

Murray  
Comments  
CAHA # 2810

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46

## ACTION ALTERNATIVES

The action alternatives provide for ORV management through the establishment of areas allowing for ORV use and the establishment of vehicle-free areas where ORV would not be allowed. Although ORV use areas are specifically identified, these areas do not prohibit other uses, in effect making ORV use areas multi-use recreation areas.

### ALTERNATIVE C: SEASONAL MANAGEMENT

This alternative is designed to provide visitors to the seashore with a degree of predictability regarding areas available for ORV use, as well as vehicle-free areas, based largely on the seasonal resource and visitor use characteristics of various areas in the park. This alternative would manage ORV use by identifying areas that historically do not support sensitive resources or that historically have lower visitor use. These areas would be designated ORV use areas year-round. Areas of high resource sensitivity or high visitor use would be designated as ORV routes or areas based largely on seasonal resource sensitivity and visitor use patterns, and some areas historically having safety issues would be designated as year-round closures for safety reasons. These latter areas would also provide areas for a year-round vehicle-free experience. The establishment of ORV routes and use areas and vehicle-free areas based largely on seasonal resource requirements would provide the public and the Seashore with a structured management approach that clearly states what areas are available for ORV use and when they are open. The public would have clear direction as to what would be open seasonally, but it would require some effort on the public's part to be informed and to understand what areas are open and when use is permitted. Implementation would require an increase in park staff and resources for public education and enforcement, but would provide for efficient park operations with the identification of defined use areas.

Table XX provides detail on the proposed seasonal and year-round use areas under alternative C. Generally, most areas would be open to ORVs from October 1 to March 31, primarily due to concerns about resource protection and to minimize conflicts with high visitor use periods. Areas that would be seasonally designated vehicle-free would include the area in front of villages, campgrounds, and lifeguarded beaches. These seasonal vehicle-free areas would occur during periods of high visitation—the summer months. The spits and points would also be open only seasonally to provide resource protection. Soundside would be established as a vehicle-free area to protect sensitive vegetation, with parking provided at the existing soundside ramps and access paths provided where designated boat launches presently occur. The Seashore would maintain posts defining the location of the parking area and access paths on the soundside.

vehicle

ORV routes and use areas under this alternative would still be subject to temporary resource closures established when protected species behavior warrants and/or if protected species habitat is established.

Designated ORV routes and areas would be established year-round in all areas not designated as vehicle-free and seasonally in areas with high visitation and/or sensitive resources. To ensure access to these areas, existing ramps would be improved and/or reconfigured to provide access to designated routes and areas. In addition, the interdunal road network would be maintained at its current level of access. Designated ORV routes and areas would be open from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM year round to provide for sea turtle protection and allow enforcement to concentrate their resources during the daytime hours.

Night fishing permit ..

Safety closures would be designated as conditions warrant and would be evaluated at least every two weeks by law enforcement for reopening.

1 Alternative C would include a seashore-wide, year-round carrying capacity element based on a physical  
 2 space requirement of one vehicle per 20 linear feet for Bodie and Hatteras Island Ranger Districts and one  
 3 vehicle per 30 linear feet for the Ocracoke Island Ranger District. This carrying capacity would be  
 4 implemented if increased visitation over the life of this plan resulted in overcrowding that could cause safety  
 5 concerns. The allowable number of vehicles in each area subject to the carrying capacity would be  
 6 determined by the space requirements and the beachfront length of the area.

7  
 8 Alternative C would involve a vehicle permit system, with no limits on numbers of permits issued. Permit  
 9 fees would be determined based on cost recovery to implement the system. To obtain the vehicle permit,  
 10 ORV owners would be required to read the rules and regulations governing ORV use at the seashore and  
 11 complete a written or online exam demonstrating their understanding of the rules and regulations governing  
 12 ORV use at the seashore, beach driving safety, and resource closure requirements. Following completion of  
 13 the exam, the ORV owner would need to sign for their vehicle permit in acknowledgement that they  
 14 understand the rules and that all drivers of the permitted vehicle will abide by the rules and regulations  
 15 governing ORV use at the seashore. A violation of the rules and regulations by the owner or any driver of the  
 16 permitted ORV could result in revocation of the vehicle permit, and the owner/permittee would not be  
 17 allowed to obtain another permit for any vehicle for a specified period of time.

## 20 **ALTERNATIVE D: INCREASED PREDICTABILITY AND** 21 **SIMPLIFIED MANAGEMENT**

22 This alternative is designed to provide visitors to the seashore with the maximum amount of predictability  
 23 regarding areas available for ORV use and vehicle-free areas for pedestrian use, which means applying  
 24 restrictions to larger areas and for longer periods of time to avoid changes in approved use patterns over the  
 25 course of the year. Under this alternative, ORV management would be achieved by identifying areas that  
 26 historically do not support sensitive resources and areas of lower visitor use. These areas would be  
 27 designated ORV use areas year-round. Areas of historically high resource sensitivity or high visitor use  
 28 would not be designated ORV routes or areas. The establishment of ORV routes and use areas and vehicle  
 29 free areas on a year-round basis (rather than seasonal) would provide the public and the Seashore with a  
 30 simplified management approach that would reduce confusion about what areas are available for ORV use  
 31 and when, and would reduce the need for staff resources on the beach. Because of the relative simplicity of  
 32 the elements of this alternative, implementation would require a reduced level of park staff and resources and  
 33 would maximize the efficiency of park operations.

