448    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 06:04:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My wife and I travel to the Outer Banks from Gibsonville, NC, several times a year to enjoy the natural beauty and the wildlife of that area. We certainly hope that this beauty can be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Thanks you!

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1449    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 06:20:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We need to accept recommendations made by environmental scientists before causing more extinctions through carelessness. Enforce protection for this unique irreplaceable area. Don't allow our bad habit to destroy it.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1450    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 06:26:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I was born and raised in NC. I have visited the Hatteras Seashore so many times. The attraction has always been the solitude, the nature, and the untouched feeling of the past. The Hatteras National Seashore should remain as is. We must always protect it and most important - our wildlife that live there. We can't extend hours driving on the beaches, etc. Leave it alone! I can't believe this would even be considered.....LEAVE IT ALONE PLEASE!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1451    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 06:39:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1452    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 07:00:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We have made progress over the past few years in protecting the nesting sites of sea turtles, increasing the number of nest and off-spring. A continued effort is imperative to save the endangered small water fowl that live along our coast. To do this we must limit man's access to limited areas along our unique and precious beaches, beaches that have been invaded by tourist from other states whose beaches have become so crowded and

encroached upon that many times the entire beach is closed to additional persons because of over crowding, i.e. Jones beach. Surely we can protect and preserve what makes our beaches so special for mankind and wildlife by limiting access to these natural nesting areas. Mankind will be better served by preventing his automobile traffic, trash dumping and defiling of at least this small bit of Mother earth.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1453    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 07:06:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please honor the lives of our coastal turtles and birds by limiting driving on our beaches. It will be a shame if we drive them into extinction. We are able to adapt to change much easier than they can. Thank you in advance for protecting our wildlife.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1454    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 07:15:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The Outer Banks are the jewel of North Carolina. One of its primary attractions is that it is a family oriented vacation spot that has no large commercial buildings (such as a Walmart. If it gets overrun by large trucks blaring music as a lazy person fishes off the tailgate it becomes like many other beaches. If they want to fish, let them walk.

The vehicles disturb more than the birds. They disturb other beach goers who want to enjoy the beach and ocean. People have to warn their small children to be careful of vehicles careening down the beach. These drivers are not courteous or cautious. Quite the contrary.

Those who think that the world can do without birds or turtles or other wildlife are woefully ignorant of the balance of nature. Please keep the restrictions.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1455    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 07:18:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As the N&O so eloquently stated,

"Nature was there first and, under protections of a National Seashore designation, has a right not to be run over."

The Park Service is evaluating the special regulation and considering modifying morning opening of beaches, extending the length of fall and spring seasonal ORV routes, plus modifying the size and location of vehicle-free areas. Public scoping will help inform the development of alternatives that will be analyzed in an Environmental Assessment (EA).

The Park Service has reduced buffers well below the research-based recommendations to just 50 meters for Piping Plover nests and 25 meters for American Oystercatcher nests.

UNACCEPTABLE.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1456    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 07:30:23  
**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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1457    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 07:32:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1458 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 07:39:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** If humans could be trusted to do the right thing on their own we wouldn't need laws, but we can't so we have to keep protections in place to preserve animals habitat and the natural beauty!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1459 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 07:49:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am here 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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1460 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 07:51:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect the wildlife on our coasts. Beaches are not meant for driving.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1461 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 07:57:42  
**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. I feel it is vital to protect this space so that these creatures may continue to live and reproduce in peace.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1462 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 07:59:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The ammount of land left to wildlife is diminishing day after day for reasos like developing areas, turism,farming, etc. Furthermore, the more a territory, a site or premises are open to the public, the more oppotunity for such places to get trodden, misused and over noised. None of these helps wildlife restauration. Please see that nothing worsens the already weak equilibrium between species needs and human wanting more and more of the scant space left to other members of the planet.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1463 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1464 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 08:16:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Save Cape Hatteras

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**Correspondence ID:** 1465 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 08:17:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear National Park Service, It is important to protect our national parks and the wildlife that inhabits them. Increasing beach usage particularly with vehicles negatively impacts wildlife such as plover nests etc... Our birds and animals are under constant pressure from development. Let's keep our recreation spaces in accordance with the best science to help endangered species survive and thrive. It is important to make decisions with the future in mind.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1466 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 08:26:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I love the quiet, calm atmosphere of the beach, the beautiful sand and the wildlife that owns the beach after the summer season and tourists are gone. The wildlife that tries its best to survive the summer onslaught.

I don't own an ORV and don't understand why those obnoxious vehicles are allowed to ruin not only the tranquility of the beach but the habitats of those who came first. It reminds me that if you have enough money you can pretty much do anything you want including buy lobbyists and destroy natural habitats. Surely there are other places to ride these dangerous vehicles, places that don't involve disturbing others enjoyment of the beach and ultimately destroying the natural habitats of animals who are already in danger from mans constant need to control and destroy the environment. Please do your best to protect the beaches from those rich enough to make their own rules, always wanting just a little more, another exception.

The beach is there for us to care for and enjoy and we've already done enough damage. Stop ORV's from destroying habitats.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1467 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 08:30:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Cape Hatteras National Seashore is important to us as conservationists who believe that protection of our natural resources must come before inappropriate recreation. We ask you to please keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras for the protection of endangered birds like the Red Knot. Science must prevail. Night driving must be banned. Public safety and wildlife protection must come first. Beaches should not be further degraded by inappropriate recreation in motor vehicles.

Please do your jobs and listen to the people who love our national park areas for the inspiration they provide, not to lobbying by motorized groups. Thanks for taking care of Cape Hatteras for future generations.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1468 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 08:31:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** A very simple message: please extend every protection to the birds.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1469 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 08:44:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please limit access to the beaches and ORV during critical nesting and developping time of turtles,birda and other coastal creatures

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**Correspondence ID:** 1470 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 08:44:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please keep restrictions on ORV traffic to help birds, turtles, and other wildlife. They were here first, and now are endangered. People are NOT endangered. Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1471 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 08:45:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect our birds, our wildlife for future generations.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1472 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been travelling to the Outer Banks for more than 50 years. One of the greatest pleasures of visiting the Outer Banks is the lack of development and intrusion on the National Seashore. I love the pristine undisturbed beaches. It's easy to enjoy those beaches without driving ORVs onto the beach. ORVs destroy the nature beauty of the beach.

I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

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

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1473    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 08:52:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Stop the nonsense at Cape Hatteras and protect the birds and turtles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1474    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 09:13:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Why would there need to be greater access for ATV's to the beach? Because selfish individuals have little or no regard for protecting natural habitat at the expense of their own pleasure.  
There is absolutely no redeeming value in the use of the beach in this way, but other human beings can benefit from the protection of species that rely on the beach to nest and nurture their young.  
Previous arrangements have allowed for both recreation and environmental protection. Please do not change what has been working just to satisfy the greed of those who would carelessly abuse nature's gifts.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1475    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am a lifelong NC resident and supporter of public lands and all the ecological and habitat benefits they provide.

I have the following concerns about the opening of Cape Hatteras National Seashore to additional ORV routes, plus modifying the size and location of vehicle-free areas:

Before beaches are opened each morning and ORV traffic is allowed on the beach, beaches should be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks.

In sensitive areas of the beach that are habitat for sea turtles and birds, the NPS should not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures.

Night driving should not be allowed under the new plan, as this is a particular danger to 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. I urge you to review all the literature on the impacts that additional permissions for ORVs would have on wildlife populations.

Thanks for your consideration of this comment!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1476    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 09:15:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** i would like to see the following changes made to the current regulations regarding access to the NPS Cape Hatteras areas:

- 1) I believe you could safely change the seasonal openings for the beaches in front of the villages from October 1 until April 30th.
- 2) I believe you could safely open the seasonal openings for the beaches outside of the village from September 1 until April 30th.
- 3) I see the area Bodie Island as being able to be eliminated from all restrictions UNLESS there are breeding turtles in the area, which i have not seen in years.
- 4) I believe that the annual permit should be from the day of purchase, as it would allow buyers to tailor their needs to the purchase, and also i am sure it would have more tourist buying them for those on longer vacations. I think the addition of both a 10 day and 30 day permit might be of value to visitors as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinions



**Correspondence ID:** 1477    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 09:21:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** It is a Disgrace that you the Park Service want to help Destroy Cape Hatteras National Seashore.By allowing wider driving areas you are going to kill wildlife!! This has been there home forever. You that people drive and tear up the dune and wildlife habitat.People today are wreckless and only care about theyselves. I have been out to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore many time and it is beautiful.It needs to stay that way.....

**Correspondence ID:** 1478    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

Specific changes I support include:

- Opening priority beaches as soon after first light at possible;
- Reopening beaches in front of villages earlier in the fall and later in the spring;
- Reopening seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of Vehicle-Free-Area (VFA) designations, by no later than September 15;
- Reclassifying many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes;
- Reclassifying some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes;
- Reducing the amount of VFA miles in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore;
- Issuing 10 day permits in addition to annual permits;
- Issuing annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

**Correspondence ID:** 1479    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 09:34:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** There are now over 7 billion human beings on this blessed planet. We believe the time has come to remove all motorized vehicles from the beaches. This is an old tradition that needs to die. It is not caring of the environment nor the sentient beings, such as turtles and birds that inhabit the beaches.

Beaches are a very finite and precious space between the land and sea, just a tiny stretch of Mother Earth compared to all of the rest of Her. Why would we allow this destructive practice to continue as we enter a New Age? It is not acceptable and I think a petition could be started to enforce a ban on all motorized vehicles on all beaches.



**Correspondence ID:** 1480    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 09:39:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect the birds!

**Correspondence ID:** 1481    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 09:44:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** "The fundamental purpose of the parks is 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." That means protection of the environment and its wildlife should be the first and foremost priority of the park service with recreational use by humans that's consistent with that basic tenent. To that purpose, non-ORV beach goers, who make up the majority of visitors, should be able to enjoy the area in its natural setting without the artificial noise and safety issues that ORVs bring with them. Foot traffic is less destructive to the natural habitat than ORVs that can impact natural vegetation leaden got erosion.

ORV users, who are the minority of visitors in the park, already have beach set-asides for usage during the daylight and limited nighttime hours. These route restrictions were put in place to protect wildlife habits and breeding areas, and allow usage by non-ORV users who don't want to be disturbed by the noise pollution of off-road vehicles in an area that would normally have none. In addition to noise, ORVs bring increased air pollution that disrupts enjoyment of the beach and contributes to increased stress on the environment. Easing ORV restrictions would be contrary to the above stated goal and should be avoided.

**Correspondence ID:** 1482    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 09:53:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form



**Correspondence:** PLEASE have a heart for our shorebirds and animals! It just seems so cruel for trucks and ATVs to storm across the beaches with abandon at any time of the year or day. These little birds, turtles, etc. are a very precious heritage for us and our children. But if we wipe them out because they can't safely raise their young - than what? We will have to answer to future generations for our disrespect and selfishness.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1483    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 10:02:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Sea turtles and seashore birds cannot speak for themselves, so that is why they need people like us who are willing to make a fight for what's right. I am very concerned of the fact that sea turtles, seashore birds and even seashore visitors are being endanger of ORV trafficking. A beach is not a roadway, it's not meant driven on. Sea turtles and birds are at risk because, people don't see their nesting sites so they easily run right over without a care in the world. Not only are sea turtles and birds are at risk but also seashore visitors. People, more especially children want to have fun at the beach and enjoy every single minute they can. But at National Seashore, they have to be at caution in case a vehicle comes by. Family want to enjoy a day at the beach without the fear of being hit vehicle. And once visitors see they are as well in danger, they would want to not go back to that beach, leaving the National Seashore underpopulated. Now ORV doesn't have to be taken off completely. There can be some agreements or rules the can be taken place. Such as, having night driving restrictions. Driving at night endangers both the birds and the sea turtle nests. Also, before beaches are opened, they should be checked for nests that are in the area. And once they are found then a barrier of some sort should be made around them to secure their safety. And as well, do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring or fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles and birds; limit the extended closures only to the areas that do not affect the wildlife in any kind of way. And research has shown that sea turtles and birds need beach-driving restrictions to survive. Theses wildlife's deserve the protections, they were here before us.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1484    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please consider the future of our beaches and the wildlife that depend on them. We must try to preserve as much as we can to help the wildlife survive. There are so many developmental and human intervention for the world's wildlife to overcome and contend with. They need all the consideration that we can give them. It is important for all life including human life to care for the planet and our fellow creatures here. How tragic it would be for our children to no longer enjoy the love and admiration of those animals. Please do not allow fleeting moments of revelry by humans and their motorized vehicles destroy our wildlife's habitat. In fact, actual young animals will be killed by these mechanical monsters.

I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

â€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.

â€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:

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

â€Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

â€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 and other shorebirds.

â€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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1485    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 10:03:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I'm sorry for all the people who think that beaches should be motorways, because they are wrong, especially in a NATIONAL SEASHORE, which SHOULD mean that those beaches are PROTECTED. What is the point of a National Seashore if it doesn't protect and preserve the natural environment? If people want to DRIVE on a beach, let them go to the beaches that are NOT protected. A National Seashore should exist to preserve the NATURE that lives in its boundaries. We had proof last summer of the damage to the sea turtles that can happen when idiots drive on the beach. At least one adult female turtle was destroyed by some jerk that just had to drive on the beach. Keep vehicles OUT of protected areas, and especially the nesting sites in the National Seashore!! (I can't believe I even have to say this, because it should be OBVIOUS!)

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**Correspondence ID:** 1486    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 10:05:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would love to see more access to beaches and extended time.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1487    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** You won't find any sea birds or sea turtles knocking on your office door any time soon. So full accountability for their safety-their very lives and species-falls at your feet. You stand between them and drivers of ORVs who love the challenges of beach driving and the wind in their hair.

The irony is that when these drivers are older, they will understand the wisdom of restricting access to beaches that harbor sea turtles and birds. But by then there may well not be any of these creatures left.

So I am asking:

Protect the current plan. Don't make any changes without peer-reviewed science.

Continue to prohibit night-driving where sea turtles and birds have their nests. By the way, do you check for bird and turtle nests, and eggs and chicks, BEFORE the beaches open in the morning?

This plan has been working. Stop actions against wildlife such as decreasing the size of buffers without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you for your time.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1488    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** 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.

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1489    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 10:13:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Having grown up in NC and spent 8 years living in Wilmington, I know that the coastal natural resources that NC has are incredibly special. From the salt marshes to the barrier islands, these are unique to North Carolina, and we should all take pride in protecting them and keeping them in as much of a wilderness state as possible. The National Seashore is vital habitat for so much life, it is ridiculous and short-sighted to give in to the demands of ORV enthusiasts, who harbor little concern beyond getting a little adrenaline rush in on their vacation. That kind of desire does NOT belong in the realm of a National Seashore. These shorebirds, sea turtles, and marine invertebrates have no where else to breed, and by running them over, destroying their sensitive habitat, and making it otherwise uninhabitable simply by human and machine presence directly leads to declines in the population. Many of these organisms need all the protection they can get and cannot afford to lose any more breeding grounds. Humans have plenty of space to roam and destroy mindlessly. Let's all pay more attention to what little we have left to preserve, not only for these incredible and diverse marine animals, but for future generations to observe and enjoy. Do not shift the baseline further.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1490    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 10:20:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

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

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 1491 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect:

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

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 and other shorebirds.

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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1492 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

Here are my suggestions...

1.) Restore access to the sound side beach just south of the Haulover (Canadian Hole). which has been enjoyed by Family's and Watersports enthusiasts for many years. The area is shown to be "ORV open" on the NPS maps but there is no access since they put up the fence at the hole parking lot. Two specific suggestions. a.) easiest and quickest solution would be to lift the No ORV stakes at kite point and allow ORV to access sound side shore line south of the hole from kite point, not ideal..but would be quick and easy and low dollar. b.) build an ORV access point from the SE corner (not SW) or the parking lot where it would not be prone to wash out from storms (which is why we lost the original access point). An "S" shaped access point would be far less likely to wash out than a straight ramp.

2.) Restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 34 which is 500 yards north of Avon village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness ares (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least ORV access 1000 yards to the north and 100% pdestrian access year around.

3.) Restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 23 which is 500 yards south of Salvo village year around. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use. Most anyone will agree that closing the ramp closest to the Village forcing beachgoers to drive further into a wilderness ares (other ramps that are open further away from town) is certainly a puzzling decision. How on earth is that good for the environment? now you force people to drive further, burn more gas and create more pollution, into an area that typically saw little traffic. At least ORV access 1000 yards to the south and 100% pdestrian access year around.

4.) Build a parking lot at Kite point. Rt. 12 in this area is a huge safety issue. people enjoy using kite point. build a parking lot for them so they won't have to park along Rt 12. (note: This issue has been caused by requiring a beach driving permit to access kite point now people park on route 12 to avoid the beach driving permit fee.)

5.) Make Sound Side beach driving access free. If sound side beach driving access was free it would solve the safety issue of cars parking along all of Rt 12 instantly. Now you could safely and legally pull off Route 12 and park in a safe area. Use the current beach camp fire permit as a model. Sound side beach ORV access would free but you'd still have to get the permit so the NPS can "educate" the public about safe soundside beach access. Or make the sound side beach access ORV fee very affordable.. say \$15.. so everyone would comply. This would immediately stop the insanity going on Rt 12 all up and down the Cape Hatteras Seashore.

6.) Make it so that when you buy a yearly Beach driving permit that it actually is good for a year. Yearly beach driving permits would last one year from the date of purchase.

7.) Tell them to take the Reform Bill to heart, beach walking below the hi tide line anywhere in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore should not be a crime. There are currently large stretches of shoreline in which you are not allowed walk. Open those beaches and change the law.. beach walking is not a crime.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1493 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 11:10:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** So I guess you are shrinking the safety zones for birds nesting because there will be tar balls and oil washing up on the shores soon anyway? WTF? Doesn't make much sense to me. We are killing ourselves by killing our environment.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1494 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 11:14:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** PLEASE, PLEASE keep the protections of the Piping Plover and other wildlife IN PLACE at Cape Hatteras. Give these birds a chance!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1495    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 11:34:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect the plovers by NOT expanding off-road vehicle access that threatens their nesting grounds.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1496    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 11:44:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1497    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 12:05:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please maintain strict driving limits at our National Seashore Beaches not just to protect our shorebirds, but also for the aesthetic of enjoying one of the few remaining outdoor spaces that create a sense of timelessness and carefreeness. The last place I want to see evidence of vehicles, grease and oil stains, and hear engines piercing the sound of waves, or have to watch for vehicles instead of ambling, cloud watching, or daydreaming is at the beach.

There are plenty of roadways, parking lots, highways, RV resorts, and off-road trails for vehicles, and diminishing numbers of sites dedicated to people and wildlife. When I imagine a beach, it is always with birds close at hand - pelicans, gulls, willets, sandpipers, etc. Without seeing and hearing birds at the beach, the experience would be feel contrived. Please do everything in your power to protect the beaches, birds, and turtles that make visiting the beach so special for so many. There are many existing pressures on wildlife so that somehow adding to that burden in what we think of as one of our most protected environments, our National Park/Seashore System, would be an unconscionable act.

Thank you for standing up to a noisy minority for what is right for the good of the quieter majority.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1498    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 12:08:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1499    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 12:38:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1500    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 12:39:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1501    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 12:39:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1502    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 12:40:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1503    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Now, the Park Service is preparing to reduce the protections even further by expanding the areas, the number of days-encroaching on nesting season-and the times when vehicles can drive on the beach in the vicinity of nesting birds and sea turtles.

Amidst this controversy, Seashore staff report that only two Piping Plover chicks fledged this year, the lowest count since 2004. The news is a stern reminder of how quickly hard-won conservation gains can be lost.

The Raleigh News & Observer supports keeping the protections in place in their editorial, "Keep the driving limits on Cape Hatteras National Seashore" published on August 9.

The National Park Service is accepting comments on its misguided proposal. The full plan is available at the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment website. Comments must be submitted at the comments page by August 21, 2015. If you submit a comment, please let us know through this simple form. It's the only way we have of tracking our efforts. You can use the sample comments below:

Sample Comments  
(IMPORTANT: Comments must be submitted at that National Park Service Planning site:  
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=67586>)

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1504    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom It May Concern:

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

The beaches are 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.

Please 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 hoping you will look at the current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. This is important!!

Please continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks. It is totally unnecessary, too!

Please do not allow more ORV access. This isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas should be expanded to protect red knots and other shorebirds. It's a beach, not a parking lot!!

Please do not allow the beaches to be 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. This is not in the best interest of people or nature!

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.

Thank you for your time.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1505    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 12:56:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing in favor of maintaining the current limitations on driving on the beach in Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The national seashore had protection of wildlife as one of its original mandates and this goal should not be sacrificed to the interests of parties who want only to exploit the seashore. The current limitations are necessary for breeding turtles and birds to maintain their populations. Moreover, Cape Hatteras National Seashore contains a large fraction of the few extensive beach areas in North Carolina in which these sensitive species can breed. We should not sacrifice the well-being of these species for fleeting and exploitative uses.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1506    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 12:59:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** MORNING BEACH OPENINGS: The priority beaches at 6:30 A.M. option would be the least confusing. SEASONAL O.R.V. OPENINGS: Two weeks more in the spring and fall is plenty. VEHICLE FREE AREAS: The ocean side area across the street from the Haulover (Canadian Hole) access should always be vehicle free for at least four-hundred yards to the north. ACCESS POINTS: Kite point really needs a parking area. The ramp 45 access could have better close to the beach parking. BEACH DRIVING PERMITS: Should be one year from date of purchase.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1507 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 13:15:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not cower to the ORV fishing groups and protect CAHA as it was intended to be and as the governing charter for the park requires that it be. A small vocal minority of users should not dictate NPS policy. Please maintain the restrictions as is under Alternative F and make no more concessions. ORV users are not entitled to access and their voices should not be heard above the rest of North Carolina residents who want their natural heritage protected.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1508 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We must all continue to speak for birds, sea turtles, and other wildlife that don't have voices. PLEASE continue to protect these imperiled species - and all wildlife - from beach traffic. A good way to continue protecting them (as you are mandated by law, I think) is to do the following:

- Do not extend ORV routes or spring/fall closures on any beach that affects sea turtles or birds. Limit extended closures to areas that DO NOT AFFECT wildlife.

- Check beaches for bird and turtle nests (including eggs and chicks) before beaches open in the mornings. I want the beaches to be cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on them.

Any changes to the current plan should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states. Please do not cave to community pressure. I do not live at the beach, but I definitely go to the beach several times each year for wildlife viewing. I do not like to see vehicle tracks and signs that our wildlife is at risk due to driving ORVs on the beaches.

Please continue to prohibit night driving. Driving at night is a no-win situation for sea turtles as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

Our wildlife needs these beach driving restrictions to survive! Please support our wildlife and scenic beaches and don't turn them into playgrounds for motorized vehicles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1509 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 14:00:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** For the last 30 years I have been involved in making our state a better place for our citizens and wildlife. I strongly encourage you not to extend the hours or areas that would allow more beach driving on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. We currently have made progress in protecting and improving the status of the Plover and Sea Turtles. This needs to continue at least with the current regulations which are even not as scientific evidence recommends. Also, please do not extend the length of the fall and spring openings when turtles or birds are nesting. During the open seasons for driving on the beach, the beach also should be checked for nests before the vehicles are allowed to drive there. I appreciate your efforts to protect and preserve our National Seashore for us and future generations.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1510 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** To: National Park Service

It has come to my attention that you are considering a change in the restrictions of beach access of the Outer Banks of North Carolina. I use to Hatteras Island for surf fishing every year for many years. I have not been to the OBX since 2015! The reason for this is your draconian restrictions to the beach, mostly due to the ridiculous claims about some "endangered" bird that had only 2 nesting pairs on the island. We all know that there are lots of these birds further north, but Hatteras seems to be the southern most location for them. This whole attack by the Sierra Club & others is absurd. Access to the beaches of Hatteras Island should be returned to the 2005 limitations at the very very least! If you wish to ruin the lively hood of the local people that depend on fisherman like me that love to come to Hatteras (and spend our money), then SHAME ON YOU! DO THE RIGHT THING & reopen the Hatteras Island beaches like they use to be!

I am a 67 year old Pharmacist that has been fishing the Atlantic Ocean since I was 6 years old and Hatteras is my favorite area along the entire east coast! Thank you for your time,

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**Correspondence ID:** 1511 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 14:03:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please continue at least the current plan to regulate beach access. It is really no fun to go to our beaches where vehicles have caused ruts that make it difficult to walk, to see the crushed shells and animals, to watch for traffic.

When I was growing up and going surf fishing, we took a tackle box and a fishing rod and walked across the dunes; we never drove on the beach. We enjoyed it and didn't disturb other people with noisy vehicles. Some places for people with disabilities could be provided and would be very appropriate.

thank you for opportunity to request your support to protect our beaches according to the establishment of the National Park designation.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1512    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 14:12:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:  
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:  
The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1513    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 14:19:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Protect our National Seashore  
\*stick with night driving restrictions  
\*check beaches before opening every morning for bird and turtle nests, chicks and eggs.  
\*do not extend ORV routes or seasonal closures on beaches that affect wildlife, birds and turtles

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**Correspondence ID:** 1514    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 14:22:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** National Park Service:

Are you actually going to please the red-neck ORV users over the survival of plovers, oyster-catchers etc.? Are you actually going to give in to the congressmen who are paid by the ORV businessmen instead of going by what the science tells you?

Keep the protections on the land.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1515    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 14:24:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am a 68 year old woman who grew up in Eastern NC and spent most summer vacations visiting the Outer Banks. As such, Hatteras Island is quite dear to me and my family. Surf fishing is my passion and I find the current ORV rules/regs quite restrictive to pursuing this pasttime. Please keep my comments below in mind when making final decisions on the current ORV rule! Thank you!

#### MORNING OPENING OF BEACHES

The best times for catching fish in the surf are dawn and dusk. The best areas to catch fish are ramps 23, 25, 27 34,38, 43, 44, 45, 49 and 55. These ramps could be opened at first light to allow for the early morning run of fish. One alternative could be to allow anyone with a current ORV permit (whether yearly or weekly) to access these ramps as early as 6AM!

#### SEASONAL ACCESS DATES

The high tourist season is over after Labor Day and continues to diminish as the Fall progresses. As such, the beaches in front of the villages could re-open to ORVs by Sept 15 and remain open until May 1. Seasonal beach access should be made available March 1 - Jan 31. Puppy drum, striped bass and possibly large bluefish can continue to show up in the surf into late January. Keeping the beaches open during this time frame will allow for the optimum fishing experience.

#### VEHICLE FREE AREAS

Ramp 34 should be opened in the Spring and kept open until Jan. 31. This is a prime fishing area! The Buxton ramps - 43, 44,45 should be made accessible seasonally as well. These are also prime fishing areas. Ramp 44 should be made accessible all the way South to Cape Point utilizing access around bird and turtle nesting areas. Ramp 45 should be accessible to ORVs east to the point and west to the new ramp area. Once again these are prime fishing spots.

#### PERMITS



A big bone of contention with fishermen/women is the calendar year permitting for ORVs. The permit should be valid for a year from the date of purchase. Also, there should be more permit options available than the 1 week and one year that currently exist. Possibly permitting for 14-day, 30 day and 6 month periods might be made available.

Thank you again for taking these comments into consideration as the final rules are established.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1516    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* Beaches should be 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. These animals should come before people.

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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 and all 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. How can birds and turtles be protected when vehicles are driven on the beach?

Our wildlife deserves these protections, and scientific research has shown that these 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1517    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds, sea turtles and nature that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Humans have destroyed far too much of nature as it is, we must cherish & preserve all that remains!

Specifically:

- \* Stop all destruction on this precious habitat!
- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1518    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 14:43:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** People don't need to drive on beaches. Beaches are for walking, playing, and enjoying nature. People need exercise, not more driving space which uses gasoline and adds to global warming. And don't forget America's obesity epidemic.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1519    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 14:44:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please DO NOT change the final rule for off-road vehicle management for the Cape Hatteras Seashore area. This area needs to remain protected in order to maintain its fragile ecological balance! Any loosening of the current restrictions on off-road vehicle use will only result in eventual ecological destruction of both plants and animals!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1520    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 14:45:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Cape Hatteras Nat Seashorr

I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure. Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1521    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 14:45:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Allow walkers to enjoy some of the Buxton Point free of vehicles. It seems too one-sided to allow ORVs to take over all of Buxton point, including the hook.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1522    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 14:54:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a person who cares deeply about wildlife, I am opposed to proposed changes to policies regarding ORV's and buffers in Cape Hatteras National Park. I believe these changes are in opposition to the interests of ground nesting birds and sea turtles, as well as people like myself who visit the beach to see wildlife.

My chief concern is for the well being of wildlife who cannot speak for themselves, but for whom human activity has life and death consequences. They have the deepest stake in protection of these beaches. Development has destroyed much of their native habitat. They rely on Cape Hatteras to raise their young. The unavailability of nesting sites at this park would pose a significant frustration for parent birds. Allowing ORV's to drive the beaches when chicks and baby turtles are present would cause tragic deaths for these young animals and put the birds at risk of extinction. I love the little piping plovers who are so energetic and quick witted that they can outrun the surf and find food between waves and I care deeply about all wildlife. Their need for these beaches is greater than ours, and we should do everything we can to protect them.

Many acres of private lands have already been torn up and made inhospitable for wildlife by ORV's. There is no shortage of places for ORV's to drive, and the National Park Service has already made concessions to allow use of ORV's in a way that would cause the least impact to birds and turtles. National Parks are some of the few places wildlife can find protected habitat and the park service should prioritize their protection. ORV's also pose a disruption for the majority of people who visit the park.

I urge the Park Service to base its policies on science and adopt measures that give necessary protection for wildlife: Increasing access to ORV's and reduction of buffers would both harm wildlife. The current policy regarding these should not be changed.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1523    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 15:13:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** President Reagan's anti drug comment applies. "JUST SAY NO"

I am now too old for the dirt biking fun I once enjoyed. Splashing and bashing through mud and sand and ripping up banks and down through gullies is a real adrenalin generating activity. BUT

I now know why my father frowned and shook his head as I showed my great ability to balance, bounce, and generally tear things up.

The damage caused is not worth it. As a kid, 60 years ago, we called them (correctly) cancer sticks. But corporate greed and maneuvering kept the public at risk for another 50 years . . . Science be damned and profit be the 'guiding light'. The cost to the public? The same principle applies to littoral areas of our east coast. The science is plain. The damage is real. The corporate profit for a few is also real. . .

You are asked to do 'the right thing.' What standard applies? I suggest that you use the basics iterated in the Pledge of Allegiance: "with liberty and justice for all." Now, that is possible. Environmental justice acts in concert with the interests of the 99.9%. Note that actions supporting the 99.9% do not act 'unjustly' for the 0.1%, after all are held to the same fair standard. (i.e. 'All pigs really are equal. Some are not more equal."

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**Correspondence ID:** 1524      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug.18,2015 15:44:49

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** COMMENTS REGARDING:

"...public process to consider, consistent with management requirements at the Seashore, changes to the Seashore's ORV special regulation as it relates to the morning opening of beaches, extending the length of seasonal ORV routes in the fall and/or spring, and modifying the size and location of vehicle-free areas (VFAs).

#### CAPE POINT SOUTH BEACH VEHICLE FREE AREA (VFA)

The VFA extending from Cape Point approximately 4-miles south closes the widest beach on Hatteras Island to ORV and is rarely used by pedestrians. I have only seen it used by ORV drivers who park at the closure limit and then hike - I, too, have hiked it, but I would prefer full ORV access. I cannot walk this area in the summer with my Grandchildren - it is too hot.

I request that this area be opened to ORV for the following reasons:

1. In the summer, a walk from the campground to the beach would be dangerous for many and impossible for older people (such as me) due to heat. I have picked up several pedestrians and given them rides to "civilization" in the summer heat.
2. This section of beach is much flatter than the eastern facing ocean beaches and therefore is safer for swimmers and has smaller waves and better boogie boarding for the little ones.
3. It does not appear to be a favored bird area (except for invasive Cormorants).
4. On Memorial Day of 2013 ALL Buxton Beaches were closed for resource conservation and NO ramps were open in Buxton. As a Buxton homeowner, this was shocking. If the VFA South of Cape Point were opened to ORV, it is unlikely that a lockout of Buxton Residents would have occurred.
5. By limiting the area for ORV, the VFA at South Beach pushes many more vehicles onto Frisco beaches, thereby reducing beach goers' enjoyment.
6. There is plenty of area available for Pedestrian use in the Cape Lookout National seashore to the south of Cape Hatteras since vehicle use there is severely limited. Portsmouth Island also provides ample pedestrian access for those who want to visit pristine beaches. These are wonderful VFA's - I never understood why it was necessary to close such a huge area on Hatteras to ORV when there are plenty of VFA's nearby.
7. The South Beach VFA comprises approximately 450 acres because the beach is very wide there. This is more acreage than all of the other Buxton, Frisco, and Hatteras village beaches combined. To limit such a large area of the Park to pedestrian use only seems arbitrary and unfair.
8. The first Director of the Park Service, John Mather, realized that the car could increase Park visitation. "It was Mather's decision to embrace the automobile that would have the greatest impact on the number of people visiting national parks. Even John Muir, Mather's hero, [and avowed environmentalist] had admitted that the automobile might help create new allies for the parks..." Source Ken Burns documentary at <http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks/history/ep4/>  
The ORV allows the greatest number to enjoy Hatteras National Seashore.  
Please open the South Beach VFA to ORV.

#### OPENING HOURS

The hours that beaches are open should be increased in the morning to 5:30 AM. As a child (and later with my children), I lure-fished in the morning for Spanish mackerel and bluefish; we made our first cast when it was so dark that one couldn't see the lure hit the water. We frequently caught fish in these early hours since the target species are most active at dawn and dusk. A 7AM opening is too late since it is past prime activity time for Spanish mackerel and bluefish.

#### CLOSING HOURS

I have many great memories with 3-generations of my family stargazing on Hatteras. The 9PM closing time for ORV effectively ended beach stargazing from areas that were away from light sources. ORV use should be extended to 11 PM.

#### EXTENDING SEASONAL CLOSURES

I am in favor of extending the length available for ORV to use in the spring and fall since beaches are underutilized these periods due to lack of visitation. When I began coming to Hatteras in 1955, there were no seasonal restrictions.

#### ORV PERMITS

Permits based on a calendar year seem to be overpriced especially for the residents and homeowners of Cape Hatteras villages who effectively live in the Park. I feel that permits should be given free to homeowners on Hatteras Island since village homeowners are surrounded by the Park.

I can appreciate that the NPS would rather not deal with permits expiring on a monthly basis, but it is frustrating for guests to buy a permit in August that expires at the end of December and pay \$120. I'd suggest that Permits be priced at \$120 for 2-years, regardless of when they are purchased, i.e. a permit purchased in 2015 would be good thru 2017.

#### A THOUGHT ON BIRD BUFFER ZONES

One of the findings of the study titled, "GIS-based analysis of human disturbance on piping plover abundance, distribution and productivity on the barrier islands of Long Island, New York" by SK Thomsen, May 2006 was that Piping Plover productivity in areas where there were no ORV restrictions was the same as those in areas closed to ORV.

The paper stated "No consistent pattern of differences in mean productivity was observedâ€when all years were pooled together mean productivity was not significantly different between levels of ORV accessâ€"

The study is important because it extends over several years; is based on the latest technological advances using GIS; is rigorous in its statistical analysis; and examines large populations so results are statistically significant.

I suspect the above results can be inferred to be true for other species as well. Certainly, the least tern has no problem with ORV traversing close to nesting areas because the birds don't see a vehicle as a threat.

To conclude: Piping Plover fledged with the same success rate with or without ORV. At Hatteras closing the beaches has not improved Piping Plover numbers either; but buffer zones and beach closures continue to be the primary management tool even though they haven't worked. I think this hurts the credibility of the Park Service.

The environmental community as a whole relies on older methodology and studies. As an Engineer, if I relied on outdated methodology, I would be arrested.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1525    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** It is essential to protect species that will be further endangered by climate change. Piping plovers are already strenuously protected under federal law. Oyster catchers, a wonderful shorebird, are also protected. The habitats of both species are already in decline, and failure to protect them adequately right now will undoubtedly have long-term effects.

We have already seen the piping plover plummet in population- -it is our responsibility to take all steps necessary to protect this and other wildlife, which are national treasures.

I am appalled that the National Park Service would fail to expand, and instead decrease the protections provided for these species. As a native of Eastern Long Island, I know- -as does anyone familiar with our shorelines- -that development, pollution, and other environmental hazards have taken a substantial toll on the habitat, including reductions in food supply and the nesting sites, available to these and other animals.

As a licensed NYS wildlife rehabilitator with a lifelong love for shore birds, especially, I implore the Park Service to reconsider, and restore and expand their protection of these species.

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1526    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 15:55:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

I agree with every single suggested comment. Please use all of them.



**Correspondence ID:** 1527    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 16:04:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 1528    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 16:17:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The wildlife and birds were there first. Motor vehicles should not be on the beaches. Please protect the birds, wildlife and the beaches.

**Correspondence ID:** 1529    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 16:21:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Keep the current limits on vehicles. Nature was there first and, under protections of a National Seashore designation, has a right not to be run over.

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.

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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

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:** 1530    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 16:31:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

- 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:

- The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1531 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife. All beaches should be checked for bird and turtle nests , as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning.

And the beaches cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

Please protect the current plan on night driving restrictions !

Night driving is harmful to sea turtles and their nests as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

Our wildlife deserves all the protections which scientific research as shown that native birds and sea turtles need to survive!

Please cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them!

Please, for the sake of all wildlife, show how human beings can and will do all that is possible to save what's left of American Oystercatchers and Pipping Plovers, as well as sea turtles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1532 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,18,2015 16:37:49

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** If people want to see the National seashore let them hike to see them they need the exersize anyway

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**Correspondence ID:** 1533 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,18,2015 16:40:31

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1534 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,18,2015 17:21:37

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

**Correspondence ID:** 1535    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 17:25:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

To Whom It May Concern, Aug.18, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

My family, friends and I have been visiting the Outer Banks for some twenty to thirty years. We enjoy the non-commercialized atmosphere, the bountiful wildlife and the laid-back attitude of most area residents. I feel if it wasn't for the National Park the area would be commercialized and just another concrete and asphalt maze sticking out into the ocean. That being said, the past few years since the restrictions were imposed have not been as enjoyable due to the anger of the residents, fisherman, and most everyone that you come in contact with on the island. Please consider easing the restrictions, boundaries and fees placed on Orv's or anyone that uses the area, during this review, especially for the Cape Point area.

Thank you for your help in this matter!



