

From: [Britta Muiznieks](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#)
Cc: [Doug McGee](#)
Subject: Re: Fw: Re: Fw: review of CAHA Cape Point suggestions
Date: 09/26/2008 09:17 AM

A narrow corridor would not be feasible because of the tidal fluctuations in this area. For example, we can easily get a 20 m (or more) difference between high and low tides. The current "winter closure" (our current closure is not a true "winter closure" but a "No ORV Zone") is approximately 100 m from the most recent **low** tide line that Abra has in GIS. I don't recommend moving that back for the pre-nesting closure but rather leaving it in place. Figuring out exactly where it currently is (XX meters from the mean high tide line) is quite arbitrary since we don't have an accurate way of measuring the mean high tide line.

FYI. Tim Pinion's comments were deleted from the email so I was only able to comment on what was said in the emails.

Britta Muiznieks
Wildlife Biologist
Cape Hatteras National Seashore

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252-475-8348-**Cell**
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▼ [Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Mike
Murray/CAHA/NPS**

09/25/2008 09:32 PM

To: Doug McGee/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc: Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS
Subject: Fw: Re: Fw: review of CAHA Cape Point suggestions

Doug or Britta,

Your thoughts about Tim's idea? My impression is that if we start with a very narrow 15 m corrdior on the east side of Cape Point it is far MORE likely to close earlier than if we started with a wider corridor (e.g., 100m), that would allow for some incremental buffer expansion before the corridor would have to be closed. What do you think?

Mike Murray
Superintendent
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-----Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 09/25/2008 09:27PM -----

To: Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS
From: Timothy Pinion/Atlanta/NPS
Date: 09/25/2008 02:40PM
cc: Sherri Fields/Atlanta/NPS@NPS, cherry_green@nps.gov
Subject: Re: Fw: review of CAHA Cape Point suggestions

Thanks for the additional details, Mike. The draft suggestions indicated that the current corridor was approximately 33m. It seems that the narrower corridor (33m versus 100m) would be less likely to be impacted by expanded buffers around bird nests --- the narrower corridor being a smaller "target."

Would considering a narrower minimum vehicle corridor, 15m for example, improve the chances that the corridor wouldn't be impacted by a bird buffer while still allowing for safe vehicle passage?

--Tim

Tim Pinion
Wildlife Biologist and T & E Coordinator
National Park Service, Southeast Region
100 Alabama St., SW. 1924 Bldg.
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-562-3113 ext 512
Timothy_Pinion@nps.gov

Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS

**Mike
Murray/CAHA/NPS**

09/15/2008 09:26 AM

To Timothy
Pinion/Atlanta/NPS@NPS

cc Sherri
Fields/Atlanta/NPS@NPS

Subject Fw: review of CAHA Cape
Point suggestions

Tim,

Thanks for your comments. They are helpful.

The idea behind the 100 m starting width for an ORV corridor on the east side of Cape Point is based on the understanding that the west side of the Point would be completely closed for the duration of the breeding season. In order to increase the chances of the east side access corridor remaining open longer, the greater starting width would allow for several buffer expansions, if CWB nest in that area, before a buffer would shut down access. What happened this year under the consent decree, was that as soon as a few least terns started to gather about 90 m from the waterline, the 100 m buffer requirement shut down all access. We've had several scientists, Michael Erwin of USGS and Dave Allen of NC WRC, say that during incubation vehicles driving a distance by a nest site (without stopping and getting out of the vehicle) are less disturbing than pedestrians walking by at the same distance and can be approached through monitoring and adaptive management.

In any case, since Cape Point is a key access area as well as breeding site, the thought is to start with a wider access corridor width on the east side (the only access option) to allow for several buffer expansions to occur, if needed, rather than set ourselves up that the very first buffer expansion would automatically close the only access route. In addition, seek to enhance CWB nesting habitat a little further west of the site (which is where the CWB ultimately nested this year, after their first attempt was overwashed).

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----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 09/15/2008 08:12 AM ---
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**Sherri
Fields/Atlanta/NPS**

To Mike_Murray@nps.gov

09/12/2008 11:50
AM

cc Sandra
Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS,

0022050

Thayer_Broili@nps.gov,
Timothy_Pinion@nps.gov,
cherry_green@nps.gov

Subject Fw: review of CAHA Cape
Point suggestions

Mike-
See Tim's feedback in the attachment with his email. Let us know if you need something more.