34  
 35 Table XX provides detail on the proposed year-round use areas under alternative D. Year-round vehicle-free  
 36 areas would include the area in front of villages, campgrounds, and lifeguarded beaches. These vehicle-free  
 37 areas would provide for visitor safety during periods of high visitation, particularly in the summer months,  
 38 and would also provide a vehicle free experience for visitors during the off-season. The soundside would be  
 39 established as a vehicle-free area to protect sensitive vegetation, with parking provided at the existing  
 40 soundside ramps and access paths provided where designated boat launches presently occur. Vehicle-free  
 41 areas would also be established year-round at Cape Point and the spits to provide a simplified approach to  
 42 sensitive species management for Seashore operations, maximizing contiguous protected areas and  
 43 eliminating seasonal changes in designated ORV use areas and the associated demands on enforcing those  
 44 changes. Other uses would still be allowed in these vehicle-free areas outside of any identified resource  
 45 closures.

46  
 47 ORV routes and use areas under this alternative would still be subject to temporary resource closures  
 48 established when protected species behavior warrants and/or if habitat is established.

1 Designated ORV routes and use areas would be established year-round in all areas not designated vehicle-  
2 free. To ensure access to these areas, existing ramps could be improved and/or reconfigured to provide  
3 access to designated routes and use areas, although the number of ramps would not change from current  
4 conditions. Designated ORV routes and use areas would be open 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM year-round to provide  
5 for sea turtle protection and allow enforcement to concentrate their resources during the daytime hours.

6  
7 Safety closures would not be designated; ORV users would drive at their own risk, relying on their  
8 knowledge of beach driving to determine if an area is safe to access based on their assessment of current  
9 conditions.

10  
11 Alternative D would not include a carrying capacity requirement, but would include parking restrictions that  
12 would limit vehicles to a one vehicle-deep configuration, so that areas would not become overcrowded such  
13 that a safety concern would occur.

14  
15 Alternative D would involve a simple vehicle permit system, with no fees and no limits on the numbers of  
16 permits issued. To obtain the vehicle permit, ORV drivers would be required to read the rules and regulations  
17 governing ORV use at the seashore including beach driving safety and resource closure requirements. The  
18 ORV owner would need to sign for their vehicle permit in acknowledgement that they understand the rules  
19 and that all drivers of the permitted vehicle will abide by the rules and regulations governing ORV use at the  
20 seashore. Special consideration would be paid to providing beach safety information due to the lack of safety  
21 closures under this alternative. A violation of the rules and regulations by the owner or any driver of the  
22 permitted ORV could result in revocation of the vehicle permit, and the owner/permittee would not be  
23 allowed to obtain another permit for any vehicle for a specified period of time.  
24

25 **ALTERNATIVE E: ENHANCED ORV ROUTE MANAGEMENT**

26 This alternative is designed to provide use areas for all types of visitors to the seashore, including ORV  
27 users, with the highest level of access. This means that more areas may be open year-round to ORV users by  
28 providing pass-through ORV corridors in traditionally higher use pedestrian areas and by improving  
29 interdunal road and ramp access. Vehicle-free areas would also be provided for non-ORV users to experience  
30 the park without the presence of vehicles. Like the other action alternatives, this alternative would manage  
31 ORV use by identifying areas that historically do not support sensitive resources and areas of lower visitor  
32 use. These areas would be designated ORV use areas year-round. Areas of high resource sensitivity and high  
33 visitor use would be designated as ORV use areas based on seasonal resource and visitor use; however, ORV  
34 corridors would be designated through a number of these areas as conditions permit. The establishment of  
35 ORV routes and use areas and vehicle-free areas seasonally, with ORV corridors designated for passage  
36 through some of these, would provide the public with ORV access to a greater number of areas within the  
37 Seashore. However, this alternative would afford the least amount of predictability regarding areas available  
38 for ORV use and vehicle-free areas. Implementation would perhaps be difficult for the public to understand  
39 and would require a greater number of park staff and resources than the other alternatives.  
40

41 Table XX provides detail on the proposed seasonal and year-round use areas under alternative E. Areas that  
42 would be seasonally designated vehicle-free would include the areas in front of villages, campgrounds (with  
43 an ORV corridor), and lifeguarded beaches. The ORV open season would be defined as October 1 to *March 31*  
44 ~~February 28/29~~, to allow an additional month of non-ORV use in ~~March~~ *March* when visitation can be high;  
45 therefore, the seasonal vehicle-free areas would occur in periods of high visitation during the spring shoulder  
46 and summer months. The soundside would be established as a vehicle-free area to protect sensitive  
47 vegetation, with parking provided at the existing soundside ramps and access paths provided where *Maintain*  
48 designated boat launches presently occur. The Seashore would maintain posts defining the location of the  
49 parking area and access paths. ORV corridors would be designated at Cape Point and the spits year round;

1 however, access would not be guaranteed as resource activity and capacity numbers would define access at  
2 any given time.