**Correspondence ID:** 1536    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 17:32:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As the Outer Banks Group of the National Park Service considers more alterations of the management plan for motorized vehicles on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore beach, because of complaints from a vocal minority of Seashore users, please consider my comment to carry the support of many thousands of Seashore users who prefer natural, quiet beaches in the National Park to those that look more like highways and parking lots. It is likely that you will not hear from many who wish to preserve the pedestrian areas as they are - with no further erosion to the plan by way of earlier beach openings for motorized vehicles, extended seasons for motorized vehicles, or any other concession to the ORV users - and to instead prepare to enhance protection of the natural resources and historic places of the National Seashore as the NPS is required by law to do.

The legislation that was sneaked into a late-hour Defense Appropriations bill - - a cowardly act typical of unscrupulous politicians and their backers - at this stage does not require the NPS to make any further changes to the ORV management plan, especially without serious study and evaluation. Yielding to complaints from a small minority is not how the National Park Service is supposed to manage the precious resources within its charge, and may likely result in further wasteful spending of taxpayer money in the courts.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore is a national park, not a national parking lot.

**Correspondence ID:** 1537    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 17:35:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to support wildlife and bird protection.

Please maintain current protection plan as is, without allowing extended ORV access to beaches where imperiled Piping Plovers and other at risk birds and sea turtles nest. Beaches should be protected from ORV traffic above all else. Limit ORV access to areas where nesting birds and sea turtles are not present. These vehicle free areas should be expanded, which will help protect Red Knots and other birds. Night driving should not be allowed in any circumstance, as this is the most critical time for nesting sea turtles. Any changes to rules and regulations should be supported by scientific peer-reviewed research, as the law states.

I am not alone in valuing the birds and wildlife that use the shores. People have come second to these places, and in doing so have degraded the value of the habitat for wildlife. By maintaining current rules and regulations, and expanding protected areas, we can help restore the integrity of this ecosystem.

**Correspondence ID:** 1538    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 17:40:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I decided to write another comment to emphasize that it is in our hands to protect our natural places. Folks should drive their cars on the roads and walk out to the beach. This would seem an easy rule to save our sea turtles and shore birds.

**Correspondence ID:** 1539    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,18,2015 18:05:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We the people are killing planet earth. When there is an opportunity to regenerate species at the National Sea Shores of this country congress ignores the rules and continues to kill mother earth.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1540 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 18:06:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I beg you to protect nesting areas for birds and endangered sea turtles. Man is destroying and encroaching on these areas at alarming rates. There is just a small window of time for them to nest and hatch whereas fisherman have many, many other places to fish that do not interfere with the birds and sea turtles. They cannot speak for themselves, but for millions of years sea turtles have nested on our beaches. Man is the 100% cause of loss of nesting sites. It's not much to ask to preserve this area for them. When they are gone, it's too late. PLEASE ACT NOW TO SAVE THESE SPECIES.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1541 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Please do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. The extended closures should be limited ONLY to areas that do not affect wildlife.  
At the very least, the beaches should be checked for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning, and ORVs deterred from using those beaches that show signs of wildlife occupancy.

I am counting on you to protect the current plan. Any rule changes to the current plan should, as the law states, be supported by peer-reviewed science - - not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions should be a continued requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 and other shorebirds. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience we expect when we visit a National Seashore. It is 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. We're asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1542 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 18:47:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Walking on the beach is so relaxing and spiritually reviving. We have areas where vehicles are allowed on the beach where I live and I stay away from them. I feel like they don't belong to me, as I suffer from asthma and often, vehicles on the sand are not very eco-friendly. This land is not your land and my land, as per the beloved song, thanks to how it is used. In addition, it is being discovered that possibly, the first European settlers moved to Hatteras Island from Roanoke. It is a historic coastline and driving along the fragile shores and dunes is a travesty. Stop the madness. End vehicular traffic on the coast of Hatteras Island.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1543 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 19:13:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Ramps 23 and 34 should be opened year round like it was in 2003 when I bought my property in Salvo. The Point should be opened year round. The point should have some type of access all year long. Night time driving should be extended. Seniors should get 50% of for a yearly permit. The permit should be extended from seven days to fourteen. If you are a registered vehicle owner and you buy a yearly permit you should be able to get a second permit for your second vehicle for \$20.00 a year. My wife cannot drive my manual jeep. She needs to drive my truck. Why should I have to pay full price for this second permit when I am not using it all the time.  
I believe the comments from residents and property owners should carry the voice on what needs to be done on Hatteras Island. Just because you receive many comments and letters from others that do not live or own property should not influence any decision making. The residents and property owners have an investment while others do not. Thank You.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1544 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 19:35:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Return this to more recreation for the people as congress intended, when opened.

Thanks

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**Correspondence ID:** 1545 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 19:59:40



**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** WHEN DID WE STOP LOOKING AT NORMAL SCIENCE DATA AND STARTED LOOKING AT CONGRESS DATA TO MAKE WILDLIFE DECISIONS

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**Correspondence ID:** 1546    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 20:43:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear National Park Service,

I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1547    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 21:10:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for ALL wildlife!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1548    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 21:10:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, I'm concerned that:  
- 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:  
- The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
- Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
- 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1549    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 21:24:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I often vacation in the outer banks, more than once a year. Birds are one of the reasons in addition to having friends there. I have and will take pelagic bird watching trips from Hatteras. I also have joined the North Carolina Audubon. These beaches are critical for shorebirds while there are more vacationers who prefer no ORVs allowed than those actually ride ORVs.

Only two piping plovers hatched last year and the Park should protect these birds that draw tourists over ORVs that drive them away. The birds need buffers to survive.

**Correspondence ID:** 1550 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 22:25:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

What legal "right" does a fisherman have to drive on the beach of any beach much less the outer banks of North Carolina. Who's in control here? THE NATIONAL PARKS responsible to PROTECT nature! Not encourage damage and killing birds, turtles, and other wildlife. How do they have the "right" to endanger people on the surf including children. DO NOT ALLOW!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1551 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 22:30:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We have to follow the advise of conservTion scientists to allow healthy populations of plovers and turtles in cape hatteras. There is no reason why vehicles should be given precedence over wildlife in a national seashore.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1552 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 01:00:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect Plover nesting area. Do not change driving restriction on Hatteras!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1553 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 05:21:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

- 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:

- The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
  - Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
  - 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1554 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 05:39:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello,

I was recently on Ocracoke Island and was notified that no vehicles are allowed on the beach between the hours of 9pm and 7am because of turtle nesting during the season. I am a photographer, so in order to catch the beautiful night sky and Milky Way, I packed my gear and walked down a ramp only to find several people on the beach with very bright lights. Understandably, I was upset as their lights were interfering with my photography, just as I'm sure they do with the turtles. Then it dawned on me, what's the difference between vehicle headlights and a person shining a very bright lantern during nesting season?

As a photographer, I use a red or green light for night photography. By using red or green, my eyes don't have to adjust when I need to change a setting on the camera.

In Sandbridge VA, they use red or green lights on the buildings that are oceanfront during turtle nesting.

I know the park service is trying to make the beaches more accessible to people, while protecting the wildlife. Here's my suggestion; require night drivers to have red or green covers for their headlights. If this is not an acceptable option, at least require anyone on the beach at night to use red or green lights.

I am in total agreement with the "no white lights" on the beach because of the turtle nesting, however I hope the park service will take the red or green light use into consideration, for everyone. If not for drivers, at least for beach goers. It seems that this would be in the best interest of the turtles, and would allow people to still enjoy the beach.

Thank you for your time,



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**Correspondence ID:** 1555 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,19,2015 05:45:17

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Our shore birds and turtles are threatened by human activity and especially by vehicle access to the beach. Our coastal protected areas are diminishing each year. In order to protect the coastal wildlife please:

As required by law, be certain that all changes to beach access rules are supported by peer-reviewed science not community pressure.

Limit vehicles only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

Expand or maintain the vehicle free areas and buffers in areas with wildlife.

Extend spring and fall opening times on any beach areas that affect sea turtles or birds.

Continue to prohibit night driving because it endangers nesting birds and their chicks and sea turtles and their nests.

Before opening the beaches to vehicles the beaches must be checked for bird and turtle nests, eggs, and chicks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1556 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,19,2015 06:37:27

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We should be more aware of our environment, and be more gracious and protective stewards of the Earth that God gave us. Please make sure you keep this in mind, and preserve our wildlife, as each species is an important element in our ecosystems!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1557 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,19,2015 06:49:28

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The National Park Service should adhere to the intent and implementation of the plan to protect nesting sea turtles and birds. Facilitating recreational access should ALWAYS be a secondary objective. ORV access at night should continue to be prohibited to prevent endangerment of wildlife and human beings walking the beaches at night. No ORV routes should be expanded in areas that would negatively affect sea turtles and birds. If ORVs are impacting the surf zone and populations of crabs or other organisms which live in this zone, I think that should be evaluated. Additionally, groups or individuals looking for sea turtles or their hatchlings at night should be encouraged to use types of lights (red or masked often used with amphibians) which do not interfere with nesting or return to the sea.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1558 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,19,2015 06:55:16

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** May I begin by thanking the NPS for allowing the public to comment on the referenced subject and the hospitality during the meeting which took place in Hampton, VA on August 12.

My comments regarding the ORV usage for Hatteras Island are below and are not influenced by others and may not be the opinion of the NCBBA organization which I am a member of. My wife and I have been enjoying the Outer Banks since elementary school with our parents. I remember when I was able to drive on the beach on the south side of the Bonner Bridge and drive all the way to Rodanthe in the early 70's. In any case, thank you for this opportunity and I would like to think we all could achieve an amicable solution to the ORV usage for Hatteras.

\* Morning Beach Openings = Morning beach openings should be allowed upon first day light, if not earlier, during the year which requires no ORV usage between 9:00 PM and morning of the next day, as this is when the best fishing occurs, provided the weather is accommodating. 7:00 AM is too late a start and 6:30 AM does not improve access much. Following the NPS person in would depend upon what time the NPS person begins their inspection of the beach and would following the NPS person apply to all open ramps at the exact same time? Aren't the commercial fishing persons open to drive the beach at anytime? And are the commercial fishing persons following the NPS guidelines in VFA and ORVA areas before 7:00 AM?

\* Seasonal ORV Routes = I would like to see the 24 hour ORV access dates revert back to an earlier time; an additional six (6) weeks in the fall and spring. September, October, November, April and May are the better months for beach fishing. My wife and I are both plagued by motion sickness. Therefore, my fishing is not enjoyable from a boat. Having ORV access allows me to enjoy fishing during vacations and put food on the table.

\* Vehicle-Free Areas = This was an area of heavy discussion during our meeting. My main thought is there is too much VFA not being used which could be used by ORVs. Several good fishing areas were removed from access by ORV which forced us to be condensed in areas which may and have been over populated. The main reason I go to Hatteras to fish is for getting away from people and stretch out a little. Being within 5 feet of the next person is not my idea of peace and quiet. I fish the POINT very little because of the crowds.

\* Access Improvements = Persons wanting to visit the beaches with family must park at the existing ramps and sometimes walk the ramp which vehicles travel. This is not safe. Move the walk ramp to a safer area with parking; example = beach area where ORV is not passable. At existing ramps, have just an area to check tire air pressure and 4 WD option. Allow for more ORV access between ramps 23 and 34. These are key fishing ramps and too much area has been eaten up by VFA. I would also like to see more areas opened up on either side of Ramp 45, Hatteras Inlet during "Rolling Basis"; Hatteras and Ocracoke. I do know some areas become non-passable at times and makes since to not allow ORV usage during these times. Another area of ORV access to improve is on the sound side between Salvo and Buxton, and south of Hatteras Ferry.

\* Permits = I can vision an amendment to the ORV Permit days. An increase from 7 days to 14 days would allow persons attending fishing tournaments from out of state to attend two tournaments during an eight to nine day period which increases revenue for the locals. The \$50.00 fee should not increase. In fact, I would like to see a decrease of the fee to \$35.00.

Also, I can see a benefit of allowing the permit to be valid for one year from date of purchase, as is the fishing license. I believe MD and VA have a year from date of purchase for their ORV permit and please correct me if I am wrong.

\* Overall, I am pleased that the wild life is being protected. Although, I am saddened that some predators are put down to protect other wildlife. I am curious as to how the NPS will treat the sea turtles now that a NC judge has stated these turtles should be removed from the extinction list.

\* A final thought; dogs off leashes in the VFA and ORV area should have better restrictions or awareness to the owners as many a time I have witnessed dogs off the leash chasing the birds.

I am sure others will address the individual subjects in more detail as I was trying to keep my comments brief. Thank you again for this opportunity to share my thoughts about ORV usage in Hatteras, NC.

Best regards,

**Correspondence ID:** 1559 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,07,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter

**Correspondence:** I am writing to urge consideration of the following changes to ORV driving on the beach in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore:

1. Extend driving period in the fall only.
2. For permits, issue 10-day and annual permits.

In addition, please consider adding to your policy an adoption of the same pet policy as followed by Cape Cod National Seashore, MA. At Cape Cod NS, they also have nesting birds and sea turtles and regulate ORV driving on their beaches. In my opinion, much of the disruption to nests in our area has been due to unleashed dogs that cannot resist chasing birds on the beach. As someone who often walks on our beaches, my observation is that owners do not follow leash laws and no one enforces them. Here is the Cape Cod NS policy on pets (from their website):

"During shorebird nesting periods, pets are not permitted in posted locations. Passing through these areas is prohibited."

**Correspondence ID:** 1560 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 07:20:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** A beach is not a road. Beaches are meant to be places where humans walk, and birds and other creatures can continue their life cycles unimpeded. Having to dodge motor vehicles on the beach is dangerous, and just plain irritating, for humans who are trying to enjoy walking on the shore. For birds, turtles, and other creatures who must live and/or reproduce there, these vehicles threaten their very existence as a species.

Why is a lazy human being allowed to drive on a beach more important than a shore bird or sea turtle? The turtles and birds were there first. They belong there. Motorized vehicles don't. Anyone who is serious about fishing will get to the shore one way or another, and that way should be the way humans got there before the invention of the internal combustion engine.

The times and places where motor vehicles are allowed should be decreased, not increased. National parks are supposed to be places that preserve nature. Expanded driving privileges on the seashore will make this very special park anything but such a place.

**Correspondence ID:** 1561 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 07:22:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not change the restriction on OUR national parkland. The birds and animals need our help to survive. I am a bird steward on Wrightsville Beach. We protect the nesting colonies from beach goers and predators such as dogs. Uninformed people can wipe out a colony in ten minutes. Please don't give in to the few people who feel the need to drive on OUR beautiful seashore. The Outer Banks needs the safeguarded. One day it might disappear.

**Correspondence ID:** 1562 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 08:00:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please, please consider keeping off-road vehicles off the beaches along the Cape Hatteras seashore. There is only one way to keep the baby birds safe and that is to be sure they don't get run over in their nests. It is imperative that we help these baby birds live to be adults as the plovers are having such a hard time growing in numbers. We must care for these birds, all of them, that are nesting on the shoreline during their nesting season. Please Help us keep them safe!!!

Thank you for considering the plight of these birds.

**Correspondence ID:** 1563 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 08:02:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect the wildlife. People don't HAVE to drive off road, but sea turtles HAVE to have safe nesting spaces! People can be redirected but turtles cannot.

**Correspondence ID:** 1564 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 08:09:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Village Closures:  
Closures should be in place from May 1 to September 30.

Night Closures:

No need for night closures to any area of the beach. If this is not possible, then closures should begin at 11PM at night and open no later than 5AM in the morning.

Permits:

The yearly pass should change to from date of issue to renewal on that date the next year. Change 7 day to a 10 day that matches the NC Fishing License.

Routes and Areas:

No closed vehicle areas except the above village closures. Ramp 43 and ramp 44 to Cape Point should never be closed to vehicles for any reason. Ramp 55 should remain a year round area and from the South Point to the Cable Crossing should be seasonally open from September 1 to May 1.

My wife and I visit OBX several times a year and rent a cottage for a month from end of October to week before Thanksgiving so that our family can visit OBX. With the past restrictions we have been limited to beach access.

Thank you for considering my wishes.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1565    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 08:14:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Morning opening of beaches - should be opened as soon as possible, by sunrise if not earlier. NPS could implement a survey along with the permit application process to democratically determine top priorities.

The seasonal openings / closing of ORV access are confusing, and too late in front of villages in the fall, and too early outside of villages in the spring. Make them all open September 15 - March 31 (additional 6 weeks in fall, and additional 2 weeks in spring).

Your yearly permit should be valid for one year from date of issue. You should also go to a 14 day permit instead of the 7 day, since your fee structure does not offer much differentiation between purchasing a yearly permit and two 7 day permits.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1566    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 08:21:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear National Park Service,  
I am a regular visitor to the Outer Banks in North Carolina and want very much to see the birds, turtles, and other wildlife native to these unique barrier islands protected in every way. Although I realize that many people see that driving on the beach is some sort of fundamental right of passage. But the too often unseen consequences of this threatens the nesting of scores of birds and turtles that have used these beaches for nesting for thousands of years. What you have in place now to protect birds and turtles needs to stay in place and be strengthened with each passing year. The increase in nest sites from this protection is markedly measurable and insures that these species will continue to increase in number and will no longer be threaten by extinction. Please do all that you can to protect nesting birds and turtles on the beaches of the Outer Banks.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1567    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 08:31:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please preserve our National Seashores

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**Correspondence ID:** 1568    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 09:41:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear National Park Service,

It is critical that we fulfill our responsibility to protect our shore birds and sea turtles. It is amazing what a mother sea turtle goes through to lay her eggs on the beach - I don't think we have the right to deny future generations the opportunity to witness this wonder firsthand.

I urge you to restrict ORV routes and extend spring and fall closures on areas of the beach that will affect the birds and sea turtles. I urge you to check beaches for evidence of nesting early in the morning and protect any nests or chicks found in the process. I urge you to prohibit night driving.

I also urge that any changes to the management of the beaches be advised through peer-reviewed science as the law stipulates.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1569    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 09:43:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.




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**Correspondence ID:** 1570    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 09:55:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** 1. We must have year around pedestrian shoreline access up to the high tide line on all of our beaches.  
 2. There must be no permanent closures for pedestrians on any of our beaches.  
 3. Beaches must be open to ORV if there is no evidence of bird nesting .  
 4. We need sound side ORV beach access from south side of the Haulover Day Use Area parking lot down to Kite Point. This was something we had in the past but was taken away from us after Hurricane Sandy washed out the expensive ramp that the park service put in after Hurricane Irene. A simple sand ramp was good for us for many years so there is no need for an expensive ramp to be re-installed.  
 5. Eliminate the need for ORV Beach Pass on the sound side. The requirement for the beach pass on the sound side is creating a safety hazard on HWY 12 and it is only a matter of time before someone gets seriously hurt or killed because of multiple cars parked along a 55MPH highway.  
 6. A parking lot is needed on HWY 12 soundside at Kite Point, similar to the parking lot at Haulover. This area is getting more popular and there is a safety problem because of so many cars parked along HWY 12. I always slow down to 15 - 20 MPH when passing this area.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1571    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 10:09:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** my comments are a result of coming to Cape Hatteras National Seashore since 1969 and more recently moving here as a fulltime resident. When I first came here we were able to drive on the beach from Oregon Inlet to Hatteras inlet with the exception of village closure from May 15 to September 15th. Of course all of this ended with the law suit from environmental groups, lack of science from them and the park service and last of all the outrageous closures put on the island by Judge Boyle.

Seasonal ORV routes at ramps 23, 34, 49 and 55 should be from May 15, to September 15. Only the area that is populated by homes should be closed to ORV traffic during this time because of high occupancy and people on the beach that have walked over the dunes from rental houses. Cape point should remain open year round for vehicle access from ramp 43 or 44. The closures fro pre-nesting birds has been a failure since instituted. The only thing it has done is keep the people of this island and fishermen that would come here on weekends to stop supporting our local economy.

Morning beach times should not be done until June 1 and end on August 15. That is when the most nest are laid and have a chance of surviving. I believe that we should be allowed on the beach no later than 6am. That being said park service people will have to get out and check for any crawls around 5am. If resources are an issue then cape point and Hatteras should be checked first and opened for fishing. The other areas could be opened at 7am.

Vehicle free areas should be able to accommodate all citizens able bodied and those with physical limitation. Examples of poor VFA areas are ramp 23 and 34 and 49. They are all a hike to get to the beach and as a result are not used. It just shuts down an opportunity for people with ORV's to gain access to the beach.

The area south of Frisco with paved parking, ramps to the beach and facilities are what is needed for those with out 4 wheel drive.

Ramp by ramp use by ORV's request for consideration.

ramp 23 open year round, open North to village year round and open all the way to Rodanthe pier after September 15th. Ramp 23 to 25 year round access.

Ramp 25 to 30 year round access

Ramp 30 to 34 year round access, from ramp 34 south to village open from May 15 to September 15. After September 15th all the way to Avon Pier.

Ramp 38 all the way to Buxton open year round

Ramp 43 open year round north one mile and open year round to ramp 44

Ramp 44 open year round all the way to the point, if other access needed because of the narrows then create other avenues of approach by vehicle to this area.

Ramp 45 Open year round west to ramp 49. this was wasted area due to no parking for people using Vehicle free area.

Ramp 49 to Hatteras West bound except May 15th to September 15th.  
 And Ramp 49 to Ramp 45 year round access.

Ramp 55 to Hatteras inlet year round access.

By opening these ramps to ORV access it will reduce the over crowding of the few ramps that have been open year round for ORV access. I believe it will ne a much more enjoyable experience not only for those of us that live here but vacationers as well.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1572    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 10:10:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1573    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 10:18:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Having been a regular visitor to CHNS since the early 1960's and enjoying access I have concerns that unjustified weight will be given to the numerous comments submitted by large national groups, only a very small fraction will or ever have the chance to spend time at CHNS. On the other hand I can guarantee that the comments of regular visitors,such as myself, would represent a near 100% vsitation factor.

I resent that several well-funded groups whose members will NEVER see CHNS can promote a bald-faced "Land Grab" to the detriment of those who actively enjoy the access guaranteed by our Federal Government.

I ask for fairness in your considerations and not the semi-martial law we have endured for several years.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1574    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 10:31:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Keep vehicles off the beaches and let the birds and other wildlife have a chance to survive without interference. Beaches are made for walking not driving.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1575    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 10:33:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** No vehicles at all on cape hatteras seashore and beaches. The beaches need to be completely safe for nesting birds. No exceptions.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1576    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 10:48:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing to object to any expanded access of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore beaches (or any beaches in North Carolina) to motorized vehicles. Our beaches are natural areas that support wildlife and birdlife, and we need to protect those areas as breeding grounds, feeding areas, and respite sites for migratory birds. These same areas should be safety zones for people who want to enjoy the solid and natural beauty of our beaches without fear. We have roadways, highways, and interstates for vehicular traffic. They don't need to be on our beaches. If they want to fish, let them walk or use a boat.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1577    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 10:49:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1578    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 11:00:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I have been an active user of CHNSRA for 20 years, and I believe more access is needed to allow myself and my family more opportunities to enjoy this fabulous resource.

1. Open Cape Point and other priority beaches at the first light of dawn. My niece and nephew for some reason like to be there for the beautiful sunrises.
2. Open the beaches in front of the villages from Sept. 15 to May 15. All users, especially families, need greater access not less.
3. Reduce the vehicle free areas, both seasonal and year round. Ramp 34 in particular should be a year round ORV route, to provide better family access for older and very young visitors.
4. Annual beach driving permits should last for one year from the issue date, not calendar year. Maybe color coded month-end tags could be added, or numbers to identify the expiration month.

Thank you!



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**Correspondence ID:** 1579    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 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 to ORV traffic in the morning. I prefer that the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.  
I oppose extending the ORV routes and extending spring and fall closures for ORV use in any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. I would like to see limiting the extended closures for ORV traffic to areas that do not affect wildlife.  
I am counting on you to protect the current plan and not propose rule changes unless supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
I favor continuing to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 and other shorebirds.  
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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1580    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 11:32:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Motorized vehicles are one of the major banes afflicting many national parks. They just do not belong in natural areas. The National Park Service has a mandate to protect our natural resources, meaning flora and fauna. In this age of diminishing lands and resources, it is up to the NPS to ramp up their protection, although it may mean opposing businesses like ORV manufacturers and those who ride them, as well as going up against communities who feel the beaches belong to them. This is especially important in a place like Cape Hatteras where nesting sea turtles and threatened bird species rely on development-free beaches for their very survival. Vehicle-free areas there should be increasing to protect endangered birds and turtles.



The current plan should stay as is unless there has been sufficient research done that supports reducing barriers around nesting birds. There should be no night driving at all due to the fact that it will threaten nesting sea turtles and birds. Driving on the beach should not be expanded in scope either with more open hours or more area to drive on.

Please secure Cape Hatteras for all the citizens of North Carolina, not just for those with four-wheel drive vehicles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1581    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 11:33:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1582    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 12:29:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To whom it may concern,

As a regular visitor to CAHA, I would like to see the NPS adopt the changes that result in the most visitor access possible. Back when I first started coming to CAHA in the late 1990s, the beach was open for recreation and there were always wildlife protections, and in my humble opinion a proper balance was achieved between resource protection and maintaining access that was free and open. I understand there was a need for action, but I believe the NPS has tipped the balance too far for resource protection, and I think congress may agree as well as they mandated the NPS go back and make access a priority. Some of the VFAs are extremely important not only to me and my family but also in maintaining access, and the NPS could do a variety of things to maximize access, minimize conflicts, and protect the resources.

I would like to see the VFAs modified. I would like to see all VFAs reclassified as either year round and or seasonal routes. Specifically starting from north to south. Ramps 2-4 should be open all the way to the bridge for as long as possible. There are a lot of people in that area in the summertime that would rather stay north of the bridge and recreate there, and as such the NPS should provide access to those folks. In addition, the area in the past once supported a great fishery from the beach for striped bass, bluefish, and trout in the winter time, and if those populations return, those beaches would once again gain back popularity, and myself personally would love to see the winter fisheries return to CAHA.

The north beaches-during the summer tourist season, say 6/1-9/1 should close in front of the villages to vehicles as to prevent user conflict, and was an easy choice even back before the NPS closed some of these areas. I would like to see the north beach 23-38 change to year round and or seasonal routes. Those beaches are extremely important to maintain access to in the fall as it is a world class destination. The night sky views are amazing as is the red drum fishery of Sept-Dec in the areas. However, the big things that change from year to year are the beach/near beach topography and what was good last fall may not necessarily be good this or next fall. Being able to search out that moving structure via an ORV helps you find those gamefish, and walking the area is impossible for all but those in the greatest health, therefore ORV access is imperative for most people. This could be done with little to no effect on sea turtles if the NPS would reclassify these areas as seasonal and or year round ORV areas while taking a proactive, resource benefitting strategy of using hatchery, nest relocation to areas that are conflict minimal, and or better light mitigation from artificial light. NEST volunteers are already raking in front of nests in the hatch window, how about some sort of durable, reusable, light and predator impermeable barrier? I believe this could be accomplished in order to maintain night time ORV use and protect the turtles from the threats of predators and artificial light, and costs could be born from ORV permit funds. I see no reason for ramps to stay closed for so long after the summer season is over. Ramps 23-38 should be open as much as possible, and for them to be closed for most of the year makes no sense given their popularity.

Ramp 45 should be a year round and or seasonal ORV route. The area is extremely important for a variety of reasons. It is a fantastic shelling destination, its beaches are perfect for families as the surf is almost the polar opposite of the steep beaches in Buxton. The area is also a great fishing area, and 45 could provide another access to cape point, a world class fishing destination worthy of more than one way to get to it. Because of its location, the VFA at 45 is mostly inaccessible to all but those in the greatest of health. I would also like to see some sort of access made in this area to cape point that would stay open even with resources in the area. The NPS could build some sort of geographical barrier to protect the resources in the area while allowing the continued use of ORVs to Cape Point. Used in conjunction with wardens and or escorts, access could be maintained while the resource stays protected. If for some reason this access closed, a mirror image should be placed from 44 to cape point on the east beach so that no matter what, the resource would be protected and

people could access cape point via ORVs.

Ramps 49-55, I would like to see the current construction projects completed and in addition to the interdunal road I would like to see the areas classified as year round and or seasonal ORV routes, especially the current VFA at the end of 55. This area is very important to maintain ORV access to and should be a year round ORV route. With the erosion in the area, I would like to see the NPS to take a proactive approach to the area with resource protection and access in mind.

Ramps 59-72 I would like to see year round and or seasonal ORV routes. 59 north is growing, and access via ORVs should be restored. The area is another that could benefit from a geographical barrier used to provide access while protecting the resources. This area does not support vast protections as very few resources actually utilize the area, and access restored would not harm any resources if properly managed with wardens and or escorts used in conjunction with the geographic barrier. The area around the airport that was closed should also be restored as a year round orv area. In the ramp 72 area, I would again like to see some sort of geographical barrier built so as to provide access and to protect the resource when used in conjunction with wardens and or escorts. The VFA from south point around to the sound should be a year round ORV route and I would like to see that route extended around the sound side.

Dates of seasonal closures-I would like to see beaches closed later in the spring/summer and open earlier in the fall. I would like to see the NPS give special attention to the "shoulder" seasons and how much they mean to the local economy and visitor experience. Myself personally, I would like for the beaches to be open as much as possible, but an extra 6 weeks in the spring (closures start May 15) and an extra 6 weeks in the fall (Beaches open 9-15) would make great sense, as most of the family vacationers are utilizing the summer season. The shoulder seasons are when a lot of people are there for the red drum fishery and the NPS should recognize that ORV use is imperative for most people to access that fishery from the beach via an ORV.

Rolling opening of the beach-While I see no need for the NPS to prohibit night driving, I would like to see the beaches open until at least 11 pm and open no later than 6am the following morning. I would like for the NPS to provide nighttime access, and light mitigation regulations put into place that provide access like red tape over headlights, night escorts/wardens, and or park and stay options. I would also like to see the night driving prohibition shortened from 5/1-9/15 to 5/15-9/1. Seeing as most nests were found when there was night driving, and no nesting females or hatchlings were run over prior to NPS regulations, I think the NPS has overregulated here. Turtle patrol should start at the point and spits and work towards each other. This would give the highest usage beaches priority and also the shortest duration of closing. Gates on the ramps like those at Assateague National Seashore could be installed so that beaches cleared by turtle patrol could be accessed as soon as possible. In addition, ORVs could also follow turtle patrol on their way out in the morning.

Permits-The NPS could adopt the permitting process of Assateague National Seashore thereby giving annual permits from month of issue instead of the current calendar year permit. Also instead of the 7 day, how about extending it to 10 or 14 days? I would also like to see the gate that is present at Assateague present at CAHA, and charge everyone, not just ORV users for access to the park. Thereby bearing costs to all users, not just one particular user group.

In closing I would like the NPS to adopt the most access friendly approach, thank you for the chance to comment,



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**Correspondence ID:** 1583    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 12:48:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The beach should not be a roadway. Their is wildlife to consider as that is home for many a wildlife. Please do what you can to protect them, thank you!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1584    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 12:52:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1585    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,19,2015 13:09:23

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I do not want to have ORV regulations and other protections for OUR National Seashore weakened. It is of great importance to me that the wildlife of the seashores be protected and that the birds and turtles be able to nest and have young without disturbance. We are losing enough as it is.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1586    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,19,2015 13:18:22

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I spend 50 to 60 days a year fishing the Outer Banks, I wonder how many people that comment against more access have even been there. My guess is very few, most probably have been fed half truths and see themselves as "helping a cause". Follow the money, billable hours, they couldn't make it in Politic so they figurer out another way to steal from the Public.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1587    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,19,2015 13:27:55

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1588    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,19,2015 13:47:08

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Regarding Cape Hatteras National Seashore, my concerns are real:

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

2. Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

3. 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 and other shorebirds.

4. 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

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**Correspondence ID:** 1589    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,19,2015 13:51:04

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not lift driving restrictions on Hatteras Island. In fact, I would not be against harsher restrictions.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1590    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,19,2015 14:16:18

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a biologist, I understand how vehicle use severely impacts nesting of shorebirds.

Do not reduce protections at Cape Hatteras for piping plovers and oyster catchers. Vehicles on Cape Hatteras during the nesting periods of these two birds reduce the number of eggs and nestlings that survive.

Once the birds are gone, they are gone forever. When the Cape Hatteras birds are gone, I will not come again - on foot - to enjoy the bird life.

Thank you for considering my comment.

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1591    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 00:00:00  
**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:

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

⌘ Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

⌘ 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1592    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 15:03:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been visiting the Outer Banks at least two to three times a year for the purpose of taking photos and enjoying the wildlife and quiet beaches. We need to maintain the no drive zones and protect the nesting birds! Please do not allow people to destroy our beaches and please protect our wildlife. The national beaches and parks belong to all of us not just the people who live at the beach. As our population increases we need these protections in place now. Thank you!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1593    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 15:09:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** KEEP VEHICLES OFF OUR BEACHES AND PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. VEHICLES BELONG ON THE ROADS- - - WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE ONLY SHOULD BE ON THE BEACH- - PROMOTE GOOD HEALTH THROUGH EXERCISE;WALK TO THE BEACH

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**Correspondence ID:** 1594    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 15:21:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not change the current plan or existing access rules, except to the extent that changes can be proven to have no adverse effect on birds or sea turtles. Any changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science. Vehicle free areas should be expanded, not reduced. Time periods for vehicle access should not be extended. Night driving should not be allowed, except on existing paved roads. Vehicles should not be allowed on beaches in the morning until NPS rangers have checked for nests, chicks, and hatchlings. Buffers around nests should not be reduced. Our National Seashores were created to protect the natural environment, and that should be the primary objective of management plans and access rules. Reasonable access for pedestrians and controlled limited access for vehicles should be allowed, but only to the extent that such access is proven to have no adverse effect on birds, sea turtles, or other native wildlife.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1595    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 15:24:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please protect wild animals at Cape Hatteras and everywhere. Thank you.

"In Wildness is the preservation of the world..." ~ Henry David Thoreau

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**Correspondence ID:** 1596    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 15:25:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

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

Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1597 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 16:16:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Although I live in the UK, I AM an AMERICAN CITIZEN.

Please act to keep the beaches clear and the animal life safe. Hatteras is an important habitat for animals as well as recreation grounds for humans.

Limit the extended closures only to areas that do not affect wildlife.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1598 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 16:25:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The current plan seems to be working. If you screw it up, shame on you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1599 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 17:02:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

⌘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:

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

⌘Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

⌘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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1600 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 17:34:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The Point is one of the Most Desirable fishing locations on the Outer Banks.

When I was younger my family and I would camp at the Cape Hatteras campground at Cape Point. I was in my teens and we would have to carry all our stuff across the dunes and through the tall grass fighting the flies and mosquitos.

I never want to do that again. Now, I am 59 years old and I own a Jeep Grand Cherokee and we drive out to The Point!

I have spent dozens of weeks fishing at The Point. I have NEVER seem any of the people who, like me, disturbing the birds or turtles. We just want to enjoy the beach! I always obey the laws and pick up trash.

You need to find a way to keep the point open in the summer. We always would vacation in June, July, or August, Sometimes staying 3 to 4 weeks. Now with The Point closed we only spend 1 week in September or October. I would like to go back to spending 4 weeks in the summer months.

Also, The area south of The Point needs to be reopened to driving! That is where we always would go and now it's closed to driving.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1601 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 17:36:47

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** PLEASE KEEP THE BEACH DRIVING LIMITS WHERE THEY ARE!!!!

I have lived in North Carolina most of my life, I am a scuba diver and I have seen first hand the beauty that lives off our coast. I am surprised that we have to continue to fight for our most precious resources by allowing more destruction to our coast! We are damaging the very thing that attracts people from all over the world to our state!!

Our wildlife deserves these protections! Scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive. Don't let some misinformed public pressure reverse the progress we have made to help our wildlife populations! Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home!!!

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.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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

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**Correspondence ID:** 1602    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 17:46:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.  
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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1603    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 18:07:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Having lived off and on in Ocracoke for over a decade, I am familiar with the ecology of the island and the pressures between the local community and the larger tourist community that this governmental process is attempting to address. The current balance in nature that supports bird and other animal life on the Outer Banks is only the result of much good science and much work by the Park Service, the scientists and the larger community. Most people come to the National Seashore because of the unique ecology of the place and its wildness. While there are folks in Ocracoke who want it to be like "it used to be," obviously that is impossible; my impression is that the pro-OVR community is largely comprised of outsiders who want to "use" the island's beaches as they see fit. The Outer Banks is a national treasure and its natural integrity needs to be preserved without compromise. My comment is that your group take very seriously the viewpoints of the experts - - biologists and naturalists and park custodians who have dedicated their careers to preserving the wild, but also - - looking at it from the other side - - that you consider the liberties that OVR users already have, up and down the Outer Banks and especially on Ocracoke, given its remoteness. They can drive on the beach to fish or surf or simply be there, along miles and miles of beaches. I would object to any reduction in the Vehicle-Free areas and any reduction of the buffer zones that were established in 2012. Thanks very much for your service.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1604    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 18:07:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please continue protect our National Seashore for the benefit of the species that live here. I hope you will check the beaches for bird and turtle nests, as well as eggs and chicks, before the beaches open in the morning. It would be best to be sure the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.  
Please 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.  
We need to maintain the current plan, not to decrease buffers, or to reduce Vehicle Free Areas, or change seasonal ORV openings. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just for convenience or because of community demands. Scientific research has shown that these North Carolina native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1605    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing because I would like you to 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 think that beaches should be cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

Please do not extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. The extended closures should be limited only to the areas that do not affect wildlife.

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

Night driving restrictions need to continue to be prohibited. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we count on from the National Park Service; vehicle free areas must be expanded to protect red knots and other shorebirds.

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 are asking you to cease further actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1606    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 20:06:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please prevent driving on the sand on all coastlines. Particularly do not allow traffic during the bird and turtle nesting seasons.

Wildlife is under tremendous threat due to climate change and habitat loss, all over the globe. We in North Carolina recognize the importance of all species. After all - would you want to live on an Earth without any company???

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**Correspondence ID:** 1607    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 20:46:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I think it is important to keep protecting fragile wildlife in the beach nesting areas. The increase in turtle nests has come about from these efforts over the past years. We are in the middle of a mass extinction event right now because of human impacts on fragile ecosystems. I think the comeback of some species is directly due to these protections.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1608    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 20:47:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have been visiting Hatteras Island/CHNSRA since 1975 and I currently reside most of the year in Hatteras Village. My first visit was at age 18 and I am now 59. My husband pre-dates my first visit by a decade or more, NO Oregon Inlet Bridge, only a ferry. I have camped in campgrounds, all of them and also frequented many of the hotel/motels and home rental companies. I now own a home within walking distance to the Hatteras Village oceanfront area. I frequently walk this area all through the year. Yes, winter too!

