



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Padre Island National Seashore

P.O. Box 181300

Corpus Christi, Texas 78480



IN REPLY REFER TO:

1.A.2.

December 22, 2014

Dear Interested Party:

In response to the continued decline of colonial waterbird populations, the National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to develop a management plan for the dredge spoil islands and two natural islands occurring within the Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS) boundary of the Laguna Madre in Texas. In accordance with the Organic Act of 1916 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, the proposed plan intends to introduce active conservation management techniques benefitting nesting colonial waterbirds. Project goals aim to: 1) protect PAIS natural resources while maintaining or enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities; 2) protect and assist recovery of various colonial waterbird species utilizing the islands for nesting, roosting, and loafing habitat; 3) mitigate erosion and marine debris accumulation; and 4) reduce the impairment of native ecosystems from exotic vegetation. Management techniques may include a variety of approaches including improved methods of shoreline, predator, pest, and vegetation management.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to provide the decision-making framework that: 1) analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives, 2) evaluates issues and impacts to national seashore resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts.

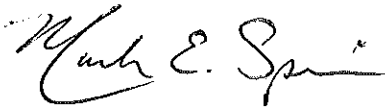
The NPS encourages public participation throughout the NEPA process. The public has two opportunities to formally comment on the project; once during initial project scoping and again following the release of the Draft EA. We are currently in the scoping phase of this project and invite you to submit your written comments online at NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/pais>. If you are not able to submit comments electronically through this website or wish to remove your name from the mailing list, please submit written comments to:

Padre Island National Seashore
Attn: Spoil Island Rookery Management Plan
P.O. Box 181300
Corpus Christi, Texas 78480



In light of the holiday season we are extending the comment period to 45 days, therefore comments must be received by February 20, 2015 in order to be considered during the preparation of the EA. If you have questions about the project or would like more information, please contact James Lindsay, Chief of Science and Resource Management, at (361) 949-8173 ext. 223 or by email at james_lindsay@nps.gov. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Spier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

Mark Spier
Superintendent

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