3  
4 ORV routes and use areas under this alternative would still be subject to temporary resource closures  
5 established when protected species behavior warrants and/or if habitat is established. ORV corridors would  
6 be provided around areas of high resource sensitivity dependent on resource activity in the area via the  
7 interdunal road system, through improvements and/or reconfigurations of the existing ramp system, or by the  
8 establishment of a beach driving corridor. Existing ramps would be improved and/or reconfigured to provide  
9 access to designated routes and areas. Designated ORV routes and areas would be open 24 hours a day from  
10 November 1 through April 30, designated ORV routes and areas would be open by permit only from 10:00  
11 PM to 6:00 AM from September 15 to October 31 and no night driving would be allowed from May 1 to  
12 September 15, to provide for sea turtle protection and allow enforcement to concentrate their resources  
13 during the daytime hours. Beach camping would be permitted in designated areas and a permit would be  
14 required.

15 *10 p.m. - 6 a.m.*  
16 Safety closures could be designated as conditions warrant but would be evaluated at least every two weeks  
17 by law enforcement for reopening. *Vehicle per mile*  
18 *Vehicle/mile*

19 Alternative E would include a carrying capacity requirement for certain heavily used areas based on a  
20 physical space requirement of one vehicle per 20 linear feet for Bodie and Hatteras Island Ranger Districts  
21 and one vehicle per 30 linear feet for the Ocracoke Island Ranger District. Areas of high ORV use (Hatteras  
22 Inlet Spit, Cape Point, and Bodie Island Spit) would be managed via the implementation of a defined  
23 carrying capacity during high use weekends, such as major summer holidays. This carrying capacity would  
24 be implemented in other areas if increased visitation over the life of this plan resulted in overcrowding in  
25 other areas that could cause safety concerns. In all cases, the allowable number of vehicles in each area  
26 would be determined by the space requirements and the beachfront length of the area.

27  
28 Alternative E would involve a vehicle permit system, with no limits on numbers of permits issued. Permit  
29 fees would be determined based on cost recovery to implement the system. To obtain the vehicle permit,  
30 ORV owners would be required to read the rules and regulations governing ORV use at the seashore and  
31 complete a written or online exam demonstrating their understanding of the rules and regulations governing  
32 ORV use at the seashore, beach driving safety, and resource closure requirements. Following completion of  
33 the exam, the ORV owner would need to sign for their vehicle permit in acknowledgement that they  
34 understand the rules and that any driver of the permitted vehicle will abide by the rules and regulations  
35 governing ORV use at the seashore. A violation of the rules and regulations by the owner or any driver of the  
36 permitted ORV could result in revocation of the vehicle permit and the owner/permittee would not be  
37 allowed to obtain another permit for any vehicle for a specified period of time.

38  
39

*Murphy comments*

**DRAFT Alternatives Matrix—May 5, 2008**

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

ORV Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

Management Activity	Alternative A—No Action, Continuation of Current Management	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<b>ORV Access</b>	<p><b>General</b> Visitors accessing the Seashore by ORV must use only designated beach access ramps and soundside access roads to enter designated ORV routes.</p>	<p><b>General</b> Same as alternative A.</p>		
	<p><b>Oceanside Ramps</b> ORV access points are provided via 18 oceanside ramps located off NC-12. Ramps are numbered and identified on the Seashore's ORV route map as official vehicle access routes. Seashore staff maintain ramps and signage.</p>	<p><b>Oceanside Ramps</b> [determine need for reconfiguration and variations on maintenance requirements]</p>	<p><b>Oceanside Ramps</b> [determine need for reconfiguration and variations on maintenance requirements]</p>	<p><b>Oceanside Ramps</b> [determine need for reconfiguration and variations on maintenance requirements]</p>
	<p><b>Soundside Ramps</b> ORV access points are provided via 17 soundside ramps located off NC-12. Seashore staff maintain ramps and signage.</p>	<p><b>Soundside Ramps</b> Existing soundside ramps would remain open and access paths would be provided where designated boat launches presently occur. Signage/posts would be installed at the parking areas and access paths to prevent damage to vegetation and other soundside resources.</p> <p><i>inconsistent w/ text</i></p>	<p><b>Soundside Ramps</b> Same as Alternative C</p> <p><i>same</i></p>	<p><b>Soundside Ramps</b> Same as Alternative C but soundside ramps would be improved and possibly widened to accommodate to lanes to the parking area. Access would be extended at Kite Point to provide a drop-off location at the shoreline.</p> <p><i>same</i></p>
	<p><b>Interdunal Roads</b> One lane, interdunal routes have been designated as follows:  <i>Bodie Island Ranger District</i> ▪ None.</p>	<p><b>Interdunal Roads</b> Same as alternative A, except: ▪ Existing interdunal roads would be maintained as needed to provide access to ORV areas. If there is not enough area to provide two lanes, a pull-off would be created.  [determine need for reconfiguration and variations on maintenance requirements]</p> <p><i>Bodie Island Ranger District</i> ▪ None.</p>	<p><b>Interdunal Roads</b> Same as alternative A.  [determine need for reconfiguration and variations on maintenance requirements]</p> <p><i>Bodie Island Ranger District</i> ▪ None.</p>	<p><b>Interdunal Roads</b> Same as alternative C, except will examine additional connections or road segments needed to provide better or through access  [determine need for reconfiguration and variations on maintenance requirements]</p> <p><i>Bodie Island Ranger District</i> ▪ Consider interdunal ORV or pedestrian route from Ramp 4 to Bodie Island Spit.</p>