As a graduate of the North Carolina University system (UNCC)BS BIO 1978 I have spent many hours procuring aviary specimens in Latin America for the universities collections. I studied environmental/conservation science before anyone even knew who or what the EPA did. I work for several analytical testing firms in N.C. and then spent 10 years with Dominion Resources as a Chemist and Environmental Coordinator at Surry Nuclear Plant.

I attended the scoping meeting the other week at the Cape Hatteras secondary school and these issues are very important to me. But most importantly, I write to make absolutely certain that my concerns are heard by Mr.Hallac and all the other officials who will ultimately decide/recommend the changes to the Final Rule.

Beach Opening Times

As soon as 1st light, I simply do not understand why the beach is closed at 9pm !! RPA's can be highlighted with reflectors or larger better signage. I have NEVER EVER seen anyone violating RPA's

All beaches are priority but Ramp 44/45 is #1.

This is the crown jewel of the CHNSRA !! Its akin to closing the south rim of the Grand Canyon. Open it ASAP everyday of the year.

Frisco Ramp #49 and new 47.5. These ramps serve families of small children because of its flat gentle sloping beach. When RPA's are in place these ramps are our conduits to the point. The shoreline areas should always be pedestrian access areas. People will not and do not disturb nesting birds from the shoreline. Buffers are excessive in size and limit visitors access to the point and other location which results for a very NEGATIVE experience.

#### Seasonal Opening

No later than 9/15 in the fall for ORV's.

Open earlier in the Fall and longer in the Spring, 5/1

I live out in front of Hatteras Village and after Labor Day the beach area, weather dependent can look a little deserted. A few bold daring swimmers and a few early fisherman can be found down by the shoreline at the high tide mark. The dunes are high and steep in the village area and walking with fishing gear, chairs and water can be a bit much for most over 50 years old. Retired older individuals love the balmy fall weather but can only experience the short mileage window in the early fall. The NPS should consider what is really FAIR and EQUAL ACCESS for all ages at the seashore. I see absolutely no reason why ORV's cannot travel north from Ramp 55 all the way to 49 in Frisco. Late springtime weather in Hatteras can be as unforgiving as the early fall weather, blowing a gale, so I see also no reason to closed beaches to early in the spring.

#### Vehicle Free Area

First and foremost VFA's are EXCESSIVE and DETRIMENTAL to the visitor experience. I live in Hatteras Village and no matter what the data collectors say, the economic lifeblood since 2010 is being slowly cutoff to every merchant/rental company/charter service/tour service on Hatteras Island. Please Mr. Hallac, the counters on Pea Island do not equate to dollars spent. Daily visitors to Hatteras Island and the National Park Do Not spend the night, go out to eat, buy fishing poles or bait and therefore the local economy suffers. People visit to experience Cape Point, 1st and foremost. People in sport fishing and recreational fishing communities all over world speak of this area and to close it during the nation summer holiday for birds with debatable nesting success is inexcusable, in fact I find it contemptible.

NPS should reclassify many of the VFA's to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes.

Reducing VFA miles can and should be done in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources. Pre-nesting closures should not exist. Also after a chick fledges, OPEN the AREA, an additional week or two is excessive !!

Issue 10 day permits @\$5.00/day

Issue annual permits from date of issue for a year.

As a life time "Birder" I have never personally witnessed so much animosity and vitriol over a bird I have NEVER seen at the seashore. Maybe if you opened more seashore, especially Cape Point and marketed better your purpose for conservation of Plovers and Oystercatchers you most likely would be receive in a more favorable light but when you "get in bed with" and regard with more respect the Audubon and DOW you get what you deserve. I am old enough to remember when park rangers were eager to share knowledge and were active participants in the island communities but now special interest groups have been allowed full access to promote their cause and pursue their agendas with narrow rational backed by peer reviewed science.

Instilling fear is a million dollar business and that's exactly what the special interest groups do best. The NPS experiment is not yielding a higher fledge rate, but it is yielding a slow demise of a once vital seashore/island community all for a pair of 1/2 million dollar chicks !! A year no less.

Thanks for taking the time to review my comments



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**Correspondence ID:** 1609    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,19,2015 20:52:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**    Sirs

My first Coast Guard duty was at Cape Hatteras. 1979 was the year, and there was not much around if I remember. Now it's 2015 and many more people are using this National treasure. I am a fisherman and I love coming down for my weeks in spring and fall. The last years have made my trips harder to do for I messed up a knee and cannot walk like before. When I cannot have access to the beach because the park service does not want to move the road I will never figure out. I have continued to vacation there because I love the place that much. Now we pay for access that we cannot have. The ORV tags are fine and the fishing license, but if I can get to the fish, what are you guy's doing. Make room for me like you have taken my room for the birds please we can live together.

Thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 1610    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 02:32:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**    Gentlemen,

Long ago when I was a child there was nothing much at Hatteras Island. The vista of sand and sea was natural. Many types of wildlife teemed along the shore. Today, amidst the many people with their coffee cups walking about at sunrise there is almost no life. Few gulls, few crabs, almost nothing. It is your job to ensure that future generations will be awed by the sea and fall in love with its bounty. Please save the no drive areas and help to minimize the sad demise of our natural wonder.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1611    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 05:30:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**    I think it's appalling that the state is even considering letting people drive on the Cape Hatteras Beach. It's a beautiful, wild area that should not be damaged by man just because of convenience sake. The birds and turtles are at risk or will disappear from the area completely. Those who enjoy the serenity will leave the area and Hatteras will turn into another redneck beach like Daytona.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1612    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 05:34:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form



**Correspondence:** Please remove the permitting process, it is a hindrance to travelers and especially to day trippers. I have been going to Ocracoke Island my entire life and having to pay to drive on the beach is terrible. This is a resource that belongs to We The People of these United States that belongs to all of us and it is a travesty to have to pay a fee for something that takes little to no maintenance. Get out of our pockets!!! If the permitting is not removed at minimum make a day pass....

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**Correspondence ID:** 1613    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 06:01:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1614    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Wildlife has no recourse to protect themselves from the actions of man, only we can decide to moderate our behavior so that animals are not detrimentally effected. Please do all you can to protect the beaches that are necessary for the continued existence of the birds that nest there.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1615    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 06:36:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am speaking up for the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! Specifically, I'm concerned that:

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:

The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.  
Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer-reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1616    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,20,2015 06:39:24

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Morning Beach Openings:

- Top Choice: priority beaches (i.e.: South point on Ocracoke) open by 6:00 a.m., not 6:30 a.m., during nesting season. Residents would like to access south point before work and 7:00 a.m. is too late. 6:00 a.m. opening would make it feasible to actually fish, surf, or utilize ORV access on the beach while conditions are usually best and before working for the day. Please strongly consider 6:00 a.m. opening for priority beaches!

- Of your listed options, opening priority beaches at 6:30 a.m. is the best option

- Please also consider chaining the night driving rules during nesting season. Please allow driving from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Seasonal ORV Routes:

- No comment. The ORV Ramp by the Ocracoke Campground is not of as much concern for improved ORV access as other ramps are (South Point & Airport)

Vehicle-Free Areas:

- Increased pedestrian access to the tip of South Point would be nice, if ORV access is not possible

Access Improvements:

- Could improve ADA access on Ocracoke by adding ramps to the beach side of the boardwalk at the Ocracoke Day Use Area

Permits:

- We absolutely need annual permits that are valid from the purchase date!!! This will help residents particularly who have life changes, moving, new car etc during the year and will reflect the nature of most other permits (fishing license, car registration, etc)

- Visitors most frequently ask that a short-term permit be added as an option (i.e.: 3 days). A 14-day permit would likely be a good addition as many people visit for 2 weeks, however, I believe a 3-day permit would be more popular

Thank you!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1617    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,20,2015 06:40:41

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1618    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 09:31:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I grew up near Daytona Beach and watched the traffic increase on the beach, it's decline to being basically a major thoroughfare and I joined the many others who chose and choose to visit the Canaveral National Seashore and others that are off limits to vehicles. Please protect the shores that are still pristine so that birds, turtles, and humans can bask in the peace of ocean breezes and not diesel smells. The Outer Banks is one of North Carolina's greatest treasures and it needs to be preserved with the present rules, if not stronger ones; not a relaxing of driving restrictions and such. Please protect the current plan and do not extend ORV allowances during the day or night.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1619    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 09:54:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I urge you to retain the 2012 rules for off-road vehicles on the Cape Hatteras beaches. These rules were developed after a lengthy process with science-based input from a host of interested individuals and organizations. Please do not override the science to place our threatened wildlife at increased risk. I have been to Cape Hatteras and have seen first hand how the current regulations operate fairly for everyone, including vehicle drivers, walkers and the birds and turtles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1620    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 10:05:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The current plan was the result of collaboration between all interested parties. It should stand as it is.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1621    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 10:20:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Our family have spent many summer vacations at the Outer Banks. The reason we choose this area of beaches out of all the other beaches we could choose is because it is protected and undeveloped. We enjoy this lovely national seashore with all it's natural beauty and wildlife. The beaches of the Outer Banks must be protected and kept free of motorized vehicles!!! Motorized vehicles should be kept on the road. They have no place on a natural beach for others to enjoy the wildlife and natural beauty of the beach environment. We will continue to vacation along the Outer Banks as long as it is kept protected and free of motorized vehicles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1622    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 10:22:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I grew up near the Outer Banks, and there is no part of the state that is more precious to me. I feel fortunate we have the expanse of barrier island protected from development and made accessible by the National Park Service designation. I enjoy going down to the coast, especially the southern tip near Frisco, year-round. I believe sections of the Outer Banks should be made accessible to vehicles. At the same time, I would further restrict driving on the beaches so that greater expanses are inaccessible by vehicle. The coast is most valuable without vehicles on it in my judgement. Seeing marked-off areas further attracts me to the coast. At the same time, there should always be beach available for driving, especially for those who can't walk to the beach. Overall, my preference is for increased access through parking areas (like that one just south of the Frisco Pier). Thanks for the opportunity.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1623    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 10:26:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** These birds need our help. Let's stand up for them and their habitat. Let's unite to be strong for them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1624    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 10:58:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**    @The size and number of current VFAs are excessive and detrimental to the visitor experience.  
@The NPS should reclassify many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes.  
@The NPS should reclassify some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes.  
@Reducing the amount of VFA miles can be done in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore.  
@You need to tell the NPS which VFAs are most important to you for designation as either seasonal or ORV routes, why it is important, and why you think that the change in designation meets the objectives described in the NPS scoping newsletter. For some, the temptation will be to tell the NPS that all VFAs should be designated as ORV routes. While that may accurately reflect your sentiments, please be aware that the reality is that all VFAs will not be eliminated. CHAPA urges you to review the list of VFAs and provide comments accordingly  
@The NPS should issue 10 day permits in addition to annual permits.  
@The NPS should issue annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date

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**Correspondence ID:** 1625    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 10:59:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

August 18, 2015

Mr. David Hallac, Superintendent  
Cape Hatteras National Seashore  
1401 National Park Drive  
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Subject:  
Comments on "Environmental Assessment - Review and Adjustment of Wildlife Protection Buffers" and Beach Access at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area

Dear Superintendent Hallac:

This letter is being submitted on behalf of the membership of the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association.

We support the proposals as stated by CHAPA in the letters dated May 13, 2015 (Environmental Assessment-Review and Adjustment of Wildlife Protection Buffer) and April 10, 2015 (Recent Legislation Affecting Access at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area).

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.


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.


On behalf of the NJBBA, thank you for your time and consideration in these matters.

Respectfully,


 Corresponding Secretary


President  



1st Vice President  



2nd Vice President  


Treasurer  


Membership Secretary  


Recording Secretary  


Corresponding Secretary  


Chairman  
Board of Trustees  


Directors:  


**Correspondence ID:** 1626 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 11:00:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Hello,

I would like to comment on the proposed changes to the Seashore's ORV regulations in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The proposals by the NPS are good and welcome news.

First, Please, Please do not change the VFA north of Avon. Please leave it as a no vehicle area. A lot of locals and visitors enjoy this vehicle free area. It is a place of quiet. A "time out area". Free from traffic and endless commotion. Thank you! for building a walkway across from Little Kinnakeet Lifesaving Station.

Please provide access to "the Point" in Buxton year round. It is possible to make an access along the surf for at least pedestrians during nesting season. The enclosure posts and strings need to be more visible. By painting every enclosure post red and hang stop signs every 25 feet or so would make it clearer to visitors to not go into the enclosed areas. They just do not understand. This year you did add full size stop signs on the larger red posts and that helped. Local residents know and understand the rules. Visitors are unaware.

Educating the visiting public is really necessary. If you could print a one page flyer about enclosure areas and corridor access and make it available to visitors and/or put a printable form on your website, it would help get the information out to the public. I work for a local rental company and we would be glad to give this information out.

To build a better relationship between residents, visitors and the NPS, there needs to be a witness to actually see the nests and chicks and verify that they are there. This would dispel any doubts that the birds are really there.

I have lived in Avon since 1975 and know how beach access was before the extreme restrictions. I also drive on the beach too. Looking forward to a better future, a better relationship with the NPS and better access to the sea shore! Thank you for beach access ramp 32!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1627 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 11:03:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** 50 years ago, August 21, 1965, we spent our honeymoon at Nags Head. We loved exploring the beaches up and down the Outer Banks, birding and crabbing at dawn, building sand castles with small children, riding the waves, photographing the Hatteras Lighthouse. . . There were no noisy vehicles of any kind disturbing the peace and beauty of this unique area. The sands were fine, smooth and white.

In recent years it has been a constant annual fight to protect that happy community from off-road vehicles tearing around, kicking up sand, endangering children, elderly folks like us, and the birds and turtles who nest in the sand.

These thrill seekers have no appreciation for nature, or family, in fact, seem to get a kick from terrorizing folks who scramble out of their way. They don't see the birds, they don't marvel at the turtles hatching, they don't play in the sand, just kick it up. At night they love to sneak in and roar around. Their sorts of games could be on any dirt track.

PLEASE Do Not lessen the current restrictions on ORV beach use.

PLEASE Do Not increase the places they are currently allowed.

PLEASE Do Not change the seasonal or nighttime closures to ORV use.

Do continue checking for both bird and turtle nests before beaches open mornings.

THANK YOU for protecting this precious, unique American seascape so that we, our children and grandchildren can continue enjoying it.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1628 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 11:07:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a current resident of Rodanthe, NC I am very disappointed in how NPS reacted to protecting species down here. Instead of using science, they went as extreme as possible. It has been over 5 years and the numbers are not improving with the excessive closures. If anything, they are getting worse. Turtles are improving, but they are improving everywhere, not just where the excessive closures have been implemented. My opinions are as follows:

1. My main complaint is the number and size of current vehicle free areas. Cape Hatteras National Seashore recreational area was about recreating, not turning the beaches into animal preserves. The nature of the terrain down here means that most VFAs aren't accessible by people without a Vehicle.
2. Building additional ramps to access the small amount of areas opened to ORVs does not seem logical. Why not consider having more area open to vehicles, so that they can use the existing ramps. If the ramps connected without putting VFAs in the middle, there would be no need to build additional ramps. As it stands, it seems that to protect these VFAs (that are hardly used) we are needing to build more. That seems illogical. Instead, the routes should be looked at and reclassified to allow on/off routes that don't require backtracking with the existing ramps that we have today. This seems to make the most sense and be the least disruptive to the environment.
3. In order to facilitate access, the current VFAs should be reclassified to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes. VFAs are not easily accessible, and therefore not used. This leads to the users cramming into smaller areas which leads to crowding and a less peaceful beach experience.
4. There seems to be too much seasonal restricted access to ORVs. Again, the small areas are becoming more crowded where if more routes were opened to ORVs, users would spread out more and have to use less space trying to pass the other vehicles that are in the route.
5. Permits should be valid for 1 year from issue date. Having a permit that is valid only for a few months (if someone was unable to purchase one at the beginning of the year) is not logical. It would also spread out the amount of people trying to purchase a permit at once.
6. Seasonal beaches should be reopened to ORV access no later than September 1st and closed no earlier than May 15th. Our season is very short here and there doesn't seem to be a reason for having extended seasonal routes. The birds are done nesting by August, the turtles have been and are still surviving without needing closures.

Please take into consideration that as a full time resident I see what is occurring here. Allowing people's comments who have no interest in the area, have never been here and do not understand the topography to have the same weight as people directly involved and affected is very disheartening.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1629 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 11:08:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Good afternoon,

I am writing on the behalf of the OBPA and NCBBA and have a few comments regarding beach access.

I would like to see a detailed outline of how the permit money is spent. Before the permitting system, there were park rangers already patrolling the beaches, so where does the sudden influx of money go?

Also, I am at a loss why the year permit would not be issued for 365 days from the date of purchase. The current setup makes little common sense, and is gouging the public with an unnecessary tax. I would also like to see more options for permit purchases, such as a day pass.

Thank you for your time, and hope to hear a resolution soon.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1630    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 11:15:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** good afternoon. this is my fifth or sixth communication with you all. i heartily endorse the sentiments and guidelines proposed by chapa and obpa. the closures and restrictions are excessive, to say the least. as i've said in earlier communication, no one wants to see harm or damage done to the beaches or any species of wildlife. surf fishermen, like just about all outdoorsmen, have an immense respect for the environment and its protection. cape hatteras national seashore RECREATION AREA was established for all interest groups to enjoy and appreciate. hopefully, common sense and fair play will figure into the spirit of a thoughtful decision. thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1631    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 11:20:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please allow free and open beach access to all areas. The beach closers did not work as apparent again this year with the minimal bird hatcheries. Let the families of our wonderful country enjoy their beaches. Expand all corridors to maximize use of the public please! In Jesus name, Amen.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1632    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 11:20:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would like to see all ORV ramps open at 6:30am.

I would like to see seasonal beaches open by mid September and close no later than April 1.

I understand and agree with VFA's but I would like to see Ramp 34 reopened and the southern part of the Buxton VFA reopened.

Thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 1633    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 11:24:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** NPS should open all beaches to trained and permitted ORV traffic from 30 minutes prior to published sunrise time to 30 minutes after published sunset time to allow fishermen to fish during the best fishing hours, and to provide maximum reasonable beach access time.

Seasonal beaches in front of villages should be reopened to ORVs no later than September 1 in the fall and closed to ORVs no sooner than May 1 in the spring to allow for prime fishing seasons, tournaments, etc.

Seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of VFA designations, should be reopened to ORV access no later than September 1 and closed no sooner than May 1.

The size and number of current VFAs are excessive and detrimental to the Outer Banks visitor experience.

The NPS should reclassify at least 50% of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes.

The NPS should reclassify at least 50% of the current seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes.

Reducing the amount of VFA miles can be done in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for Outer Banks visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore.

The NPS should issue 7 or 14 day permits in addition to the current annual permits to allow for tourists who often only visit for 7 or 14 days annually.

The NPS should issue annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date, not for a calendar year.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1634    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 11:25:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I support FREE and OPEN BEACHES

Please keep all access open to the public. Closing any more beach will only deter and frustrate more and more people. There is no sense in closing any more territory along our beautiful coast.

The beaches have been free and open for years with no ill coming from it.

Only in the last few years have tyrannical government and greedy government decided that it would be a good idea to charge for ORV permits and closing down more and more precious coast due to "wildlife management".

KEEP THE BEACHES FREE AND OPEN - 100% o the time.

The birds and turtles were here before and they are here now. Closing more beach will not change anything.

The beach has always been God's gift to us - a FREE gift.

Let's keep it that way - FREE AND OPEN.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1635      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,20,2015 11:32:47

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would like to make the following comments about the upcoming changes required by the legislation passed by the US Congress to improve vehicle access within the Cape Hatteras National Recreational Seashore by year's end.

#### Village Closures

I believe that the original pre-consent decree closures of May 15 until Sept. 15 were and are adequate. If this option cannot be supported by NPS in the rule making the closures should put in place no earlier than May 1 and remain closed no later than September 30. These are the dates that the beaches north of the seashore use.

#### Night Closures:

There is no need for night closures to any area of the beach, but if you insist on continuing the closures they should begin no earlier than 11PM at night and open no later than at 6:00AM in the morning.

You have mentioned rolling times for opening the Ramps. I do like the idea of following the turtle patrol out but fear it would be impossible for proper enforcement. Therefore, I suggest that the following ramps be made priority ramps: Ramp 4, Ramp 44, Ramp 49, Ramp 55 and Ramp 72 with 6 AM openings.

#### Permits:

You have also mentioned in your announcement that suggestions for the permit changes be considered:

Change the 7 day to a 10 day that matches the NC Fishing License. The reason this was established by North Carolina Legislators was that the Fishing License Advisory Committee that studied the idea for over a year before the license was sent to the legislature gave them that proposal. It gives me the ability to arrive on a Friday and have two weekends within one permit.

The yearly pass should change to from date of issue to renewal on that date the next year.

Also it would be a very good idea if businesses that issue fishing licenses be able to also issue the beach driving permits. Like the extra charge required for the licenses being purchased on line it would be nice if said business could be given a "service fee" similar to the NC State Fishing License Fee.

#### Routes and Areas:

While I think that there should be no vehicle free areas between villages year round on any part of Bodie, Hatteras and Ocracoke I will give you what I feel are most important to me in changes.

#### Bodie Island:

Ramp 2 to Ramp 4 should be year round ORV access continuing to the shoal point near the inlet entrance. From September 1 until May 1 from the shoal point at the inlet to tidal creek should be open to ORV.

#### Hatteras Island:

Rodanthe-Waves - Salvo Village beaches: See Village Closure Comments

Ramp 23 should be open 12 months a year from the ramp north to the village limits and south to Ramp 25 seasonally from September 1 until May 1.

Ramp 25 South to Ramp 27 should remain a year round ORV Route

Ramp 27- Ramp 30 should be seasonally opened from Sept. 1 until May 1

Ramp 30 should continue to be open year round to Ramp 32.5

Ramp 32.5 should be open seasonally from September 1 until May 1.

Ramp 34 should be open 12 months a year for vehicles from the ramp to the village limits south and from the ramp north to Ramp 32.5 seasonally from Sept 1 until May 1.

Avon Village Beach - See Village Closure Comments

Ramp 38 should remain a year round ORV Route to the present south boundary and the area from that point to the south side of the life guard area jn Buxton can be a vehicle free area.

Ramp 43 should remain an ORV route year round with access North for 1 mile. Ramp 43 south should be a 12 month ORV Route because the prenesting closure there has not been productive due to lost nests. The area is too narrow for suitable wildlife nesting.

Ramp 43 & Ramp 44 to Cape Point: Cape Point's east facing beach from Ramp 43 and Ramp 44 should never be closed to vehicles for any reason. This is the most prestigious surf fishing area on the east coast. If it takes a man made buffer far enough west of the surf be built in a way it would protect and aid birds resting and nesting but not interrupting vehicular traffic it should be made. A cut could be made south of the Cape Point where water would enter from the south beach making a barrier that would keep nesting birds and chicks near the surf zone separated from east beaches vehicles and people. The vehicles and people in this area year round would then diminish the birds from using the east beach that has so many occurrences of lost nests due to ocean over wash from occurring. Pre-nesting closures should be moved west where the man made or natural barrier keeps the birds west and allows vehicle access where turtles may lay their nests. If there is an area that is narrow on this beach from Ramp 44 to Cape Point then any turtle nest should be moved to a safe area where vehicle and beach conditions are better for its success.

Ramp 45 should be opened west to Ramp 48 seasonally from Sept. 1 until May 1 each year.

Ramp 49 should remain open to ORV year round From the Village limit to Ramp 48 and seasonally to Ramp 45.

Frisco Village - see my village closure comment.

From west Frisco boundary to Hatteras Village east boundary should remain open to ORV year round From the Village boundary to village boundary

Hatteras Village - See my village closure comment

Ramp 55 should remain a year round area and from the South Point to the Cable Crossing should be seasonally open from Sept 1 to May 1.

You, the leaders of NPS have been charged to help us gain better access and know that the present rules were established with a lawsuit over your head. The congress of the US has seen this mistreatment by your predecessors and now expect you to make changes for the benefit of visitor experience like we once had.

Thank you for your help and we look forward to good decisions made on your part to encourage fair beach access for visitors and locals alike

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<b>Correspondence ID:</b>	1636	<b>Project:</b>	59571	<b>Document:</b>	67586
<b>Received:</b>	Aug.20,2015 11:33:08				
<b>Correspondence Type:</b>	Web Form				

**Correspondence:** There is a very serious conflict between ORV use and protection of sea turtles and nesting birds. Nesting bird populations in the area which is now the Cape Hatteras National Seashore have declined greatly from when the area was not disturbed by intense human activity. The situation has now reached the point where sea turtles and some of the species of shore birds which nest on the seashore are threatened with extinction. Certainly in the case of sea turtles, which have been on the planet for much longer than a 100 million years this is shocking. These creatures have survived all sorts of assaults including the impact of a meteor which wiped out the dinosaurs. To see now that there numbers are declining rapidly due to human activity makes the tremendous negative impact of some human activities on wildlife apparent. The highest priority of the National Park Service in regulating ORV activity in the Seashore should be to protect the threatened sea turtles and nesting shore birds. The National Park Service is exceptional in that it has a mandate to preserve the health of the natural world within its boundaries. Commercial establishments have no such mandate and are free to offer services to ORV enthusiasts on property that they own without taking into consideration the conflict between ORV use and habitat preservation.

In order to realize the objective of maximal protection of sea turtle and shore bird populations the National Park Service should be sure that all beaches for which there is ORV access should be thoroughly checked every morning for bird nests, turtle nests, eggs of birds and turtles, young birds and turtles of all ages. Before allowing ORV users on the beach that day measures should be taken to make sure that the above mentioned wildlife and eggs will not be disturbed by ORV use. This may mean closing the beach until this is assured.

Please do not extend ORV access to the beaches in either the spring or the fall. There has been no new input from scientists studying the health of the affected species to my knowledge which supports the idea that increased ORV access will not negatively effect wildlife. The original plan in effect in 2012 was formulated with input from all stakeholders and the



science has not changed, although apparently the politics has.

Please continue to prohibit night driving as this endangers both sea turtles and nesting birds.

Please expand vehicle free areas to protect redknobs as well as other shorebirds.

The National Seashore should do more to inform the public of the reproductive success of the birds and turtles which nest within its boundaries, how this is changing over time, and what factors appear to be involved in the changes. This should be related to the global populations of these species and how they are changing with time.

There is conflict between ORV access and the enjoyment of the National Seashore by the many who are attracted to the Seashore by its natural beauty. Most Americans can see all the ORV's they want to at home. Many go to the Seashore to get away from vehicles and to enjoy nature on its own terms. ORV's interfere with this.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1637 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 11:34:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**  
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

MY FAMILY AND I HAVE BEEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO VACATION AND FISH AT CAPE HATTERAS N.C. FOR THE LAST 27 YEARS. IN THAT TIME I HAVE SEEN THE RULES AND REGULATIONS BECOME MORE AND MORE RESTRICTIVE . MOST OF THESE RULES WERE TO PROTECT THE BIRDS THAT NEST THERE. FROM U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service , THE PIPING PLOVER POPULATION IS ALMOST UNCHANGED . ONE OF THE REAL REASONS THERE ARE NOT MORE PIPING PLOVERS IN THE OUTER BANKS IS THAT ITS THE SOUTHERN END OF THERE NESTING RANGE AND THE NORTHERN END OF THERE WINTER RANGE. THE FACT IS THEY DON,T LIKE IT THERE. WHEN THE GOVERNMENT IS IN CHARGE OF WILD LIFE MANAGEMENT IT IS A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY. OPEN THE BEACHES YEAR ROUND. INSTALL SMALL ENCLOSURES TO PROTECT THE BIRDS NESTS. MOVE THE TURTLE NESTS TO PROTECTED BEACHES LIKE THEY DO OTHER PLACES.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1638 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 11:44:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** GIVE US BACK OUR BEACHES!!!! 24/7/365 ACCESS!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1639 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 12:00:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Annual decals should not be calender year but rather a 1 year period from date of purchase, such as license plates. Better management of closures would be much preferred. There are a lot of good people that do want to take care of this place and I want my kids to be able to enjoy this one day, like I do.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1640 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 12:01:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I do not go to the beach to see vehicles. I can see them most anywhere. We don't have very many sea turtles or piping plover in Durham or vehicle free ocean beaches( in fact, exactly none of any of them) That is why I go to the beach.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1641 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 12:03:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I think we should have access 24/7.During nesting season keep it below high tide mark

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**Correspondence ID:** 1642    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 12:14:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not extend the time or zones for beach driving. It would be my preference to add further restrictions on beach driving not to remove them. My family and I do not appreciate vehicles on the beach! At the least do not allow them more privileges. Thank you for your time. [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1643    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 12:19:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Current Rule: Morning Opening of Beaches: All beaches open at 7:00 am, close at 9:00 pm:

Comment: Beaches accessible from Ramps 30, 38, 44, 49 and 55 should be opened in the morning at 6:00 AM.

Current Rule: Seasonal Open / Close ORV: seasonal beaches are open to ORV access between different dates depending on whether they are in front of the villages or not.

Comment: Seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of VFA designations, should be reopened to ORV access no later than September 15

Current Rule: Vehicle Free Areas: 25.25 miles are designated as Vehicle Free Areas (VFAs).

Comment: I think that the size and number of current VFAs are excessive and detrimental to the visitor experience and that the NPS should reclassify many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes and reclassify some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes. It seems that reducing the amount of VFA miles can be done in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore. I believe that Ramp 34 north should be reclassified as year round ORV or at least seasonal. Pedestrian traffic only goes south from Ramp 34 anyway.

Current Rule: Permits: Annual permits are based on calendar year.

Comment: Issue annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date, this would be in line with how they are done at Assateague. Actually there the permit is good until the end of the month it was purchased in for the following year.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1644    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 12:28:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I bought a house in Buxton in 2009 primarily for close access to be able to fish at the point. My wife and I have 5 children and 6 grand children, as well as many friends who wish to visit. The most convenient time is the summer when school is out. It is rare, if not impossible to get to the point in the summer during this time frame. Walking at low tide is not a realistic option for elderly (myself), and small children. I have had the house on the market just because of this problem. With the recent positive sounding response from the Park Service, I have taken the house off the market in hopes things will change.

Please find a way to allow ORV access to the point year round!

In addition, like fishing licenses, auto licenses, etc., the ORV permits need to be truly annual.

Thanks

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**Correspondence ID:** 1645    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 12:33:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Good afternoon ~

I am writing about the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and ORV's.

Please do not allow further expansion of ORV areas or allow ORV to be on the beach at night.

Allowing more ORV's only makes the beach uglier and noisier and is hazardous to humans.

When we go to the beach, or when tourists come to our beaches, we want them to enjoy nature and ORV's are harmful to nature, posing a threat to birds and turtles.

Please don't make any changes to the current ORV plan.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1646    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 12:45:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been spending time on Hatteras Island since 1978 and purchased a small cottage in Avon in 1988. Mostly to enjoy access to the beaches in the fall, winter and spring. Now that we are amongst the "retired" we have been able to spend more time on Hatteras. Since the institution of the "final rule" our enjoyment of access to the beaches has been devastating.

With respect to the issue of access only from 7am to 9pm, I would like to see added time in the mornings to enable vehicle access early enough to enable viewing the beautiful sunrises from secluded areas of the beach.

Seasonal closing dates have been extended to eliminate access in the fall and the spring. I believe that vehicle access should be extended to include October and April and closings be limited to the boundaries of the villages.

Vehicle free areas are extensive regarding the off season. Having spent many hours and miles on the beach in the winter months having witnessed very little activity before the closures, I believe that these areas could be regulated on a seasonal basis.

As for the permitting process it seems to me that twelve month permits rather than annual would be beneficial to visitors as well as weekend or multiple week vacation permits.

Best regards,

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**Correspondence ID:** 1647    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 12:55:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** when getting permits for driving on the beach should be good for one year. if you got it in June of 2015 it should be good until June 2016!!! Not calendar year. so if I come to the beach in Nov 2015 that means I have two months....something is wrong with this!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1648    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 13:01:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Dave:

Thank you for coming to Ocracoke to explain the latest in the ORV management plan.

While we cherish our beach here and its natural wonders, we are in agreement with some of the modifications proposed.

In particular, we are in favor of:

• Opening the beaches earlier than 7 p.m. so that people who work and like to go to the beach before then can do so. A 6 a.m. or 6:30 a.m. opening would help.

• Extending the ORV route periods as listed.

• Shortening the buffers around sea turtle nests. This summer has seen a record number of sea turtle nests, which we think is fantastic, but we've also noticed that beach visitors have been peacefully coexisting/enjoying the beaches with the nests.

• Sound side water access: This is crucial for this island for several reasons- when it is too windy for the beach, or when people don't have 4-wheel drive vehicles. The calmer water of the Sound also is an easier place for young children to swim. We understand that this is being investigated at two possible island locations: off South Point Road, and elsewhere up the island. These we would like to see available without people having to purchase beach-driving permits. We also would like an OCBA representative included in your next visit regarding these sites.

• Beach-driving passes: We appreciate the Park Service looking into having more variety of beach-driving passes. We are particularly interested in seeing the Park Service include a weekend AND a daily pass for driving on the beach. Also, online purchase of these passes would make it expeditious for many wanting these passes.

Thank you for your consideration of these remarks.

Very truly yours,

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**Correspondence ID:** 1649    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 13:06:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts on your proposed new plan for the park. First of all, I love this park. We spent some of our honeymoon there 41 years ago and still visit often. Over the years the amount of space that is used by the people has declined. More space should be allowed for use by the people. The park should open at sunrise and close at dark. Our "annual" beach driving permit should last a year from purchase. One suggestion is to create a sea turtle area that is protected and cared for by volunteers. This works in other parts of the world, like Costa Rica. We recently visited another national park called Yellowstone, where there is an arch called the Roosevelt Arch. On that arch are these words "For the Benefit and Enjoyment of the People". Our national parks should be for the people to enjoy, not piping plovers. Species have been going extinct for years and will continue in the future. Cape Hatteras National Park has a huge PR problem with the locals and fishermen. Why does no one seem too like the park staff? It is not that way in other national parks.  
Thanks, Zoologists, Educator and an avid fisherman.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1650    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 13:10:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The National Park Service already has reasonable limits with regard to beach traffic. If anything, I'd be in favor of more restricted nesting areas for shorebirds, not less!

I believe that it is important for humans to be respectful of the birds and turtles that have been using beach areas for breeding grounds for centuries. I do not want to see ORV routes extended or areas that are protected now decreased. Climate change has already affected wildlife in a negative way. I do not think it is appropriate that we add to the stress by lessening protections.

Where is the pressure to change current regulations coming from? I know there must be pressure from community members who think that restrictions hurt

their businesses. But, is it the role of the National Park Service to help business owners make a profit, or to be stewards of the wildlife that thousands of park visitors come to see in their natural environment?

Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks. National seashore is not the place for this activity! Please continue to prohibit night driving.

Red knots are critically endangered as well as other ground nesters like piping plovers.

We count on the National Park Service to make rules to protect them and, if they are to survive, beach-driving restrictions need to be kept in place at their current level.

Please do not cave in to special interest groups. The well-being of wildlife (birds and turtles) should be your main concern.

Thank you very much. [REDACTED] I find issues like this to be extremely important.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1651 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 13:21:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The dates in front of the villages should revert back to the same as before 2012-open for ORV driving from Sept. 15th to May 15th-that worked just fine for public safety and for the birds and turtles, which if necessary a corridor could be left open for vehicles and surf fishing.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1652 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a recreational fisherman who strongly supports resource conservation, as well as reasonable and responsible public access, I am encouraged by the potential changes to off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. I urge the National Park Service to use this opportunity to make meaningful improvements to existing regulations to better accommodate public access to the seashore, which has been severely restricted under the current management plan.

1. Villages closures should be based on dates of major spring & fall holidays(Easter & Columbus Day) to allow for access to the Season VFA areas in front of the villages. These two holidays are traditionally weekends where ORV users like to access those areas for fishing. Allowing longer periods for access to the areas when those areas are not in peak vacation areas.
2. Please allow access to the beach at first light during turtle nesting season. Either have certain beach areas checked by priority beach location or allow access with leader vehicles with the Park Service to escort the ORV to the open areas of beach while looking for nesting turtles.
3. Reducing the amount of VFA miles can be done in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore. In areas where closures are common, figure ways to allow interdunal roads to allow for pass through to access places such as Cape Point.
4. Changes in the permit plans that would be more functional for people buying the ORV pass.
  - a. Have passes for 10 days also. Allowing people who are on weekly vacations to only have to purchase 1 pass without purchasing a year long pass.
  - b. Allow Annual passes to be from the day purchased not from Jan 1 - Jan 1. This will allow people to access the Recreation area longer when they have time to visit.
  - c. Make the pass to be transferable within a family, not just 1 vehicle with a sticker. We have multiple 4 wd vehicles and depending on going alone or with family would dictate what vehicles to use while on vacation.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1653 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 13:33:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** While I support the general positions of local organizations such as NCBBA, OBPA, CHAPA, etc., there are other elements of the ORV & Pedestrian plans that I would like to comment on, specifically 1] Cost to senior & disabled citizens; 2] Beach speed limits; 3] Toilet facilities and trash receptacles at ramp access points as well as pedestrian walk-overs; 4] Limitations on the number of ramps even while increasing overall beach access.

1] These folks, by their very status, will likely access NPS areas less frequently than others that might purchase ORV permits, and that fact should be recognized in the form of a lower annual and interim use fee, upon proof of age and/or disability. Furthermore, their permit should be user, not vehicle specific, just like the hanger type handicap tags that are used in NC when a handicapped person is traveling in a vehicle without a handicap license plate.

Note - I do support changing from vehicle specific to user specific tags for all vehicles, but if that doesn't happen, I still maintain that it should apply in the cases cited above.

2] The beach speed limit of 15 mph is too slow in many cases where a vehicle has to exit the beach at a ramp with a steep incline and/or deep sand. It would be better to have a speed limit of 25 mph overall and a requirement that vehicles slow to 15 mph in areas where there are several vehicles close by or pedestrians near or moving through established driving corridors. One speed does not fit all circumstances.

3] This is simple fairness to visitors and local users, whether accessing the beach areas by foot or ORV. Sanitary relief within a reasonable distance and reduction of litter on and about the beach should be fairly high on the list of management items for NPS, given that Hatteras Island is primarily a recreational area for any and all visitors who come here. And it is even more absurd to charge for access for those who drive ORVs and provide less facilities than for the pedestrians who access the beach for free. As the economy improves, there will be more visitors to the area, and these facility improvements will be needed. If it is a cost issue, maybe more money should be spent for maintenance staff, rather than just for law enforcement officers.

