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Subject: Critical Habitat/Piping Plover
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To Pete Benjamin, et al at USFW

In regards to the “critical habitat” designation for four areas inside of Cape Hatteras National Recreational Seashore (CHNRS), are you out of your mind? Do you believe you would not be challenged on the “facts” you have presented in your application? Do you believe relying on **one** NON-peer reviewed (so-called) scientific data (Voglesong study) and **one** flawed analysis of the impact of a closure of the most popular fishing/surfing beaches that declares that there would be no economic harm done to Hatteras Island businesses, residents, & tourists? You cannot believe you can get away with such an underhanded shoddy effort. I can only hope your bosses realize how much taxpayer monies and my taxes you are wasting on this inept effort to try to close the beaches of the Park to ORV use through the back door. It is a breach of the public trust & an abuse of your position and makes a laughing stock of the USFW.

Cape Hatteras National Recreational Seashore should be EXEMPT from the ESA just like Pea & Padre Islands. Let the NPS manage this park as laid out in the Interim Protected Species Management Strategy/Environmental Assessment. Anything less will be fought to the highest courts. So far, NPS has been going as fast as possible in both protecting threatened/endangered species and implementing rules for ORV use in the Park. Your poorly supported effort will only slow down this process.

I first came to Cape Hatteras in 1972. Since then, I have come several times every year. By 1975, I had started planning on retiring & buying a house close to the Park so I could fish. After 35 years of hard work, my dream had come true. In 2005, I bought a house on the Outer Banks, which cost a little over \$500K. If the beaches are closed & I cannot get out on them in some sort of ORV (I am handicapped, & cannot walk far in sand) to fish, I will have wasted my life’s savings and my house will be worth a lot less than I paid for it. I will blame all of that on you and the USFW. The estimate of just my losses (if you declare the beaches closed) will be more than 1 Million dollars. That would include all of my expenditures for 20 years on such things as taxes, gas, food, tackle, & so on. That is for just me. If you include all of the anglers (on most weekends 1500 ORV’s) that will spend approximately \$3000 each weekly trip, and two trips a year, the losses would be on the order of \$9,000,000 (\$3000 a week x 2 weeks x 1500 ORV’s). That is the estimate I come up with, but you say that would not happen. How can you say there would be no significant economic impact to local businesses & the economy here on the Outer Banks? Dare County estimates the loss of surf fishing in the Park would probably be quite a bit more than my estimate.

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