

From: [Craig Thatcher](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#)
Subject: Re: info request
Date: 08/14/2008 04:52 PM

Mike,

It's nice to hear from you. I wanted to start by apologizing for the length of time it's taken me to respond.

I hope all is going well with you and family. We'll be in your neighborhood between 08/24 -30 enjoying the warm water.

Paul Fulcher doesn't have any set formulas for determining the numbers of vehicles allowed on sections of the beach. He has a maximum number of 200 vehicles allowed on the north beach - order of condition. He will set numbers lower than the 200 limit when there are bird closures. He'll set numbers based mostly on beach width and length. The beach director can also let additional vehicles on based on his visual observations on any specific day.

At the present time he has two numbers set for the south beach and that is 300 for ORV's and 50 for SCV's. No maximum ceiling is set for the south beach. He sets the numbers based on visual observation.

I've seen an ORV formula for calculating vehicle numbers. I haven't seen it used, but I'll try and track it down.

Craig Thatcher - North District Ranger
Cape Cod National Seashore
508-487-2100 ext. 107
▼ [Mike Murray](#)

**Mike
Murray**

To: Craig Thatcher/CACO/NPS@NPS
cc:
Subject: info request

08/01/2008
11:11 AM
EST

Hi Craig,

I hope you are having a good summer. Elizabeth and the kids passed through Cape Cod last week, saw Kim and heard you have been the acting CR. Congratulations! I'm sure that means you are having a very busy summer.

I am in the thick of ORV planning, negotiated rulemaking and implementing the consent decree that settled the lawsuit over ORV use hear. One issue we are trying to come up with some ideas for in the long-term plan is how to deal with carrying capacity. We definitely want to avoid establishing a limit on permit, but do have some site specific crowding problems (during peak use periods, holiday

weekends, etc.) that we need to have a methodology for managing those situations.

I understand that Orleans has a method for determining the use limit at Nauset Beach and maybe it is based on some kind of a formula or measures. I've checked the internet for information and all I can find are their ORV rules and regulations that say "The maximum number of ORVs allowed on the beach at any one time shall be set each year and may be changed depending on prevailing conditions and the amount of usable beach." I am interested in knowing their approach since it may be something we could use here when we have site-specific crowding.

Would you be familiar with how Orleans determines or calculates the maximum number of vehicles they will allow on the beach? If not, would you consider contacting Paul Fulcher (not sure he'd remember me) to find out how they do it and send me a brief description of it?

Any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated!

Mike Murray
Superintendent
Cape Hatteras NS/ Wright Brothers NMem/ Ft. Raleigh NHS
(w) 252-473-2111, ext. 148
(c) 252-216-5520
fax 252-473-2595

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This message is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is proprietary, privileged or confidential or otherwise legally exempt from disclosure.