4] Clearly if more access is to be made available, some additional ramps do have to be constructed, but there should be some distance apart maintained, for

both aesthetic and economic reasons. Based on my own beach experiences over 30 years, high use areas should be about 2-1/2 to 3 miles apart. Any closer than that really diminishes the experience, with the Pole Rd. being the obvious exception.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1654    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 13:41:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** MORNING OPENING OF BEACHES:

All priority beaches should be open at first light or earlier, especially "The Point " or at all ramps for ORV access. This would allow visitors to once again view the Sunrise over the Ocean. While fishing for a run of game fish near the beach shore that seems to happen regularly at Sunrise and Sunset.

Seasonal Open/ Close ORV Access Dates:

All seasonal beaches should be reopened no later than September 15th.

**VEHICLE FREE AREAS:**

There are way too many VFA's. Many historically high visitor and ORV access ramps were closed. Example is Ramp 34 at top of Avon. I fished about a mile north on Ramp 34 for over 35 years. We could go all the way to Ramp 30 if you wanted to travel on the beach for the perfect fishing hole or spot to relax with your family. That was an area that did not see Piping Plover nesting and was closed because of Birds that were included in ORV Rule that were not and still NOT an Endangered species. This needs to change. The opening of Ramp 34 which is the closest and was the most used ORV area in the Avon village area would keep some pressure off of HWY. 12 and the "Point" at Buxton.

**PERMITS:**

There should be a number of permit options. Not just the Annual, or Weekly.

There needs to be a 3- 4 day weekend permit. For those that only come down to Hatteras for what use to be called a "Bonzi Run" when the fish were biting and visitors and fishermen and fisherwomen could not take a full week off on the spur of the moment to come fishing. This was always good for the economy, for they still needed food, lodging, supplies and gas.

The weekly permit actually needs to be a 10 day permit. That would allow the visitors that come on a Friday to stay a week, to get their permit on Friday, to not back up the Permit Office on Saturday. Even if the weekly permit is purchased on Saturday. When you check out of your House or Cottage which runs Saturday to Saturday. You cannot go on the beach after Friday. An Example would be this: I check-in on Saturday, get my 7 day permit and when I checkout on Saturday I cannot go on the beach anymore. The way we use to go home would be to leave Buxton, Avon, or Hatteras and work our way up the OBX by going out on ramps heading North to check out the Fishing and give the children a final day on the beach. You cannot do that with a 7 day permit.

The Annual Permit needs to run from Calendar date of issue for 1 year.

To sum up the Permit Options;

- 1). 3-4 day Weekender permit: Reasonable Cost: \$30.00
- 2). 10 Day Permit: Reasonable Cost, the Current weekly of \$50.00
- 3). Annual Permit valid for 1 year from date of issue: Cost Currently \$120.00

Another issue with the Permit and its associated fees, is the funds raised from the fees. and their use of such funds. It is said that these fees were needed for enforcement and permit issuing services, and to implement the ORV ramps and parking areas (NOT VFA PARKING AREAS AND SERVICES, since there are no Fees collected for those items).

If you look to the history before the ORV rule when everything was free access for everyone, ORV or not, all Enforcement, Ramps, etc. was funded from the regular NPS Budget and the actual number of visitors to the Cape Hatteras Recreational Area (Park)were a lot higher than today.

There needs to be a monthly, yearly accounting of all types of Fees paid to NPS for Cape Hatteras Recreational Area. While the monthly accounting would have to lag behind by about a month. This will not be a big issue, since good accounting records are a requirement under Federal Law. the other side of the Accounts Receivables is the Accounts Payable. Again this should be a line by line accounting of what every dollar is spent on, not some lumping in generic buckets. Again mandated by Federal Law. and good acceptable Accounting Practices. My understanding is this has not happen to date, Why Not????

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**Correspondence ID:** 1655    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 13:42:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I write to comment on the proposed changes to Cape Hatteras ORV use. I am a non resident visitor with a history of annual fall visits for the last 12 years. I travel with a group of men that use to number 15-20 but with the limited access over the last few years our group has had what I consider abnormal attrition, due to guys choosing to spend their money in Florida and other coastal states where they have better and consistent access. We are lucky now to have a group of 6. It is frustrating and sad.

I believe access to the beaches should be prior to sunrise to allow for getting in place and organized to fish at first light. Most of our fishing is done between Avon and Hatteras Village.

Seasonal closure of these beaches seems quite excessive. To not be able to fish the spring months of April and May and the fall months of September and October, normally very good months to fish, is a big hit for your local economy. Ask them. Further, the ORV traffic during those times would be overwhelmingly fishermen who from my experience care deeply about the sanctity and preservation of the Seashore.

The limited ORV access to all beaches prevents tourists from visiting and enjoying what I consider to be one of the most beautiful places in America.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.



**Correspondence ID:** 1656 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 13:47:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I fish,bird watch,hunt and explore the North Carolina Outer Banks Area.  
I oppose any increase in the length of the spring and fall seasonal ORV routes  
or modifying the size and location of vehicle free areas.

It is my opinion that any increase would only increase the wildlife harassment  
that already exists.

**Correspondence ID:** 1657 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Beach access should be open year round 24 7 .fished Hatteras for 20 plus yrs. Not anymore no access! !!!

**Correspondence ID:** 1658 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 14:00:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** RE: Proposed efforts to expand vehicle access to protected beaches of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! 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 writing because the birds and sea turtles can't speak for themselves. Very importantly, I want to see the beaches checked for bird and turtle nests, as  
well as eggs and chicks before the beaches open every morning. Also, I prefer the beaches are cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on any beach.

I am counting on you to protect the ecosystem by keeping the current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law  
states, not just for the convenience of or because of community pressure from exploitative beach users who would destroy the quality of Cape Hatteras  
National Seashore for wildlife and humans alike!

Keep existing night driving restrictions! Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their  
nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks. It is also a hazard and nuisance to any humans on the beach.

We expect the National Park Service to be primarily the protector for our birds and all wildlife in their jurisdiction; to put that wildlife protection ahead of  
human use interests!

Allowing more ORV access isn't the stewardship we expect and demand from the National Park Service! Vehicle-free areas should be expanded, not  
reduced, to protect Red Knots and other shorebirds.

As for human Seashore visitors, we don't want beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts! That is not the experience we expect when we visit the National  
Seashore. ORV's are a safety hazard for people and families and children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by any vehicle. We do not  
want to have to move aside for vehicle drivers who never respect beach users! ORV drivers tend to treat the beach like some kind of high speed demolition  
derby area! We'd be safer from being hit by vehicle drivers standing in the middle of I-95 than from the ORV's on the Seashore! Personally, I would prefer  
the ORV nuisance be permanently prohibited from the entire Cape Hatteras National Seashore; and forever prohibited from all beaches everywhere in the  
U.S.- -both east coast and west coast!

Still the most important consideration is that our wildlife deserves protections, and scientific research has shown that these native birds and sea turtles need  
beach-driving restrictions on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore to survive.

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. We're asking you to permanently cease further actions that negatively  
affect the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers on the Seashore, especially without peer reviewed scientific research to support changes.

**Correspondence ID:** 1659 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 14:29:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**  
CHNS should allow ORV access to all ramps and beaches year round. Nest area's could be roped off and monitored as it was prior to the consent decree.  
The numbers of broods that have hatched in the past few years, pail in comparison to the dollars lost by the Hatteras business's due to beach closures of  
favorite fishing spots, the operating budgets of NPS to monitor these nests and sites that produce below minimal expectations as well as keeping the  
general public from being able to access public land that was set aside for the people.

The open time limits should be abolished as well- anyone on the beach early enough to see turtle tracks in the morning, will know enough to stay clear and  
help the NPS mark these sites so they can be accounted and monitored as they should. Its not until later hours, 10 a.m. , that you begin to get the tourist  
traffic and heavier beach traffic.

CHNS is one of the last remaining surf fish destinations that are able to be accessed by ORV's. Please help keep it accessible so that all can enjoy this great, unique park.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1660    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 15:15:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My comment on beach access. To me all the closures ORV and pedestrian access are very overwhelming. I have fished these islands for over thirty years and never thought imaginable that I would ever see the seashore shut off to the public. Three years ago I stopped to take a break between Avon and Waves. All the ramps had been chained off and we stopped at ramp 30 to walk the ramp over the dunes. When we got to the shore you could not walk 25 yards in either direction, I cried, this is so sad. They say we are doing this for the birds but I thought that was what the area on Pea Island was intended for. We live N of the OI bridge and if you want to drive to the beach during the summer there is little room to spend a day. I don't think Ramp 1 will ever be used again. Maybe they should build ramps and open up some of Pea Island since during the summer there is probably less than 1.5 miles open to ORV from Ramp 1 to Ramp 38. Also would like to see the right name go back on our seashore, Cape Hatteras Recreational Seashore. Thanks, [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1661    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 15:30:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1662    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 15:31:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear Sirs,

My wife and I have visited the Outer Banks since the early nineties. Early on, by pure chance, we met [REDACTED] who after twenty-some years, has remained a true friend. My wife and I were married in Buxton, in front of [REDACTED] beach home. Now that the grandchildren are of travel age, we have come full circle. They now share that special feeling only found in Hatteras. We quit the Maine thing years ago. My grandkids, sons-in-law, daughters, wives, husbands descend en masse (14) to the OBX to fish and absorb the ambiance only Hatteras can bring. They have learned at an early age to respect the wildlife and the shore. I have only a few requests that would help us as yearly visitors.

One is to possibly have the beaches open for the summer and have the area around 'the point' open for fishing as much as possible. We always enjoy "driving down to the point", with a vehicle full of kids, rods and food.

We have spent a lot of money over the years and we don't regret a penny of it. The feeling we get when we cross Bonner Bridge is the same now as it was when we first "discovered" it.

I know this issue has been a struggle for all "sides", but I hope compromise can be made for the benefit of all. As visitors, we have noticed a decline in the number of mom and pop's and other small businesses on the island. I hope this is not a trend. They added so much to the magic of Hatteras without the commercial hype of Kitty Hawk, etc.

Thanks for your time.  
[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1663    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 15:35:10  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My family and I have been coming to the Outer Banks, specifically Ocracoke Island, since the 1970s. Over the years we have seen many changes. We are very fortunate in North Carolina to have this valuable National Seashore. This is a precious natural resource. Much of our Eastern seacoast has been commercialized and developed. This is very damaging to wildlife.

Please keep the current rules in place to protect our wildlife. Since these restrictions were implemented, the number of sea turtle nests and of nesting birds has increased. The majority of the Seashore is open to driving still under this current plan.

I am requesting that the current ORV routes NOT be extended, and that spring and fall closures remain in place. Please continue the night driving restrictions. Driving on beaches at night endangers Sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

As a beach goer, often with young children, I have often had to keep an eye out for vehicles and have been cautious about lying on a beach towel without something else to show that I am there. Beachs packed with vehicles and ruts are not pleasant for visitors.

Please protect our national Seashore. There is room for fisherman, wild life, and beach combers, but we must share. The current rules are reasonable and fair. Please keep them.

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<b>Correspondence ID:</b>	1664	<b>Project:</b>	59571	<b>Document:</b>	67586
<b>Received:</b>	Aug,20,2015 00:00:00				
<b>Correspondence Type:</b>	Web Form				
<b>Correspondence:</b>	August 20, 2015				

Supt. Dave Hallac

National Park Service Headquarters

Manteo, NC

These comments supersede any comments made at an earlier date

I would like to make the following comments about the upcoming changes required by the legislation passed by the US Congress to improve vehicle access within the Cape Hatteras National Recreational Seashore by year's end.

#### Village Closures

I believe that the original pre-consent decree closures of May 15 until Sept. 15 were and are adequate. If this option cannot be supported by NPS in the rule making the closures should put in place no earlier than May 1 and remain closed no later than September 30. These are the dates that the beaches north of the seashore use.

#### Night Closures:

There is no need for night closures to any area of the beach, but if you insist on continuing the closures they should begin no earlier than 11PM at night and open no later than at 6:00AM in the morning.

You have mentioned rolling times for opening the Ramps. I do like the idea of following the turtle patrol out but fear it would be impossible for proper enforcement. Therefore, I suggest that the following ramps be made priority ramps: Ramp 4, Ramp 44, Ramp 49, Ramp 55 and Ramp 72 with 6 AM openings.

#### Permits:

You have also mentioned in your announcement that suggestions for the permit changes be considered:

I hear the complaints and suggest you make simple changes.

Change the 7 day to a 10 day that matches the NC Fishing License. The reason this was established by North Carolina Legislators was that the Fishing License Advisory Committee that studied the idea for over a year before the license was sent to the legislature gave them that proposal. It gives the visitor the ability to arrive on a Friday and have two weekends within one permit.

While a 1-3 day permit has been suggested my opinion is that most weekenders come from nearby and do so several times a year so most would opt for the year permit and it is not necessary to complicate the issue process with another license.



The yearly pass should change to from date of issue to renewal on that date the next year.

Also it would be a very good idea if businesses that issue fishing licenses be able to also issue the beach driving permits. Like the extra charge required for the licenses being purchased on line it would be nice if said business could be given a "service fee" similar to the NC State Fishing License Fee, but my business would consider doing it without a fee to help my customers

I heard in the scoping meeting a suggestion that due to traffic problems between Avon and Buxton soundside permits be issued at a reduced rate (\$10.00 per week). They are off roading and if that discount is given I want the same benefit so I don't have to park and walk to the beach. In conjunction with NCDOT build a widened road shoulder for their parking that could also be made in a manner to reduce flooding from ocean or sound in storm events preventing some of the previous erosion and road collapses.

#### Routes and Areas:

While I think that there should be no vehicle free areas between villages year round on any part of Bodie, Hatteras and Ocracoke I will give you what I feel are most important to me in changes.

#### Bodie Island:

Ramp 2 to Ramp 4 should be year round ORV access continuing to the shoal point near the inlet entrance. From September 1 until May 1 from the shoal point at the inlet to tidal creek should be open to ORV.

#### Hatteras Island:

Rodanthe-Waves - Salvo Village beaches: See Village Closure Comments

Ramp 23 should be open 12 months a year from the ramp north to the village limits and south to Ramp 25 seasonally from September 1 until May 1.

Ramp 25 South to Ramp 27 should remain a year round ORV Route

Ramp 27- Ramp 30 should be seasonally opened from Sept. 1 until May 1

Ramp 30 should continue to be open year round to Ramp 32.5

Ramp 32.5 should be open seasonally from September 1 until May 1.

Ramp 34 should be open 12 months a year for vehicles from the ramp to the village limits south and from the ramp north to Ramp 32.5 seasonally from Sept 1 until May 1.

Avon Village Beach - See Village Closure Comments

Ramp 38 should remain a year round ORV Route to the present south boundary and the area from that point to the south side of the life guard area in Buxton can be a vehicle free area.

Ramp 43 should remain an ORV route year round with access North for 1 mile. Ramp 43 south should be a 12 month ORV Route because the prenesting closure there has not been productive due to lost nests. The area is too narrow for suitable wildlife nesting.

Ramp 43 & Ramp 44 to Cape Point: Cape Point's east facing beach from Ramp 43 and Ramp 44 should never be closed to vehicles for any reason. This is the most prestigious surf fishing area on the east coast. If it takes a man made buffer far enough west of the surf be built in a way it would protect and aid birds resting and nesting but not interrupting vehicular traffic it should be made. A cut could be made south of the Cape Point where water would enter from the south beach making a barrier that would keep nesting birds and chicks near the surf zone separated from east beaches vehicles and people. The vehicles and people in this area year round would then diminish the birds from using the east beach that has so many occurrences of lost nests due to ocean over wash from occurring. Pre-nesting closures should be moved west where the man made or natural barrier keeps the birds west and allows vehicle access where turtles may lay their nests. If there is an area that is narrow on this beach from Ramp 44 to Cape Point then any turtle nest should be moved to a safe area where vehicle and beach conditions are better for its success.

Ramp 45 should be opened west to Ramp 48 seasonally from Sept. 1 until May 1 each year.

Ramp 49 should remain open to ORV year round From the Village limit to Ramp 48 and seasonally to Ramp 45.

Frisco Village - see my village closure comment.

From west Frisco boundary to Hatteras Village east boundary I have no comment.

Hatteras Village - See my village closure comment

Ramp 55 should remain a year round area and from the South Point to the Cable Crossing should be seasonally open from Sept 1 to May 1.

I do not know some of the issues on Ocracoke so the only comments I will make for that area is that:

- 1.Ramp 59 should remain a year round ORV route and that seasonally from Ramp 59 around to the ferry dock should be open from Sept 1 until May 1.
- 2.All ORV areas between Ramp 59 and Ramp 72 should have the same ORV designation as now.
- 3.Ramp 73 South should remain open 12 months to the present boundary that is VFA and the VFA area there should be made an ORV Route from sept. 1 to May 1

My extended family and I have been coming down to the outer banks long before I was borne. my grand parents used to bring my mom and her brothers and sisters to the outer banks then that grew to my brothers and all our cousins. When we stopped coming to the outer banks because of the cost of driving on the beach and the closures there was 27 of us. we used to come down three weeks a year one in the spring one in the summer and one in the fall. My brothers and I totaling three make I down for half the week of thanksgiving now because of the closures and extra cost of driving on the beach. As of right now I have no plan on increasing the number of days I spend at the outer banks unless things change as I have listed above and they are only the beginning of the things that need to change before I start bringing my family back down. That brings me to another point my kids will never know the outer banks like I used to, like my parents used to, and like my grandparents used to because of the beach closures and the extra cost of driving on the beach. There will be countless generations lost to the outer banks if things do not change.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1665    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 15:42:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear NPS

Several years ago, at the first public comment gatherings concerning ORV regulations for the Seashore, I had the opportunity to personally speak to Supt. Murray. I told him we needed his help. The opportunity to continue enjoying the beach, as many of us had been accustomed, was going to be taken away from us. The measures that were going to be enacted were extreme and in our opinion, not necessary. We loved the seashore and all God's creatures. We felt we were stewards of the beach, not the enemy. Mr. Murray responded very simply with words to the effect, "It is out of my hands". I remember telling my wife that I was not sure what that meant. However, it did not take long to figure out what he was trying to tell me. There was a point where I felt I had been tried and convicted and wasn't even sure of what I had done. I know there have been that few that showed a major lack of respect for the seashore. But, upon reflection, I had tried to do the right thing in my relationship with nature and its wonders. Now I was the bad guy. I asked myself, how is this happening. I believe the resulting regulations have been unnecessarily extreme and even punishing to many that frequent the Seashore and, for various reasons, wish to use ORVs to access certain areas and accommodate certain needs. However, you have now been given the opportunity to make some much needed adjustments to these regulations. I hope you will please use this opportunity to it's fullest, as it took a lot of effort and was very hard to obtain. I know we are supposed to be specific, but I also know that you are already knowledgeable as to what should be addressed. There are plenty of people that

are providing you with specifics relative to how much of the beach should be reopened to ORV use, both seasonally and annually, along with adjustments to opening and closing dates. And you know the prime times the fish show up to feed and that is the time that the fishermen and women want to be there with their lines in the water. Please help accommodate them any way you can. If possible, permits should be twelve month from date of purchase, not calendar year, even if it is not very practical. Thank you for your consideration and I again will ask - Please help us.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1666    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically, my concerns are:

- Â· 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.
- Â· 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:

- Â· The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
  - Â· Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
  - Â· 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 and other shorebirds.
  - Â· 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1667    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 16:17:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I believe the VFA are excessive. I also believe the closure times on ramps around the villages of salvo/ road the and a one are excessive. These are being closed way to early. Please consider my comments in your decision.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1668    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 16:48:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The Cape Hatteras National Seashore is an established natural resource that is not only wonderfully picturesque but also home to a substantial human population for whom the barrier islands provide a livelihood, albeit not without risk. Despite the risks and as is their right, residents have created lives for themselves through real estate, retail, utilities, fishing and other professions and vocations.

The actions of the National Park Service to limit human, recreational and vocational access to the beaches has seriously undermined the ability of residents to maintain a sustainable lifestyle.

The reasons for NPS' actions, that of protecting indigenous and non-indigenous populations of wild life, appear to be misplaced, if not artificial or misconceived. Documentary evidence appears to prove beyond all doubt that their actions have not resulted in greater populations of plovers, turtles or other species. One cannot but draw the conclusion that alternative strategies are called for.

I urge the NPS and all individuals and organizations concerned with establishing effective, economic and conservatory policies for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore to permit bird watchers, wild fowlers, fishermen and all other groups that responsibly utilize the seashore unrestricted, year-round access. Despite the actions of a very few irresponsible individuals, these groups are known to act in the best interests of the seashore, its wild life and their own pastimes and interests. As a combined force, together with the NPS, they will be a far better year-round stewarding resource for the seashore than exists today.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Correspondence ID:** 1669    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

August 20, 2015

Supt. Dave Hallac  
National Park Service Headquarters  
Manteo, NC

These comments supersede any comments made at an earlier date

I would like to make the following comments about the upcoming changes required by the legislation passed by the US Congress to improve vehicle access within the Cape Hatteras National Recreational Seashore by year's end.

#### Village Closures

I believe that the original pre-consent decree closures of May 15 until Sept. 15 were and are adequate. If this option cannot be supported by NPS in the rule making the closures should put in place no earlier than May 1 and remain closed no later than September 30. These are the dates that the beaches north of the seashore use.

#### Night Closures:

There is no need for night closures to any area of the beach, but if you insist on continuing the closures they should begin no earlier than 11PM at night and open no later than at 6:00AM in the morning.

You have mentioned rolling times for opening the Ramps. I do like the idea of following the turtle patrol out but fear it would be impossible for proper enforcement. Therefore, I suggest that the following ramps be made priority ramps: Ramp 4, Ramp 44, Ramp 49, Ramp 55 and Ramp 72 with 6 AM openings.

#### Permits:

You have also mentioned in your announcement that suggestions for the permit changes be considered:

I hear the complaints and suggest you make simple changes.

Change the 7 day to a 10 day that matches the NC Fishing License. The reason this was established by North Carolina Legislators was that the Fishing License Advisory Committee that studied the idea for over a year before the license was sent to the legislature gave them that proposal. It gives the visitor the ability to arrive on a Friday and have two weekends within one permit.

While a 1-3 day permit has been suggested my opinion is that most weekenders come from nearby and do so several times a year so most would opt for the year permit and it is not necessary to complicate the issue process with another license.

The yearly pass should change to from date of issue to renewal on that date the next year.

Also it would be a very good idea if businesses that issue fishing licenses be able to also issue the beach driving permits. Like the extra charge required for the licenses being purchased on line it would be nice if said business could be given a "service fee" similar to the NC State Fishing License Fee, but my business would consider doing it without a fee to help my customers

I heard in the scoping meeting a suggestion that due to traffic problems between Avon and Buxton soundside permits be issued at a reduced rate (\$10.00 per week). They are off roading and if that discount is given I want the same benefit so I don't have to park and walk to the beach. In conjunction with NCDOT build a widened road shoulder for their parking that could also be made in a manner to reduce flooding from ocean or sound in storm events preventing some of the previous erosion and road collapses.

Routes and Areas:

While I think that there should be no vehicle free areas between villages year round on any part of Bodie, Hatteras and Ocracoke I will give you what I feel are most important to me in changes.

Bodie Island:

Ramp 2 to Ramp 4 should be year round ORV access continuing to the shoal point near the inlet entrance. From September 1 until May 1 from the shoal point at the inlet to tidal creek should be open to ORV.

Hatteras Island:

Rodanthe-Waves - Salvo Village beaches: See Village Closure Comments

Ramp 23 should be open 12 months a year from the ramp north to the village limits and south to Ramp 25 seasonally from September 1 until May 1.

Ramp 25 South to Ramp 27 should remain a year round ORV Route

Ramp 27- Ramp 30 should be seasonally opened from Sept. 1 until May 1

Ramp 30 should continue to be open year round to Ramp 32.5

Ramp 32.5 should be open seasonally from September 1 until May 1.

Ramp 34 should be open 12 months a year for vehicles from the ramp to the village limits south and from the ramp north to Ramp 32.5 seasonally from Sept 1 until May 1.

Avon Village Beach - See Village Closure Comments

Ramp 38 should remain a year round ORV Route to the present south boundary and the area from that point to the south side of the life guard area jn Buxton can be a vehicle free area.

Ramp 43 should remain an ORV route year round with access North for 1 mile. Ramp 43 south should be a 12 month ORV Route because the prenesting closure there has not been productive due to lost nests. The area is too narrow for suitable wildlife nesting.

Ramp 43 & Ramp 44 to Cape Point: Cape Point's east facing beach from Ramp 43 and Ramp 44 should never be closed to vehicles for any reason. This is the most prestigious surf fishing area on the east coast. If it takes a man made buffer far enough west of the surf be built in a way it would protect and aid birds resting and nesting but not interrupting vehicular traffic it should be made. A cut could be made south of the Cape Point where water would enter from the south beach making a barrier that would keep nesting birds and chicks near the surf zone separated from east beaches vehicles and people. The vehicles and people in this area year round would then diminish the birds from using the east beach that has so many occurrences of lost nests due to ocean over wash from occurring. Pre-nesting closures should be moved west where the man made or natural barrier keeps the birds west and allows vehicle access where turtles may lay their nests. If there is an area that is narrow on this beach from Ramp 44 to Cape Point then any turtle nest should be moved to a safe area where vehicle and beach conditions are better for its success.

Ramp 45 should be opened west to Ramp 48 seasonally from Sept. 1 until May 1 each year.

Ramp 49 should remain open to ORV year round From the Village limit to Ramp 48 and seasonally to Ramp 45.

Frisco Village - see my village closure comment.

From west Frisco boundary to Hatteras Village east boundary I have no comment.

Hatteras Village - See my village closure comment

Ramp 55 should remain a year round area and from the South Point to the Cable Crossing should be seasonally open from Sept 1 to May 1.

I do not know some of the issues on Ocracoke so the only comments I will make for that area is that:

Ramp 59 should remain a year round ORV route and that seasonally from Ramp 59 around to the ferry dock should be open from Sept 1 until May 1.

All ORV areas between Ramp 59 and Ramp 72 should have the same ORV designation as now.

Ramp 73 South should remain open 12 months to the present boundary that is VFA and the VFA area there should be made an ORV Route from sept. 1 to May 1

I agree with the above statement and also want to say.....

I am 52 years old and grew up on the Islands. My family carried on the traditions until all of the closings and restrictions and extra fees. It is a shame that our next generation will not enjoy it as my parents, me and my children have. We really feel for all the businesses that rely on the fishermen to keep the economy going. What a shame!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1670 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,20,2015 17:14:45

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My parents started taking our family to Hatteras islands (and Ocracoke) in the 1960's for camping- -and I still enjoy it. It is an amazing treasure and resource in so many ways and we need to protect it and be careful stewards so that we don't lose this in the future. Right now I'm especially concerned for the birds and sea turtles of the outer banks. Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife! For example, we need official programs to check the beaches for bird and turtle nests (including for eggs and babies) before the beaches open in the morning. Preferably, beaches should be cleared before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach. Please do NOT extend the ORV routes or extend spring and fall closures on any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds. Also, please limit any extended closures ONLY to areas that do NOT affect wildlife.

I am asking you to please uphold the current plan (and base any rule changes on peer-reviewed science). Scientific evidence shows that in order to survive, the sea turtles and birds need restrictions on beach driving. So, please continue to prohibit night driving on the beaches because night driving endangers sea turtles and birds and their nests. And actually, vehicle free areas should be EXPANDED to protect red knots and other shorebirds, and the size of buffer areas should NOT be decreased. At the least, any changes should be supported by peer reviewed scientific research. Future generations deserve to have the opportunity to enjoy the wildlife of outer banks beaches.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1671 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,20,2015 17:32:37

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please give the people of the Outer Banks the beaches back. I understand that the Park Service has a duty to manage the Parks. Visiting the Parks has been a life long quest for my family.

The suggestions put forward by the OBPA are reasonable and make the beaches available to the citizens of our great nation. Cape Hatteras has been placed under a brutal set of guidelines that have hurt many local businesses and individuals. Why does the protection of one bird fledging warrent such an aggressive position from the NPS? Why? I submit that it has gone much too far and now borders on the insane. It saddens me that the United States of America has decided to hurt the very citizens that make this land great.

I ask and beg for common sense to be applied. We all can enjoy Cape Hatteras and in doing so share this resource together.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1672 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,20,2015 18:10:26

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been vacationing on Hatteras Island since 1975, and my husband and I became homeowners in Avon last October. This island, and its community, are deeply important to me.

Regarding morning opening of beaches, I believe that they should open as close to first light as possible. The highest priority beach would be the Cape Point beach.

Regarding seasonal ORV routes, beaches in front of and outside of villages should be re-opened for an additional six weeks in the spring and fall. Again, highest priority should be given to the Cape Point beach.

Regarding vehicle free areas, the VFAs in Buxton and at Cape Point are too large and have been very detrimental to the local economy. I would recommend reducing the size of the Buxton VFA and greatly reducing or eliminating the Cape Point VFA.

My reasons for these recommendations are due to the importance of sport fishing to the economy of Hatteras Island, and the importance of the Cape Point beach to the sport fishing industry here. These regulations have seriously hurt local businesses and families on the island and will continue to do so unless they are adjusted. It is my understanding that these regulations have resulted in a very small change in the plover population, but have devastated the lives and livelihoods of many Hatteras Island families. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1673    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.20,2015 18:15:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep our wonderful beaches safe for nesting birds and sea turtles by keeping the current regulations for protecting nest sites.

I encourage you to:

-- check the beaches for bird and turtle nests, 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.

Please do respect the science that has resulted in the current regulations -- facts, not pressure from a small minority of beach users, should guide your decision!

For 35 years, I have taken groups to the coast of North Carolina to observe the amazing birdlife on our beaches. Years later, participants have told me how much that experience meant to them. We spent money for lodging, food, and fuel while my groups, often numbering 20 or more, were there for three days. I can't believe that the ORV lobby is strong enough to cause the NPS to discount solid research into the nesting requirements for birds and turtles. Most people do not go to the beach to drive ORVs!



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**Correspondence ID:** 1674    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.20,2015 18:22:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** For this project to be successful it should be guided by the following overriding principle: the best restrictions are those that are the least restrictive, while at the same time adequately protecting the resource that requires protection. Restrictions that go beyond that principle invariably and unnecessarily alienate individuals who believe in conservation, but at the same time believe in human access to enjoy that which is being conserved.

I am retired from a thirty-two year career as an environmental regulator and scientist in Pennsylvania, and one mistake that I have observed regulators often make is to proceed from the position that restrictions must be conservative to be adequately protective. With that mindset conservative requirements are overlapped with other conservative requirements, which simply compounds error. Restrictions need to be correct and consistent with facts to be fair and to be respected by as wide a cross section of the public as possible. Conservative restrictions routinely exceed what is needed and unnecessarily alienate segments of the public.

I believe it was with that spirit that Congress and the President included language in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015 requiring NPS to consider changes to the final ORV rule. I request that NPS leadership at CHNS ensures that this project is carried out under a principle of implementing restrictions that are necessary rather than conservative.

Against that background I offer the following specific comments:

In regards to beach opening times, I request they be made as early as possible. The early morning is a magical time to visit and enjoy the scenic wonder of any national park, and it is truly a shame that at CHNS the ability to fully enjoy access to watch the sun rise over the ocean is not now available for an extended part of the season. Also, first light is the most coveted part of the day for many fisherman. I believe the original rule did not take into account the late opening time of the beaches on the visiting public. At a minimum the Cape Point area should be opened 1/2 hour before sunrise. The same consideration should be given to a section of northern beach around Ramp 27 or 34.

In regard to seasonal ORV closures, I recommend that they all end no later than September 15 each year and begin no sooner than April 15. I believe that will better balance accessibility and public safety than the dates currently in place. Regarding the Bodie Island seasonal closure, I believe that should not in place at all, and any closures of that section of the beach should be governed by specific observations concerning the need to protect resources rather than a blanket seasonal closure.

In regard to vehicle free areas (VFA), I believe they are too many and too large. My personal observation is that they get little use and create crowding on some adjacent areas. Specifically, I believe the VFA between Ramp 45 and Cape Point is particularly problematic and places unnecessary restrictions on the public. There are times when tide, wave or isolated resource closure conditions don't permit access to Cape Point proper, when the Point itself would otherwise be available for use. At those times the VHA from Ramp 45 to Cape Point renders Cape Point itself inaccessible, which should not be the purpose or result of a VFA. NPS has grossly underestimated the importance of Cape Point to recreational fisherman and needs to make keeping it open as much as possible a priority. Cape Point should be accessible at all times that resources closures allow. Eliminate the VFA from 45 to Cape Point.

The VFA at Hatteras Spit seems to serve no purpose in regard to resource protection and it too needs to be eliminated. Due to the popularity of that it area, it is an example of a restriction that unnecessarily alienates the public.

Also, in regard to VFA's, the one north of Ramp 34 should be eliminated. The VFA's limit access to significant parts of the northern beaches.

Regarding permits, I would like to see a 14-day permit be available. I sometimes visit for two consecutive weeks and now must purchase two 7-day permits to do so.

Finally, as things move forward, I hope that NPS makes a sincere effort to look for other opportunities to do its job in a way places the minimum restrictions necessary on all visitors, rather than following the path of believing that restrictions need be as conservative as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1675    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 18:26:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1676    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 18:41:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I visit the outer banks and the Hatteras area once or twice a year. I like to walk on the beach with binoculars and enjoy seeing the wildlife found there. I appreciate the efforts to preserve wild areas and hope you will work with the state Audubon Society to establish best practices for this area to provide the best habitat possible for birds and turtles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1677    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 19:02:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I request vehicle access to Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area follow the guidelines offered by the Outer Banks Preservation Association in their recommendations. I support these recommendations wholeheartedly.  
Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1678    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 19:04:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Manager, I have been using the Cape Hatteras beaches for 40years and my father for 50 years. There were always birds and vehicles on the beaches. God intended for use to co exist and not to have barriers implemented by judges and lawyers. Please open the beaches back up for access so that everyone can enjoy the use of beaches and may even be able to see nature in progress with the hatching of wildlife. Sitting on the beach watching the sunrise is breathtaking and shows us that the beaches are not under our control but by god.

1. Open beaches to full access as was intended. Do not create restrictions that constantly reduce usage by humans as these beaches were originally intended by making it part of National Park for all to enjoy to the fullest.

2. Create sanctuaries in conjunction with full open beaches as this will help to move the bird nesting areas into the inter area and would not be as subject to damage by storms and wash over.

3. Leave turtle nest in location where deposited as nature intended. If they have to be move move from area to a area where only walking or no access will ever be allowed.



4. Moving turtle nest up against dune to create full ramp closures is not according to nature's intent and only affect people using the park.

Thank you for looking at my suggestions.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1679    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 19:09:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am a non resident that has been coming to the Outer Banks for close to 30 years. It has been a great pleasure and very rewarding up until the recent changes have been put in effect. Driving 10 hours and then being restricted of some of the best fishing times does not make sense. Please consider morning access times to be before sunrise. Consider opening the beaches to ORV use the months of April, May, September and October. Please keep more ramps open and access to the point more accessible. I will do all I can to preserve this wonderful part of North Carolina. I pray you will do the right thing and make the Outer Banks a more enjoyable place to come relax and fish. [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1680    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 19:28:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I urge you to protect Cape Hatteras birds and sea turtles and protect our National Seashore for all wildlife.

Any rule changes to the current plan should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, and not subject to community pressure. This is National land, for all citizens.

Check the beaches for bird and turtle nests, eggs and chicks before the beaches open in the morning and before ORV traffic is allowed on the beach.

Do not extend the ORV routes in any area of the beaches that affect sea turtles or birds.

Continue to prohibit night driving, which endangers sea turtles and their nests, nesting birds and their chicks.

Do not allow more ORV access. Instead prohibit vehicles from areas used by Red Knots and other shorebirds.

When I go to the National Seashore, as I have for years, I expect to see clean, smooth sand and evidence of bird and turtle nesting. Beaches crowded with vehicles and scuffed by tire ruts are safety hazards for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

Scientific research shows native birds and sea turtles need beach-driving restrictions to survive; wildlife deserves these protections.

Please halt actions affecting the wildlife, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the National Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1681    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 19:28:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please consider increasing the buffer zones and adding additional areas where driving at the National Seashore is prohibited! This land has been protected and preserved for all species and needs to have much larger areas set aside to serve as sanctuaries and provide quiet areas. To promote and enhance opportunities for all (survival and increased species populations, pristine wilderness, enjoyment of natural sounds and the chance to view the seashore as the early explorers did) is important for future generations and a function of the National Parks. Decreasing protected areas is going backward and not in the best interest for ALL creatures and land use.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1682    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 19:28:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please protect and manage our natural resources and coastal bird habitats. Do not alter the current plan without supporting research/data to show that natural resources, especially birds, will not be adversely or negatively affected. Any changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1683    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 19:50:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1684    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 20:25:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom it May Concern:

I have a deep love for wildlife and think it should be protected. Please do not expand the number of days nor hours that vehicles can enter the beach areas.

Wildlife that nest and lay eggs along the sandy areas should be protected!

Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1685    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 21:10:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Thursday, August 20, 2015

Superintendent  
Outer Banks Group/Cape Hatteras National Seashore  
1401 National Park Drive  
Manteo, NC 27954

Subject: Protect shorebirds and sea turtles - - Environmental Assessment for Consideration of Changes to Final Rule for Off-Road Vehicle Management

Dear Superintendent Hallac,

"It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."  
-- Ansel Adams

I am writing to express my horror and disapproval of the Congress's passage of legislation which will undermine the National Park Service's efforts to better protect birds and sea turtles and their habitat at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I strongly encourage the National Park Service to protect Cape Hatteras National Seashore for all wildlife.

"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

Specifically:

- \* 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 any 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.

"In permitting the sacrifice of anything that would be of the slightest value to future visitors to the convenience, bad taste, playfulness, carelessness, or wanton destructiveness of present visitors, we probably yield in each case the interest of uncounted millions to the selfishness of a few individuals."  
-- Frederick Law Olmstead

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.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 and other shorebirds.
- \* Seashore visitors. Beaches riddled with vehicles and tire ruts is not the experience most visitors expect when we visit a National Seashore and ORVs are a safety hazard for families with young children who want to enjoy beaches without fear of being hit by a vehicle.