44-45

C

D

E

	<p>Hatteras Island Ranger District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cape Point between Ramp 44 to Ramp 49</li> <li>▪ Hatteras Inlet from Ramp 55 to the inlet (includes Pole Road and Spur Road).</li> </ul> <p>Ocracoke Island Ranger District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None.</li> </ul>	<p>Hatteras Island Ranger District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hatteras Inlet from Ramp 55 to the inlet (includes Pole Road and Spur Road).</li> </ul> <p>Ocracoke Island Ranger District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None.</li> </ul>	<p>Hatteras Island Ranger District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hatteras Inlet from Ramp 55 to the inlet (includes Pole Road and Spur Road).</li> </ul> <p>Ocracoke Island Ranger District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None.</li> </ul>	<p>Hatteras Island Ranger District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open the access through campground to Ramp 45 from September 15 – May 15.</li> <li>▪ Establish new interdunal road from Ramp 45 to, or near, Ramp 49, with beach connector routes as appropriate.</li> <li>▪ Hatteras Inlet from Ramp 55 to the inlet (includes Pole Road and Spur Road); restore Pole Road to 2 lanes.</li> </ul> <p>Ocracoke Island Ranger District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hours of Allowable ORV Operation on Beach</b></p>	<p>All areas of the seashore open 24 hours a day year round.</p>	<p>Designated ORV routes and areas open to ORV use from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. year round, closed from 10:00p.m. – 6:00 a.m. <i>May 15 - Sept 14</i></p> <p><i>Open 24 hrs. Sept 15 - May 14</i> <i>Night fishing permit</i></p>	<p>Designated ORV routes and areas open to ORV use from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. year round, closed from 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.</p>	<p>November 1 – April 30: Designated ORV routes and areas open to ORV use 24 hours a day.</p> <p><i>Oct 31</i> May 1 – September 14 : Designated ORV routes and areas open from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm, closed 10:00 pm to 6:00 am <del>10:00 pm to 6:00 am</del></p> <p>September 15 – October 31: Designated ORV routes and areas open to everyone from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and open from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. by permit only.</p>
	<p>Visitors accessing the Seashore by ORV must drive only on marked ORV routes and comply with posted restrictions.</p>	<p>Same as alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as alternative A.</p>
<p><b>ORV Routes</b></p>	<p>ORV beach routes are a designated area seaward of a line 20 feet east or southeast of the toe of the dunes or vegetation line or 150 feet west or northwest of the existing tide, whichever is less, or between marked posts and existing tide.</p>	<p>ORV beach routes would be a designated area from 10 meters (30 feet) from the toe of the dune to the existing tide line in areas open to ORV use, provided there is sufficient beach width to allow an ORV corridor of at least 20 meters (30 feet) above the mean high tide line.</p>	<p>Same as alternative C.</p>	<p>Same as alternative C.</p>
<p><b>Beach Parking</b></p>	<p>Parking within routes is allowed in any configuration.</p>	<p>Same as alternative A.</p>	<p>Parking within ORV routes is allowed, but only one vehicle deep. Stacking of vehicles in more than one row would be prohibited. <del>at Cape Point</del></p>	<p><del>Same as alternative A.</del></p>
<p><b>ORV Use Areas</b></p>	<p>All areas of the Seashore are open to ORV access. Refer to Use Areas Table.</p>	<p>ORV access would be prohibited in all areas of the Seashore except where routes are specifically designated. Refer to Use Areas Table.</p>	<p>Same as alternative C.</p>	<p>Same as alternative C</p>

