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From: [PAMELA SMITH](#)
To: Mary_Bomar@nps.gov
Cc: Mike_Murray@nps.gov; webteam@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Beach Closures - Cape Hatteras National Seashore Park
Date: 05/12/2008 07:45 PM

Dear Ms. Bomar:

This letter addresses the current situation at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Park. It is with great anger and offense, as an American taxpayer that I read daily of increased beach closures and increased limited access to the beaches in this park which are some of the most famous in our country.

Your website states three over-reaching goals for the NPS. One is to re-engage the American people with their national parks. This is a difficult goal to achieve if those currently using the national parks and those who discover what our country has to offer find their access to park lands blocked due to unfair and unnecessary closures and buffers.

Your second goal is to increase capacity of the system. The only way that the current activity at Cape Hatteras can be interpreted is to realize a decrease in the park's capacity as less beach area is available to my family and thousands of others than ever before. The upcoming Memorial Day weekend will magnify that problem as not only is beach access severely restricted, there is inadequate parking for those that are unable to access the beaches by vehicle, if that was their choice.

The mission statement of the Department of Interior states a commitment to island communities. The severe economic consequences to the good people of the Outer Banks of North Carolina that will result from unnecessary and prolonged beach closures does not support any measure of commitment by the DOI to these island communities. The DOI goals also state a responsibility to sustain a dynamic economy. This will not result under the current status quo.

As a tax paying American citizen, I am offended and angered by the inadequate defense and ultimate settlement, via the one-sided consent decree, which was provided by the NPS and the DOI in the recent lawsuit brought by environmental groups. The goals of the DOI state they will provide "recreation opportunities for America". The subsequent handling of the lawsuit and the agreement to the consent decree has created a situation where "recreation opportunities" to American citizens and visitors have been denied by the handling of this matter.

Now we are faced with a situation where this unfair unilateral consent decree will govern activity in the park for up to possibly three years. This is another atrocity on the American public. It is time our government, which in this situation is your department, stepped forward and provided a full and proper defense, representing the true interests of the American public, developing a fair and equitable ORV plan in a prompt and timely manner.

Sincerely,

Bill Smith
215 Walnut Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22911