"From whom are the resources of the parks locked up? From the rape, ravish and run exploiter that would disrupt and destroy the biotic communities of life-- yes. From the scientist, the photographer and those who would visit in harmony with the web of life of which we are all a part-- no."  
-- George Hartzog, Director of the National Park Service, 1964-1972

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

"Every man who appreciates the majesty and beauty of the wilderness and of wild life, should strike hands with the farsighted men who wish to preserve our material resources, in the effort to keep our forests and our game beasts, game-birds, and game-fish- -indeed, all the living creatures of prairie and woodland and seashore- -from wanton destruction. Above all, we should realize that the effort toward this end is essentially a democratic movement."  
-- Theodore Roosevelt

Please listen to the public that loves our beaches and the wildlife that calls it home. Please cease further actions negatively affecting the wildlife (such as decreasing the size of buffers) on the Seashore without peer reviewed 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]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1686    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 21:23:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear Sir:

let me begin by telling you that I have been visiting the outer banks national seashore since the 1970's. I have seen many changes concerning park usage over the years and most of them have been very unpopular. I am an avid hunter and fisherman, so I understand the need to protect the resource for future generations. Restrictions to orv use are necessary due to the heavy traffic the park receives, but sometimes the pendulum can swing too far in the wrong direction. I believe that some of these orv rules fall into this category. Here are some of my comments on various subjects.

1. morning opening of beaches:

I think the beaches should open at sunrise. If the nps must clear the beach then do so at sunrise and allow the public to follow at a safe distance. Sunrise is one of the best times to fish, and also the most beautiful sight on the seashore. The beaches around cape point should b cleared first, as this is the most popular spot on the island.

2. seasonal open/close orv access date

I would like to see all seasonal closures opened in early September, and kept open until at least march. At this time, school is in session, the beaches are less crowded. In the colder months the beaches are virtually deserted, except for maybe a few walkers. Why restrict orv use at this time?

3. vehicle free areas

I get it! we need vfa's to give nature a break, to give people a break. But like that pendulum I mentioned before, some of these closures are excessive. here are a few that come to mind. Why is Hatteras Island spit closed? It washes every moon tide so it cannot be a bird nesting site. The inlet is probably the second best fishing spot on the whole island. Closing this stretch of beach was not a good choice. Years ago, I enjoyed many days and nights of excellent fishing at the inlet "point" Please open this back up, or at the very least make it a seasonal closure- open September to march. Ramp 45 closures are another one I don't understand. This area should b opened up to provide an alternate route to the point in case a turtle nest blocks the main route. Ramp 45 east and west should be opened year round.

4. permits

Permits should be issued on a yearly basis good for one year starting from the date of issue. You should also issue a one week permit for people who just visit once a year

Closing comments:

This is where you are probably thinking...Oh Brother!... I have a suggestion. Why don't you start a turtle breeding program? Instead of letting some of the nests fail because they are not in the right spot, remove the eggs and take them to a hatchery. This new hatchery can be built with a modest taxpayer investment somewhere maybe on pea island. It could be staffed with a few biologists and nps staff and... this is brilliant! the rest of the work force can be children and moms and dads. Wow what a tourist attraction! Charge them a modest fee to help hatch, feed, raise, and ultimately release sea turtles. I bet you that within a few years this will become one of the most popular sites on the island. Not to mention a boon to the turtle population.

Thanks for taking the time to read this  
sincerely;  
[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1687    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,20,2015 21:44:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been coming to the Outer Banks for many years. I remember when you were just able to drive right onto the beach, which...was open year round with no closures. The birds were still on the beach, eating sandfleas at the wash line.

My biggest complaint with the current beach closure system is how the BEST fishing grounds on the East Coast are closed due to one or two birds. The argument is made that "we just closed half mile at ramp 44", but we opened a new ramp at 25 with 2 miles of open beach. The fact is that the fishing at ramp 25 is no where near as good as it is at "the point" accessed from ramp 44. People come from all over the United States to fish the point at Cape Hatteras, and with that point closed, these people take their vacations elsewhere.

The livelihood of Hatteras Island is the vacationers. Closing the Hatteras Point to fisherman greatly decreases the number of people who come to the Outer Banks. People used to come to fish the "point", but now that it is closed, people vacation in other areas. They are taking their money elsewhere.

I realize the importance of preserving nature. But the fact that this year Hatteras Point was completely closed for two birds is ridiculous. At what point do we say that people's living and the economy of the island is less important than the current two fledglings that are on the Point. For years we drove unrestricted on the beaches, and the birds survived. There is no statistical evidence that shows these beach closures are doing anything positive for bird populations. The bird populations are similar to pre-beach restrictions, with weather and tides being the biggest threat on the young birds.

I compare it to my bluebird house in my backyard. The bluebirds come every year and make a nest in the birdhouse I hung for them. If one day I take down that birdhouse, the bluebirds will not die. They are wild animals and will make a nest in a tree. They will survive for years to come. The birds on the Point will do the same, they will survive.

To say we are closing the best fishing ground on the east coast and making the residents of Hatteras Islands suffer financially for two birds, is outrageous to me. At what point are we going to say enough is enough and open back up our beaches that our tax dollars pay for.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1688    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.20,2015 22:07:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I do not understand the reconsideration of policies that are working! Of course some people will complain about restrictions to ORV use on beaches. Of course some people will complain about access to specific areas of specific beaches at all times. The overriding purpose of protecting wildlife not only for their sake but for the preservation of the environment and the preservation of ecotourism on the coast is being effectively addressed under current policy. Current use balances competing interests. To compromise these goals for the sake of a minority who see human recreation as more important than anything else would be a travesty!

I have read several organizations' opinions on this issue. I cannot state my interests better than Audubon NC has, as follows:

Specifically, my concerns are:

Â· 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.

Â· 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:

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

Â· Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

Â· 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 and other shorebirds.

Â· 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.

Please continue to listen to the needs of our natural environment balanced with those of people who would use our seashores for solely human recreation. To trample on the homes of other creatures for a few hours of thrills seems inhumane to me.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1689    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 06:21:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We have been enjoying Hatteras for the past 20 years as a family, there has been so many changes in this time, we actually find it quite sad. We believe opening the beach to driving earlier is a good idea, as there is nothing like grabbing your morning coffee and driving out to ramp 55 and watching the sun come up. The ORV routes need to be expanded so that beach lovers and fishermen alike can enjoy the beach. This year out at ramp 55 in Hatteras it was elbow to elbow because there is such limited access to drive on the beach. The point in Buxton should also be opened earlier and for longer as it is a popular place for people who love to fish. Real beach people such as ourselves will of course pay the beach pass fees, however they should be good for one year from the date of purchase. A year pass should be just that good for a year from the time you buy it just like a fishing license. There should also be a 10 day pass for those who choose to not buy the whole year. Please remember we are the people who help pay your salaries, eat at your restaurants, buy at your stores, rent your houses, etc. All of the closures,time limits, limited places to drive on the wonderful beaches of Hatteras is just pushing people away. Keep Hatteras the "gem" it is and make more beach driving room with longer hours and we the Hatteras lovers will be appreciative and do our part to keep it pristine!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1690    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 06:28:07

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** 1. Please open beaches earlier in the morning and allow them to stay open later at night, all night if possible. Even the 6 A.M. opening time in the Consent Decree caused a problem with vehicles lining up and rushing to Cape Point in order to catch a Spanish Mackerel/Bluefish bite that was already starting. The 7 A.M. opening time eliminated morning fishing for these species. It rushes people off the beach after the evening fishing, cutting into traditional social time between anglers. The nighttime driving restrictions have done more to destroy fishing at Cape Hatteras than any other rule imposed by either the Consent Decree or the Final ORV Rule.

2. Reduce the size of Vehicle-Free Area near Ramp 45, if at all possible. The area 'inside The Point' has a unique shoreline and has traditionally been an area with very good surf fishing.

This VFA was extended by the Final ORV Rule approximately 1 mile further south than the resource closure had extended in recent years. This causes crowding and user conflicts by pushing the same amount of people into less beach. If endangered wildlife are not actively using the beach for nesting or fledging, please consider opening it to allow use to this unique shoreline.

3. Please consider returning use of Bodie Island Spit to humans. This area has been a part of family traditions for generations until it was lost due to the Consent Decree and the Final Rule. This is close enough to population centers that many people would make day trips to this beach. There is also good fishing from the spit. Marking this off-limits to humans is one of the major reasons that a lot of people no longer visit Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

4. Instead of developing more of CAHA by installing more ramps and putting up more signs, please look for creative ways to allow access by current ramps. Please limit the number of signs, string, and development at the Seashore.

5. ORV Permit funds should NOT be used to develop parking area or pedestrian walkways. If parking areas or pedestrian walkways need to be built and funds are not available, consider a parking permit system to provide funding. It is a gross misuse of ORV funds to build parking areas larger than that needed to air down tires or to build pedestrian facilities when ORV users do not require these facilities.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1691    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 06:41:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

\* 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:

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

\* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

\* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1692    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 06:42:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** 1) Create a corridor along the dune line from Ramp 45 to Cape Point. This would allow continuous access to Cape Point from either side, depending on the location of resource closures.

2) Any VFA's should be opened during the offseason when resource protection is not an issue and the visitor count is low. Basically during the late fall, winter and early spring, any use of these areas is primarily by locals, on a limited basis.

3) Consider a walkway to Oregon Inlet to provide access.

4) Provide all options presented for permits - 3 day, 7 day, 10 day, 14 day and annual permits running one year from the date of purchase. Review the possibility of selling a sound side permit, at a reduced cost. The idea would be to lessen the number of vehicles parked along Highway 12, which creates a dangerous situation during busy periods. Kite boarders, especially park along the highway to avoid the purchase of the current permit.

5) For any VFA's, make certain the shoreline remains open for visitor usage. Closures should not be extended to eliminate access to the shoreline. Birds do not nest below the high tide line. This would greatly enhance visitor experience, even during the period of resource closures.

6) Significantly reduce the size of or eliminate the VFA at Ramp 45. The current area is basically not accessible but by those hardy enough to make the long walk. If some portion of that area is maintained as a VFA, the road to the beach needs to be opened for usage and a parking area established at the beach to allow easier access, especially for those with handicaps, disabilities or other issues.

7) Designate certain Ramps to be open from 6:00 AM until 10:00 PM during nesting seasons. Others should be open from 7:00 AM until 10:00 PM. The current 9:00 PM close time forces visitors to leave the beach, often before sunset during prime seasons.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1693    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Below are my comments for

Morning Opening of Beaches:

I think NPS should do what is necessary to open the most used beaches as soon after first light as possible. These should include ramps 23, 25, 27, 38, 44, 55, 70 and 72. I also feel that the entire issue of night driving restrictions needs to be revisited to determine if there is really a tangible benefit.

Seasonal Open / Close ORV Access Dates:

I think seasonal closures in front of the villages should be changed to Oct 1 - May 15. This would allow maximum usage and access without encroaching on the higher occupancy tourist season.

Seasonal closures not in front of villages should be opened no later than Sept 15, and close no earlier than May 15. These areas generally do not see a lot of non ORV activity outside of June, July and August.

Vehicle Free Areas:

I feel that the current number of VFAs is excessive and causing overcrowding on the sections of beach that are open to ORVs. I feel that the VFAs see very minimal use by pedestrians at ramps 23, 27 south to 30, 34, 45, and 59 see very minimal use by pedestrians and should be eliminated with some becoming seasonal closures and others returned to yearly ORV routes. AN ORV route thru VFAs to allow passage thru or the dropping off of people in the VFA would also be beneficial.

Permits:

As far as permits, the annual permit should be good for 1 year from the issue date or the charge for the permit should be prorated based on when during the calendar year it is purchased. Also, I feel there should be some avenue for the permit to be used on other vehicles with the same owner or additional permit available at a reduced rate.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1694    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 06:55:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been coming to the Outer Banks for over 25 years with my family and now own a rental home on Ocracoke. My family and I love the outdoors especially the fishing. One of our favorite things to do was to fish at the south point of Ocracoke before sunrise. The 7:00 am ORV time on the beach does not allow that. The Spanish mackerel stop biting by then. I see no reason the beach can not be open to ORVs by 5:30am.

The \$50 weekly driving permits seems a bit steep. Some families may choose to go on the beach for only a couple of days on a week vacation. Or it may rain the entire week. A 3day pass for a lesser price would be a good option.

There also needs to be more beach opened up to ORVs. During mid summer, there is little room to fit in at the beach without being cramped between two groups.

Visitors come to the outer banks because they enjoy the outdoors. Most visitors are respectful of the environment. The outside groups who are pushing for more restrictions seem to have an agenda that is not based on scientific data. the amount of money (millions of dollars? ) that has been spent over the past several years may or may not have saved the lives of a few birds.

Less restrictions and more visitor education would be the best for the environment and economy of the Outer Banks.

Sent from my iPad

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**Correspondence ID:** 1695    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 07:01:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would like to address the pedestrian day use only area from the Ocracoke NP campground ramp South to the airport ramp. I felt that the ramp at the campground should be open for access and travel to the south. Pedestrians could still have access to beaches in front of the campgrounds and .1 miles north and south of the park. I have not seen enough pedestrian use of the area to warrant closing the entire area and the ramp at the campground. My family and I have been using this area for years and to date we are not aware of pedestrian/vehicle incidents in that area going south from the campground ramp. I also have to question why the area at the south inlet of Ocracoke is closed to ORV for bird nesting most of which is tidal wash area I can't think of any bird that builds its house where it will be washed away so why close the entire area instead of the area where the nests are. The hours that the beaches open need to be extended, because there are a lot of people who would like to be on the beach by sunrise and or fish before and after the current hours. Most users who would be on the beach before or past the current hours are responsible caretakers of our beaches and all that is part of it.

Thank you your time in looking at my concerns

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**Correspondence ID:** 1696    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Below are my comments for

Morning Opening of Beaches:

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Seasonal Open / Close ORV Access Dates:

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Seasonal closures not in front of villages should be opened no later than Sept 15, and close no earlier than May 15. These areas generally do not see a lot of non ORV activity outside of June, July and August.

Vehicle Free Areas:

I feel that the current number of VFAs is excessive and causing overcrowding on the sections of beach that are open to ORVs. I feel that the VFAs see very minimal use by pedestrians at ramps 23, 27 south to 30, 34, 45, and 59 see very minimal use by pedestrians and should be eliminated with some becoming seasonal closures and others returned to yearly ORV routes. AN ORV route thru VFAs to allow passage thru or the dropping off of people in the VFA would also be beneficial.

Permits:

As far as permits, the annual permit should be good for 1 year from the issue date or the charge for the permit should be prorated based on when during the calendar year it is purchased. Also, I feel there should be some avenue for the permit to be used on other vehicles with the same owner or additional permit available at a reduced rate.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1697    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 07:08:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Thank you for taking comments. I feel several changes should be made to the existing orv policies. I own a house on Ocracoke for the past 12 plus years, and vacationed in Hatteras and Ocracoke and Core Banks for many years before that. I have experienced both orv plans ( before the current plan and now). Although I feel that the policies that existed before the current plan worked very well for all parties involved , I realize there is probably no going back to the way it was mostly because too much revenue is generated with the new charges for orv permits and fishing licenses. I will restrict my comments to how to amend the current policy and not rant on about how bad the current policy is compared to the old in many different ways.

- 1). The weekly charge for an orv permit is excessive at 50\$ per week. Many visitors only come for a weekend visit and the week long charge is not reasonable and severely restricts access to the national seashore for citizens/ visitors. I feel there should be a weekend pass available, or 3/4 day permit for any consecutive days( not just weekend).
- 2). The weekly fee should be reduced to allow more people to be able to afford the option of beach driving. 50\$ is a large amount of money to add into a weekly vacation for a family . the experience in going to the beach with ones family with all the amenities packed in the car is not possible by "Carrying " every thing with oneself. Quite frankly , there is no way to enjoy the beaches the to same full extent with all the various types of activities possible if one is only caring things over a dune. Some or all of that 50\$ could better be spent going out to dinner or in village activities or souvenirs and in this way support the local economy and tourism.
- 3). As a fisherman, The times that one can access the beach in the morning and at night are not reasonable at all. At a minimum one should be able to acces at 6:00 am but 5:00 would be better. Again, quite simply it's the difference between being able to catch fish or not as far as having any moderate quantity to be able to use as a meal and having this satisfying experience with ones family. 10:00 pm would seem reasonable to be able to fish with any real effectiveness in the evening as well. During the summer and high vacation time , early in day and later in evening are really the best times to fish by far as it is simply too hot and fishing during the day is not in the least bit effective unless it's a rare fluke day or stray fish. Watching a pole sit still all day does not really excite young or future fishing enthusiasts. I think we all agree that fishing is a big reason for vacationing in the outer banks and having exciting productive experiences would definitely serve the tourism industry well..
- 4). Even before the current policies ,I never saw any disregard for nature, turtle markings, temporary closing, ect. I feel the access to points ,inlets , and ramps should be greatly expanded and closed as necessary for real reasons and evidence of nesting ect.

I hope you will take this into consideration when deciding on final policies that will make better experiences for visitors and the environment

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**Correspondence ID:** 1698    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug.21,2015 07:39:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** To whom it may concern:

I wish to comment on the National Park Service rules and regulations concerning off road vehicles on Hatteras Island. As a trained environmental scientist, a home-owner and a sportsman, I contend that the regulations as they exist are discriminatory and exist more for the convenience of the NPS than out of any legal, ethical or scientific basis.

At the time the Cape Hatteras National Recreation Area was created, the native population was promised that their right to free access to the ocean and sound would not be curtailed in any way. History has proven that promise to be an empty one, as natives and locals alike must pay to access the ocean and sound.

First, the practice of referring to all users of this area as "visitors" illuminates the cultural bias of the NPS and suggests an equality that in fact does not exist. Residents of Hatteras Island are more deeply impacted by NPS regulations than are casual or infrequent users of the Island, especially those residents who make their living by fishing, chartering, crabbing or selling seafood. To add insult to injury, many of the natives here trace their lineage to Native American populations. It is in fact the NPS that are "visitors" in the truest sense of the word, and NPS policies should not treat all users as a uniform class or population. Residents of Hatteras should be exempt from any and all fees, and those fees should be utilized to specifically benefit the local communities that exist on the Island rather than paying for personnel to collect the fees.

Secondly, as a handicapped individual, the practice of charging for access to the ocean and sound violates my rights as a US citizen under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Walking long distances to gain access to the beach and sound to fish, swim or simply watch the waves is simply not an option for many, and there are no provisions for people like me to enjoy access without paying money, an egregious violation of the equal protection clause of the Constitution of the United States of America.

Third, the fee structure exists for the convenience of the NPS, and is not based upon any rational construct. Park personnel can identify "violators" by simply looking at the color of the pass, and people who purchase passes in September are, by definition, given less value than people who buy passes in January, again unfairly treating subclasses of users of the park. I notice that my pass has a bar code, and it would not be a problem for passes to be good for one calendar year, as North Carolina fishing licenses are. With a simple swipe of the bar code, NPS personnel could determine whether the pass in question is or is not valid. Similarly, charging fifty dollars for a ten-day pass as compared with \$120.00 for a yearly pass is difficult to explain or defend. Ten dollars per week or \$120.00 a year seems much more sensible and equitable.

Finally, beach closure rules should be modified in several ways. First, only the summer months between Memorial Day and Labor Day should constitute the closure "season." One avowed rationale for closures is to regulate the degree of use of the beaches, but the population that utilizes beach and sound are dramatically less after the peak tourist season, and closures should reflect that. Similarly, opening ramps and beaches as soon after daybreak as possible would greatly improve the value of the fishing experience without unduly affecting wildlife. Since the NPS has been tasked with developing closure and access rules based upon best scientific understandings, there is also no biological basis for conferring protected status to species that are not on the rare or endangered species list. In all cases, it should be the recommendations of the US Fish and Wildlife Service which serve as the default position related to limiting access to sound and ocean.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1699    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 07:42:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dave Hallac, Superintendent Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Just a couple of things,

Please look at adding a direct phone option to report violations that would be directed to the ranger station.

There needs to be more information on the closures, what resources we are trying to protect and in what closures. As things are now we don't know why the beaches are closed or for how long, this could be done with social media and a few volunteers each week. At times it looks like the closures are more guided more towards the tourist instead of protecting the intended resources.

There needs to be more done to rebuild the trust in the park service by the public. More correct information would help this problem. We get to many conflicting answers from the park service, rangers and biologist. If you ask the same question to each you get different answers from each. Adding a third party in the field that is not affiliated to the park service, say someone from the business community or organization that would confirm the resources that are there and need to be protected.

The Cape Hatteras National Seashore has a very special place that has very limited access, I'm talking about Cape Point, I don't know of any other place on earth that you have two major ocean currents meeting like they do here. The point is as special to Cape Hatteras as Old Faithful is to Yellowstone. There needs to be access to the point. Keeping your feet wet as you walk out may be the best option to keep all parties content. We all know the birds don't use the surf zone to build their nest. They will only use the surf zone after they have fledged or as an adult.

Thanks for time.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1700    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 08:14:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I must say that ORV access to our national seashore should be reduced rather than expanded. These aggressive vehicles and their drivers think that the beach is theirs alone. No additional routes or access ramps should be implemented. This is a wild area, after all; the environment and its creatures deserve prime consideration here. Driving on the shore not only endangers breeding areas ( yes, I know driving is restricted during nesting times ) but is also uncomfortable, at best, for any humans on foot or a towel using these beaches. An entitlement attitude prevails, one that communicates vehicular power over the beach domain.

Reports that I have read ( unfortunately I don't have exact publications nor dates in my head) showed that the area had a record number of visitors, motels full etc. If that is not true, then maybe tourists are staying away BECAUSE of the ORV traffic.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1701    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 08:20:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would like to see NPS open the beaches in front of the villages beginning September 15th. This could be done still allowing for exclusions for specific and active wildlife activity. Allowing beach access as early as possible following sunrise should also be considered as a priority. It would also be very reasonable to offer additional time period options for vehicle permits. Permits should be valid for one year after issue and a ten day permit should be offered.

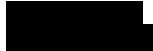
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**Correspondence ID:** 1702    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 08:27:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Hello and to whom it may concern, as a 30 year resident of Dare Co. NC and a rental property owner in Avon NC, I would like to voice my opinion with regard to changing the existing ORV rules. NO CHANGES to the current ORV rules nor any modifying of the Vehicle Free Areas.

Let's keep what's left of this wonderful wild beach wild!

Thank you for allowing me to make this comment.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1703    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 08:32:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would like to express my feelings on the beach access issues. I believe NPS should allow as much access to the public through out the year to enhance the visitors experience in Cape Hatteras Recreational Seashore.

**\* Vehicle Free Areas**

I would like to see the vehicle free areas open whenever possible. Especially in the off season when the birds are not nesting, these areas should be open to the public.

I would like to see some of South Beach open during the season. South Beach is the area which is off ramp 45 and gives you access to the point and to Frisco. The local people love this beach, it is a great place for our children and grandchildren to play in the water, go shelling, enjoy nature and family time together.

Presently ramp 45 has a rope across it which prevents visitors from driving to south beach. It is a very long walk for children and the elderly. I would like to see that ramp opened at least to the end of the road, the beginning of the dunes with some parking behind the dunes to help give visitors access to this beautiful section of the beach. It is a shame that only the young and the fit can enjoy this part of the park now.

There needs to be some access to the Point whenever possible. The Point is an area which is loved by the visitors of the park and if it is not open some people just don't come to visit. If a corridor should be made to give access to the Point from Ramp 45 when access is not available from ramp 44, that would be wonderful. NPS Park Superintendent should have the option to open this area and other areas to heighten the visitor's experience and access to the beach.

There should be more access to Oregon Inlet as well. Visitors should be able to walk out there and enjoy this area that has been a very special place to visitors and locals alike. A walk way maybe one solution gaining access to this area.

**\*Morning Beach Openings**

Everyone who comes to visit this beautiful park wants to get to the beach as soon as they can. Some want to be down on the beach at dawn. NPS needs to designate priority beaches and open them by first light. Access to the Point should be opened first.

**Permits**

I believe there should be a year round permit which is good for one year from date of issue.

I would like to see a 10 day permit and a sound side permit for visitors. The sound side permit is needed to encourage visitors to pull onto the sound side beaches and off Highway 12 which has a 55 MPH speed limit and is very heavily traveled in season. The people who park on NC12 create a dangerous situation for themselves and for drivers who are traveling on NC 12.

**Seasonal Closures**

These areas need to be open earlier in the fall and stay open later in the fall.

The areas behind the villages should be reopened by mid September and stay open through Easter.

The National Parks are to be used by the public and whenever possible NPS should work to give the visitors access to the beaches. The closures, the large expansive buffers and closures must end. Let us all be reasonable and work together to give the public the visitor's experience that they and future generations deserve. Keep access open and use your power to give us access instead of always looking for ways to limit or close the beaches.

Thank you for your time.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1704    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 08:51:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear National Park Service,

As a long time visitor and property owner in Avon, NC, I have a vested interest in the preservation and management of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I welcome this opportunity to comment on the Final Rule for Off-Road Vehicle Management. I believe that through good management and reasonable, rationale decision making an adequate compromise can be made that will preserve the natural resources of the area while providing the desired level of access and use of this unique and treasured park. Please accept my recommendations regarding the various preliminary alternative elements in the scoping memo.

1. Morning Beach Openings. I support a combination of the proposed options, so that "visitors should be allowed to follow resource management staff onto the beach at a designated ramp and to drive a safe distance behind staff as they clear the beach" provided this access is not later than 6:30 AM. That is, access would be allowed by 6:30 AM or after the beach has been cleared by staff, whichever is earlier.
2. Seasonal ORV Routes. I support extending the seasonal open access, especially in the fall. That is, I support increasing OVR access 2 weeks in the spring and 4 to 6 weeks in the fall. For example, seasonal ORV route access might be scheduled from September 15 to April 15.
3. Vehicle-Free Areas. I recommend 3 improvements. First, I recommend increasing the parking lot capacity at Ramp 38. Second, where there currently are ORV ramps, I recommend ensuring separate pedestrian and vehicle access. Finally, I recommend improved enforcement of existing no parking zones along Route 12, especially between Buxton and Avon.
4. Access Improvements. I strongly recommend allowing ORV access from Ramp 45 south to Ramp 49. Resource management of this area can be administered as all other areas that are opened or closed. I recommend removing the requirement for an ORV permit on sound-side access points. The current restrictions on the sound side seem unrelated to turtle and bird nesting. Requiring a permit appears to have increased the number of vehicles (illegally) parking on the side of the road.
5. Permits. I fully support making permits valid for a year from the month of issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1705    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 08:57:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Superintendent Hallac-

I have been an annual vacationer at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area for the majority of the 43 years of my life. My first memory was riding down N.C. Hwy. 12 in my Dad's 1976 Chevrolet 4x4 truck. While I'm not referring I have a memory of when I was only 4 years old, I'm guessing I was 5-6. Now that I'm an adult, I continue to choose to vacation at Cape Hatteras National Seashore at least once a year and sometimes twice a year, but I must confess my wife and I are starting to explore other areas of the North Carolina coast to spend our vacations due to access issues at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I feel that we are not alone in our mindset and this gives me pause and creates an unsettled feeling for me. There are areas of Cape Hatteras National Seashore which are unlike any other area on earth. These areas like Cape Point and South Beach were easily accessible by vehicle and could be enjoyed by anyone regardless of age or physical ability or disability. Have you ever seen the sun set over south beach? It's one of the few places on the east coast where one can see the sun set over the ocean! Have you ever seen the rage of the ocean when the Gulf Stream and the Labrador Current meet with equal strength at Cape Point? These are amazing opportunities and experiences which are now restricted to only those who can walk the excessive distance from the Cape Hatteras Camp Ground parking lot to South Beach and to those who can walk outside of the Park boundary in the ocean to access Cape Point for what is effectively the entire summer vacation season (Mid-April-Mid-August).

The economic viability of Dare County, North Carolina and more specifically the area from the Bonner Bridge/Oregon Inlet south to Ocracoke Inlet is solely dependent on tourism. There are no other significant industries in this area which aren't somewhat tied to the vacationers who visit the island. The merchants and store owners depend on those that visit the island from spring to fall whether that is for summer family vacations or spring and fall sport fishing. The sport fishing fleet depends solely on the tourist and the vacation home rental and hotel industry will collapse without tourism. We have become a society of instant gratification and for those on vacation, easy and adequate access to the ocean and beaches of southern Dare county are why they choose to vacation on OUR island and in OUR great state and in OUR national park. I choose to spend my vacation time on Hatteras Island because of the reduced pace of life and my love for sport fishing, mostly from the surf. I live in a rat race 50 weeks and I'm going to assume a significant portion of other vacations have the same reasoning. I feel for those that rent a beachfront or beachside home for their annual vacation only to arrive and find the beach in front of their home closed to access (happened in 2014) or have to walk extended distances to access areas of the park which are typically open to ORV's.

Below are my suggestions for adjustments to the current ORV plan which I feel will provide a more balanced approach to the responsible use of the park while also conserving the natural resources of the park:

â€ South Beach VFA at a minimum be reduced to allow year round ORV access from Ramp 45 to Ramp 49. The parking lot at Cape Lookout Campground is approximately 1/2 mile from the shoreline and I can't imagine anyone lugging their day gear this distance to enjoy a day on the beach with

their family!

â€ South Beach VFA: I would suggest a shoreline ORV corridor to the area from Cape Point to Ramp 45. This would allow the interior area of South Beach to be reserved for resource conservation while also allowing adequate ORV access to the areas of South Beach which are more than 2 miles from the nearest parking lot which are required for pedestrian only use.

â€ Ramp 34 VFA: At a minimum should be a seasonal ORV route allowing access from Labor Day to Memorial Day. However I see not User Conflict or Safety concerns for this area to be open to ORV on an annual basis. The area south of Ramp 34 at the Avon town line extending south to the Avon town line has a seasonal ORV closure which is adequate to eliminate User Conflict during the high volume usage during summer vacation season.

â€ Seasonal Closures: Are in place to eliminate User Conflicts and Safety concerns during the higher volume times of the year when summer family vacations are the most common users of the beach shoreline in the Tri-Villages, Avon, Frisco and Hatteras Village. However these season closures extend well beyond the traditional vacation season which mirror our educational system which have established breaks from Mid-June to Mid-August. Therefore, I would like to suggest at a minimum a six week extension to the current spring and fall seasonal ORV routes allowing access to these areas from September 15 to May 15.

o I support the town of Salvo's request for the reduction in the area now included in the seasonal closure extending south of the town city limit to Ramp 23

â€ Night Driving: At a minimum a rolling beach opening starting with the most impactful areas in the park (i.e. Ramp 43 and Cape Point, Ramp 72 at Ocracoke, Ramp 55, etc.) should open at the published sunrise for each day. With all beaches open no later than 30 minutes post published sunrise for each day. This will allow the park service natural staff adequate daylight and time to inspect the beaches for nest laid overnight and identify these nests as necessary while having the beach closed for the minimum amount of time. At this time the NPS has resources on each beach, prior to the 7:00am opening and this should not require any additional staff, just an earlier starting time for inspections. There is significant daylight well in advance of the published sunrise each day for beach inspections.

o If the NPS would manage the turtle nests as they are successfully managed in other North Carolina state parks, and as suggested by the North Carolina Wildlife and Natural Resources Commission, there wouldn't be a need to close the park to night driving. I must say this seems to be more of a ploy to decrease park expenses by not allowing ORV access and thus decreasing the NPS need for night time L.E.O.'s than it is about resource protections. Especially considering there has been but 1 documented turtle encounter with a vehicle in the past 20 plus years and this encounter wasn't confirmed to be a with anyone other than the NPS as they were the only persons allowed to access the beach by ORV at the time of the encounter. Also, the annual Resources Management accounts HAVE NOT shown a decrease in the number of false crawls which were assumed to be effected by vehicular lights since the implementation of the current ORV plan.

â€ ORV Permits: Annual permits should absolutely be issued from the date of purchase for 365 days. There is a precedent set in our safety inspections and licensing in the state of North Carolina which are purchase date for one year.

o Additionally, three, ten and fourteen day permits are sensible based on the length of stay for the typical user/vacationer.

As an annual user of the park, I feel strongly my comments should receive significant consideration and are focused on finding an adequate balance between resource conservation and use of OUR National Park by all parties regardless of age or physical ability or physical disability.



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**Correspondence ID:** 1706    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 09:29:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear Sirs,

Seasonal beaches not in front of villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of VFA designations, should be reopened to ORV access no later than September 15. The crowds of people are gone by then.

NPS should take necessary steps to open priority beaches as soon after first light at possible.

Seasonal beaches in front of villages should be reopened earlier in the fall and longer in the spring. No reason why paying vacationers and locals should have to wait to access the beach.

The size and number of current VFAs are excessive and detrimental to the visitor experience. The NPS should reclassify many of the current VFAs to either seasonal ORV routes or year round ORV routes. Reducing the amount of VFA miles can be done in a way that will not increase risk to natural resources nor affect the opportunities for visitors to experience large expanses of vehicle free beaches while at the seashore.

The NPS should issue 10 day permits in addition to annual permits. The NPS should issue annual permits that are valid for a year from issue date.

I have been fishing the Outer banks with a 4WD ORV for 40 years and am now 62 years old and have three grand children that I want to pass along the freedom of fishing the long expanse of open beaches that I have enjoyed and respected over the years.

I'm all for protecting wildlife but I feel that my rights to access these beaches are being taken away unnecessarily in favor of big money environmental groups who want to control over regulate.

Most of my time fishing there is from September thru December which is prime surf fishing time. Please give others like me more access to the beaches without chopping up the beach access areas. I don't understand why every other ramp has to be closed. Please extend more freedom of movement on the beach.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1707    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 09:34:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** > NPS should issue a 10 day ORV permit for \$20.00

> NPS should issue a 1 year ORV permit for \$40.00 from date of issue

>>> ORV use:

> Beaches in front of villages should be open Oct 1 - April 30th

> Beaches outside of villages should be open 24/7 365 days

> When opened beaches should be open for ORV traffic 24 hours a day

> From Ramp 44 all around Cape Point to Frisco should be open 24/7 365

- > From Hatteras Ferry to Hatteras Inlet should be open 24/7 365
- > Oregon Inlet should be open 24/7 365
- > From ramp 30 to Rodanthe should be opened 24/7 365
- > Ocracoke beaches should be open 24/7 365

thanks for your consideration

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**Correspondence ID:** 1708    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 10:02:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Peer Review Literature will conclude that HUMAN INTERFERENCE has decreased turtle nesting activities and turtle population numbers. Marine fishing, coastal development, lights at night, Natural events like hurricanes and predators are forces against turtle hatchlings. PLEASE Increase buffers to prevent human interference in the reproduction of turtles. Please keep the current summer restrictions. PLEASE NO NIGHT DRIVING, NO more landings are in my opinion a better way to protect beach wildlife. PLEASE more permits to educate the public about their personal effects on wildlife and how humans need to help turtles and other valuable wildlife. Education about how humans are in a position to understand that their choices do effect wildlife. How many humans would be able to do what a turtle must do to procreate? Changes in habitat are very serious! How many humans can return to their birthplace and not experience the shock of change?  
 One female turtle out of 1000 live to the age of gestation which is 20-30 years only to return to a beach changed mostly by human activities. These returning turtles can swim up to 1000 miles at 25 MPH to get back to the beach. females exhaust themselves to lay only 100-200 eggs and entrust their nest to fate. Let us protect them !!!!!  
 I vote for no beach driving . I vote for only bicycles or electric vehicles on the outer banks. I vote for a peaceful vacation at the beach without the noise , trash , and the heat of vehicles.  
 Thanks for listening, [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1709    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 10:02:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please keep the current driving limits at Cape Hatteras National Seashore in effect.The proposed changes will create unacceptable dangers to the wildlife that have used the area for nesting for millennia.Piping plovers and turtles are among the species that could be adversely affected and are already endangered species.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1710    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 10:12:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As an avid fisher woman and in a relationship with an avid fisherman the closing of Ramp 45E to Point has put an extreme damper on the fishing especially during the fall when the Drum season is on the high. The beach access allows fisherman/woman to have access to their equipment, tackle, etc. Not having ORV beach access means you are now walking with your equipment to find the best fishing spot. Also, Ramp 34N gets over crowded due to the location and the fact that you barely have 2 miles of ORV access makes it a very unlikely spot to fish, but this is another great fishing location if more miles were to be opened. I would like to see more open ramps along the Hatteras VFA's to allow ORV access so that "US" fisherman/woman can do what we love and not be limited to the beach accesses.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1711    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 10:42:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** "While you can ask us to withhold your personally identifiable information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so." I see no way to request you withhold my personally identifiable information but please do so. If I did not provide personal information you would not have it to disclose so why are you asking for it in first place?

I fully support the comment as filed by CHAPA and submit the following on my own.

**Morning Beach Openings:** The concept that night driving on the beaches increases sea turtle false crawls has been proven false. The average sea turtle nest to false crawl ratio at CAHA for the years 1998 thru 2003 (0.76:1) is lower than that of 2008 thru 8/21/2015 (0.86:1). You will notice that the years of 2004 thru 2007 are omitted as these years the NPS was using white carsonite stakes with reflective tape which dramatically caused false crawls to increase. During Neg. Reg. the woman who wrote the Loggerhead recovery plan told us that moving lights had little impact on hatchlings traveling to the ocean. With the use of black silt fencing any disorientation of hatchlings is further reduced. I am not aware of peer reviewed studies that support a ban on night driving outside of resource closures.

**Seasonal ORV Routes:** Feel free to call Beth Midgett of Midgett Realty to get her input on how realty firms on Hatteras Island feel about the dates proposed by CHAPA.

**Vehicle-Free Areas:** Predation seems to still be a major contributor to poor avian nesting results in spite of all the trapping in recent years. I understand that many research papers have been written that show that human presence deters predators and thus all of the prenesting, extensive buffers in resource closures and VFA's most likely contribute to poor avian nesting results due to the lack of human presence. I do remember in Business 101 that when you put a plan in place the effects should be "measurable". Yet the NPS admits they have no idea how many people use VFA's. One attempt to justify these areas that I have heard is that they provide a "wilderness experience". I find it hard to believe anyone can get a "wilderness experience" on a 64 mile stretch of narrow beach when we have some 2.3 million visitors a year and a major highway or village within sight of the beach at almost all VFA's. The use of parking lots at Ramp 23 and Ramp 34 (where there are VFA's) are excellent examples of the lack of use of the beach even when parking lots and walkways are provided, but the walk is over a tenth of a mile to the ocean from the parking lot, an excessive distance to many visitors.

**Access Improvements:** During Neg. Reg. there was much talk about public safety but there are no projects that address this issue. If all ocean and sound side ramps and roads (including the intradunal road between Ramps 44 and 45) were made to be two lanes wide many visitors would feel much safer. Too many pedestrians use ORV ramps to walk to the beach and this could possibly cause a problem and hard feelings, which could be easily avoided by making the ramp two lanes.