C

D

E

<p><b>ORV Safety Closures</b></p>	<p>ORV safety closures established as needed to address safety conditions such as debris on the beach or narrow beaches. Narrow beaches are reopened as the beach widens. Safety closures applicable only to ORV access; pedestrian access is maintained.</p> <p>Existing ORV safety closures include:</p> <p><i>Bodie Island Ranger District</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ramp 1 to Ramp 2</li> </ul> <p><i>Hatteras Island Ranger District</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.8 miles south of Ramp 38 to 0.4 mile north of Ramp 43.</li> <li>Buxton to Lighthouse Beach</li> <li>Northern boundary of Frisco to Hatteras Village</li> <li>September 16 – May 14: Hatteras Village</li> </ul> <p><i>Ocracoke Island Ranger District</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.5 miles north of Ramp 67 to 1 mile south of Ramp 59</li> </ul> <p>Safety closures reopened to ORV access as conditions permit.</p>	<p>ORV safety closures established as needed to address safety conditions such as debris on the beach or narrow beaches. Safety closures would be applicable only to ORV access; pedestrian access would be maintained through all safety closures.</p> <p>ORV safety closures would be reopened when/if conditions improve as determined by weekly monitoring by Seashore law enforcement.</p> <p><i>Village beaches that are at least 30m wide from toe of the dune to mean high tide would be open to ORV use during the winter season.</i></p>	<p>ORV safety closures would not be established. ORV drivers would need to determine conditions and safety and would drive at own risk.</p>	<p>ORV safety closures established as needed to address safety conditions such as debris on the beach or narrow beaches. Safety closures would be applicable only to ORV access; pedestrian access would be maintained through all safety closures.</p> <p>ORV safety closures would be reopened when/if conditions improve as determined by weekly monitoring by Seashore law enforcement.</p>
<p><b>Administrative ORV Closures</b></p>	<p>Beach in front of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse closed to ORV access. Buxton Woods closed to ORV access.</p>	<p>No administrative closures would be established.</p>	<p>Same as alternative C.</p>	<p>Same as alternative C.</p>
<p><b>Year Round Resource Closures</b></p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>Suitable interior habitats closed to all access at Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point, Hatteras Spit, north end of Ocracoke Island, Ocracoke Inlet Spit to provide for resting and foraging of piping plover. Examples of suitable habitats include ephemeral ponds and moist flats at Cape Point, Hatteras Spit, Ocracoke, and Bodie Island Spit. Actual locations of suitable foraging and resting habitat may change due to natural processes.</p>	<p>Buxton Woods closed to ORV access.</p> <p><i>Add new language</i> <i>BI Spit Sound shoreline + 1/2 mile area w. of Cape Point</i> <i>inlet shoreline closed to ORVs</i> <i>denied at BI, Hatteras, N.S. Ocracoke</i> <i>Same as alternative A.</i></p>	<p>Same as alternative C.</p> <p><i>Add new language for year round winter closures</i> <i>Same as alternative A.</i></p>	<p>Same as alternative C.</p> <p>Same as alternative A.</p>
<p><b>Temporary Resource Closures</b></p>	<p>Temporary resource closures are established in accordance with the <i>Interim Protected Species Management Strategy/Environmental Assessment</i> and associated <i>Biological Opinion</i>.</p> <p>ORV and pedestrian corridors are provided, as appropriate around any resource related closure according to the <i>Interim Strategy</i> and <i>Biological Opinion</i> (see Table 1. Resource Related ORV Access Restrictions and Closures at Cape Hatteras National Seashore).</p>	<p>Temporary resource closures would be established as necessary outside of existing <b>vehicle free areas</b> if protected species (piping plover, American oystercatcher, colonial waterbirds, Wilson's plover, sea turtles, and seabeach amaranth) behavior warrants and/or if habitat is established.</p> <p>ORV and pedestrian corridors are provided, as appropriate around any resource related closure according to <b>TBD</b>.</p>	<p>Same as alternative C except: ORV and pedestrian corridors are provided, as appropriate around any resource related closure according to <b>TBD</b></p>	<p>Same as alternative C except: ORV and pedestrian corridors are provided, as appropriate around any resource related closure according to <b>TBD</b></p>

*Sandy, Better to provide no buffer rather than an inadequate buffer.*

E

<b>Permit Requirements</b>	No permits required.	Vehicle permit required.	Vehicle permit required.	Vehicle permit required.
<b>Permit Distribution</b>	n/a	Available at various locations	Available at various locations	Available at various locations
<b>Permit Issuance Requirements</b>	n/a	ORV owners must read the rules and regulations governing ORV use at the seashore and complete a written or online exam. The owner would sign for their permit in acknowledgement that they understand the rules and that all drivers will abide by the rules and regulations governing ORV use at the seashore, including beach driving safety, and resource closure requirements	ORV owners must sign for the permit in acknowledgement that they understand the rules and that all drivers will abide by the rules and regulations governing ORV use at the seashore, including beach driving safety, and resource closure requirements	Same as alternative C.
<b>Permit number limits</b>	n/a	No limit	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Permit types</b>	n/a	Annual and short-term permits available.	Annual permits would be available.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Permit fees</b>	n/a	Fees subject to cost recovery	None	Same as alternative C.
<b>Permit form</b>	n/a	Permit affixed to vehicle in a manner approved by the NPS.	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Permit Revocation</b>	n/a	A permit may be revoked for falsification of permit application; possession of a permit intended for another vehicle; major or gross violation of travel outside designated routes or areas or within closures; major violation of hunting or fishing regulations; intentional dumping of sewage or hazardous waste; any felony violations; driving while Under the Influence; alcohol violations; possession of a controlled substance, repeat offenders of three or more petty violations within the permit year; any other major violation that would constitute the improper use of the off-road vehicle use areas or the conditions of the permit, including a major violation of any park regulation.	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Vehicle Carrying Capacity Determination</b>	Vehicle carrying capacity would not be determined.	Carrying capacity would be established for overcrowded areas (to be determined) based on their linear feet of beachfront and the following physical space requirements: <i>Bodie Island Ranger District</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 260 vehicles/mile (20 feet per vehicle)</li> </ul> <i>Hatteras Island Ranger District</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 260 vehicles/mile (20 feet per vehicle)</li> </ul> <i>Ocracoke Island Ranger District</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 175 vehicles/mile (30 feet per vehicle)</li> </ul> <p>100</p>		Carrying capacity would be established for overcrowded areas (see below; more could be added) based on their linear feet of beachfront and the following physical space requirements: <i>Bodie Island Ranger District</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 260 vehicles/mile (20 feet per vehicle)</li> </ul> <i>Hatteras Island Ranger District</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 260 vehicles/mile (20 feet per vehicle)</li> </ul> <i>Ocracoke Island Ranger District</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <del>175</del> vehicles/mile (30 feet per vehicle)</li> </ul>

