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To: Dana Otto and Lori Gutman, Louis Berger  
 From: Christine Poulos, RTI International  
 Date: September 11, 2007  
 RE: RTI Notes from Interview with CAHA Park Superintendent Mike Murray

While attending the meeting about the Combined Neg-Reg and NEPA Processes to Regulate ORVs at Cape Hatteras National Seashore in Manteo, NC from November 7-8, 2006, RTI interviewed Park Superintendent Mike Murray. The objective of the interview, on November 8, 2006, was to identify stakeholders and key informants for future interviews. These organizations and individuals would be sources of information on economic, visitor, and socioeconomic impacts.

RTI attempted to schedule an interview with Carolyn McCormick of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce, but she was not available during the visit.

**Notes from Interview with Mike Murray  
 November 8, 2006**

There are three perennial safety closures:

1. South of Avon Pier for ~ 1 mile
2. Ramp 38- Ramp 43 (past Cape Hatteras)
3. In front of Frisco and Hatteras (villages). There is a campground in Frisco where there are conflicts between ORVs and pedestrians.

The primary use conflicts are between:

- homeowners and ORVs (especially around Ramp 55),
- kiteboarders and ORVs,
- pedestrians and ORVs, and
- ecotourism and ORVs.

Sources of information economic impacts:

- Bill Neal conducted a study of the potential losses that businesses catering to surf-fishers would suffer if ORV use declined.
- While the use of ORVs and ORV expenditures would decline with regulation, other uses would increase. The expenditures by other users (including renters, homeowners, birders, and other users) have not been estimated.
- In order to collection information on the potential increases in these uses and expenditures, Mike Murray had numerous suggestions for identifying both user groups and their representatives. In addition to the contacts in the following table, he suggested collecting names from the neg-reg committee list (see: <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-IMPACT/2007/June/Day-28/i12012.htm>).

User Group	Representative(s)
Vacation Home Renters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stewart Couch – heads rental clearinghouse and President of Dare County</li> <li>▪ Judy Smartwood from Midget Realty</li> </ul>
Homeowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Frank Folb – tackle shop owner in Avon who represents homeowners association</li> <li>▪ Hatteras Village Civic Association, Jeffrey Wells (Hatteras Landing Homeowners Association)</li> </ul>
ORV users	OBPA
Bird and wildlife viewing, ecotourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NC Audobon (Sidney Maddock)</li> <li>▪ Cape Hatteras bird club</li> <li>▪ North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission (They train communities in marketing eco-tourism. Also have information on the NC birding trail.)</li> </ul>
Pro-ORV management groups	Cape Hatteras Recreational Alliance -- Jim Lyons and Steven Kayota (Frisco and Hatteras Homeowners Coalition)
Watersports users (they tend to be pro-access)	Check the reg-neg list for the stake holder group
Business owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce (though many Hatteras business owners do not feel that the Chamber represents them)</li> <li>▪ Interview businesses from different villages for range of perspectives.</li> </ul>
Charter fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oregon Inlet (a park concession)</li> <li>▪ Pirate's Cove is a competitor</li> </ul>

Alert Mike Murray when contacting any of these people so he can alert subjects.

While there is a lot of surf-fishing that uses ORVs, there is also fishing that does not:

- Fishing from piers – there are park concessions on some piers
- Surf-fishing without an ORV
- Commercial fishing (Wanchees?)

There are no guide services for ORV, fishing, or other uses (that Mike Murray is aware of), though tackle shops do some training.

ORV Rentals?

- Mike Murray said that there was a rental operator in Waves who rented dune buggies, but most ORV users have their own vehicle.

ORV users would support permits for non-local users

The FWS conducted an economic analysis for the critical habitat designation, which established critical wintering habitats on the East Coast. The designation and the study were controversial. The CHAPA, OBPA's legal representation, took the FWS to court and the habitat designation for four areas was overturned because of the economic analysis. In addition, the mapping was found to be too general. To inform the CAHA analyses, get a copy of the analysis from Sandy Hamilton. Collect more detailed information about the FWS economic analysis from the FWS GIS person who coordinated with the FWS economist in DC. Also look at the comments the FWS received. The FWS proposed re-doing the analysis in the summer of 2006.

Also, review a previous study of the economic impacts of birdwatching at Padre Island (available on nps.gov).

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