

From: [Britta Muiznieks](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#); [Thayer Broili](#)
Subject: Re: Areas and Routes question
Date: 04/30/2008 01:40 PM
Attachments: [Hot Spots for Breeding Birds at CAHA.doc](#)



Hot Spots for Breeding Birds at CAHA.doc

Call if you have any questions.

Britta

▼ [Mike Murray](#)

**Mike
Murray**

To: Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc: Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS
Subject: Areas and Routes question

04/30/2008
07:56 AM
EST

Hi Britta,

NPS regs require we determine which "areas and routes" should be designated open to ORV use (which is opposite of assuming everything is open unless it is temporarily closed for some reason, such as safety or resource protection). In the ORV plan and reg we will need to designate what areas are open to ORV use (could be year-round or could be seasonal), which are not, then the temporary closures could still apply. On Thursday (tomorrow) a RegNeg committee work group is having its first discussion on designating "Areas and Routes" for ORV use. Thayer, Paul Stevens and I will participate.

It is obvious to me that the spits, Cape Point and South Beach have inherent conflicts between resources and ORV use during the breeding season, so I am sure there will be discussion about whether we should designate some, all, or portions of the six key sites as non-ORV areas during the breeding season. Should be an interesting discussion.

I am also under the impression that away from the spits and Cape Point, there are some areas that are predictably and very likely to be closed for much of the breeding season due to bird nesting activity. For example, the area between ramp 27 and Ramp 30 strikes me as a site that we should consider designating as a non-ORV area, at least for the breeding season. Would you agree with that impression? Is there a more precise description of the high resource value area between Ramp 27 and Ramp 30 (e.g., is the current situation likely to be the recurring scenario? i.e., closed just south of R27 and 0.6 mile north of R30?). For example, if that is likely to be the recurring scenario, then the Committee may not want to designate the entire area as non-ORV, but may want to designate R27 to 0.5 north of R30

as non-ORv during the breeding season.

By the end of the day today, please email me a short, bullet list of all the areas, aside from the six sites, that you think will routinely, year-after-year have resource closures that would preclude ORV access during much of the "breeding season" (let's say March 15 - September 15 for the purpose of this exercise). Obviously, you don't have a crystal ball and cannot predict the random nest locations, even if you can predict individual AMOY nests. I am most interested in the obvious "areas" that seem likely to be closed for extended period due to concentrations of bird nests or predictable multiple closures that preclude access to a larger section of beach. **Please keep it simple and focused on the high use (by birds), high resource value sites.**

Thayer, please discuss with Britta so you are familiar enough with the areas to talk about it at the meeting.

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Hot Spots for Breeding Birds at CAHA since 2000

Areas that should definitely get considered for closure to ORVs:

- Ramp 27-Ramp 30 currently (and historically) heavily and consistently occupied by AMOYs and CWBs. We have had birds nesting right at the ramps in some years.
- From Ramp 34 continuing for 1.2 miles north of Ramp 34. Area has consistently been occupied by CWBs and AMOYs since 2000. In 2002 the CWB colony was south of Ramp 34.
- North of Buxton Village for ~1 mile (starting 2 ½ mi S of Ramp 38 and continuing to Buxton Village). Area consistently used by AMOYs and CWB.
- From 0.5 mi S of Ramp 68 to 1.2 mi N of R 70 (~1 mi). This corresponds to the area N of the swim beach but S of the campground on Ocracoke. Area consistently and heavily used by AMOYs.

Additional areas that should be considered for closure:

- Ramp 23-Ramp 27. Area heavily occupied by AMOYs and CWBs until 2006.
- Sandy Bay/Isabel Inlet-AMOYs consistently nesting on the soundside, CWB used the area after the breach was filled in. Without a storm, not considered good habitat. Including the soundside AMOY nests so that the area does not get considered for an alternate route.
- Overwash fans on Pole Road heading towards Hatteras Inlet (Starting from 0.5 mi SW of R 55 and continuing to 1.2 miles SW of R 55). Habitat improves after heavy storms. AMOYs nested from 2000-2006, CWB from 2005-2006.
- Ramp 59 through Ramp 67 has been consistently used by AMOYs in the past. 9+ nests from 2000-2003, 7 nests in 2004 and since then has been occupied by 2-3 AMOY pairs. This area has NOT been open to ORVs. I'm not sure how the AMOYs would react if the area were opened up to ORVs.