ORV Permits: Many conversations during Reg. Neg. were held with Assateague about how they handled their ORV permits and then their perfectly working program was ignored and our plan was implemented. First, our permits were put on the outside of the window where they could be stolen with ease. Second we got a system where NPS charges for 12 months and many get much less than 12 months because they don't need their permit in January. Talk about a public relations bomb. How to lose friends and influence people. I do not recall any conversations during Neg. Reg. that dealt with using ORV permit money to fund the construction of walkways or parking lots. I think that these projects, even though they may be beneficial should be funded with other money and put in places where a study shows there is a need.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1712    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 11:43:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Pedestrians: Please consider ways that pedestrians could maintain access to the water through nesting buffers. My underlying premise for the request is that the passing presence of a human at a fair distance from a nest would not deter nesting success. Visitor awareness and ability to enforce strict no-entry areas are likely difficulties. Directed educational outreach in the form of printed literature, classes and education activities could help with awareness. At stick and string barrier parallel to and 5' to 10' from high water mark with signs and no-entry color would enclose a buffer zone and it would be easier to make no entry clear to visitors. I have witnessed some of the most unlikely people (folks who hate current restrictions) accost visitors who ignore restrictive signage and talk the visitors out of intended violations. When a visitor persists your enforcement crew has often gotten a call. The pedestrian corridor would provide a pressure-relief outlet for a person who'd walked from Ramp 43 to see the Point and found themselves stopped just short. Effectively enclosing the buffer zone would clear define the no-entry area. Living in Buxton, most of my beach activities (fishing, birding and walking) occur from Ramp 30 to Ramp 55 with a focus on the area around Cape Point. Though my specific comments target the above area, existing restriction on access to the unique structural locations like Cape Point, Hatteras Bight and the Inlets are my main concern.

Seasonal ORV Routes - The season for each activities expect fishing, surfing and birding is at its peak during summers school break and most birds have fledged by Sept. 15th. Seasonal closures could begin June 15th and end Sept 15th adjusting the dates to accommodate early nesting, late fledged birds or changes to cottage rental patterns. Morning Beach openings - Opening as close to first light as possible would be an improvement over the 7AM opening and Ramps 43, 44, 38 and 55 would probably benefit most fisherman in this area.

Permits - Annual permits valid for one-year from purchase date seems more fair.

VFAs - The VFA South and west of Cape Point is not the most effective use of the area. The beach there is usually quite wide and would lend itself to treatment similar to the pedestrian access between ramps 43-44 during nesting seas. Ramp 45 could be opened to vehicles with stick and string boundaries defining access to the beach and those could continue north and south 100 feet from the water providing access to the south facing beach with fairly deep water. These boundaries would also define a larger no-vehicle area landward. Current human use of this area peaks as ORV closures and resultant small, crowded beaches frustrate beach visitors. Opening this area could relieve some of the pressure on easy access ramps like 38 and 43. It could tie into the longer interdunal road under construction and offer more options when addressing loss of access during nesting season. VFAs at the inlets reduce access to prime areas and could be replaced with nesting closures when necessary. During migratory periods a portion of each spit could be made vehicle free while still providing visitor access.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1713    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 12:00:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

Dear Superintendent,

I do not support making changes to the newly adopted ORV Management Plan. It took years for the Seashore to get into this mess and it is going to take time to get out. In the 32 years I worked at this Seashore, I witnessed unprecedented growth in vehicle use. Drivers became accustomed to lax regulations governing both vehicle use and resource protection. Habits and behaviors don't change overnight. Give the final plan a chance to prove its worth before carving it up.

NPS needs to remember the visitors they have lost. Visitors who told park staff that they would not return to Cape Hatteras National Seashore because they felt the beaches were unsightly and unsafe due to the widespread ORV use - could not view wildlife without disturbance from traffic - or could no longer find peace and solace in their National Park. We listened with sadden hearts. These people and others like them may return to Cape Hatteras once its reputation improves. But this will take time and so let the Final Plan be.

I do not agree with the argument that some VFA areas are unused and therefore should be modified to allow vehicles. I frequent the south beach behind Cape Point campground when opened as a VFA. At any moment, it can look lightly used by visitors but if you look at the numerous footprints along the trail, it is evident that many use it over the course of the day. On other occasions, I may be sharing this beach with a dozen visitors. People shelling, birding, fishing, jogging, walking dogs. These people sought out this type of experience though it was a hike to reach it.

Some VFAs will never have the high degree of use compared with vehicle sites, day use areas or village beaches. They provide a different type of visitor experience. They also help the park fulfill the Enabling Legislation by protecting "primitive wilderness" and the Organic Act's "preserve and protect". The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Redwood Act and other legislation further support their presence.

I do not support shortening the VFA season in front of villages for safety reasons. Also, I have been in conversations with various local residents who while criticizing ORV permit/regulations, admitted that they enjoyed walking the beach more since the establishment of VFAs.

I do not believe any portion of the Final Plan has hurt the local economy. Dare and Hyde Counties continually report growth in tourism. Some businesses, such as tackle shops, may just be loosing consumers to box stores such as Wal-Mart, Bass Pro Shop or on-line services.

NPS is also considering earlier morning beach openings during turtle nesting season. This could only be done on a rolling basis after segments of beach have been surveyed for nests. I would not have a problem if it did not interrupt normal turtle patrol, occurred after sunrise and no given beach segments would be reopened until patrols and nest protection was complete. This may mean some stretches of beach would reopen before or after the present 7AM designation. Additional staffing would be needed.

I am already alarmed at irresponsible proposals reducing buffers around bird and turtle nesting areas without scientific research. Once again, the burden of proof will be back on the resources. It appears that the NPS is determined to make changes to all aspects of the newly adopted ORV Management Plan even where the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act does not mandate changes.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1714    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 12:07:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Mr. Hallac,

On behalf of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners and the citizenry of Hyde County, we would like to submit public comment to be considered as it related to modification to the Final Rule for ORV management at the Seashore.

Morning Beach Openings - Hyde County supports changes that will increase ORV time on the beach allowing ORV accessible priority beaches to open at 6:30 a.m. and/or to allow visitors to follow resource management staff onto the beach at a designated ramp and to drive a safe distance behind staff as they clear the beach. Hyde County supports action to open our beaches to the public as early as possible and o potentially look allowing the beaches to stay open till 10 p.m. or as late as possible.

Seasonal ORV Routes - Hyde County encourages NPS to extend seasonal ORV periods for the routes in front of villages and Ocracoke campground for an additional six weeks in the fall and spring and/or for as much time as possible. Hyde County supports action to keep our ORV routes open as often and as much as possible.

Vehicle-Free Areas - When designating ORV and pedestrian-only locations, Hyde County supports the NPS in considering proximity to villages, ensuring both the pedestrian and ORV visitor experience is available within a reasonable distance from each village; providing adequate parking, high-density day use area, and lifeguarded beaches to better support VFAs, and providing a balance between ORV areas and VFAs.

Access Improvements - Hyde County requests additional sound side access for both ORV use and pedestrian use.

Hyde County request NPS to provide a sound side beach access for pedestrian use that does not require an ORV permit. Hyde County will work with NPS on a public scoping process to identify key stakeholders/user groups and find an ideal location for sound side access.

Hyde County further requests new ORV sound side access be provided. Hyde County will also work with NPS on a public scoping process to identify key stakeholders/user groups and find an ideal location for sound side access for ORVs.

Handicap Access - Hyde County requests a greater effort from NPS and greater access for handicap individuals. Hyde County proposes three areas of improvement to allow greater access to our seashore for handicap persons:

Waive and/or reduce the ORV permit fees for individuals possessing a valid handicap placard from Department of Motor Vehicles

Modify the exiting Lifeguard Beach Access to include a full handicap access ramp. Currently the ramp is handicap accessible in the parking lot, however at the point where the boardwalk meets the beach, there are steps which would limit handicap persons from access. We believe the addition of a ramp at the beach area will allow more people to access and enjoy our beaches with limited investment.

Provide more handicap beach accessible chairs and work with Hyde County, local lodging and realty companies to better market and promote the availability of handicap beach accessible chairs. Local NPS staff has been extremely accommodating in providing handicap beach accessible chairs with has made it possible for individuals who may no otherwise enjoy out beautiful beaches to once again gain access.

Permits - Hyde County requests NPS to offer different options for permits including: annual permits, valid for a year from issue date; varying permit lengths to provide more flexibility to visitors including 3-day, 10-day and/or 14-day permits.

Please consider our above requests and consider Hyde County Government as a NPS partner in providing maximum access while maintain and protecting our most precious resources. Revenues earned from visitors to our beaches are the life blood of our local economy providing our citizens with resources to achieve a high quality of life. We appreciate NPS efforts to support our local economy and increase access to our beaches.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1715    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 12:13:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

- Correspondence:**
1. Open beaches at 6:30. I don't think that would be hard to do.
  2. Beaches in front of Villages. Ramp 23 should be open. Just fence off going left, so you do not go in front of the village of Waves. Again I don't think that should be too hard.
  3. Ramp 34, one I enjoy fishing at very much. Again close off going to far right. But yes. go Left.
  4. Try to keep beaches open longer. Both spring and fall, 2 very good times to fish. 2-4-6 weeks, 4 seems to be the best, for me anyway. This could be monitored by Park Service to see well it works or not.
  5. Open beaches in front of villages sooner in spring and close later in fall. Again these are good fishing areas.
  6. Ramp 1 and 2 should be reopened.

I always get my yearly permit during the month of December. Make the yearly pass from date purchased instead of Jan. 1 each year.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1716    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 12:20:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would like to see the NPS open priority beaches such as Ramp 4, Ramp 25, Ramp 44, the Billy Mitchell ramp and ramp 55 open as early as possible after sunrise as stay open as late as possible. 24 hours especially at Cape Point.

I would also like to see the beaches in front of the villages be open Sept. 15-April 30.

Ramp 4 at Bodie Island should remain open all year. The beach down toward the bridge has always been a popular area especially for families. Now the beach north of ramp 4 gets very congested and the beach gets very rutted due to the higher traffic. Re-opening ramp 2 would also be a big help and help save gas for those that are interested in fishing closer to Coquina Beach.

I would certainly like to see more of the beaches open that are currently designated vehicle free.

I would also like for the ORV permit to be valid for one year from the issue date.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1717    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 12:29:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My name is [REDACTED] and I have resided in Buxton N.C., with my family since 1965. I choose to accept and agree with the comments from the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance concerning changes to the ORV Rule, as published by NPS.

I would like to make a few additional observations, comments and suggestions for your consideration.

#### A. ORV Permits

1. Annual permits to be issued on-line for a term of 12 months following the date of issue. ( e.g.NC Saltwater Fishing license). Please eliminate the current calendar year requirement and find a way to allow a business to charge a fee of(suggestion \$1.00), You could eventually see no need for federal workers to employment the fee.

2. Consider local businesses to help enroll the public to help the user friendly experience.

3. Additionally to the annual fee, please consider;

- a. 3 day permit for weekenders
- b. a 7 or 10 day permit for week-long visitors
- c. a 14 day permit for visitors staying longer

#### B. Opening of priority beach locations

1. Open priority beaches at 5:00 AM or no later than 5:30 Am

All aspects of fishing require "the early bird gets the worm" concept.

As Jacques Cousteau points out: Before dawn, the fish have not yet schooled together for safety. As the sunlight increases, the predatory fish now can single out and feed. As the sunlight continues the fish are now able to school up for safety! At dusk, the process happens in reverse.

Assateague National Seashore opens at 5:00 Am!

As a owner of the Red Drum Shopping Center in Buxton N.C. for 50 years( Fishing Tackle, Food Mart, Auto Repair, Gas and we open early. Early access is important for our customers.

I would to comment on a yearly occurrence that has to changed. Every August Cape Point is closed because of a fledged American Oyster Catchers chick. There is a 2 week "waiting period" even after the last chick has fledged. Two weeks is an eternity for businesses waiting all summer for the number #1 vacation spot to open. I know the arguments concerning the bird. I don't think the science rises to the peered reviewed level of acceptance. This bird is only a "NC bird of concern" that was not intend to be used for any special protection consideration. Fairness and logic says if the bird has fledged then open the beach up! We are a recreational area not a wildlife refuge! Thanks for consideration! [REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1718    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 12:55:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** 1. Comments sent in response to national organizations whose members will never visit CHNS should be discounted. Those organizations have unlimited budgets and can manipulate respondents to spam comments to governmental requests and potentially win any numbers battle against locals and visitors to CHNS.

2. Resource closures should be to reasonably protect resources while maximizing traditional Park use by humans. Closures should be proportional to the resource: One alleged fledgling should not stop thousands of Park visitors from enjoying that for which the Park was intended. Example: The unreasonable closure of the entire "Point" for one bird is absurd. A closure for one resource should be proportionally smaller than for two, etc. How much did it cost to close Cape Point in 2014 and 2015? How much economic harm did it do to Hatteras Islanders, who on average earn less than \$30K a year? There is no rational justification for such waste and harm to Americans.
3. Seasonal ORV closures should be May 15 to September 15. Closures beyond these dates are arbitrary and impede the intended uses of the Park for recreation.
4. Vehicle free areas: Tide and weather conditions permitting, the Point at Oregon Inlet; Ramp 23 South of Salvo, Ramp 34 North of Avon; Ramps 44 and 45 from Buxton to Frisco (South Beach) should be permanently reopened. There is no reasonable resource reason for permanent closure or the areas north of 34, from 44 and 45 to 49, etc. except to exclude humans from the intended enjoyment of the Park. The birds and turtles are everywhere. These were intentional closings targeted by off-island special interest groups designed to run humans from the Park. The recreational and economic impact of these types of closures is outrageous and unreasonable by any rational or ethical standards, not to mention a distortion of the NPS mission.
5. ORV permits: 10 day and annual ORV permits should continue to be available with one change: annual permits should be for 365 consecutive days. They should not automatically expire December 31 of each year.
6. Killing scores of other animals to supposedly protect a few is just plain mean and completely ineffective. Water and other birds are the main reasons for resource loss. That's called "Nature".
7. If you really want to protect turtles you should incubate the eggs and directly release hatchlings in the ocean, such as others do. Relocate and consolidate nests to areas which minimize closures and maximize survivability. Put 10 nests side by side and really protect the area. All you do now if create well-marked feeding targets for predators. Everyone knows that despite all the money and closures almost all of the turtles will not survive.
8. Treat the actual users of the Park as welcome guests (as we used it be treated), instead of trespassers, and you will overcome by grateful acclimation any amount of selfish, mean-spirited squawking from the special interest groups who have ruined CHNS with NPS complicity.

**Correspondence ID:** 1719      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,21,2015 13:17:17

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Species are leaving the planet on a daily basis. Why can it not exist in human nature to keep things/life in balance - whether we \*want\* to or not?? The ecosystem in which we live is an interdependent one. We need it as much as it needs us not to mess it up. Yet, in the big picture...this continues to just be so hard for us to live together in balance with nature. As an American, I care about my country. Not just the flag nor the [sometimes psychotic] jingoistic cheeleading. This includes the environment that we all share...and the wildlife living within it.

I realize people want what they want. That's OK. However, it's really not that much of an inconvenience to work a little harder to compensate for other living species - and yet get what you want too. In this case, access for vehicles on beaches. Nature has to come first, nevertheless. Unless you don't care whatsoever about generations to come and just have to have what you want now...immediate gratification [whatever the cost] and absolutely no inconvenience to you personally...as your right, as an American citizen [with lots of inalienable rights].

Why not let's use our brains and figure this out properly and decide to do the right thing? That is restricting access for off road vehicles [or whatever] to allow nature to thrive. If we don't do right - nature laughs last. It shouldn't be 'food for thought', but rather food for action.

**Correspondence ID:** 1720      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,21,2015 13:39:28

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Turtle Protection - Continue to patrol the beach each morning and continue to provide access around nests where possible. It would help me plan which available ramp to use each day if each nest had a posted sign giving the date the nest was laid and the expected hatch date. It would also create more trust between the public and NPS.

Vehicle Free Areas - I think there are too many miles of vehicle free areas for the number of pedestrians using them. From my experience there are more pedestrians using parking areas near vehicle access ramps, i.e. 38, 43, and 49, than the vehicle free parking ramp areas, i.e. 23 and 34, which are close to villages.

Pre-Nesting Closures and Nesting Bird Closures - The many miles of pre-nesting closures have NOT resulted in more hatched birds. With only 2 piping plovers fledging this year seems to validate that Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area is not an area suitable for these birds to nest and NPS should work to discourage rather than encourage plover nesting.

Village and Night Closures - The previous village closure dates of May 15 to September 15 were and are adequate. Night closures are too restrictive and should be from 1 hour after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise. This is more comparable to North Carolina hunting regulations.

Permits - Permits should not be required to access sound-side areas. Also annual beach driving permits should be from the date purchased until one year later rather than calendar year. Ten (10) day permits are more sensible than 7 day permits. Shorter, (3-day) permits are not necessary. Make it easier to purchase permits by letting businesses that sell fishing licenses sell permits in addition to the Park Service.

Other Beach Routes - Ramps 23 and 34 should be open to vehicles year round, or at least open when the beaches in front of the villages are open to vehicles; and could even be open year round with access routes used during the fishing tournaments.

The beach from the north end of current ramp 49 beach to ramp 45 should have vehicle access along the shoreline, and maybe even to the "hook". Some pedestrians use this beach area but they are from vehicles parked on the beach at ramps 49 and 45.

Thank you for permitting public comments. Please consider comments from actual park users more than from someone who has never visited Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area.

**Correspondence ID:** 1721      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,21,2015 13:45:08

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I've been visiting CHNSRA for the past 15 years and have got to say that i am very concerned about access to areas of the beach that i can no longer access. I understand that resources must be protected but i also believe there is a more balanced way of doing this. Many other seashores protect resources with favorable results and without completely closing down beaches from dune to surf. And without night time restrictions. I believe ORV routes can be detoured around resource protection areas instaed of being completely shut down, giving the pulic access to areas that they favor most. Cape Point and South Point at Ocracoke is the two areas that visitors want to get to most. Like myself, there is a lot of us out that cannot physically access these areas and rely on ORV's to get us there. And i am a true believer that human presence would greatly eliminate loss of resources to predators. Please



provide a fair and balanced plan that will protect resources while giving visitors year around access to their most favorite beaches. Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1722    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 13:49:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Regarding the specific issues addressed by the "CHNS Consideration of Modifications..."

#### Morning Beach Openings

The best surf fishing occurs at dawn and dusk, particularly in the summer. The beach should be patrolled for turtle crawls and then opened to ORVs at first light.

#### Seasonal ORV Routes

Village beaches should absolutely be closed to ORVs during the summer tourist season. Village beaches should be ORV accessible the rest of the year to facilitate and encourage spring and fall surf fishing tourism.

#### Vehicle Free Areas

Summer VFAs with ample parking and life guards should be located halfway between each of the villages. This would allow several miles of beach above and below each village to be ORV accessible year round.

#### Access Improvements

- \* Interdunal roads (similar to Pole Road) to provide year round access to the Cape Point and the north shore of Oregon and Ocracoke inlets.
- \* Additional sound side parking lots to reduce the number of vehicles parked along route 12.

#### Permits

- \* I support annual permits valid for one year from issue as well as 3, 10 and 14 day permits.
- \* The video shown in the permit office should provide useful information to novice beach drivers. The current video is uninformative to say the least.
- \* Permits should be issued to drivers, not vehicles. The permit itself should be a hang tag, not a window sticker. This would allow a driver's permit to be confiscated for a single violation.
- \* Permit prices should be raised to deter casual beach drivers. Residents and possibly property owners should be able to purchase less expensive permits.

Regarding ORV and access management at CHNS in general...

Millions of dollars have been squandered on programs that:

- \* Prevent common sense maintenance of beaches, bridges and roads.
- \* Do next to nothing to conserve birds and turtles.
- \* Deny access to beaches and activities that people treasure.
- \* Deface the island with miles of string fences.
- \* Engender ill will between the people and the NPS.

The cost of these programs includes:

- \* Planning and execution of the programs by the National Park Service at the local, regional and national levels.
- \* Planning and execution of the programs by the Audubon Society, the Defenders of Wildlife and the Southern Environmental Law Center.
- \* Time and resources of elected officials at the county, state and federal levels responding to complaints from their constituents.
- \* Time and resources to conduct dozens of congressional and federal court hearings.
- \* The opportunity cost of all of the above.
- \* Losses inflicted on the island's small businesses by the reduction in surf fishing tourism in the spring and fall.

The grand total surely exceeds 100 million dollars. In exchange for this staggering expenditure:

- \* Bird and turtle populations are about the same as they used to be.
- \* Surf fishers and board sporters are denied access to beaches they have enjoyed for decades.
- \* The habitat in the vicinity of the Cape Point has been "managed" into an overgrown, festering swamp hospitable to only water moccasins.
- \* The handful of idiots who speed and drive recklessly on the beach continue to do so with impunity.
- \* Real park rangers are held responsible by the public for policies they too regard as stupid and counterproductive while the NPS and environmental executives actually responsible take down six digit packages in Washington DC and New York City.

The NPS should work constructively with the people of Hatteras and Ocracoke to:

- \* Ensure that route 12 is maintained responsibly.
- \* Establish conservation programs that actually result in increased wildlife populations.
- \* Establish island wildlife sanctuaries that resemble the overwash habitat that existed before the dunes were built.
- \* Relocate bird and turtle nests to these sanctuaries when necessary. Local beach municipalities and environmental groups do this successfully all the time.
- \* Guarantee access to most of the beaches most of the time.
- \* Build interdunal roads and additional ramps to allow access when short stretches of beach absolutely must be closed because of conservation or erosion.
- \* Locate convenient beach and sound side parking lots to reduce the demand for casual beach driving.
- \* Police beach drivers such that the few who cause problems are disciplined without overzealous enforcement.
- \* Encourage and promote the spring and fall surf fishing to nurture the island's small businesses.
- \* Restore a positive relationship between the NPS and the people of Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1723    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 13:51:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** 1. Surely something can be done about the 7 AM beach opening time. Anyone who enjoys the outdoors appreciates being able to get out at dawn and twilight. I can live with the 9 PM closing time but the beach should be open no later than 6 AM.

2. Year round VFA are way to large and should be reduced in size and year round closure eliminated.

3. Clean up the ridiculous vegetation growth around the salt pond at ramp 44 and give the birds a chose and opportunity to use the area. It worked well years ago, why not now? This would help with bird activity in the ramp 44 and Cape Point area.

4. Reestablish access to ramp 44, the hook, and Cape Point via interdunal roads, etc. Current restrictions are way out of line. Clearing up the salt pond area will help the birds, then the people should get some relief as well. At a minimum safe foot traffic routes should always be provide. If a bird is so sensitive people walking by disrupts them, they are most likely somewhat out of their domain.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1724    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 14:35:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** At age 87 I can no longer travel to the Outer Banks. However, over the past 50 plus years we have vacationed numerous times in the area and enjoyed the change of pace.

I would hate to know that the park area could be further degraded by expanded ORV use.

Not every activity needs to be done everywhere just because it can!

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on an area we have greatly enjoyed in the past.

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1725    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 14:46:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I wish the beaches were open 24/7 because the night is some of the best fishing I live in Harrisonburg VSiit's a 7 hour drive if I come down for the weekend I would like to fish as much as possible

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**Correspondence ID:** 1726    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 16:29:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** To: National Park Service:

Subject: Beach Access for Cape Hatteras

My family has been visiting the Cape Hatteras Area for over 30 years. We now have a cottage in Frisco. We have watched our enjoyment and access to the beaches severely limited for arbitrary reasons, especially over the last 10 years. We want this trend to be reversed starting now. We want improved beach access for visitors and residents alike.

Specifically:

1. Allow beach access to the sound side shore line south of the "Haulover" area known as Canadian hole to the area commonly known as kite point. This area has become one of the premier recreation destinations on the East coast , only to be severely restricted for no apparent reason.

2. Allow ORV access to Ramp 34 which is 500 yards north of Avon village year around.

3. Restore both Pedestrian and ORV access to Ramp 23 which is 500 yards south of Salvo village year around.

Closing off these ramps which are closest to the villages of Avon and Salvo especially in the main visitor seasons causes much frustration and hours and miles of driving around while visitors search for access to the famed Hatteras beaches. Currently most of the year there is no access there.. only in the winter is it open to ORV use.

Pedestrian access to areas below the high tide line should be restored immediately. Birds don't build nests below the high tide line. The is no reason to restrict pedestrians. The National Park Service must start using common sense and serve the people.

This brings up another unfortunate practice, the misleading labeling of maps showing areas to be "ORV open" on the NPS maps but in reality they are not. This causes bad feelings toward the Hatteras National Seashore as thousands of visitors see the maps online showing "Open", then upon arriving only find closed off areas, warning signs, "No Pedestrians" "No ORV" and "No access" signs. This is giving the Hatteras National Seashore a bad reputation. This deceptive practice should cease immediately.

Pedestrian access to areas below the high tide line should be restored immediately. Birds don't build nests below the high tide line. The is no reason to restrict pedestrians. The National Park Service must start using common sense and serve the people.

I am a voter and I feel strongly that access to the treasure that is the Cape Hatteras National Sea shore should not be restricted unnecessarily.

██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1727    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 16:38:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

Thanks,

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**Correspondence ID:** 1728    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 17:38:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.
- \* 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 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 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, such as decreasing the size of buffers, on the Seashore without peer reviewed scientific research to support them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1729    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 17:57:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a Buxton homeowner who has been visiting Hatteras Island since 1971, I ask that you please leave the ORV regulations alone. People worked for years to come to a mutual agreement. I lived in Texas for 20 years and saw how essentially unlimited ORV driving on the beaches turned them into freeways and parking lots, dominated by cars and trucks. NC and the Park Service has a better plan, one that limits ORV use and creates recreational space for beach goers, pedestrians and wildlife. Let's keep it that way.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 1730    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 17:58:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance  
P.O. Box 1355  
Buxton, NC 27920

August 21, 2015

Mr. David Hallac  
Superintendent, Cape Hatteras National Seashore  
1401 National Park Drive  
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Subject: Proposed Changes to ORV Rule - Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area

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 preliminary alternatives regarding possible changes to the ORV rule which were published by the National Park Service (NPS) in the July 30, 2015 newsletter. In response to the NPS request for public input during the scoping process, we have prepared recommendations we believe will fulfill the requirements and intent of Paragraph C of the legislation passed last December which has led to this review. This document and attachments present these recommendations for your consideration.

"(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."

Sunrise and sunset play important roles in the visitor experience at the seashore. NPS should implement procedures that will maximize the opportunities for visitors to engage in activities at these times of day without interfering with the protection of resources which is the objective of nighttime closures.

Sunrise and sunset activities during the summer months can occur at any beach location but are particularly important at locations which are favored by photographers attempting to capture images enhanced by lower light conditions, shadows, and colors; at locations favored by fishermen where schooling fish forage at first light and at dusk; and at locations favored by visitors who wish to avoid the mid-day heat and perhaps enjoy a beautiful sunrise or sunset or cookout on the beach. Historically, these locations have been Oregon Inlet, Cape Point, Hatteras Inlet, and South Point. CHAPA proposes changes to the ORV rule to enhance the visitor experience at sunrise and sunset as follows:

☞ Sunrise - key locations: Turtle patrols at the following locations should begin early enough in the morning to allow access as quickly after first light as possible with a goal to provide access no later than 6:00 am : Ramp 2 to 4, Ramp 43/44 to Cape Point, Ramp 49 east and west, and Ramp 72 south to inlet.

First light during May, June, July, August occurs well before 6:00 am. ORV access under the current rule does not begin until 7:00 am, eliminating the opportunity to participate in sunrise activities.

☞ Sunrise - Other locations: Continue to open ORV access at 7:00 am.

☞ Sunset - Delay closing of access at all locations from the current 9:00 pm until 10:00 pm. The 10:00 pm curfew will improve the visitor experience but continue to provide the additional resource protection benefits intended by closed nighttime ORV access.

To comply with the current rule, visitors must prepare dinners, fish earlier in the afternoon than they prefer, often still in the heat of the day. Sunset does not occur until 8:30 during the summer months, but beachgoers must end their dinner and campfires earlier than they prefer in order to be off the beach by 9:00 pm. Even with a 10:00 pm closing, many visitors will be disappointed they cannot participate in activities they have enjoyed in the past including stargazing, and fishing the tides.

"(2) Extending seasonal off-road vehicle routes for additional periods in the fall and spring if offroad vehicle use would not create resource management problems at the National Seashore."

The current rule closes seasonal beaches to ORV access in front on villages on Hatteras Island and Ocracoke Island to ORV access on March 31 and reopens these beaches on November 1 each year. The current rule closes seasonal beaches to ORV access at locations which are not in front of villages (Bodie Island and Ocracoke Island) from March 15 until September 15 each year. The typical visitor experience during early and mid spring and early and mid fall are significantly and negatively impacted by the access closures in place at these times.

Visitor demographics are much different during April and October than during May through August. After the first of September, a more mature group of visitors come to Cape Hatteras when fewer young visitors are present and the beaches are less crowded. By October, swimming and sunbathing activities are not as common due to cooler water and air temperatures and shorter days, while other activities such as shelling, windsurfing, and fishing, on the other hand, are more common. These factors result in fewer visitors to the seashore in these months, but a higher concentration of visitors who use ORVs to access the beaches and who want to take advantage of beaches which are currently closed to ORV access until November 1.

CHAPA proposes the following changes to Seasonal dates for ORV access:

☞ Seasonal beaches in front of villages- These beaches should remain open in the spring until April 30 and reopen in the fall on October 1.

By October 1, village beaches have historically been used much less frequently by visitors crossing over the dunes and much more frequently by visitors using ORVs. The smaller crowds and more mature visitor base minimize any conflict between pedestrians and ORV users by this time. These dates coincide with the dates which have been used for years by the town of Nags Head to regulate ORV access on its beaches without conflict.

☞ Seasonal beaches not in front of villages- These beaches should remain open in the spring until at least March 31 but preferably until April 30 which is the date proposed by CHAPA for beaches in front of villages. The March 31 date should be chosen only if NPS determines that colonial water bird and American Oystercatcher nesting activity during April is sufficient to warrant full closures of these routes and areas. These beaches should reopen to ORV access on September 1, or no later than the weekend immediately following Labor Day. By then, bird nesting activities are completed for the year and swimming and sunbathing activities by visitors not using ORVs are concentrated within the villages. The visitor base begins shifting to those who want to participate in the fall fishing season and wind surfers who enjoy the challenges of the strong northeasterly winds that begin to arrive in the early fall.

"(3) Modifying the size and location of vehicle free areas."

CHAPA believes that Vehicle Free Areas (VFAs) as instituted within the seashore severely limits the visitor experience and should be re-evaluated to insure these beaches are effectively used to enhance visitor access. Many of these areas are under-utilized almost to the point of not being used at all. An examination of aerial photos taken on July 31, 2012 (first year of the ORV rule), on Memorial Day 2015 and on July 4, 2015 reveals the stark difference in visitor utilization of ORV areas and VFAs. These photographs clearly show that even at the height of tourist season, VFAs are not used to any significant extent. Visitor use of these VFAs is almost non-existent during the fall, winter and spring. (Photos will be provided by CHAPA upon request.)

CHAPA proposes that 6.5 miles currently designated as Vehicle Free Areas be re-designated as Seasonal ORV areas, that 1.0 miles currently designated as Vehicle Free Areas be re-designated as Year Round ORV areas, and that .5 miles currently designated as Seasonal ORV areas be re-designated as Year Round ORV areas.

The net effect of these proposals will be to reduce Vehicle Free areas from 25.25 miles to 17.75 miles, to increase Seasonal ORV areas from 12.6 miles to 18.6 miles, and to increase Year Round ORV areas from 25.15 miles to 26.65 miles.

These proposals are intended to improve the visitor experience to the seashore without impairing resource protection. The proposed 1.5 miles of additional year round access has specifically been identified for locations that are not typically used by nesting birds. Likewise, the areas proposed for seasonal access were not proposed for year round access in recognition of their importance during the nesting season.

Specific recommendations by location are described below and recapped on the attached spreadsheet:

☞ Ramp 1 - South: Change 800 meter (.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 on Nags Head / Kitty Hawk / Kill Devil Hills during the fall and winter months.

☞ Ramp 2 - South: Change 800 meter (.5 miles) VFA to Year Round ORV access

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.

☞ Ramp 4 - South at Spit: Change 1,200 meter (.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: Change 800 meter (.5 miles) Seasonal Access to Year Round Access

This change will provide more convenient summer ORV access to visitors staying in Rodanthe/Waves/Salvo area. The area is seldom used now and its closure contributes to crowding at Ramps 25 and 27.

☞ Ramp 23 - South: Change 2,250 (1.4 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.

☞ Ramp 34 - North: Change 3,100 meter (1.95 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.

☞ Buxton - Ramp 43 - 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 E - 1.2 miles - The revised rule should include a provision to allow the superintendent to temporarily designate an ORV corridor beginning at Ramp 45 and extending through this VFA to Cape Point at times when access to Cape Point via the east beach from ramp 44 is impossible.

While infrequent and unpredictable, access via the east beach is closed periodically due to the effects of weather events such as nor'easters, temporary (or possibly permanent) erosion problems, and turtle nesting. The superintendent should have the authority to adaptively manage access through the VFA on a temporary basis to ensure access to the Point is not prevented. 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.

⌘ Ramp 45 - West: Change 2,050 meter (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.

The area to the East of Ramp 45 (1,950 meters, 1.2 miles) should remain VFA in recognition of the high density nesting and wintering activity that occurs here.

⌘ Ramp 45 - West (continued): Change 800 meters (.5 miles) at western boundary from VFA to Year Round Access

This change will increase the size of the year round access area east of Ramp 49 by .5 miles. Ramp 49 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.

(4) ORV Permits-

The scoping documents suggested the NPS will consider modifications to the manner in which permits are issued. Alternatives proposed for consideration include:

CHAPA supports any action which provides visitors with a user-friendly experience and with choices which may enhance their visit at the Seashore.

Annual permits should be issued for 12 months following the date of issue rather than at the end of the current calendar year. Also, a 10 day permit would be valuable to many 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.

CHAPA believes NPS should enhance the on-line purchase option to allow visitors to print receipts or documents that will allow them to proceed directly to the beach upon arrival rather than requiring them to wait until the next morning to pick up the windshield sticker or tag at the NPS office.

CHAPA also believes NPS should explore options to sell permits at local businesses to simplify the process for visitors who arrive after hours and who may not have purchased the permit on-line.

(5) Additional Infrastructure Projects-

The scoping document requested comments regarding the need for infrastructure projects beyond those identified and approved in earlier actions.

CHAPA believes the access projects which have been approved, and in some cases already started, bring value to seashore visitors. We also believe the priorities which were established in the spring of 2015 are appropriate and should be implemented as shown on the revised schedule published at that time. In previous communications, we have suggested that access could be improved in some locations by simply providing temporary ORV corridors behind dunes to allow vehicles and pedestrians to bypass nesting areas that would otherwise be closed to access. We recognize that due to geography/vegetation/etc. temporary bypasses may not be feasible in all locations. However, we believe some locations are prime candidates for consideration of temporary bypasses.

⌘ Ramp 44 S - temporary bypass

A good example of where a temporary bypass is feasible occurs from time to time between ramp 44 and Cape Point. In documents we previously submitted (during the Modification to Wildlife Buffers Comment process) we described how a simple extension of a previously created bypass could easily have prevented a multi-week closure to Cape Point in 2013.

⌘ Ramp 45 - temporary corridor

Under item (3) above, CHAPA proposed the recognition of Ramp 45 as the starting point for a potential temporary ORV corridor under certain conditions. Any infrastructure modifications to support this recommendation should be added to the list of prioritized projects.

⌘ 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. CHAPA proposes that a project be added to provide soundside access on Bodie Island.

⌘ Soundside Access - Ocracoke Island

Soundside access on Ocracoke Island is inadequate. Projects should be added to enhance high-use access points and add additional strategically located soundside ramps.

⌘ Two Way Ramps - Oceanside and Soundside

All ramps within the seashore should be built to accommodate two-way traffic to improve safety.

We urge NPS to look for low-cost, high-value, quickly implemented "infrastructure" projects such as the ones described above.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

██████████ Treasurer  
Outer Banks Preservation Association  
Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance

This letter and attachments are fully endorsed by:

The Outer Banks Preservation Association (OBPA)  
The North Carolina Beach Buggy Association (NCBBA)  
The Cape Hatteras Anglers Club (CHAC)

Attachment

██████████  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

██████████  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 33726  
Raleigh, NC 27636

Executive Director, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission  
1701 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1701

Dare County Commissioner  
PO Box 1000  
Manteo NC 27954

CHAPA Proposed Changes to Routes and Areas

8/21/2015 Impact of Proposed Changes

Current Routes and Areas Proposed Routes and Areas VFA Seasonal Year Round  
Current meters miles Proposed meters miles meters miles meters miles meters miles

Bodie Island

Ramp 1 S VFA 800 0.50 Seasonal 800 0.50 (800.00) (0.50) 800.00 0.50 - - Provides .5 miles of seasonal access at south end of Nags Head.

Ramp 1 S (continued) VFA 800 0.50 no change VFA 800 0.50

Ramp 2 S VFA 800 0.50 Year Round 800 0.50 (800.00) (0.50) - - 800.00 0.50 Eliminates need for new ramp south of 2 and north of 4

Ramp 4 N Year Round 3,200 2.00 no change Year Round 3,200 2.00 - - - - -

Ramp 4 S Year Round 250 0.20 no change Year Round 250 0.20 - - - - -

(4 S continued) Seasonal 1,800 1.10 no change Seasonal 1,800 1.10 - - - - -

(4 S continued) VFA 1,200 0.75 Seasonal 1,200 0.75 (1,200.00) (0.75) 1,200.00 0.75 - - Opens Bodie Island Spit seasonally after bird nesting.

Hatteras Island

Rodanthe Pier N VFA 2,575 1.60 no change VFA 2,575 1.60 - - - - -

Rodanthe Pier S Seasonal 5,150 3.20 no change Seasonal 5,150 3.20 - - - - -

Ramp 23 N Seasonal 800 0.50 Year Round 800 0.50 - - (800.00) (0.50) 800.00 0.50 Provides .5 miles of year round ORV access and 1.4 miles of seasonal access. Does not interfere with bird and turtle nesting or summertime pedestrian VFA experience but provides access during prime fall fishing season.

Ramp 23 S VFA 2,250 1.40 Seasonal 2,250 1.40 (2,250.00) (1.40) 2,250.00 1.40 - -

Ramp 25 N Year Round 1,300 0.80 no change Year Round 1,300 0.80 - - - - -

Ramp 25 S Year Round 3,250 2.00 no change Year Round 3,250 2.00 - - - - -

Ramp 27 S VFA 3,500 2.20 no change VFA 3,500 2.20 - - - - -

Ramp 30 S Year Round 3,700 2.30 no change Year Round 3,700 2.30 - - - - -

Ramp 34 N VFA 3,100 1.95 Seasonal 3,100 1.95 (3,100.00) (1.95) 3,100.00 1.95 - - Opens 34 north seasonally.

