

0021436

**From:** [Mike Murray](#)  
**To:** [Cyndy Holda](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: "Press Release: NPS Implements Seasonal ORV Closures on May 15"  
**Date:** 05/16/2008 11:56 AM

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I think it is okay to say we appreciate her concerns and explain that the consent decree provides for increased resource protection requirements until the long-term ORV management plan and regulation can be developed. As a result, significant portions of beach that have been open in the past have now been abruptly closed to both pedestrian and ORV access during the breeding season, without NPS having the opportunity to develop adequate parking or other alternative option for beach access. The adjustments identified in the recent press release are short-term in nature, will be evaluated annually until the ORV management plan, which will include a full analysis of beach access parking and alternative forms of access, can be completed.

See if we can add her name to the ORV management mailing list, since we are interested in hearing all points of view.

Mike Murray  
Superintendent  
Cape Hatteras NS/ Wright Brothers NMem/ Ft. Raleigh NHS  
(w) 252-473-2111, ext. 148  
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▼ [Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Cyndy  
Holda/CAHA/NPS**

To: Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS  
cc

05/16/2008 10:23 AM

Subject: Fw: "Press Release: NPS Implements Seasonal ORV Closures on May 15"

Mike,  
I'm hesitant to put anything in writing as far as a response goes.....not knowing who this lady is, etc.  
Would you want me to call her and try and explain the "pressure valve" concept? with the upcoming busy, holiday ahead of us?

Cyndy M. Holda  
Assistant to the Superintendent &  
Community Liaison  
Cape Hatteras NS/Fort Raleigh NHS/Wright Brothers NM

0021437

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Email: cyndy\_holda@nps.gov

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----- Forwarded by Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS on 05/16/2008 11:22 AM -----

**Kristin Hawkins**  
<khawkins@pcparch.com>

To: Cyndy\_Holda@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: RE: "Press Release: NPS  
Implements Seasonal ORV Closures on May 15"

05/16/2008 10:41 AM AST

Dear Ms. Holda,

I am dismayed to see that the ORV closure adjacent to Coquina Beach has been adjusted to allow MORE beach area to be ruined by ORV access. It is disturbing that increased ORV intrusion would be allowed so close to a beach area that is defined by lifeguards and the bath house. In other words, a beach area that has been established to serve beach goers, not an unmarked part of the park beach area.

I have been going to Cape Hatteras beaches since the 1970s, first as a resident of Virginia Beach, and now with my own family on a yearly basis, driving from our home in Connecticut. In my observations most of the people who drive their vehicles on the beach in this particular area, Coquina Beach, are not fishermen plying their trade. Instead, they are thrill seekers who are interested in driving on the beach simply because they can, spewing fumes and often driving at high speeds past beachgoers, including children. Or they are people too lazy to park their vehicles in designated parking areas and walk a few yards to the beach.

The visual and sensory beauty of the beach is destroyed by the sight of these vehicles parked and driving on the beach, and the deep ruts that they leave in the sand. Moreover, in today's climate of understanding and working towards the protection and conservation of our natural resources it is shocking that the National Park Service would agree to allow more of this beautiful beach to be spoiled by motor vehicles.

I am appalled that the Park Service could be so insensitive to the resource it is bound to protect.

Sincerely,  
Kristin Hawkins

Kristin Hawkins  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Cyndy\_Holda@nps.gov [mailto:Cyndy\_Holda@nps.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2008 2:35 PM  
To: undisclosed-recipients:  
Subject: "Press Release: NPS Implements Seasonal ORV Closures on May 15"

(See attached file: 051408AnnualSeasVillageClosuresA.doc)

National Park Service News Release  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 14, 2008  
CONTACT: 252-473-2111 ext. 148

#### NPS Implements Seasonal ORV Closures on May 15

Superintendent Mike Murray announced that the annual seasonal closures of village beaches to off-road vehicle (ORV) use within the National Seashore will go into affect on Thursday, May 15, 2008. The ORV closures are established in village beach areas that receive heavy pedestrian use, including areas adjacent to Coquina Beach and the villages of Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands. "These closures provide for the safety of all beach users and minimize user conflicts in congested areas during the busy summer season," said Superintendent Murray.

The seasonally closed areas are identified by signs at both ends of the area, at all other vehicle access points to the area, and on maps available for viewing at the offices of the Superintendent, each District Ranger station, at each Visitor Center and at all other public contact stations. High numbers of visitors and village residents often enjoy these areas by swimming, sunbathing, walking, shell hunting, and engaging in family activities. To ensure a safe visit for everyone, visitors are reminded to keep dogs on leashes and pack in/pack out all trash. Swimmers should be aware of rough surf conditions and the potential for rip currents. Fireworks are not permitted on National Seashore beaches.

Due to the current level of resource closures that have been implemented under the consent decree, NPS is slightly adjusting, where appropriate, some of the seasonal ORV closures to provide more space to accommodate ORV beach access adjacent to village beaches.

The seasonal closures apply to the following areas:

Bodie Island, Ramp 1 to 0.1 of a mile south of Ramp 2 is closed. (i.e., Coquina Beach). (In past years, the ORV closure extended 0.6 of a mile south of Coquina Beach; adjustment opens 0.5 of a mile to ORV use).

Hatteras Island, beach areas fronting the villages of Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo and Avon.

Hatteras Island, beach from the north boundary of Buxton to 0.4 miles north of Ramp 43 is closed. (In past years, the ORV closure extended to Ramp 43. \*Note: Access north of Ramp 43 is currently blocked due to a resource closure for shorebird breeding activity. Once the bird nesting season is completed, this adjustment would open an additional 0.4 of a mile to ORV use).

Hatteras Island, beach fronting the villages of Frisco and Hatteras.

Ocracoke Island, the safety closure north of Ramp 67 has been reduced by 0.4 of a mile. The safety closure now begins 1.4 miles north of Ramp 67 and ends 1.0 miles south Ramp 59; \*\*\* Note: There is resource protection area to the north end of the this safety closure. (The total safety closure distance is 4.8 miles.)

Ocracoke Island, beach from Ramp 67 to Ramp 68 is closed for 0.9 of a mile. The seasonal closure in front of the Ocracoke Campground begins 0.6 of a mile south of Ramp 67 to Ramp 68; this adjustment opens 0.4 of a mile to ORV use. (In past years, it began 0.2 of a mile south of Ramp 67.)

Ocracoke Island, beach south of Ramp 68 (adjacent/south of the Campground and historically has been closed as part of a seasonal closure) is now open for 0.3 of a mile; this adjustment opens 0.3 of a mile to ORV use.

The one safety closure adjustment would be:

Hatteras Island, the safety closure south of Ramp 38 will be reduced 0.2 of a mile towards Buxton; this adjustment opens 0.2 of a mile for ORV use.

Although access to popular spits and the Cape Point area is currently restricted because of temporary resource closures implemented under the consent decree, ORV and pedestrian access remains open at many locations throughout the National Seashore. The weekly Beach Access Report contains current information regarding access routes and closures. Alternative access routes will be used to keep ORV and pedestrian access open whenever possible. The park will continue to monitor and adjust existing safety and resource closures and ORV and pedestrian access corridors, as necessary.

0021439

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