lower numbers?



<b>Seasonal Element related to Carrying Capacity</b>	n/a	<b>Year round enforcement.</b>	n/a	Only applicable Memorial Day weekend, 4 <sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day weekend, or other holiday deemed high use.
<b>Periodic Review of Carrying Capacity</b>	n/a	Every 2 years.	n/a	Every 2 years.
<b>Areas of Implementation</b>	n/a	To be determined based on need (unsafe overcrowding)	n/a	<b>Bodie Island Ranger District</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bodie Island Spit from Ramp 4</li> </ul> <b>Hatteras Island Ranger District</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cape Point, Ramp 44 to Ramp 45?</li> <li>Hatteras Island Spit from Pole Road</li> </ul> Other areas could be added if unsafe overcrowding occurs
<b>Vehicle Requirements</b>	All vehicles operating in area of the Seashore must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a valid vehicle registration, insurance, and license plate.</li> </ul> Vehicles must be street legal. ATVs and motorcycles prohibited from beach driving. Recommend "air down" of tires prior to driving on beach.	[Defer to reg-neg committee]	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Speed Limits</b>	25 mph (unless otherwise posted) on park beaches for public and private vehicles. Speed limit in front of villages during off season (September 16 – May 14) on park beaches posted at 10 mph. Emergency vehicles exempt when responding to a call.	15 mph, except Defer to reg-neg committee 10 mph in villages during off season	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Parking</b>	Parking is currently provided in 64 park-maintained park lots throughout the Seashore, totaling approximately 1,000 spaces.	Determine locations of new parking areas to be proposed as part of this alternative. Expand existing parking areas based on visitor use patterns and traffic studies. Expand parking at all ramps if possible. Seasonal services	Determine locations of new parking areas to be proposed as part of this alternative. Expand parking at Cape Point campground potentially closing half of Cape Point Campground to allow for more parking. Expand parking at Kite Point. Add parking at edge of villages	Determine locations of new parking areas to be proposed as part of this alternative. Add parking at edge of villages
<b>Alternative Transportation</b>	Alternative transportation is not provided at the Seashore.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Implement shuttle service between villages and parking areas to reduce need for additional parking.
<b>Waste Collection</b>	RV dump stations located near Oregon Inlet, Cape Point, and Ocracoke Campgrounds. Available when campgrounds are open. Small dumpsters provided at each ramp and maintained by private contractor.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A, but remove all dumpsters and implement a "pack-in/pack-out" policy.	Same as alternative A, plus provide trash bags at visitor centers for pack-in/pack-out.

~~AD~~ dismiss  
AD Non-ORV Issue

O

D

E

<b>Fish Cleaning Stations</b>	Provided at Buxton and Ocracoke.	Same as alternative A	No fish cleaning stations provided.	Same as alternative A, plus provide a fish grinder at (?). <i>Relocate fish cleaning station(s) away from access pts.</i>
<b>Restroom Facilities</b>	<i>Facilities at parking or access points?</i>			
<b>Pets</b>	Permitted on leash per 36 CFR 2.15. <i>Pets prohibited outside ORV area</i>	Apr 1 – Oct 1: Pets prohibited on the beach. <i>at spots &amp; Cape Pt./South Beach</i>	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A except pets prohibited in pedestrian corridors adjacent to resource closures.
<b>Beach Fires</b>	Permitted per 36 CFR 2.13.	Prohibited 10:00 PM – 6:00 AM.	Same as alternative A.	Permit required for any beach fires. Beach fires prohibited 12:00 AM – 6:00 AM.
<b>Beach Camping</b>	Prohibited per Superintendent's Compendium Section 2.10(a). ORVs allowed on beach overnight if someone associated with the vehicle is actively fishing.	Prohibited per Superintendent's Compendium Section 2.10(a). <i>Same as A</i>	Prohibited per Superintendent's Compendium Section 2.10(a). <i>Same as A</i>	Beach camping prohibited, except in designated areas and with tents or self-contained camping vehicles. Camping permits would be required. <i>Same as A.</i>
<b>Kites and Kiteboarding</b>	Flying of all types of kites is prohibited within 600 feet in or above any resource closure (Superintendent' Compendium 1.5(a)(2).	Same as alternative A, plus kites and kiteboards are prohibited at lifeguarded beaches.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A, plus: <del>Mar 15 and Aug 31: Kiteboarding, training kites, and recreational kites with two or more lines are prohibited from the beach. Single line recreational kites permitted during this time but not allowed within a 600 feet of any resource closures.</del>
<b>Staffing</b>				
<b>Materials</b>				