Ramp 34 S Seasonal 6,400 4.00 no change Seasonal 6,400 4.00 - - - - -

Ramp 38 S Year Round 2,500 1.60 no change Year Round 2,500 1.60 - - - - -

Buxton VFA 5,600 3.50 no change VFA 5,600 3.50 - - - - -

Buxton (continued) VFA 1,000 0.60 Seasonal 1,000 0.60 (1,000.00) (0.60) 1,000.00 0.60 - - Adds Seasonal ORV access north of 43 by .4 miles.

Ramp 43 N Year Round 650 0.40 no change Year Round 650 0.40 - - - - -

Ramp 43 S Year Round 500 0.30 no change Year Round 500 0.30 - - - - -

Ramp 44 S Year Round 1,950 1.20 no change Year Round 1,950 1.20 - - - - -

Ramp 45 E VFA 1,950 1.20 no change VFA 1,950 1.20 - - - - -

Ramp 45 W VFA 2,050 1.30 Seasonal 2,050 1.30 (2,050.00) (1.30) 2,050.00 1.30 - - Reopens ramp 45 west seasonally after bird and turtle nesting.

VFA 800 0.50 Year Round 800 0.50 (800.00) (0.50) - - 800.00 0.50

Ramp 49 E Year Round 2,450 1.50 no change Year Round 2,450 1.50 - - - - -

Ramp 49 W Year Round 1,950 1.20 no change Year Round 1,950 1.20 - - - - -

Frisco Pier E Seasonal 1,100 0.70 no change Seasonal 1,100 0.70 - - - - -

Frisco Pier W Seasonal 700 0.40 no change Seasonal 700 0.40 - - - - -

Sandy Bay VFA 2,400 1.50 no change VFA 2,400 1.50 - - - - -

Ramp 55 E Seasonal 3,550 2.20 no change Seasonal 3,550 2.20 - - - - -

Ramp 55 W Year Round 2,600 1.60 no change Year Round 2,600 1.60 - - - - -

Bone Rd W VFA 1,200 0.75 no change VFA 1,200 0.75 - - - - -

Ocracoke Island

Ramp 59 E VFA 1,600 1.00 no change VFA 1,600 1.00 - - - - -

Ramp 59 W Year Round 6,700 4.15 no change Year Round 6,700 4.15 - - - - -

VFA 4,050 2.50 no change VFA 4,050 2.50 - - - - -

Year Round 2,750 1.70 no change Year Round 2,750 1.70 - - - - -

Campground E Seasonal 800 0.50 no change Seasonal 800 0.50 - - - - -

Campground W VFA 3,550 2.20 no change VFA 3,550 2.20 - - - - -

Ramp 72 E Year Round 3,700 2.30 no change Year Round 3,700 2.30 - - - - -

Ramp 72 W Year Round 3,050 1.90 no change Year Round 3,050 1.90 - - - - -

South Point VFA 1,300 0.80 no change VFA 1,300 0.80 - - - - -

Total 101,325 63.00 101,325 63.00 (12,000.00) (7.50) 9,600.00 6.00 2,400.00 1.50

Current meters miles Proposed meters miles Change meters miles

VFA 40,525 25.25 VFA 28,525 17.75 VFA (12,000.00) (7.50)  
Seasonal 20,300 12.60 Seasonal 29,900 18.60 Seasonal 9,600.00 6.00  
Year Round 40,500 25.15 Year Round 42,900 26.65 Year Round 2,400.00 1.50  
Total 101,325 63.00 Total 101,325 63.00 Total - -

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**Correspondence ID:** 1731 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,21,2015 18:01:11

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Seasonal beaches in front of villages should be opened earlier in the fall & longer in the spring.

Seasonal beaches not in front of the villages, including any new seasonal beaches as a result of the review of VFA designations, should be opened to ORV access no later than Sept. 15th.

The size & number of current VFA's are excessive & detrimental to the visitor experience.

The NPS should reclassify many of the VFA's to either seasonal or year round ORV routes.

Reducing the amt of VFA miles can be done without a risk to natural resources.

The NPS should also reclassify some seasonal ORV routes to year round ORV routes.

Hatteras Island VFA's that need to be designated as seasonal or year round ORV routes are: ramp 34N, Buxton, Ramp 45E to Point, Ramp 45 W, Sandy Bay & Hatteras Island spit.

Ocracoke Island VFA's that should be designated as seasonal or year round ORV routes are: Ramp 59E, between Ramp 59W & Ramp 67E, campground W and South Point inlet spit.

Thank you for your consideration for these requests and  
"please withhold my personal identifying information from public view".

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**Correspondence ID:** 1732 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,21,2015 18:59:37

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Morning Beach Openings:

ⓧ The Park Service should open priority beaches as soon after dawn as possible.

ⓧ Priority beaches should be the beaches bordering Ramp 43, 44 and 38 as these are prime fishing areas for morning fishing.

Seasonal Open / Close ORV Access Dates:

ⓧ The Park Service should open seasonal beaches in front of villages starting the week after Labor Day and close them starting the week before Memorial Day. This would keep them closed during the busiest rental period when most families with school age children are staying in the homes along the villages but will allow greater access to families with younger children or families with handicap individuals to enjoy those beaches after Labor Day and before Memorial Day without the need to lug umbrellas, chairs, coolers etc. Many of the current open beaches are too far from the villages and the longer drive makes it difficult to get to the beach. Allowing more open periods will be a huge help to families with young children and older or handicapped individuals.

Vehicle Free Areas:

ⓧ Open the entire area between ramp 44 and ramp 49 to year round ORV use. This is the most pristine swimming beach and fishing area on the entire Outer Banks. This is by far the most popular beach for families as well as anglers. As a grandmother this is the only beach I can take my grandchildren to for safe swimming. Due to its southern orientation and shallow waters most days the waves are calm making it a safer option for children and the elderly. Keeping the area close to the dunes closed for birds would be a win/win for both. The biggest blow to the local community has been the loss of this prime fishing location and based on the numbers of fledging birds versus the cost to the community this does not seem to keep in the spirit of the agreement made years ago when private property owners passed their land to the park service. This option will also provide a good balance when sections of the beach are closed for nesting as it will still provide access for fishing and swimming especially with the addition of the new inter-dune road.

Permits:

ⓧ Permits should include the option to purchase 3 day and 14 day permits in addition to the 7 day and annual permit. The permits should be valid from the date of issue not based on calendar year. The rates should be prorated so that it is not cost prohibitive to purchase smaller time frames but keep the yearly permit as the best daily rate.

Access Improvements:

ⓧ The park service should build a parking lot closer to the beach at Ramp 49 and at the former location of the Frisco Pier and Ramp 34 for those who do not have ORVs and/or are handicapped.

ⓧ I would like the final rule to also include an option for the superintendent extend night driving for each July 4th for the enjoyment of fireworks until 10:00 PM. In addition, on July 4th to open Ramp 34 from NC12 to the northern tip of Avon village until 10:00 PM. The only beach close enough to view the fireworks is Ramp 38. It is incredibly crowded and 2 miles from the fireworks display. This will give people more options north of town.

ⓧ My final comment is a request that the park service to publish all the comments and the process it uses to determine which options that are approved.

Thank you for soliciting comments for modifications to the Final Rule for ORV management at the Seashore.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1733 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,21,2015 19:05:08

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I've been going down to Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area since 1973. In the early years we would come down once a month from April to October. We would fish all night on the beach many nights. Especially during the summer months. I don't come in the summer months because of the daylight heat.

Some of the best fishing is one hour before day break till one hour after day break. With the time set to go on the beach at 7:00 am, we are missing out on the best fishing of the day.



ORV access needs to start as soon as day break begins no later than September 15th. Seasonal closures need to start later in the spring as well and by September 15th in the fall.

It is so crowded the way it is now that sometimes it is hard to find a spot that you are not crossing lines with other fishermen.

I personally would like to see beaches 55, 45, 44, and 27 open by day break.

Another item I would like changed is the permit owner present in the vehicle when it is being driven on the beach. My reason for this is that some days I am not able to go out or am unable to stay all day. This prohibits the rest of my party to be able to fish because they cannot take the ORV on the beach without my presence. It would be nice to have a place on the permit to designate someone or even two names of people that have seen the video to drive when I'm not able too.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1734 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 19:10:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** OVR access in front of the villages should be extended to cover the out of seasonal visitor periods. The spring closure should be based on an evidence based assessment of when the main summer season starts. In Avon for example the Avon Motel and Avon Cottages mid season is May 14 to June 17 and full season is 18 June to 12 August, the second mid-season is 13 August to 9 September. Since businesses rely on customers their pricing more accurately reflects the visitor load than anything else you're likely to get without doing a survey. Other rental agencies can provide equivalent information about house rentals. Opening in the Spring should be in Mid May. Opening in the fall should be in September on the first weekend after Labor Day.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1735 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 19:14:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Permit pricing:  
Annual; permits should be pro-rated based on the month sold. That is \$110 if purchased in February, \$70 for June etc. This will allow you to keep the changing annual color as a simple way to check currency of the tags.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1736 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 19:14:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The stated purpose of Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Recreation Area is for the enjoyment of the citizenry of the USA. This purpose seems to have been lost in the Park Service's mission of late. The vocal and well financed opponents of vehicle access in the Park have hijacked the true intent in the original idea behind the formation of this national treasure. To truly appreciate the Park, it must be accessible to all! While few visitors would agree that the endangered and threatened species in the Park should be afforded no protections, current rules go way too far. Buffer zones for nesting birds are too large. Access by vehicle could easily be maintained along with adequate resource protection that would not result in beach closures. Turtle nest protection could also be done without total closures as well. Please consider the management practices in place before the Consent Decree went into effect. These practices struck the proper balance between access and resource protection. Statistics gathered since the implementation of the Consent Decree and later rules do show increased nesting, but not better chick survival. The research used to establish the new rules is flawed in that it only looked at Hatteras Island and not other "spoil" islands and other nearby habitat. This research was way too narrow in scope. Also, the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge affords 12 miles of pedestrian only beach so limiting driving elsewhere should be unnecessary. The new rules are therefore overly burdensome with little added benefit. Turtle protection practices could be modified to improve access with no net impact on turtle success as well. One idea would be to enlarge colonial bird nesting areas by removing some of the introduced vegetation employed as a beach stabilization attempt. The only result of this program has been a decrease in open sand habitat and consequently, less beach access. Please make an effort to increase access and protect resources in ways that do not conflict. Engage the public in conservation efforts. Try, for example, opening a turtle hatchery. What a great to preserve a species, engage Park visitors, and possibly raise funds for Park improvements. If the Park staff and environmentalists worked with beach goers instead seeing them as adversaries, everyone's Park experience would be improved. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1737 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 19:17:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Permit periods:  
A more generous short term permit should be extended to include the entirety of a two weekend and full week visit 10 or 12 days including both weekends for folks who drive down early and leave late.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1738 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 19:19:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Permit periods:  
A weekend permit should be available at a notional (very low) cost. This would allow first time visitors to sample ORV access and decide if they want to commit to a longer visit and access period in the future.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1739 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 19:29:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Bay Side access:

Is inadequate and appears to be decreasing. The end of roads to the bay from route 12 which used to have long left and right routes along the sound-side are now terminating in dead ends.

Extend the sound side areas to allow for parking and spreading out from the access routes This would include 46, 48, 52, 53, 54.

Additional accesses should be provided between 48 and 52 spaced at least as frequently as the interval between 52- 54.

On the south end of the island access is needed from the pole road along the end of the island 1/2 the way down that section and especially inside the inlet opening. These are prime fishing areas and have enough tidal movement to make them pleasant to swim in.

The same type of access should be provided on Ocracoke Island.

The sound side is a preferred location when visiting with very young children,. Also clamming without a boat requires sound access.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1740 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,21,2015 19:31:13

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The primary purpose of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore is to provide access for the public to an undeveloped eastern shore beach environment that existed before the modern era. Because of the undeveloped nature of the National Seashore, access by private vehicle is critical to this primary purpose.

The restriction of vehicular access that the current National Park Service practices and regulations require is unreasonable, and severely impacts the ability of the public to enjoy the public lands that comprise the Seashore.

The stated purpose of these regulations when instituted was the protection of certain charismatic bird and turtle species that feed, breed or otherwise use the National Seashore as habitat. Yet, the evidence provided to support the complete closure of large areas of the Seashore during the primary tourist season for this purpose is, at best, anecdotal and poorly supported by objective science.

The practice of the National Park Service should therefore be to commission and/or conduct objective scientific study to support precisely what restrictions are actually beneficial to the species WITHOUT impacting the public's access to the beaches, including by private vehicle, BEFORE instituting any such restrictions. To this end, the Park Service's current very modest effort at reducing restrictions is wholly insufficient and must be greatly expanded to actually honor the purpose for which the Cape Hatteras National Seashore was originally intended.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1741 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,21,2015 19:34:34

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Handicap access:

The handicap access program where you can drive handicapped persons to a location and drop them in front of the towns and depart should be extended to the pedestrian areas also.

Beyond a certain point old folks cannot walk great distances especially in sand.

Before you limited driving I routinely brought my mom onto the beach. Now not so much. we are limited to the town fronts which is not as nice as the areas you could get at and be relatively alone.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1742 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,21,2015 19:37:42

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Opening in the morning.

You should allow the ORVs to follow your inspection vehicles as soon as they start.

Preference should be given to opening the good fishing areas. The majority of folks who go out early are headed there.

The places would include the point and the inlet mouths.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1743 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,21,2015 19:47:04

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Extent and balance between ORV and pedestrian areas.

If we are to use the best science and balance the desires of those who want vehicle free areas and those who want to drive ORVs on the beach there should be some evidence to show the resulting division reflects actual usage.

You need to do a study to see how much use the two types of areas get. This varies based on my observation.

For example the area between 27 and 30 is almost never used because of the need to hike over the dune from the highway. Evidence for this is the being able to drive that length and between 34 and 30 for that matter and almost never see parked cars along the road. This is partly a reflection of that there's no good places to park.

I understand there was a tremendous outpouring of comments asking for pedestrian access but these reflected organized campaigns by various groups which seemed to be interested in closing the beaches.

I believe the 50/50 split does not reflect the actual park usage.

We should make some evidence based decisions this time.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1744 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586

**Received:** Aug,21,2015 19:56:18

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Timing and location of public comment events.

Holding a meeting in Hampton at 530PM in the evening means that folks with jobs who live south of the tunnels need to leave work early to make the meeting.

Not everybody has the flexibility (or wealth) to take time off from work during the week.

Taking a look at the age of the folks who I see driving on the beach compared to your attendees tells me you did not have a representative crowd at that session.

Your participants were old and in case of those I knew personally, retired. The folks I know who come down to fish and drive on the beach tend to be much younger as a group. If in blue collar jobs and or hourly work they don't have the ability to make a 0530 start time.

This is direct reflect of the time you held the meeting.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1745    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 20:00:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Superintendent Hallac,

To begin with I appreciate the work you and your staff did to prepare ideas and suggestions for the changes to the ORV plan. The meetings were helpful and I hope you have had a good response from the Cape Hatteras community. They are a little shell shocked from the past ten years of comment sessions that ended in their comments mostly unrecognized.

In an effort to reduce the mass of paperwork headed your way I will ask you to consider the large document prepared by Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance on the proposed changes to the ORV rule as my official comment as well. I worked side by side with this group to develop the information provided. My businesses depend on the public being able to access the parts of Cape Hatteras National Seashore that they love to visit. People that come here love this island like it is a person. They are broken-hearted when they cannot enjoy the things they love about it.

If you have any questions concerning this, or need the complete document I am referring to submitted to you by me as well as the group, please let me know.

Thank you for your efforts to reach out to the people here. I look forward to a time when the people and the park can be good partners again.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1746    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 20:02:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Access to south beach.

Depending on the wind south beach can be sheltered in a way which makes it good for smaller children. Small children are not great hikers, especially on sand. a rout to the inside of the hook would provide access to a good place to swim and fish. This section of pedestrian only access is a prime candidate for reversion to ORV access.

This could be done by going out route 45.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1747    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 20:07:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I've been Vacationing with my family at the outer banks since i was born. I avidly kite board and fish. I would like all beaches to remain open and to have full access on both ocean and sound sides. The restricted access is doing nothing but ruining a culture and a way of life that every person has a right to like there families before them. this has already gone to long and much to far. I hope someone can speak for the actual people of the outer banks and the ones who have been enjoying there beaches for years

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**Correspondence ID:** 1748    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 20:13:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Access to the ends of the islands.

The seasonal route on Bodie Island needs to be made year round and extended further into the inlet. This was a prime fishing area and presently appears to be totally unutilized.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1749    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 20:14:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** MORNING BEACH OPENINGS: Opening beaches at 6:30 would be an improvement particularly in the Spring/Summer when sunrise is earliest SEASONAL ORV ROUTES: Extending seasonal routes four weeks would probably be optimum. Two weeks is not enough. Six weeks might be create too much ORV/Pedestrian conflict in front of villages but perhaps not as much in front of campgrounds where attendance is likely to be low at those times. VEHICLE FREE AREAS: VFAs are much to large at present. Pedestrians are not using these extensive areas. They have no desire to walk through them and it prevents ORV users, who have enjoyed these areas in the past, from enjoying them. To enjoy these remote areas for any length of time an ORV is needed to carry basic protective equipment from the elements and other gear to pursue recreational opportunities. ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS: The map accompanying this form does not show improvements completed or in progress. However the new Ramp 25 seems to be a success. ORV access has been extended north and pedestrians are utilizing the boardwalk to the beach area. The Ramp/Boardwalk 32? under construction

will be a welcome addition. Designs that provide different access routes for Pedestrians and ORVs should be used. Ramp 34 should be open for northward ORV use. PERMITS: More flexibility in permit lengths should be available. Annual permits should be from time of sale anniversary of purchase

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**Correspondence ID:** 1750    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 20:19:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As an annual visitor to Cape Hatteras since 1993, I am very interested in the ORV management plan. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on proposed changes to the plan and I am in favor of the following alternatives that are outlined in the 20150730 Public Scoping Newsletter:  
-Designating priority beaches that are cleared by resource management staff and opened at 6:30 a.m.  
-Allowing visitors to follow resource management staff onto the beach at a designated ramp and to drive a safe distance behind staff as they clear the beach.  
-Opening the seasonal ORV routes in front of the villages and Ocracoke campground an additional six weeks in the fall and Spring.  
-Issuance of 14-day permits and annual permits that are good for one year from the date of purchase.

I have no specific areas to suggest changes to parking or ramp configurations but I fully support and greatly appreciate the access improvements that are under construction, recently opened, and planned for the future. I am particularly happy about the inter-dunal road that will connect to Ramp 49.

I would also love to see a reduction in the size of vehicle free areas. The area immediately south of Cape Point ("The Hook") is one of my favorite places on Hatteras Island and it has been off limits for the last few years since being designated as a VFA. I believe that all of the closures that are in effect in the summer have resulted in more over-crowding of the beaches that are open. I miss the days when you could easily find a secluded area any time of day.

I believe that the NPS should work to find ways to get the ORV access proponents and wildlife proponents to work together. I know there are many ORV proponents that have no desire to harm wildlife and would willingly help protect wildlife if the current adversarial situation could be de-fused. There are many examples from around the country where groups that are seemingly at cross purposes have found ways to work together to achieve the goals of both groups and I would encourage the NPS to use those as a model to work from. The NPS needs to be a leader to help find innovative solutions, not a shill for one side or the other.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment and I look forward to my next visit to Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1751    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 20:21:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Access to the southern end of Hatteras Island.  
The ORV routes on the southern end of the island needs to go to the end on either the beach or sound side.  
This is an area where fishing is especially good during tide changes and where the two bodies of water mix.  
The same thought process applies to the ends of Ocracoke.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1752    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 20:27:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Morning Beach Openings:  
⌘ All the beaches should be open by 5 AM. Part of the training for the beach permit involves awareness of turtle nesting indications. The park service could publish a phone number that the early beach goers could utilize to notify the park service of any nests. This would reduce the need to add extra personnel. Another option is to create a special permit for early access. These permit owners would need to undergo a more specialized training regarding identification and notification of nests. This would be a great way to form a partnership between the community and the park service.

Seasonal Open / Close ORV Access Dates:

⌘ The Park Service should open seasonal beaches in front of villages six additional weeks in the fall and in the spring. This should have an option to be reevaluated on a yearly basis based on use. Many of the sound side houses are forced to use the northern and southern beaches because they cannot get to them. This makes those areas underutilized and puts a burden on the other area parking lots.

Vehicle Free Areas:

⌘ Vehicle Free Areas are not providing a balance between ORV areas and ensuring pedestrians have access to the beach. Rather they are blocking off prime beaches due to inaccessibility. The parks service should open Ramp 45 East and West, Ramp 34 N and the ocean side of Haulover to the Buxton motels.

Permits:

⌘ Permits should expire from date of issue rather than calendar year. The park service should issue 3, 7 and 10 day in addition to the 7 day and annual permit.

Access Improvements:

⌘ Improvements are needed at ramp 34. The parking lot is too far from the beach.

⌘ Widen the ramp at 38. It has a tight turn and blind spot when entering and exiting the beach.

⌘ Decrease the no parking zones along NC12 between Buxton and Avon allowing people to walk to the sound or the ocean.

⌘ A ramp should be added to access the ocean at Haulover with a large parking lot.

⌘ The park service should also relocate the cross walk at Haulover because it is not in alignment with the path over the dune. It puts the person at least 50 feet from the dune causing people to walk dangerously along HW12 to get to the dune pathway.

⌘ Widen the shoulder on one side of the road and create an 10 to 12 foot wide hike/bike path to reduce bicycle and pedestrian hazards along HW12 where no concrete sidewalks are available. Specifically the road between Salvo and Avon and between Avon and Buxton. These are popular but unsafe areas to hike/bike.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1753    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 20:32:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Hatters National Seashore was established for recreation. People need to be the focus along with the traditional activity of vehicular access. I don't think there should be in season driving in front of the villages, but it ought to go back to the otherwise full access that was available before the current limited access.

As initial steps, I would like to see ramp 34 opened to vehicles. Most folk air down so the less distance driven on the road is better and this the closest ramp to Avon. I would also like to see the area south of the point opened via the inter "road" or the campground.

The restrictions because of non-endangered birds are too extreme. Family time is endangered. The reasons for protection and the seasonal limit don't appear to be scientifically defensible.

I don't see why vehicles require passes. They are not using more park resources vs those that park and walk over the dune.

The whole multi-person pass system is inefficient. Set-up a computer kiosk, print the rules, guides to how to drive on the beach and a sticker for the window and a url to e movie. Make the passes available for two weeks as an option.

Thank you for the opportunity.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1754    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 20:37:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing to ask you to maintain protections for birds in the Hatteras National Seashore. Nesting areas must be protected if the species are to survive. People can enjoy the beach without driving everywhere on it. There should be no night driving. Driving areas should not be expanded. Beaches should be shown to be free of protected animals before driving is allowed for that day. I am a North Carolinian and I for one do not want to see the beach as a road.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1755    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 20:38:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Seasonal Beach access not in front of villages, for example Bodie island should open as the areas by the villages do.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1756    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 20:42:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear National Park Service,

I am [REDACTED], the daughter of a cottage owner in Frisco. I have spent many summers in Avon and Frisco growing up and my older brother has lived their for the past twenty years. I have fond memories of walking on the point while my father fished and I picked up perfect conch shells. Lately all access to those beaches have been blocked off to the point that I cannot even walk below the hi tide line. I was told that I could recieve fines for walking even below the hi tide lines where I used to go as a kid because of certain species of birds nesting in the area. The first suggestion I would have is to change the law to allow beach walking everywhere because it does NOT cause an significant damage to birds as far as I know.

Secondly, just south of Haulover we have enjoyed windsurfing. Even though the NPS maps show ORV open on their maps, there is restrictive fence which does not allow access. Either another access point should be created or lift the No ORV stakes at kite point.

Also, please restore access(both pedestrian and ORV) to RAMP 23 to YEAR AROUND. People who usually enjoy the beach south of Salvo have been forced to travel to ramps far from town. Please restore ORV access and at least pedestrian access to YEAR AROUND. This same point goes for RAMP 34. Ramp 34 is a family favorite and there is no reason to force people to drive miles to another ramp when there is one right near Avon!

Lastly, every year route 12 has cars parked alongside the road and specifically adults and kids unloading the cars right by the road! If the sound side beach driving access was free these safety issues could be taken care of. And if not free at least affordable so people can get to a safe place and also make route 12 a safe place.

Thanks you for your time and we look forward to the many summers ahead at Outer Banks.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1757    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Beach access in the mornings after the "resource" season ends.

Beaches should open at first light. First light is what is sometimes referred to as Nautical twilight. Normally in these latitudes about 20 minutes before sunrise.

Bonus multicultural reference it's when you can tell a white thread from a black one. That is the clue to hold the first call to prayer in the Muslim world.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1758 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 20:45:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Beach access in the mornings during the "resource" season.  
Beaches inspections should start at nautical twilight and the beaches opened as soon after that as possible.  
First light is what is sometimes referred to as Nautical twilight. Normally in these latitudes about 20 minutes before sunrise.  
You can look it up online for each date by latitude.

Bonus multicultural reference it's when you can tell a white thread from a black one. That is the clue to hold the first call to prayer in the Muslim world.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1759 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 20:48:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Sound access on Ocracoke Island  
Needs to be expanded especially in the wider portions of the island between 68 and 70.  
New roads may be required.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1760 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 20:51:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello, I have been going to Frisco to vacation for many years. We enjoy many of the beach areas including Avon, Buxton, Frisco, Cape Hatteras, Ocracoke, etc. My friends and family love walking along the beach, looking for shells and enjoying the shoreline. We have noticed that many areas are blocked off and we cannot access areas that we once enjoyed. One of our favorite areas was Ramp 34, which now does not have pedestrian or ORV access. I ask that you restore that access along with the access to the sound side access to the "Canadian hole" which was a favorite spot of ours as well. Another suggestion would be to make the beach access passes for driving on the beach good for one year from the date purchased. Most importantly I think beach walking below the hi tide line anywhere in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore should not be a crime. There are large stretches of shoreline where you are not allowed walk. Open those beaches and change the law. I want to enjoy the beautiful beaches of Cape Hatteras!

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
[REDACTED]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1761 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 20:58:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** My family and I have been vacationing on the Outer Banks for 43 years. It feels like home to us. We respect nature and have always been responsible stewards. Surf fishing and long beach walks are our passion, but the beach access restrictions in recent years have greatly limited our ability to enjoy these activities. Ramp 34 has been a favorite fishing area for us. We stay in North Avon so it was very convenient, allowing one family member to take the Tahoe out on the beach and another to walk up from the cottage to meet him. How we miss Ramp 34! We also miss long walks and shelling at South Beach, which has been closed during our August vacations for the past few years. With over 70 miles of National Seashore, it seems that the beach areas near the villages could be open for recreation without causing great harm to wildlife. Please loosen the restrictions. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1762 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 21:04:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To whom it may concern,  
My wife and I have been vacationing in Cape Hatteras for a few years. We have noticed all of the restricted areas and it has been a problem when we are walking along the shorelines. I ask that you open the shorelines so that we can enjoy the areas without being considered criminals. It should not be a crime to walk along the beaches. A few other suggestions are: 1. build a parking lot at kite point-we enjoy visiting this area but parking along the road seems to be a safety hazard. Another solution would be to make the sound side beach driving access free. 2. Restore access to ramp 34. We have had to drive farther in search of an area that we were able to access when there is a ramp that could simply be opened for pedestrian and ORV use. 3. Restore access to the sound side beach just south of haulover. This area is great for watersports and families.  
Thank you for your time.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1763 **Project:** 59571 **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 21:05:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Sound and beach ORV access in general.  
One of the complaints in the original EIS process was the density of vehicles in various areas in the park. This was during the period of the interim rules. To the extent you limit access you concentrate ORVs in the remaining areas.  
In achieving balance the total vehicle load needs some consideration.  
When you provide other areas to go, by increasing sound parking spots for folks with young children and opening more of the length on the north south portion of the island you spread out the ORVs.  
Right now you have Vehicle free areas of 25.25 miles and 'year round' ORV access of 25.15. The 50/50 ORV / pedestrian areas balance in areas not in front of villages in the current plan, when combined with the seasonal closures for birds etc constrain ORVs to considerably less than 50% of the non-village front beach during most of the heavy visiting season.  
That is not an actual balance.

Current pedestrian only areas should be reduced to achieve a true 50/50 balance during the average closure periods of the spring and summer. How to do that? Take the average reduction in access due to closures from say April to September and deduct that mileage from both areas. You have the data to do that now. Then rebalance to get to 50/50 again during the summer season and make that your compromise.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1764    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.21,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello National Park Service,

I have traveled to Frisco in the Outer banks for the past five years. I have seen the restrictions to ramp access when there is no clear reason on why certain ramps are closed and others are not. Specifically Ramp 23 and 34 are always closed off when we are at the beach in the summer months between May and August. I would like to see these areas opened to ORVs and Pedestrians. It is a little puzzling to me why the Point is closed for "certain bird species". That is most well-loved place to go on the island and quite honestly I have yet to see any bird eggs near the shore break. I was lucky enough to go there and enjoy it in 2010.

Also, at Kite point something needs to be done with people parking on RT 12. It is a HUGE safety issue and I personally have had close calls with people getting in and out of their vehicles and not paying attention. There should be some sort of parking access available or make the beach driving permit free to avoid these dangers.

Which brings me to my final point. Why aren't beach permits available for the entire year? Whenever we buy on even though it says yearly it does NOT last for 12 months. Please change the beach permits to be exactly what they say they are.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1765    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.21,2015 21:08:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello National Park Service,

I have traveled to Frisco in the Outer banks for the past five years. I have seen the restrictions to ramp access when there is no clear reason on why certain ramps are closed and others are not. Specifically Ramp 23 and 34 are always closed off when we are at the beach in the summer months between May and August. I would like to see these areas opened to ORVs and Pedestrians. It is a little puzzling to me why the Point is closed for "certain bird species". That is most well-loved place to go on the island and quite honestly I have yet to see any bird eggs near the shore break. I was lucky enough to go there and enjoy it in 2010.

Also, at Kite point something needs to be done with people parking on RT 12. It is a HUGE safety issue and I personally have had close calls with people getting in and out of their vehicles and not paying attention. There should be some sort of parking access available or make the beach driving permit free to avoid these dangers.

Which brings me to my final point. Why aren't beach permits available for the entire year? Whenever we buy on even though it says yearly it does NOT last for 12 months. Please change the beach permits to be exactly what they say they are.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1766    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.21,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing on behalf of the birds and sea turtles that can't speak for themselves.

Please protect our National Seashore for all wildlife!

Specifically:

- \* 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:

- \* The current plan. Any rule changes should be supported by peer-reviewed science as the law states, not just convenience or community pressure.
- \* Night driving restrictions. Continue to prohibit night driving as a requirement. Driving on beaches at night endangers sea turtles and their nests, as well as nesting birds and their chicks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1767    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug.21,2015 21:52:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I believe the Beaches should be opened to the public by at least 6:30 for sunrise fishing and viewing to be possible for the public. An additional 6 weeks in the spring and fall for orv routes in front of the villages would be a step in the right direction for access as well. Currently the orv/vehicle free area management has caused unprecedented congestion and a diminished beach experience for those looking to "get away" from the crowd. Permits should be valid 1 full year from the time of issue this is only fair and makes sense. Considering that the map now stays the same and the closures do not vary as much as in the past any additional access point that would facilitate more alternate routes and eliminate backtracking and be able to get on and off an access in more than one location this one only makes sense as well. Thanks for your consideration on these options. ██████████

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**Correspondence ID:** 1768    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 22:15:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Morning Opening of Beaches:

I would like to see the beach accesses open up to driving at first day light for all visitor's to enjoy early morning fishing, exercising, and sunrise viewing. In addition, I think it would be more user friendly if the closing time were extended to at least 10:00 pm.

Permits:

Every year, I purchase at least 15 annual permits. I usually have to wait until mid-late June for the income to generate enough to complete the task. It would be nice if they were actually good for an entire year, so in the winter and spring (when income is few and far between), we could still use the ones we purchased and help generate that income a little faster.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to everyone's concerns and suggestions. I truly believe this is an area that should be and can be respectfully shared by everyone.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1769    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 22:22:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I believe the current beach access restrictions(both pedestrian and ORV)are excessive and should be re-evaluated. Cape Point and the inlet beaches are closed to all access during much of the prime fishing season. These areas are some of the most prime surf fishing areas along the East Coast. A reasonable balance between human use of the CHNSRA and wildlife preservation needs to be established. The current measures have not proven to increase populations of observed species.  
Orv permits should be issued 1 YTD of purchase instead of all expiring 12/31/XX.



The beach access time limit from 7am-9pm should be extended. Much of the best fishing is early and late. I hope a more reasonable approach will be applied to beach preservation in the future.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1770    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 23:12:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have been commenting on NPS policies at CHNRS since "the workbook" of 2008. Beaches should be free and open to people!

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**Correspondence ID:** 1771    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,21,2015 23:43:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** DECRIMINIALIZE BEACH WALKING ... Much of the public is unaware that nearly all ORV closures for wildlife also include pedestrians. The right of pedestrian access below the high tide line is respected by the various coastal states in the US. For the NPS to truly COMPLY with the SPIRIT of the Beach Access REFORM Bill of 2014 allowing pedestrian access to the area below the high tide line is clearly necessary.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1772    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,24,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Comments on Preliminary Alternative Elements:

Morning Beach Openings: The earlier the better. It should be at a set time (6:00 or 6:30 a.m.). Following a staff member down the beach idea is weak. If you get to the ramp after the staff member has left, how would you know if you could go on the beach or not. I think the priority beaches are the point, ramp 55, and ramp 34 if that is made an ORV route.

Seasonal ORV Routes: The Seasonal ORV routes should be open from September 15 through May 15. This would allow visitors who come to the Hatteras Villages in the spring to drive in front of their homes I cottages until the heavy vacation season starts at Memorial Day. The same would apply to the fall season. By September 15 the kids are back in school and the heavy vacation season is over for the most part. A September 15 opening would open the beach for the fall visitors that do come and fishermen (who are a big portion of the fall visitors) enhancing their visits.

Vehicle Free Areas (VFA): Make the area between Ramp 23 and the new Ramp 25 Seasonal use because people from the Salvo I Waves area might come to the beach there. Ramp 25 to 34 should be open to ORV's. Very rarely do pedestrians use this area at all and keeps fishermen from reaching some good fishing areas. The whole area around ramp 45 should be open to ORV's or at least seasonal routes. This area is also rarely used by pedestrians because there is no easy access. If VFA's are for pedestrian use only than they should be easily accessible to them. You might consider an area like Coquina Beach between ramps 27 and 30 with bath house, bathrooms, showers, lifeguards, etc. and plenty of parking. If it was half way between the 2 ramps there would be 1.5 miles of vehicle free beach on either side of the main use area.

Access Improvements: The new ramp 25 answers the question of no way off the beach if you got on at ramp 27 and went north. If you get on at 30 and go south there is no egress. North of ramp 34 should be an ORV route. If the area around ramp 45 is made an ORV route then ramp 45 should be open year round. This would give ingress and egress at both ends of the bite at ramps 45 and 49. The area at the south end of the island below ramp 55 on the ocean side and just around the point should be open to ORV's.

Permits: Most visitors come for a weekend or 1 or 2 week vacations so make the permits fit those most common time slots. Anyone who comes for more than 2 weeks should get an annual permit. A 3 day permit would cover a weekend and should cost \$20. A 10 day permit would cover a week and the weekends at both ends and should cost \$35. A 17 day permit would cover 2 week and the 3 weekends associated with them and should cost \$50. The annual permit should be from date of issue but that could be tough to monitor. Another option would be to keep the calendar year permit but reduce the cost \$60 after June 30. That way you could still use the color coding of permits for calendar years and reduce the cost for those who only come in the second half of the year.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1773    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586    **Private:** Y  
**Received:** Aug,24,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Park Form  
**Correspondence:** 1. Open Soundside ramps to ORV without need for permit (parking on Rt. 12 can be dangerous to everyone).

2. Open ORV Routes and ramp sooner in the fall and closing them later in the spring.
3. ORV permits should be more flexible and annual permits should be good from date issued.
4. Why were the ORV route's between ramp 23 and 32 not open all the way thur last year when the ORV route was opening to driving.
5. Open ramp #2
6. Keep access to the Point open year round also open more of the South Point to fishing.
7. Since everybody has to have a license to hunt-fish-drive on the beach, why not create a licese for bird watchers.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1774    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,24,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter

**Correspondence:** Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on proposed changes to the ORV Plan at the Seashore. I feel that it is absolutely imperative that reasonable access be restored to Cape Point. This part of the seashore is a recreational gem renowned the world over among surf fishermen, beach enthusiasts, and others. It is unacceptable that the heirs of families and individuals who donated or sold land to the government at favorable prices explicitly for the purpose of the establishment of a Recreation Area can now no longer even set foot on this part of the Seashore for most of the summer months.

In that regard, I urge the NPS to broadly and aggressively implement changes to Vehicle Free Areas as mandated by Congress. I see no reason that Vehicle Free Areas could not be modified seasonally to provide greater pedestrian and ORV access while providing appropriate natural resource protections.

A related comment is that the NPS should actively collect data on the actual use of Vehicle Free Areas and how this use pertains to the full range of visitor experiences, traditional cultural uses and value of the Seashore, and the local economy. These data can and should be used to guide future management directions and decisions in an open and transparent manner.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1775      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,24,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter

**Correspondence:** Thank you for considering my input and historical perspective on the Vehicle Free Areas (VFAs) and seasonal closures. I am opposed to reducing or eliminating any VFAs or shortening the seasonal openings and closings from the current ORV plan.

#### Historical Perspective

I have been a full time resident of Hatteras Island since 1973. My earliest memories of Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CHNS) were as a 5 year old child camping with my parents in the newly open NPS campground near Cape Point. Growing up my family visited CHNS on a regular basis, always camping in the NPS campgrounds. My friends and I visited Hatteras on weekends and holidays during my high school years. During all these visits we actively engaged in many recreational activities (fishing, beach combing, swimming and surfing) accessing the beach by foot. Before I moved here permanently in 1973 ORV use was largely confined to handful of locals using 2 wheel drive vehicles with large under inflated farm implement tires. The greatest majority of visitors walked to access the beach. It was rare to see a vehicle on the beach anywhere other than Cape Point or Hatteras Inlet. We accessed the beach by parking in the NPS parking lots or parking on the side of the road and walking over the dune. All the beaches we recreated on could have been considered primitive wilderness. The only sign of people were the flotsam and jetsam that had washed up on the beach. We never saw a vehicle on these remote beaches. None of our friends had off road vehicles (ORVs). This started to change in the early 1970's with the advent of readily available 4 wheel drive vehicles.

