

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: [Darrell Echols](#)
Subject: Re: Pedestrian/Turtle Closure Policy
Date: 10/17/2008 12:40 PM

Sounds okay to me, if you think it is workable in terms of carsonite post maintenance.

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**Darrell
Echols/CAHA/NPS**

10/17/2008 11:01 AM

To: Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc: Bill Caswell/CAHA/NPS@NPS, John
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Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Michelle
Baker/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Doug McGee/CAHA/NPS@NPS
Subject: Pedestrian/Turtle Closure Policy

Mike,

We had a conference call on 10/14 with Doug, Michelle, Thayer, Jon Anglin, John McCutcheon, Bill Caswell, and Paul to develop a park policy that manages pedestrians walking in front of turtle closures. We suggest the following:

Background:

Sea turtle closures are installed between the nest and the waters edge by using fencing along the dry portions of the beach and marking the intertidal area to the low tide mark with carsonite posts prohibiting ORV and pedestrian traffic in front of the turtle closure. Carsonite posts are routinely washed away by high tides and require daily maintenance.

Enforcing a citation for a closure violation resulting from a pedestrian walking in the water is difficult since the park's boundary is based on a tide mark that cannot be easily determined in the field. The Assistant

US Attorney's office is reluctant to prosecute these cases if the park is not positively certain that the violation occurred within the park.

Issue:

Pedestrians can always walk around a closure wither from behind or by entering the water and remaining in the water until they pass the closure; however, pedestrians routinely walk in front of sea turtle closures along the shoreline between the high and low tide marks despite signage. Pedestrians sometimes enter closures by walking from the tide line towards the dunes and occasionally walk across incubating nests despite signage that identifies these areas as being closed. Pedestrian activity occurs during both daytime and nighttime hours and staff have documented intensive foot paths and holes dug in front of closures that may impede sea turtle hatchlings from reaching the water.

Solution:

Staff suggest that closures be installed as follows:

- fencing from the nest to the high tide mark on dry sand
- a post installed at the high tide mark that includes a sign prohibiting ORVs and pedestrian traffic within the closure
- red carsonite posts installed from the high tide mark to a point roughly 1/2 way between the low and high tide marks
- brown carsonite posts installed to the low tied mark
- string and signage installed across the opening of the closure

This is a slight modification of what John proposed last week. Staff will still need to manage the posts and carsonites daily by replacing signs washed away by the tide; however, signage would be better to help prevent pedestrians from entering the closure from the water.

Pedestrians would walk in a narrow corridor near the low tide mark, but ORVs would be prohibited. Turtles should be better protected. Let me know what you think.

Darrell

Darrell L. Echols
Deputy Superintendent

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