*Murray comments*

CAHA Draft ORV Use Areas Table 5.5.08

Oceanside Location	Mileage	Alternative A – No Action	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
Ramp 1 to Coquina Beach	0.9	OPEN YR (currently safety closure)	<i>Open April 1 - September 30</i> X	<del>OPEN YR</del> X	OPEN October 1 – February 28 <i>March 31</i>
Coquina Beach	0.3	X	OPEN October 1 – March 31 <i>March 31</i>	X	OPEN October 1 – February 28 <i>March 31</i> <i>if &gt; 100 ft. wide</i>
Coquina Beach (Ramp 2) to Oregon Inlet Campground	2.0	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR
Oregon Inlet Campground	0.3	OPEN YR	OPEN October 1 – March 31	X	OPEN When campground closed <i>Upper beach Pass thru when CG open</i>
Ramp 4 to end of Bodie Island Spit	2.2	OPEN YR	OPEN October 1 – March 31	X	OPEN YR subject to carrying capacity requirements
Rodanthe – Waves – Salvo village beaches	5.0	OPEN September 16 – May 14	OPEN October 1 – March 31	X	OPEN October 15 – April 15
Southern boundary of Salvo village to Ramp 27	4.6	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR
Ramp 27 – Ramp 30	2.2	OPEN YR	<i>open Oct 1 - March 31</i> close 2 mile section	X	<del>Open YR</del>
Ramp 30 – Avon village boundary	4.7	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR
Avon village beach	3.6	OPEN September 16 – May 14	OPEN October 1 – March 31 <i>if &gt; 100 ft. wide</i>	X	OPEN October 1 – February 28 <i>March 31</i> <i>if &gt; 100 ft. wide</i>
Ramp 38 to Haulover	1.6	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR
Haulover to Buxton line	2.2	OPEN YR (current safety closure from 1.8 miles south of Ramp 38 to 0.4 mile north of Ramp 43)	<i>close 1 mile section</i> X <i>April 1 - Sept - 30</i>	<del>OPEN YR</del> X	OPEN YR

CAHA Draft ORV Use Areas Table 5.5.08

		Alternative A – No Action	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
Oceanside Location	Mileage	ORV Use Areas (X = No ORV use permitted, YR = ORV permitted Year Round) All ORV use areas subject to temporary resource closures			
Buxton village beach	0.6	OPEN September 16 – May 14 (current safety closure)	Open <del>YR</del> Oct 1 – Mar 31 if ≥ 100 ft. wide	X	OPEN October 1 – February 28 March 31 if ≥ 100 ft. wide
Buxton to Lighthouse Beach	0.9	X (current safety closure)	Open Oct 1 – Mar 31 if ≥ 100 ft. wide	X	X
Lighthouse Beach	0.4	X (current admin closure)	Open Oct 1 – Mar 31 if ≥ 100 ft. wide	X	OPEN October 1 – February 28 March 31 if ≥ 100 ft. wide
Lighthouse Beach to Loran Rd (1/2 mi north of Ramp 43)	1.0	X (current admin closure)	X	OPEN YR	OPEN October 1 – February 28 March 31 (*)
Loran Rd. to Ramp 43	0.4	OPEN September 16 – May 14	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN October 1 – February 28 March 31 (*)
Ramp 43 – Ramp 44	0.4	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR subject to carrying capacity requirements
Ramp 44 – Ramp 45 <i>Cape Pt.</i>	2.0	OPEN YR	OPEN YR October 1 – March 31	OPEN YR (1 mile section)	OPEN YR subject to carrying capacity requirements
Ramp 45 to "Ramp 47" (end of Cape Point area?) <i>CP-R45 → 0.5 mi. west of Cape Pt. holds</i>	1.5	OPEN YR	OPEN October 1 – March 31 April – Sept. 30 close 1 mi section	X (1 mile section)	OPEN YR subject to carrying capacity requirements
"Ramp 47" to Frisco Campground	1.3	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR
Frisco Campground	0.4	OPEN YR	OPEN October 1 – March 31	X Open YR	OPEN when campground is closed upper beach pass through when open
Frisco Campground (Ramp 49) to Frisco Village Line	1.0	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	X

