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Subject:	Loggerhead Recovery Plan Quotes
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Attachments:	Loggerhead Recovery Plan quotes.doc

The recovery plan does have some specifics for ORV driving on nesting beaches. Relevant paragraphs are in the attached word document. Overall, the plan conveyed the general opinion that ORV driving should be fazed out during nesting season, particularly at night.

Loggerhead Recovery Plan quotes.doc

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LOGGERHEAD RECOVERY PLAN 1991

Threats, Nesting Environment:

(PAGE 8)
Beach Vehicular Driving: The operation of motor vehicles on nesting beaches for recreational purposes is permitted in northeast Florida (portions of Nassau, St. John's, Flagler and Volusia Counties), northwest Florida (Walton and Gulf Counties), and North Carolina (Emerald Isle, Cape Lookout National Seashore, Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Currituck Banks). While some areas restrict night driving, others permit it. Driving on beaches at night during the nesting season can disrupt the nesting process and result in aborted nesting attempts. The negative impact on nesting females in the surf zone may be particularly severe. Vehicle headlights can disorient or misorient emergent hatchlings, and vehicles can strike and kill hatchlings attempting to reach the ocean. The tracks or ruts left by vehicles traversing the beach interfere with the ability of hatchlings to reach the ocean. The extended period of travel required to negotiate tire tracks and ruts may increase the susceptibility of hatchlings to stress and depredation during transit to the ocean (Hosier *et a!.*, 1981; M. Evans, pers. comm.). Driving directly above incubating egg clutches can cause sand compaction which may decrease nest success and directly kill pre-emergent hatchlings (Mann, 1977). In many areas, beach vehicular driving is the sole cause for nest relocation. Additionally, vehicle traffic on nesting beaches contributes to erosion, especially during high tides or on narrow beaches where driving is concentrated on the high beach and foredune.

(PAGE 7-8)
Increased Human Presence: Residential and tourist use of developed (and developing) nesting beaches can result in negative impacts to nesting turtles, incubating egg clutches and hatchlings. The most serious threat caused by increased human presence on the beach is the disturbance to nesting females. Night-time human activity can cause nesting females to abort nesting attempts at all stages of the behavioral process. Murphy *(1985)* reported that disturbance can cause turtles to shift their nesting beaches, delay egg laying, and select poor nesting sites. Heavy utilization of nesting beaches by humans (pedestrian traffic) may result in lowered hatchling emergence success rates due **to** compaction of sand above nests (Mann, 1977), and pedestrian
tracks can interfere with the ability of hatchlings to reach the ocean (Hosier *et a!.*, 1981). Campfires and the use of flashlights on nesting beaches misorient hatchlings and can deter nesting females (Mortimer, 1979).

Recovery Objectives

(PAGE 30)
Priority 2: Protect and Manage Population
215. Control vehicular traffic during nesting and hatching season.
Vehicular traffic can clearly destroy nests, kill hatchlings and disturb nesting turtles. Nest relocation is not an acceptable permanent solution to vehicular

traffic. Driving exists on some Florida and North Carolina beaches, including national and State parks. NPS, FDNR and NCDNR should evaluate the effect of vehicular traffic on nesting activities including the need to relocate nests and develop a plan to phase out beach driving on important local or regional nesting beaches (except emergency or permitted research vehicles).