

Bodie Island Spit Alternative.DRAFT.092908
****DRAFT DELIBERATIVE DOCUMENT****

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ORV Management Alternative E for Bodie Island Spit

GOAL

- Protect natural resources and maintain some sort of access to Bodie Island Spit, to the greatest extent possible, year-round.

DEFINITION OF AREA

- Bodie Island Spit is defined as from miles south of Ramp 4, and from that point south to the inlet. The spit includes the ocean, inlet and sound (including bait pond) shorelines and all the land in between.

MEASURES

- Designate Bodie Island Spit as a “restricted access” ORV area from March 15 to August 31. Entire area is closed to ORV use during this period, except for a designated ORV access corridor running more or less along the ocean shoreline to the inlet. (Exact terminus and configuration of access corridor TBD by NPS resources management staff based on an annual habitat assessment).
- By March 15, establish prenesting closure and modify access corridor from the non-breeding season configuration. The corridor would be no more than 33 m wide above the intertidal zone at most locations. Adjacent to recent (i.e., in past three years) CWB and PIPL nesting areas, there would be an ORV “pass through” zone approximately 20 m wide located above the intertidal zone. Exact location and width of the “pass through” zone to be determined by NPS Resources Management staff based on an annual habitat assessment and observed bird activity.
- Stopping, parking, or disembarking passengers, and pedestrians and pets would be prohibited in the pass-through zone.
- Once the access corridor, including pass-through zone, is established, it will not be significantly modified or relocated to accommodate access, expect for minor adjustments that do not affect park resources.
- During the breeding season, follow SM2 monitoring procedures.
- PIPL: Implement prescribed buffers as needed for breeding activity, nesting and unfledged chicks. If breeding adult PIPLs forage outside of the established resource closure(s), adjust buffers and reduce access corridor as needed to protect foraging sites.
- AMOY and CWB prenesting and nesting: Within or along the ORV pass-through corridor provide a minimum 75 m buffer for AMOY, 50 m buffer for CWB, and daily monitoring of observed pre-nesting and nesting behavior for non-listed species. Close access corridor, including pass-through zone, if needed to implement or maintain prescribed buffers (including those identified above), or to otherwise protect park resources.
- PIPL, AMOY and CWB chicks: Follow prescribed buffer distances for unfledged chicks of all species.
- Pedestrians, as well as ORVs, are prohibited in resource closures.
- Boat access: Once the prenesting area and access corridor are established, designate and post boat landing zone (“drop-off”) near inlet that could be used to drop off pedestrians if/when

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inlet shoreline is not otherwise closed to protect park resources. NPS to encourage water shuttle for this purpose; however, drop-off point is subject to closure on short notice if needed to protect park resources.

- No pets allowed at Bodie Island Spit during this period, regardless of how they get there (e.g., ORV, boat, etc.).
- All access at Bodie Island Spit (whether by ORV, boat, etc.) is restricted to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7 p.m. from March 15 – August 31.
- Once chicks have hatched, allow pedestrian access along ocean shoreline access corridor if possible to maintain buffers for unfledged chicks of the respective species as described in SM2 (PIPL: 1000 m for two weeks, then 200 m; and 200 m for AMOY and CWB).
- Reopen the area for access as described in the SM2 resource protection measures.
- NPS retains the right to impose further restrictions than described above if necessary for resource protection.

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HABITAT ASSESSMENT

- Conduct annual habitat assessment of Cape Point interior (i.e., west of the access corridor) to determine best available site for targeted CWB nesting habitat enhancement prior to the breeding season, which may include:
 - Improvement of CWB nesting substrate (shell, cobble, etc.) by introducing or relocating shell/cobble and disbursing it across the site.
 - Use CWB decoys and audio-attraction to help establish colony at the targeted site.
- Develop adaptive management objectives and conduct monitoring/research to determine effects of management actions described above (access corridor, chick fencing and habitat enhancement). After analysis, modify measures if needed, to meet objectives and improve results.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

- In general, rely on natural processes to create and maintain nesting and foraging habitat, except for the following:
 - Develop a plan to improve habitat and wildlife access to available habitat in the dredge pond area. The objective would be to develop a self-sustaining system to the extent possible that would not be dependent upon heavy duty annual manipulation by the NPS. The most desirable approach would be to create a “system” that connects the dredge pond to the beach environment south of the dredge pond and allows for natural processes such as overwash and fluctuations in water level to set back or slow plant succession and maintain early successional nesting habitat as well as MOSH for foraging. Options could include: modifying the landscape to allow inter-connectivity of the westerly end of the dredge pond with the upper beach south of it; and shaping the landscape to create ephemeral pools on the upper beach that are directly connected to the dredge pond water supply.

INTERDUNAL ROAD

- The interdunal road should be maintained and open for two-way traffic.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS FOR ACCESS

- Open Ramp 45 from campground during off-season? As needed? Not at all?
- Open parking area at Ramp 45 during the off-season.
- Develop a pedestrian access route to the dredge pond with suitable nearby parking to facilitate access for bird watching enthusiasts.
- Expand parking at Ramp 43 and provide toilets in an appropriate site nearby. (*The Ramp 43 parking area is subject to overwash and flooding and may not be an appropriate site for toilets.*)
- Increase the width of pavement in the approach to Ramp 44 for airing down.
- Improve the design/construction of Ramp 44 (west of the dune crossing) to increase usability and reliability of the access route during wet or flooded conditions.