This knowledge is important because it sheds light on the historical context of how important pedestrian access was to the Park (which has been conspicuously absent in recent discussions). The picture I paint of a wild isolated beach vacant of vehicles is easily corroborated by NPS archival photos from that time period. My history is important because I am part of the history of CHNS and have accurate first hand accounts of what the "primitive wilderness" looked like and what should have been preserved by the NPS. It wasn't considered until 2012 when the ORV rule was finally established. Putting off addressing this issue has made this exponentially more difficult.

No changes should be made to the VFAs.

The Park gathered extensive data and diverse public comments through an exhausting comprehensive procedure that follow strict National Environmental Policy Act guidelines to form the current plan. The current VFAs were a compromise of those comments,

balanced with legislation, park mandates and the Enabling Legislation for CHNS. Some of the many compromises established for ORV users in the final rule were: new ORV ramps, interdunal roads, 25 miles of year round ORV routes, Cape Point and South Point designated as ORV route, ORV access into VFAs for fishing tournaments and easing ORV narrow beach closures resulting in less beach being closed to vehicle access.

The current VFAs take into consideration: visitor safety, logistics to established NPS infrastructure (parking,bathrooms) historically narrow beach (where ORVs have not been allowed for vehicle safety), past historical use, feeding and resting areas for shorebirds and remote areas that retain some attributes of the "primitive wilderness" described in Enabling Legislation of the Park ("the said area shall be permanently reserved as a primitive wilderness"). Some of the VFAs were assigned because they were not valued as ORV routes (not because they had particular merit as VFAs). Other VFA had originally been originally thought of as resting and foraging areas for wildlife which eventually became classified as VFAs.

ORV access to historically productive recreational fishing beaches (Cape Point and South Point) were established as ORV routes. These particular locations were also the most dramatic, remote, best bird nesting and foraging habitat and the best examples of primitive wilderness the Park had to offer. Over one third of the ocean beach is

designated as year round ORV beach most of it in the best examples of primitive wilderness left in the Park. Their is additional ORV seasonal access.

Until the final ORV rule the Park had been negligent in identifying, preserving or even acknowledging primitive ocean beach wilderness. Only part of the 25 miles of VFAs can be considered as primitive wilderness. In the final ORV rule the best examples the Park had to offer of dramatic dynamic wilderness beach (Cape Point and South Point) were designated as ORV routes. Much of the other potential wilderness (most of Bodie Island Spit, sections of the north beach, Cape Point, Hatteras Inlet, Ocracoke beach) was also designated as ORV routes. Many of the VFAs were chosen because they were deemed so narrow that vehicles would never be allowed to drive there. Some are backed up so close to highway 12 that car traffic can be heard. Others were adjacent to village beaches. Those VFAs are poor examples of wilderness beach.

The new legislation asks the park to consider changes ("a public process to consider"). It does not require that changes be made. No matter how remote the beach in question is if it is designated as an ORV route then it can turn into a highway with roving parking lots that are crisscrossed with calf deep ruts in the sand. It become the antithesis of primitive wilderness.

Why primitive wilderness is significant to CHNS.

The current VFAs that have wilderness attributes are used by many visitors for recreation as well as solitude. The visitor experience of the Park is heightened with a wilderness experience. Preservation and recreation go hand in hand and my recreation is always enhanced by the solitude of wilderness. The stated specified recreational activities in the Enabling Legislation ("particularly swimming, boating, sailing, fishing, and other recreational activities of similar nature") do not mention, sanction or promote ORV access to engage in these activities. ORV access to the beach was not the historical norm.

In 2011 the National Park released a foundation statement that clearly states how important the "wild and primitive character" of CHNS" is.

"The purpose of Cape Hatteras National Seashore is to permanently preserve the wild and primitive character of the ever-changing barrier islands, protect the diverse plant and animal communities sustained by the coastal island processes, and provide for recreational use and enjoyment that is compatible with preserving the distinctive natural and cultural resources of the nation's first national seashore."

2011, Foundation Statement, Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Suggested Changes

Buxton village beach is a year round vehicle free beach. The southern part of that beach (the Life Guard stand up to ramp 43 where the ORV line use to be) is an extremely dynamic beach. There is plenty of parking. The artificial dunes long ago eroded away and it is one of the few beaches where natural barrier island processes can be viewed. Dune succession and marsh building are actively occurring in this area. The old boundary of ramp 43 should be reinstated as the terminus for the VFA where there is parking at that end. The south lighthouse beach is one of the most visited year round beaches in the park.

Before the final ORV rule both Frisco and Hatteras village beach were vehicle free for many years. This model worked economically and logistically. These beaches have many visitors on them in the off season particularly on the weekends. The Park does not have the law enforcement resources to adequately patrol these areas. These areas should return to the former management parameters and recommend that the NPS consider returning those beaches to year round vehicle free areas and closing the beach adjacent to the NPS campground in Frisco when the campground is open. It is a safety issue as well as a recreational conflict to have vehicles on that beach when campers are accessing that beach.

Misconceptions

It wasn't until the final rule that the park acknowledged and initiated official VFAs. Sometime in the late 1970's and early 1980's district rangers started enforcing no ORV access because some beaches were too narrow to safely drive ORVs on. Some of these beaches remained closed to vehicles for 25 years. Many visitors incorrectly assumed that these beaches were designated vehicle free beaches. The beach from about a 1/2 north of the "Haulover" between Buxton and Avon all the way to ramp 43 was closed to vehicles. The beach a few hundred yards south of Ramp 49 in Frisco all the way to ramp 59 in Hatteras village was also closed to vehicles.

There were large sections of beach closed on Ocracoke, Bodie Island and Avon village. This information is significant because the local economy went through an incredible boom and these de facto VFAs could only be viewed as having a positive affect on the economy.

I live in Buxton full time. I go to the Post Office, shop at local grocery stores and drive to Hatteras Village most ever day. What I see as far as house rentals, visitors parking in NPS and the local stores areas does not suggest that the new VFAs are any different than the old unofficial VFAs. The VFAs are an assets to park visitors and the local economy. All the economic stats I can find validate this: park visitation, sales tax, occupancy rates.

Pedestrian access should not be confused with ORV access. visitor access. All the VFAs are open to the public access with the same resource restrictions as ORV beaches. This issue resolves around one specific special interest group (ORV users) who by park statistics are an extremely small, organized and vocal special interest group wanting more ORV access on the ocean beach. The NPS should be increasing and promoting the VFAs not considering reducing them.

Thank you for considering my input and recommendations.

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**Correspondence ID:** 1776      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,18,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Comments regarding the actions needed for NPS to comply with the National Defense Authorization Act requirements for better access to the beaches under control of NPS Hatteras

My comments regarding the preliminary alternative elements are based upon my experiences on these particular beaches beginning in 1959 with a particularly great amount of time being spent on those beaches since the mid 1970s. They are the observations of a sportsman and a conservationist whose visits to the beaches of Bodie Island, Pea Island, Hatteras Island and Ocracoke Island have primarily focused on surf fishing. As the owner of a rental cottage in Salvo I have also spent a great deal of time in the off season doing maintenance and repair work. The elements of access is a financial concern to me, effecting shoulder season rentals, as well as a practical concern for access for the fishing enjoyment of family and friends and myself.

#### Morning Beach Openings

With the understanding that there are safety concerns that require your technicians to have adequate ambient light I think the beaches should be opened at dawn beginning in the areas of greatest access usage, such as ramps 43 and 44. Ideally we could have predawn access to be able to enjoy one of the two most productive fishing times of the day, but in lieu of that the earlier the better. If it is possible to abide by the 6:30 time I would suggest, again, focus on those priority beaches. Since dawn occurs at different times it may be prudent to have a visual indication at the ramp entrance, such as a flag system or a flip sign that could be placed and removed upon entrance and exit from a given ramp by NPS technicians. If this was done your visitor would be able to follow the technician onto the beach.

#### Seasonal ORV Routes

I think the beaches in front of the villages should be open to ORV access from September 15th to May 15th. Use of the beaches by pedestrian visitors and locals is minimal between those dates. As someone who frequently spends a minimum of 12 hours on the beach per surf fishing visit I can testify that the majority of those daylight hours can witness a handful of pedestrians on our tri-city beaches (RWS) during that timeframe, and I understand the same is true of the southern beaches.

The beaches that are closed to ORVs as VFAs should be opened by September 15th as well. A sound study of pedestrian beach visitation to these areas would prove that they are much underutilized. The six week extension in the spring and fall would create little or no pedestrian or wildlife issues while allowing much sought after recreational uses by ORV owners.

#### Vehicle Free Areas

The only informed comment I have on the areas that are closed because of resource management concerns is that while spending time at some of them prior to, them becoming VFAs I seldom if ever observed the kind of activities for which the areas were later closed . I infrequently drive to the southern parts of the island in the winter but have spent many hours in the Ramp 23 vicinity. I have been assured and reassured of wintering shorebird activities but the birds must have been wintering elsewhere whenever I visited. If such birds are present perhaps some of those beaches are wide enough to allow ORVs on one side or the other of the bird activity. These situations should be evaluated with NPS having discretionary ability to adjust areas as they find prudent to allow better utilization.

Observation of the VFA will in most cases or all cases, indicate very little use by pedestrians. The Sandy Bay area is one that may go a number of days in the off season without witnessing a human footprint. Is it vehicle free because the demand for pedestrian use is great or because someone doesn't care to view vehicles on the beach in that area? While understanding the pressures that lead to the desire "balance" the VFAs and the ORV use if a VFA is completely essentially unused consideration should be made to open it to ORVs. If one group does not wish to utilize a section of beach, perhaps because

access is difficult. Should another group be prevented from using that same section? Is utilization not one of the goals for our beaches? The balance should suit the visitors in a practical fashion. Either on foot or with an ORV it is more difficult for your guests to maneuver than it is for a bird to adjust, which they seem to be very willing to do.

The use of VFAs for swimming, sunbathing and other activities in areas where there are conditions that make access easy for the folks enjoying those things VFAs make perfect sense. Parking proximity and walkways are the most important factors in determining where these areas should be located. High density pedestrian use and ORV use should not be intermingled. Observation of the VFAs from the ORV accessible areas, or by air, indicate that there are far more VFAs than required to satisfy those who can or actually do access them on foot.

The VFAs should be seasonal when the possibilities of people actually using them will be greater. Proximity to the villages or other areas with adequate parking and ease of walkover should be a primary consideration for these areas. Where safe off road parking can be provided in areas where visitors currently park on the roadside and in other areas that are hazardous. I am hoping that further study of the impact, or lack thereof, of vehicles upon bird activity can be more closely studied and that the application of adaptive management will provide better protection for the birds while allowing expanded enjoyment of the beaches by our visitors.

#### Access Improvements

My use of sound side access has been almost exclusively through the Salvo day use area. I am not familiar with other sound side accesses.

Ramp 2 is 1) existing and 2) an access that would allow much better use of that area between 2 and 4. If ORV access was opened to the south it would eliminate some potential choke points on the north end of the ramp 4 access and also enable through travel to take some of the pressure from ramp 4. It is prudent to look at what already exists and determine if it can be adapted to current use.

Ramp 23 happens to be personal for me. It is the ramp closest to my cottage and also the site of two of my best catches of my fishing career. I, like many, cannot physically access it on foot and observation of the parking area at that ramp indicates that few others choose to do so. It should be reopened except when bird closures deem otherwise.

Ramp 25 area spans a short distance and through travel to ramp 27 is frequently blocked by the wreck. This is another good reason for ramp 23 to be open, allowing entering one and exiting another actually improves ORV flow.

Ramp 27 has a difficult landing and departure area on the beach side. This may be the reason that it experiences little use.

Ramp 30 has reasonable access to the north and south but is seldom utilized by pedestrians. The VFA to the north sees very few footprints.

Ramps 34 and 38 - I am not familiar with their usage.

Ramp 43 should be utilized to the north beyond the bathing beach when possible in the off season as it is seldom used by pedestrians.

Ramp 44 - Opening Salt Pond Road and extending the bypass in both directions should allow much improved access to the Point. The Point "is" the destination for many fishermen. Some of these folks plan and save all year to be able to spend 2, 3, 7 days at that special venue. If there is any possible way to maintain access to the Point much of the negative aspects of the access controls will vanish for many. I like to visit that venue as much as anyone and have the luxury of picking and choosing during the times it is open to ORV use. Many visitors don't have that latitude. What can be learned here through adaptive management could well be applied to many other areas.

Ramp 49 - Access gained to south beach upon completion of the inter-dunal road should enable better utilization of ramp 49 as a through ramp.

Ramp 55- Create some parking immediately behind the dunes at the southern access from the central road. Access to the beach is questionable under almost all conditions but it is a very short and doable walk where there is a place to park.

Ramp 72 - ORVs should be allowed to access the entire southern tip of Ocracoke by traveling close to the surf-line. Birds choosing to nest in that area adjacent to the water are frequently subject to losing nests to over-wash. With the vast expanse of beach within that general area, but not as vulnerable to the overwash, the birds would have a better success rate further from the surf.

#### Permit Prices

A 3 day reduced price (\$25.00) Permit would appeal to those who can only visit for a weekend. A 14 day \$ 50.00 permit would enable those taking a two week vacation to enjoy using the permit for both weeks while paying the price of the original 7 day. (How many people renew back to back 7 day?) The annual permit should be for 12 months from date of issue.

In consideration of the fact that the bird success has not improved with the advent of expanded closures perhaps it is time to try other efforts, adaptive management measures. ORV activity may be less disturbing to nesting birds than pedestrian traffic and traffic of both kinds may help in discouraging predators. While enjoying more nests, reasonable weather and an extremely low fledge number among the piping plovers this year it appears that predation is still the greatest challenge for these birds on Hatteras Island. If it is, in fact, due to avian predators it is possible that human traffic may actually discourage the takes.

If the Superintendent can utilize his discretion in managing beach usage by man and animal I believe that the legal mandate for better access can be achieved AND the birds can be better served. With expanded turtle nest surveillance and active monitoring as hatch windows approach the access in and around nests can be improved and the number of turtles making it to the surf will also improve. Not only are the blanket and frequently excessive closures not acceptable to those seeking beach access but they don't appear to be serving the animals that of concern either. A cooperative effort of NPS, the beach going public, volunteers and local associations can make the NPS Hatteras experience better for all involved, man and beast.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

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**Correspondence ID:** 1777    **Project:** 59571    **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug,27,2015 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter

**Correspondence:** Re: Scoping Comments - Consideration of Modifications to the Final Rule for Off-Road Vehicle Management

Dear Superintendent Hallac:

Please accept these scoping comments on the National Park Service's Consideration of Changes to Final Rule for Off-Road Vehicle Management in an 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.

#### I. The Environmental Assessment Must Be Based on NPS Management Requirements Protecting Wildlife.

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. 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." 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.<sup>3</sup> 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§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.

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.

Finally, 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.

As NPS develops the EA, it must do so within the context of these management requirements.

## II. NPS Must Evaluate, But Should Reject, Opening Beaches on A Rolling Basis.

Under the NDAA, NPS is obligated to consider "opening beach segments each morning on a rolling basis as daily management reviews are completed." NPS should consider and immediately dismiss that alternative as incompatible with management requirements underlying the night driving restrictions.

The current night driving restrictions are essential to protecting sea turtle nesting on Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The EA must recognize that protecting nesting sea turtles by prohibiting ORV use from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. has been successful. In the eight years prior to incorporating these reasonable limitations on ORV use, CHNS had not recorded more than 99 sea turtle nests in any given season and only exceeded 87 nests once.<sup>7</sup> In the eight years since implementing the protections, NPS has recorded at least 104 nests every year, including more than the Seashore's recovery plan target of 200 nests two of the last three years.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, successfully laid nests have exceeded false crawls each year, meeting one of the Fish and Wildlife Service's performance standards for the Seashore.<sup>9</sup> In the eight years prior to night driving restrictions, the Seashore exceeded the false crawl performance standard four times, including nearly twice as many false crawls as nests in 2004.<sup>10</sup>

Opening beaches on a rolling basis threatens to undercut this success by creating avoidable confusion regarding beach openings. NPS specifically addressed this potential confusion in the FEIS. The FEIS evaluated various options for more fluid night driving restrictions and concluded that "restricting night driving between the hours of 9:00 pm and 7:00 am provides an easily understood, enforceable restriction that provides a balance between conservation and public access."<sup>11</sup> The EA should likewise dismiss rolling opening of beaches.

In addition, if the EA evaluates setting priority areas for opening at 6:30 a.m., it must specifically describe those priority areas, identify the basis for selecting each area, and provide a plan to ensure that isolating priority areas does not result in other parts of the Seashore going unchecked.

## III. The EA Cannot Weaken Protection Provided by the Seasonal ORV Route on Bodie Island Spit.

Bodie Island Spit provides excellent shorebird and waterbird habitat and should remain seasonally closed to ORVs. The site has consistently supported nesting shorebirds and waterbirds, and provides excellent habitat for non-breeding shorebirds such as federally-listed piping plover. Disturbance from vehicles and the associated disturbance from increased number of people, dogs, etc. resulting from allowing vehicular access to areas like Bodie Island Spit can lead to abandonment of habitats that are otherwise suitable for shorebirds and waterbirds, local population declines of species that use the area, and can be functionally equivalent to habitat loss.

To remain consistent with the applicable laws and requirements therein, including the Organic Act, the Cape Hatteras Enabling Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as well as the NPS's management policies, Bodie Island Spit must remain closed to ORVs to protect nesting by state-listed terns, skimmers, and American Oystercatchers, and federally-listed piping plovers. Nesting activity begins in early March and can continue until September.

It is well known that Bodie Island Spit also supports non-breeding, federally-threatened piping plovers.<sup>12</sup> Non-breeding piping plovers use most of the habitats present at Bodie Island Spit, excluding the densely vegetated dunes and marsh, but specifically including ocean and sound site intertidal areas, dry sand beach that is bare or sparsely vegetated, and wrack. Indeed, to be fully consistent with applicable laws and provide necessary protection to non-breeding birds, vehicles must be excluded from these habitats during the non-breeding period for migrating and wintering piping plovers (July through May).

## IV. Vehicle-free Areas Should Be Expanded to Provide Protection for Red Knots and Otherwise Maintained to Protect Wildlife as Well as Visitors' Wilderness Experience.

The EA must evaluate expanding Vehicle-free Areas ("VFAs") to include necessary protection for the newly listed rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*). Following the Final Rule in 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the red knot, a species found at Cape Hatteras, as threatened.<sup>13</sup> As described by the FWS, "[i]n some wintering and stopover areas, red knots and recreational users (e.g., pedestrians, ORVs, dog walkers, boaters) are concentrated on the same beaches."<sup>14</sup> Recreational activities "can cause habitat damage, cause shorebirds to abandon otherwise preferred habitats, negatively affect the birds' energy balances, and reduce the amount of available prey."<sup>15</sup> In its documentation supporting the red knot listing, FWS recognized that "sites .with high ORV activity and relatively high invertebrate abundance suggest that shorebirds may be excluded from prime food sources due to disturbance from ORV activity itself."<sup>16</sup> In addition, a study of shorebirds on South Core Banks "found that disturbance from ORV s decreased shorebird abundance and altered shorebird habitat use."<sup>17</sup> Therefore, it is imperative that NPS evaluate red knot habitat on the Seashore and limit ORV routes as necessary to protect that habitat. One such area of habitat is South Beach, which is and must remain a vehicle-free area.

Under the Final Rule, Cape Hatteras allows extensive ORV use in areas that are important for both wildlife and visitor experience. As the FEIS

documented in detail, the overwhelming majority of visitors to the Seashore prefer not to use a vehicle to access the Seashore's beaches and place little value on ORV access to the beach. 18 Yet the Final Rule disproportionately set aside more than half of the Seashore's beaches for either seasonal or year-round ORV use (40.6 of 67 miles). 19 Although pedestrians can theoretically also use the sections of the beach that are set aside as ORV routes, they cannot practically do so without risking their personal safety and having their experience diminished. The existing VF As set aside limited portions of the Seashore for the many visitors who wish to enjoy the National Seashore in its natural state, so that they may enjoy fishing, surfing, swimming, sunbathing, windsurfing, kite boarding, beach combing, wildlife watching, photography etc., free of the sight, sound, and danger of ORVs.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore already has too few areas where visitors can experience the Seashore's beaches without impacts from off-road vehicles. There are even fewer areas, arguably none, where a visitor can enjoy the Seashore's beaches without the sight of a vehicle on the landscape and the visual impacts left by vehicles on the beach. Vehicle use jeopardizes the experience for visitors who come to the Seashore for wildlife viewing and other wildlife-related activities, such as photography and other arts, and for the aesthetic enjoyment of scenic landscapes. Even those miles of beach set aside as year-round vehicle-free areas in the Final Rule arc disproportionately narrower and less scenic than those set aside for beach driving, and still within sight and sound of ORV sections of the beach.

In particular, the opening of beaches in front of residential developments eliminates opportunities for people to enjoy the beach in front of their residences and rental properties. It also increases the risks to public safety. There have been numerous incidents in which vehicles have come close to striking pedestrians at Cape Hatteras, and a few incidents where people have been harmed by beach driving, either by being in a vehicle that overturned on the beach or by being struck by an ORV. While there is no record of a death on Cape Hatteras National Seashore resulting from a person being struck by an off-road vehicle, there have been such deaths in other areas of the country where vehicles are allowed on beaches with pedestrians. The Final Rule allows more driving in front of populated areas than historically has been allowed, and any change allowing more would create unnecessary conflict between pedestrians and ORV users.

It is imperative that the EA recognize that the VF As in the Final Rule are (1) essential to NPS meeting its management requirements with respect to breeding, migrating, and wintering shorebirds and waterbirds; (2) necessary to protect non-motorized recreational uses of the Seashore, including wilderness experiences; and (3) unbalanced in favor of ORV use, designating year-round ORV routes on more than half of the Seashore and seasonal ORV routes on an additional 12.7 miles.<sup>20</sup>

#### V. NPS Should Focus on Identified Access Improvement Projects.

The Newsletter solicits comments on "changes to parking or ramp configurations that could improve beach or soundside access."<sup>21</sup> This request fails to account for the numerous access-improvement projects that are already scheduled to be implemented at Cape Hatteras. In its November 18, 2013 Finding of No Significant Impact ("FONSI"), NPS approved the implementation of "29 public access facilities including parking areas, unpaved ORV ramps and roads, foot paths, ADA accessible boardwalks and elevation of a road segment."<sup>22</sup> Some of those projects have been accelerated in Phase 1 of NPS's response to the NDAA. Specifically, Ramp 25 and a 10-car parking lot have already been completed, while new Ramp 32 and a new interdunal road between Ramps 45 and 49 are expected to be completed this year.<sup>23</sup> NPS expects to complete work on Ramps 63 and 48 next year. NPS should fully implement those projects and evaluate pedestrian and ORV access based on the improvements before soliciting input on additional projects.

#### VI. The Final Rule Must Be Given Time to Work.

As we expressed in our comments on NPS's modifications to the wildlife protection buffers, the Final Rule must be given time to work. Moreover, it already represents a tenuous balance between wildlife and ORV use—prioritizing ORV use over resource protection on much of the Seashore. Nonetheless, wildlife gains have been made in recent years. This is the fourth breeding season under the Final Rule and the ORV management plan included in the FEIS. As discussed above, sea turtle nesting success has been record-breaking under the Final Rule and ORV management plan. Nesting birds have also shown signs of success under the Final Rule and plan. Threatened piping plovers have gone from zero fledged chicks in 2002 and 2004, to 15 in 2010 and 11 in 2012.<sup>25</sup> Although there was limited piping plover fledgling success this breeding season with only 2 fledged chicks, 12 breeding pairs laid 17 nests, indicating that quality habitat exists and has been protected by the Final Rule and ORV management plan.<sup>26</sup> Prior to NPS implementing protections for piping plover in 2008, the Seashore experienced a "sharp decline in pair numbers that started in 1996."<sup>27</sup> Since enacting those protections, NPS has observed "a stable or upward trend in breeding pair numbers."<sup>28</sup> Black skimmers have gone from laying no nests in 2007 to a high in 2012 of 189 nests and continued nesting success the last two years.<sup>29</sup> In addition, Forster's terns have nested on the Seashore the past two years.

Apart from changes necessary to comply with its requirements related to protection of red knots, NPS should resist changing the Final Rule. The Final Plan's 5-year review will provide more information and a better-informed process for adjusting wildlife protections to meet the desired future conditions for the Seashore.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments and your efforts to protect both natural resources and visitor experiences at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. [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 P.3d 819 (6th Cir. 2000) (citing 16 U.S.C. Â§ 1 and Park Service Management Policies); *Fund/or 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. Hilt*, 437 U.S. 153, 194 (1978).

5 See FEIS at 7-10.

6 NOAA, Â§ 3057(c)(1).

7 National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Sea Turtle Monitoring 2011 Annual Report at 8 (showing nesting totals from 2000-2011) ("2011 Sea Turtle Annual Report").

8 National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Sea Turtle Monitoring 2014 Annual Report, available at [http://www.nps.gov/articles/caha\\_st2014.htm](http://www.nps.gov/articles/caha_st2014.htm) (showing nesting totals from 2008-2014) ("2014 Sea Turtle Annual Report"); National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Resource Management Field Summary for August 19, 2015 (documenting 288 nests in the 2015 nesting season).

9 See 2011 Sea Turtle Annual Report at 11 (documenting false crawl ratios from 2000-2011); National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Sea Turtle Monitoring 2012 Annual Report at 5 (reporting 222 nests and 169 false crawls); National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Sea Turtle Monitoring 2013 Annual Report at 5-6 (reporting 254 nests and 212 false



crawls); 2014 Sea Turtle Annual Report (reporting 124 nests and 104 false crawls).

0 2011 Sea Turtle Annual Report at 11 (reporting 78 false crawls and only 44 nests in 2004).

11 FEIS at C-58.

12 Cohen, Jonathan B., et al., A Review and Synthesis of the Scientific Information Related to the Biology and Management of Species of Special Concern at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, U.S. Geological Survey Open File Report 2009-1262 at 15 (2010) (citing high numbers of non breeding piping plover at Bodie Island Spit).

13 See 79 Fed. Reg. 73,706.

14 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rufa Red Knot Background Information and Threats Assessment at 266 (Nov. 2014), available at [http://www.fws.gov/no11hcast/redknot/pdf/20141125\\_REKN\\_FL\\_supplemental\\_doc\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/no11hcast/redknot/pdf/20141125_REKN_FL_supplemental_doc_FINAL.pdf)

15 Id.

16 Id. at 270.

17 Id.

18 FEIS at 281-322.

19 FEIS at 108.

20 Id.

21 National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Consideration of modifications to the Final Rule for Off Road Vehicle Management Newsletter at 3.

22 National Park Service, Finding of No Significant Impact: Proposal to Construct New Development that Facilitates Public Access: Cape Hatteras National Seashore at 3 (Nov. 18, 2013). n 2015 National Defense Authorization Act Actions Update, National Park Service, available at <http://www.nps.gov/caha/learn/management/2015ndaact.htm> (last visited Aug. 20, 2015).

23 Id.

24 Id.

25 National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) Monitoring 2012 Annual Report 2012 at 5 ("2012 Piping Plover Annual Report").

26 National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Resource Management Field Summary for August 9, 2015.

27 2012 Piping Plover Annual Report at 5.

28 Id.

29 National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Colonial Waterbirds 2014 Annual Report, available at [http://www.nps.gov/articles/caha\\_cwb2014.htm](http://www.nps.gov/articles/caha_cwb2014.htm) (last visited Aug. 20, 2015).

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**Correspondence:** North Carolina Beach Buggy Association

PO Box 186

Nags Head, North Carolina 27959

August 20, 2015

Mr. Dave Hallac, Superintendent

Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area

1404 National Park Drive

Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Dear Dave,

I want to thank you and your staff for the time and effort you all have contributed to improving the relationship between the people and National Park Service. The manner in which the scoping meetings were conducted and the manner in which attendees presented their views proves that things are better on the Outer Banks.

On behalf of the 3800+ members of the North Carolina Beach Buggy Association I would like to submit the following comments 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 reopen 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 FVA 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".

We thank you for this opportunity and we look forward to working with you on many projects in the future.

Sincerely,

Harry

North Carolina Beach Buggy Association  
PO Box 186  
Nags Head, North Carolina 27959

**Correspondence ID:** 1779      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug, 20, 2015 00:00:00  
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**Correspondence:**

To: David Hallac, Superintendent Outer Banks Group August 19, 2015  
Greetings Dave,

Thanks for leading the recent "scoping" meeting in Buxton regarding improvements to the present ORV Plan for Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area. I know that was not an easy job but you managed it well despite some high emotions as well as few "block headed" comments. While no one can please every interest group, you gave an open ear to all, including some who wandered quite a ways from the purpose of the meeting.

I have included with this letter a list of my suggestions for improvement to this plan but wish to elaborate a little on how and why they have merit. The name of this National Park is Cape Hatteras yet Cape Hatteras, the namesake and geographical gem of the park, is closed through the entire peak visitor season. When adjusted for scale, the closure of Cape Point (Cape Hatteras) is like closing the main Grand Canyon overlook in the Grand Canyon National Park to visitors. I believe if there was a will to keep this remarkable piece of geography open to visitors year around it could be done with a minimal impact on wildlife. I suggest establishing one permanent, year around route that leads to the Cape Point area ("a vehicle corridor" as stated in the December 19 legislation). There would be problems with this route but none insurmountable and there are some big advantages. The greatest is year around access to the Park's name sake. Would wild life be impacted? No doubt but, some impacts could be beneficial to wildlife.

I am not advocating more ORV use in the park. I think most Americans would benefit from walking more. I would like to see less beaches open to ORV use if they are close to roads and suitable parking areas. One big incongruence I see is the ORV use area at Ramp 43 and the pedestrian use area at ramp 45. I think they should be switched. ORV use in CHNSRA has traditionally not been about driving on the beach but rather about motorized access to areas of great distance with a large variety of none polluting beach gear (fishing gear, wave and wind riding gear, beach toys, umbrellas, picnic baskets, kayaks, etc.). The ORV is used for access and parked just like in the photo on the screen at the opening to the recent meeting in Buxton.

I am a life long supporter of the National Park Service Mission but, have come to be disappointed with the way that noble mission is now being administered. The changes have been gradual but steady and I have had over 50 years to observe them. Change in general is constant and much of it brings improvement. Over time, I have concluded most of the beaches in our National Park do not need to be open to motorized access but the more distant ones, especially the points and spits, should be and could be if there was an attitude change toward compromise. There are benefits in compromise that are initially unseen when both sides are dug firmly into their dogmatic position.

The "spirit" of the December 19 legislation can be achieved by engaging the parties nearest the middle. The perpetrator of the vandalism in the park last winter is an anomaly, and an extremist who I hope is caught and convicted. Yes, there is much "hate and discontent" here on Hatteras Island but few would condone this act. On the other hand I also view a 1000 meter radius set back for one bird nest in a National Park designated for recreational use to be a form of environmental extremism especially when you look at a map and see Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge to the North, the virtual wildlife refuge of the Core Banks National Park islands of Portsmouth, Core Banks and Shackleford Island to the southwest and the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge to the Northwest and the Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuge and Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife refuge to the west and the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge just across the Virginia line. I think it is possible to please many on all sides of this issue but, of course, not all. The "winner takes all" philosophy never works in the long run and the long run is what I care about.

For most of my life, I have shared a 600 foot border with the Park; we are neighbors. I have some interesting stories and observations about my long term relationship with the Park and many of its' employees most of which are positive. I would like to share some of them with you sometime. If you can spare a little time next time you are in the Buxton area please let me know. I believe I can entertain you with some thought provoking stories. No chest pounding, no demeaning comments just food for thought based on history and ..... you can see what a good neighbor I am.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Open access to Cape Point year round

Switch user designation of Ramp 43 and 45 areas

Eliminate driving in front of village beaches year around

Decrease ORV use areas as parking areas and pedestrian walk overs are built

Drastically reduce the 1000 meter radius set back

Do something positive to address soundside use/parking in the Kite Point area just below the haulover day use area

Build more facilities like the Frisco Bathhouse

**Correspondence ID:** 1780      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug, 20, 2015 00:00:00  
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**Correspondence:**

Thank you for hearing our comments ....

1. Open Cape Point for ORV access year round.

Cape Point is the most special and unique place along the Seashore. It is a treasure that everyone should be able to see if they make the effort to walk or drive there. Closing Cape Point during the summer months is like closing the main overlook at the Grand Canyon or Sentential Dome at Yosemite. How can we the people appreciate and learn to take care of nature's treasures if we are banned from getting anywhere near?

In addition Cape Point is a premier fishing spot. I barely fish, but I know what a disappointment this closure has been to fishermen (women) in recent years. For a lot of people, fishing at Cape Point is what they live for.

I look forward to hearing of a compromise that can be made so that an ORV route to Cape Point can be established while still having a section closed for bird nesting. If Cape Point is always open to ORV, then we know that will be a natural deterrent for the birds. They will adapt and nest at a beach that is permanently closed to ORV.

2. Build a parking lot on the sound side south of the Canadian Hole For the kite boarders that have to park along highway 12, this is dangerous. This sound area is great spot for kiteboarding, they just want access to the water there. We should be glad that people are willing to drive all the way from Canada to kiteboard here. We should make it safe for them and parking options should be transparent.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

**Correspondence ID:** 1780      **Project:** 59571      **Document:** 67586  
**Received:** Aug, 20,2015 00:00:00  
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**Correspondence:**  
Dear David,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on possible changes to the ORV Management Plan (Plan) as currently written for Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area. The public meetings held during the two (2) previous weeks were informative to the public and I hope in turn that NPS gained a better understanding of the many and varied opinions of those who attended.

#### MORNING BEACH OPENINGS:

NPS should open all beaches as soon as possible after first light and not later than 7:00 am with priority given to those beaches that are favored by the early beach goers. Specifically; Bodie Island Spit (Ramp 4), Cape Point Access (Ramps 43 & 44), Hatteras Inlet (Ramp 55 & Pole Road) and So. Ocracoke (Ramp 72). Since these four (4) access areas are the responsibility of four (4) different resource protection regions (as discussed during the Kitty Hawk public meeting) these priority inspections and subsequent openings should take place simultaneously to provide the earliest possible access for the seashore users.

#### SEASONAL ORV ROUTES:

Routes that require seasonal closure should be closed to ORV traffic for no more than the period May 1 through September 30. These are the dates used by the towns north of the Seashore where there are far more visitors and possible congestion. These dates have been in use in Nags Head and Kill Devil Hills for over fifteen (15) years and would allow additional access and eliminate possible confusion.

#### Vehicle Free Areas:

Prior to the current Plan there was approximately 63 miles of ORV routes accessible within the Seashore. Today under the current Plan 25.25 miles have been permanently closed and designated as VFA's. In addition 12.6 miles have been designated as Seasonal and closed from either Nov 1 thru March 31 or Sep 15 thru March 15. These combined excessive closures are further multiplied with resource closures that are put in place as dictated by the presence of turtles, birds and plants that NPS closes to protect with resource closures. The result of which has all too often led to less than 20 total miles being available to ORV usage at the height of the tourist season.

Ramp 1 should be reopened for approximately .5 miles south as a Seasonal ORV route (closed at the Coquina Beach VFA). This ramp was closed many years ago for safety reasons - erosion. Accretion has widened this beach and it is now used on a regular basis by NPS vehicles, which confirms the fact that this is no longer an issue of safety. This would also allow access to the beach of South Nags Head that is currently a seasonal (town) ORV route.

Ramp 2 south should be year round ORV accessible routes. Ramp 2 south should be reopened as a Year round ORV route to allow a safe second access/egress for the beaches between Ramp 2 & Ramp 4, one of the most visited ORV beaches within the Seashore. This would also give ORV beach users access to the existing bathhouse facilities without having to exit via Ramp 4 travel the heavily used Route 12 and reenter at Coquina Beach.

Ramp 4 (Bodie Island Spit) should be changed from Seasonal/VFA to an ORV route (which would of course be subject to Resource closures as needed). Turtles who naturally avoid the inlet seldom nest on this beach and five (5) years of dismal nesting with consequently poorer fledge rates confirms this beach is of little value to visiting shore birds and thus should be reopened to the public. This beach is not regularly used by pedestrians since it is a mile +walk from Ramp 4. For those wishing to have a "wilderness like" experience, there is 15 miles of pedestrian only beach accessible on Pea Island beginning immediately south of the inlet. In addition, I don't believe a "wilderness like" experience is possible with busy NC State Route 12, via the Bonner Bridge, passing overhead.

Ramp 23 north should be a year round ORV route since this gives access to the beach south of the tri-villages with their many year round residents and seasonal visitors. NPS built a board walk at Ramp 23 and bathroom facilities directly across route 12 from Ramp 23 and then proceeded to seasonally close this ramp in spite of the objections from citizens, an overwhelming number of Reg-Neg committee members and visitors.

Ramp 34 north should be reclassified as Seasonal and therefore ORV accessible after the timely removal of Resource closures.

Ramp 45 west should be designated seasonal

Ramp 45 east should be designated seasonal thru the dune area (perhaps as an extension of the interdunal road) and used by the Superintendent as a safety valve thus allowing, at his discretion, thru the practice of adaptive management, access/egress to and from "The Point" when weather or resource closures otherwise eliminate access. This interdunal access could be engineered in such a way as to not enter the high density nesting/resting area west of "The Point".

Soundside access is not available anywhere on Bodie Island and an area should be made accessible for the public to use as a safe, child friendly, swimming, fishing, crabbing venue. When winds make the ocean unsafe for swimming or child's play, visitors from the north must drive 50± miles to the Salvo Day Use Area to enjoy the calm waters of our sounds. A route thru a currently closed area that ends in a parking area on the soundside, should be opened.

#### Permits:

Whatever type of permit is established, these permits need to be easily purchased via the internet with the ability to print a receipt that would be accepted as proof of purchase for at least 48 hours or more. This would allow a person to print a permit @ home, drive to the seashore, arrive after permit office closing, enjoy the beach and go by a permit office for an "official" decal the following day. For those with sufficient preplanning they should be able to order a permit and receive it via US mail without a penalty for shipping.

An annual permit should be issued for a 12 month period from date of issue (not a calendar year as is the current practice).

14 day permits should be available at a price that would not make the average family have to choose between a permit or a dinner out. \$25 would generously reward NPS for its issuance.