

*Paul
Please provide this
info for attached.*

The number of open and closed miles of beach per district due to *safety closures* include approximately:

Ocracoke	Open	11.4 miles	64%
	Closed	6.5 miles	36%
Bodie Island	Open	18.4 miles	92%
	Closed	1.6 miles	8%
Hatteras Island	Open	11.05 miles	33%
	Closed	22.75 miles	67%
Total	Open	40.80 miles	57%
	Closed	30.85 miles	43%

202-293-078

2. (See attached document for levels of protection for endangered species closures).

3. A Volunteers level of enforcement would include providing information to the public, advising public of rules and regulations, monitoring sites and reporting incidents to appropriate law enforcement authorities. We do not want to place volunteers in harms way by putting them in a position where they have to make anyone do anything.

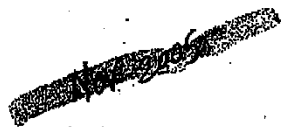
Director's Order/Resource Manual 9 states that due to the high risks and inherent dangers associated with law enforcement activities, the National Park Service has clear policies and procedures that guide the law enforcement program.

Congress has authorized the Secretary of the Interior to designate certain employees of the Department of Interior as law enforcement officers, with the responsibility to ".....maintain law and order and protect persons and property within areas of the National Park System" (16 U.S.C 1a-6 (b)). Only persons commissioned under this authority will perform law enforcement duties. These are employees who have successfully passed the background investigation, medical exam, physical efficiency battery, drug testing and rigorous training requirements.

Law enforcement personnel have hundreds of hours of required law enforcement training in all aspects of law enforcement, i.e., physical tactics, use of intermediate weapons, firearms, search and seizure, legal updates, recent court cases, regulations, etc.

Examples of past incidents at the beach with users groups have included situations where individuals have become angry, stressed, intoxicated, etc., coupled with excessive heat in the summer can provide for unstable situations.

Bottom line is we just do not want to get anyone hurt.



Affected Environment

INTERNAL REVIEW DRAFT - DECEMBER 16

1

2 **Off-Road Vehicle Use.** Table 11 indicates that an average of 251.8 ORVs were counted on park beaches
 3 at any one time during the 2001 and 2002 visitor surveys and counts. On an annual basis, this daily
 4 figures indicates that approximately 10% of park visitation or roughly 91,907 ORVs or 207,875 ORV
 5 users frequent park beaches. The total number of ORV users is based on 2.26 visitors per vehicle.
 6 Assuming this number is accurate plus or minus 20%, a more reasonable estimate of ORV beach use
 7 would include a range of 73,256 to 110,288 ORVs or 166,300 to 249,450 ORV users annually
 8 (Vogelsang 2003). Of the visitors surveyed, 1,276 or approximately 76% indicated they owned or rented
 9 an ORV. Of these ORV owner/renters, 90% (or 68% of all surveys) spent some time on the beach driving
 10 at Cape Hatteras National Seashore (Vogelsang 2003).

11 The greatest average numbers of ORVs at any one time, as shown in table 11, were at Ramps #43, 44, and
 12 45 at Cape Point (average of 86 ORVs); Ramp #4 at Oregon Inlet (70.2 ORVs); Ramp #72 at South Point
 13 near Ocracoke Inlet; and, Ramp #55 near the Hatteras Inlet. These four sites accounted for more than half
 14 of the average ORV counts (252/day) that use the park at one time. Other more popular ORV ramps
 15 included Ramp #49 near Frisco Campground and Ramp #70 near Ocracoke. Other oceanside ORV ramps,
 16 although easily accessible, received low use in comparison to the inlet access points. Although counted as
 17 often as other access points, the soundside ramps were rarely used (Vogelsang 2003).

18 **Off-Road Vehicle and Pedestrian Closures.** A number of areas throughout the park are closed to ORV
 19 travel on a permanent basis either due to safety issues or for resource protection purposes. Temporary
 20 closures to ORVs also occur to protect sea turtles and bird species such as piping plovers, American
 21 oystercatchers, and colonial waterbirds along the beaches at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

22 According to the Outer Banks Preservation Association (2005), 73.5 miles of beach from Oregon Inlet to
 23 Hatteras Inlet and all of the Ocracoke Island beaches were accessible prior to 1978. With the
 24 implementation of the 1978 ORV Management Plan for the seashore, 36 miles of beach was accessible to
 25 ORVs - 25 miles year-round and 11 miles seasonally from May 25 to September 10. The remaining 37.5
 26 miles were closed permanently. ~~Current permanent closures include, approximately, 33 miles of~~
 27 ~~beach remains open and accessible. Current permanent closures include the following (see figure 3):~~
 28 ~~Bodie Island (4.5 miles); South Oregon Inlet (1.5 miles); Pea Island Refuge (3 miles); Pea Island to~~
 29 ~~Rodanthe Pier (2.3 miles); Ramp 38 south to ramp 44 (6 miles); Ramp 49 south to ramp 55 (6.9 miles);~~
 30 ~~and Ocracoke Island (7.9 miles). Park please verify~~

31 Following Hurricane Isabel, ORV use areas were put in place in March 2004 to protect sensitive habitat
 32 that opened up as a result of dune destruction and to provide for more consistent management of breeding

*Hatteras
 Campground
 27.1
 35.1
 12
 13*