Sherri

Sherri L. Fields, Chief
Science & Natural Resources Division
Southeast Regional Office
National Park Service
(404) 562-3113, ext 517

----- Forwarded by Sherri Fields/Atlanta/NPS on 09/12/2008 12:49 PM -----

**Timothy
Pinion/Atlanta/NPS**

09/12/2008 11:06
AM

To Sherri_Fields@nps.gov

cc Cherry
Green/Atlanta/NPS@NPS

Subject review of CAHA Cape Point
suggestions

Hi, Sherri.

As requested, here are a few thoughts on the document described below.

--Tim

[attachment "NegReg_Cape Point Nat Res 9-3-08_comments.doc" deleted by Timothy Pinion/Atlanta/NPS]

Tim Pinion
Wildlife Biologist and T & E Coordinator
National Park Service, Southeast Region
100 Alabama St., SW. 1924 Bldg.
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-562-3113 ext 512
Timothy_Pinion@nps.gov

Cherry Green/Atlanta/NPS

**Cherry
Green/Atlanta/NPS**

To Timothy
Pinion/Atlanta/NPS@NPS

09/11/2008 06:52
AM

cc

Subject Fw: Natural Resources

Tim,

Could you look over the attached **CAHA Off-Road Driving Regulatory Negotiation** developed as a part of the Reg Negotiations for the CAHA ORV Plan? Mike Murray wanted our comments by Friday, August 12 and apparently Sherri just discovered the request for review in her stack of e.mail messages from last week when she was on annual leave. Just let me know if you can provide any comments to Mike, and if you need until Monday Sept. 15 we can send Mike an e.mail asking for an extra day to review.

Thanks,

Cherry Green
Chief, Natural Resource Management
and Regional Wetlands Ecologist
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(770) 480-3245 cell

----- Forwarded by Cherry Green/Atlanta/NPS on 09/11/2008 06:48 AM -----

**Sherri
Fields/Atlanta/NPS**

To cherry_green@nps.gov

09/10/2008 04:26
PM

cc

Subject Fw: Natural Resources



Cherry-
Could you please ask Tim to take a look at this and send me some comments back? Please note Mike was hoping for feedback by the end of this week. (I apologize for the short turn around but I'm still digging through emails from last week.)

Thanks,
Sherri

Sherri L. Fields, Chief
Science & Natural Resources Division
Southeast Regional Office
National Park Service
(404) 562-3113, ext 517

----- Forwarded by Sherri Fields/Atlanta/NPS on 09/10/2008 04:23 PM -

**Mike
Murray/CAHA/NPS**

09/05/2008 09:17 AM

To Sherri
Fields/Atlanta/NPS@NPS

cc Sandra
Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS,
Thayer
Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS

Subject Fw: Natural Resources

Hi Sherri,

Would you please have someone take a look at the attached Cape Point proposal and give us some feedback on it by the end of next week.

As background: The draft is for discussion purposes only (an effort to think out of the box and get people off their entrenched positions); and nobody including NPS has committed to it. David Rabon, Dave Allen, and Walker Golder, among others, are on the subcommittee. There are a few unconventional ideas in it (some put in there by me to generate discussion), including some of which may not jive well with NPS policy. Would appreciate comments about the appropriateness and potential effectiveness of such ideas. Some of the ideas for managing least terns (enhancing nesting substrate, chick fencing, use of decoys to attract terns to the enhanced nesting substrate, etc.) come from methods used on California least terns, a federally listed endangered population.

Thank you,

Mike Murray
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----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 09/05/2008 08:03 AM -----

**Cyndy
Holda/CAHA/NPS**

To

09/05/2008 07:16
AM

cc

Subject Fw: Natural Resources

To: Reg Neg Committee Members
From: CBI
Subject: Natural Resources document

Here's the natural resources piece to send to the committee. Hope all are holding up under the weather down there.

PAT

[attachment "NatResc9-4.pdf" deleted by Timothy Pinion/Atlanta/NPS]