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CAHA # 1756

CONVERSATION

Date 6/16/2008 Time 4:40 PM

RECORD 

Name: Gary Rosenlieb

Organization: National Park Service (Chief of Water Operations)

Phone: 970-225-3518

RE: Cape Hatteras Water Quality Impact Topic

I spoke with Gary Rosenlieb today about the water resources impact topic associated with the Cape Hatteras ORV Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. I explained that the only potential water quality issues noted by park staff were the occasional vehicle submersion (staff estimated an average of twice a year) and the creation of tire ruts on the beach and how that could impact drainage patterns and result in an increase in channelized pollutant flow. I described that park staff believed that submerged vehicles and rutting posed no real threat to water quality and that the impact topic might be dismissed from further consideration in the EIS. I informed him that we thought it would be prudent to take this issue to a higher level within the park service for assistance. I explained that we would like his opinion on whether or not these two potential water quality issues would result in anything greater than "negligible" impacts. Mr Rosenlieb indicated that he was not concerned with the water quality impacts of occasional vehicle submersions as long as the vehicles were removed from the water in a timely fashion. He also did not believe that tire ruts in the sand would contribute to water quality issues. Mr. Rosenlieb agreed that tire ruts and infrequent vehicle submersions (as long as the vehicle was removed in a timely fashion) would not rise above the level of negligible impacts to water quality and that this impact topic could be dismissed from further analysis in the EIS/ORV Management Plan. Mr. Rosenlieb expressed serious concern regarding the potential impacts on foredune erosion caused by ORV's driving on them and causing ruts. I explained that impacts to dunes and beaches would be addressed under Geologic Resources, which was an impact topic that was being carried forward for analysis in the EIS.

Written by Doug Wetmore (environmental planner)