

#3042

Britta Muiznieks
10/02/2007 09:28 AM
EDT

To: Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc: Margaret Carfioli/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS,
Sandra Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS
Subject: Re: Fw: Habitat Enhancement/Creation

Apparently habitat modification was attempted for 6 consecutive years at CAHA in the '90's without too much success. I haven't had a chance to search for Collazo 1992, 1993, 1994 but there may be more details in these reports as to what they did and where. Jon Altman forwarded the following document to me before he left.



Habitat Enhancement at Cape Pt and Hatteras Inlet.doc

Thayer Broili

Thayer Broili
10/02/2007 08:26 AM
EDT

To: Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc: Margaret Carfioli/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Sandra
Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS
Subject: Fw: Habitat Enhancement/Creation

Mike/Britta,

I'm not sure what the context of this is, but it's likely responding to the thought that vegetated areas at Cape Pt, Bodie Island Spit, etc. could be modified to increase habitat for shorebirds. As you know, this is a theme that some of the ORV folks promote..... the areas aren't sand flats like they used to be, have grown up due to lack of ORV use, getting rid of the vegetation will create more habitat, etc., etc. It's something that, time allowing, we should continue to investigate. As you may recall, this was discussed very generally and briefly with Pete Benjamin who seemed not to have any problem with it on an experimental basis. However, currently we have no resources to dedicate to such an effort. If we ever went forward with any effort, it would have to be conducted as a "real" experiment with "real" science to both look at the effect on birds and the success of deveg. efforts. This issue may arise during the ORV management planning effort.

Meghan,
FYI only.

Thayer Broili
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Cape Hatteras National Seashore
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----- Forwarded by Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS on 10/02/2007 08:16 AM -----



Thomas Flanagan
10/01/2007 04:32 PM
MDT

To: Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS, dotto@louisberger.com
cc: Sandra Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS
Subject: Habitat Enhancement/Creation

Hi,

Sandy asked me to forward you the attached notes and report on habitat enhancement/creation. This comes from Sue Cameron of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

Cheers,
Tom

0020081

Tom Flanagan
National Park Service - Environmental Quality Division
P.O. Box 25287
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"Habitat Enhancement 1998 PIPL Report

In attempts to improve plover nesting/foraging habitat, vegetation was mechanically removed from Cape Point and Hatteras Inlet spit sites in March. A prime reason for disking was to reopen access to brackish ponds where plover broods had foraged in previous years. For the sixth consecutive year, approximately 90 acres was disked at Cape Point. At Hatteras Inlet, approximately 22 acres was disked from 1995-1997. In 1997, both sites were initially mowed to augment disking operations.

Dense vegetation, up to 18" high returned to the disked sites by mid-July making them unsuitable habitat.

Between 1992 and 1995, two nests and several broods have been sighted in the Cape Point enhancement site (Collazo 1992, 1993, 1994, Lyons 1995). No nests or chicks have been seen in the past three years. Broods forage in adjacent sand flats. Vegetation growth has increased at the Cape Point site making disking efforts less effective. No plovers were ever found utilizing the Hatteras Inlet enhanced site. In 1998, experimental manipulation at this site was not possible due to shoreline changes. Another suitable foraging habitat has recently developed closer to the inlet.

Habitat enhancement project at Cape Point has not produced the intended results in recent years. No plover activity was ever observed at the Hatteras Inlet site and shoreline changes have negated any need to continue there.

At present, it is not recommended to continue the habitat enhancement projects at Cape Point and Hatteras Inlet." -Marcia Lyons, Natural Resource Specialist 1998.

In conversations with Marcia she mentioned that there was storm overwash from the south beach that cleared the vegetation and dunes prior to habitat enhancement attempts. It seems that mechanical enhancement can't do what storm overwash processes can. It's a dynamic storm driven system, habitat shifts from year to year. -Jon Altman