

From: [Cyndy Holda](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#)
Subject: Fw: From NPS.gov: Off road vehicle use at Ocracoke
Date: 10/14/2008 09:35 AM

FYI

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----- Forwarded by Cathey Clawson/CAHA/NPS on 10/14/2008 08:25 AM -----

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10/13/2008 12:56 PM

To caha_information@nps.gov

cc

Subject From NPS.gov: Off road vehicle use at Ocracoke

Email submitted from: /caha/contacts.htm

I understand that you are continuing to look at the question of giving ORV access to the beaches at Ocracoke and other parts of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. I visit Ocracoke regularly but have not been able to get to any of the meetings on this subject so would like to provide some input in this fashion. I am extremely grateful to whoever has limited access to the seashore for ORV vehicles! The number of ORVs that were accessing the beach before these restrictions were put into effect had been growing incrementally in recent years and had affected the aesthetic experience of being at the beach but, even more importantly, had threatened the ability of the birds, turtles and other living things using the beach to carry on their reproduction cycles in a sustaining way. I know that I have stayed away from the beaches at times because of this. One of the pleasures of visiting the Ocracoke beaches was the undeveloped aspect of the beaches there. Seeing lines of ORVs parked at the beach did not enhance this experience. Instead it made me feel like I was at Daytona Beach. I realize that area businesses are complaining about the loss of business as a result of the restrictions. What they do not mention is that the island was already losing business from those of us who did not want to go to beaches where we shared space with ORVs. Surely the business we provided was just as important and vital as the business the ORV owners provided. Also the loss of business from the ORV owners could also be just as much due to the high price of gas and the fact that the poor economy is keeping people from traveling as much on their vacations. But finally the most compelling reason to restrict access to the beaches is because the birds, turtles and other creatures using the beach to build nests and to reproduce have no more alternatives if the beaches become inhospitable to them. The whole point of having such national seashores is to give these creatures a space where they can reproduce that is relatively free from human interference. Where else will they go to reproduce that has not

been affected by development? Are we willing to say that we can live without these creatures in our world? I would urge you to continue to restrict the ORV access and to put the reproductive needs of the birds, turtles, etc. above the needs of a few lazy fishermen who can't walk a short distance from a parking lot with their gear. After all these fishermen still have the option of getting on boats to access the same fishing areas.