CAHA Draft ORV Use Areas Table 5.5.08

		Alternative A – No Action	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
Oceanside Location	Mileage	ORV Use Areas (X = No ORV use permitted, YR = ORV permitted Year Round) All ORV use areas subject to temporary resource closures			
Frisko village beach	1.0	OPEN September 16 – May 14 (current safety closure)	Open Oct - Mar 31 if ≥ 100 ft. wide	X	Same as C OPEN October 1 – February 28 if ≥ 100 ft. wide
Frisko Day Use Area to Hatteras Village line	1.5	OPEN YR (current safety closure)	Open Oct - Mar 31 if ≥ 100 ft. wide	OPEN YR open year	OPEN October 1 – February 28 (*)
Hatteras Village Beach	2.1	OPEN September 16 – May 14	OPEN October 1 – March 31 if ≥ 100 ft. wide	X	OPEN October 1 – February 28 if ≥ 100 ft. wide
Ramp 55 along ocean beach to southern ext of Pole Road	2.2	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR
Southern exit of Pole Road to Hatteras Inlet along ocean shoreline	0.9	OPEN YR	OPEN October 1 – March 31	X	OPEN YR subject to carrying capacity requirements
Pole Road from NC-12 to Spur Road	2.3	OPEN YR	OPEN YR (overwash fence) except for 1/2 mile around Goose Creek Road only open October 1 – March 31	OPEN YR	OPEN YR
Spur Road to Hatteras Inlet (soundside)	0.5	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	X	OPEN YR subject to carrying capacity requirements
Terminus of Spur Road at Hatteras Spit to end of Hatteras Inlet Spit (soundside)	0.8	OPEN YR	OPEN October 1 – March 31	X	OPEN YR subject to carrying capacity requirements
North Ocracoke Spit to Ramp 59	0.7	OPEN YR	OPEN October 1 – March 31	X	OPEN YR subject to carrying capacity requirements
Ramp 59 to NC-12 MP 64	0.3	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR subject to carrying capacity requirement
NC-12 MP 64 to Pony Pens Area	5.5	OPEN YR (current safety closure)	X	OPEN YR	X
Pony Pens Area to Ramp 67	2.0	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR

CAHA Draft ORV Use Areas Table 5.5.08

		Alternative A – No Action	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
Oceanside Location	Mileage	ORV Use Areas (X = No ORV use permitted, YR = ORV permitted Year Round) All ORV use areas subject to temporary resource closures			
Ramp 67 to Ocracoke Campground	0.9	OPEN September 16 – May 14	OPEN October 1 – March 31 (except for ¼ mile south of Ramp 67 is OPEN YR)	OPEN YR	OPEN October 1 – <del>February 28</del> <i>Mar 31</i> (except for ¼ mile south of Ramp 67 is OPEN YR) (*)
Ocracoke Campground	0.3	OPEN September 16 – May 14	OPEN October 1 – March 31	X	OPEN when campground is closed
Ocracoke Campground (Ramp 68) to Ocracoke Beach	1.6	OPEN September 16 – May 14	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	X
Ocracoke Beach/Ocracoke Day Use Area	1.0	OPEN September 16 – May 14	OPEN October 1 – March 31	X	X
Ocracoke Beach (Ramp 70) – Ramp 72	1.8	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR
Ramp 72 to north end of South Point Ocracoke	0.6	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	X	OPEN YR
South Point Ocracoke	0.5	OPEN YR	OPEN October 1 – March 31	X	OPEN YR Subject to carrying capacity requirements

(\*) under alternative E - ORV pass-through corridors provided during seasonal closure periods

Approximate Mileage Summary	A	C	D	E
Year round VFA		16.2	27.8	12.2
Seasonal VFA		22.8	0	18.5**
Year round open to all		27.0	38.2	35.3
Total	66.0	66.0	66.0	66.0

\*\* 4.5 miles of ORV corridors exist within the seasonal VFA for ALT-E

CAHA Draft ORV Use Areas Table 5.5.08

Oceanside Location	Mileage	Alternative A – No Action	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
		ORV Use Areas (X = No ORV use permitted, YR = ORV permitted Year Round) All ORV use areas subject to temporary resource closures			
Ramp 1 to Coquina Beach	0.9	OPEN YR (currently safety closure)	X	OPEN YR	OPEN October 1 – February 28
Coquina Beach	0.3	X	OPEN October 1 – March 31	X	OPEN October 1 – February 28
Coquina Beach (Ramp 2) to Oregon Inlet Campground	2.0	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR
Oregon Inlet Campground	0.3	OPEN YR	OPEN October 1 – March 31	X	OPEN When campground closed (*)
Ramp 4 to end of Bodie Island Spit	2.2	OPEN YR	OPEN October 1 – March 31	X	OPEN YR subject to carrying capacity requirements
Rodanthe – Waves – Salvo village beaches	5.0	OPEN September 16 – May 14	OPEN October 1 – March 31	X	OPEN October 15 – April 15
Southern boundary of Salvo village to Ramp 27	4.6	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR
Ramp 27 – Ramp 30	2.2	OPEN YR	X	X	X
Ramp 30 – Avon village boundary	4.7	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR
Avon village beach	3.6	OPEN September 16 – May 14	OPEN October 1 – March 31	X	OPEN October 1 – February 28
Ramp 38 to Haulover	1.6	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR	OPEN YR
Haulover to Buxton line	2.2	OPEN YR (current safety closure from 1.8 miles south of Ramp 38 to 0.4 mile north of Ramp 43)	X	OPEN YR	OPEN YR