

From: [Doug McGee](#)
To: [Thayer Broili](#)
Cc: [Mike Murray](#); [Darrell Echols](#); [Margaret Carfioli](#)
Subject: Re: Fw: Action items for Natural Resources Subcommittee
Date: 10/30/2008 07:36 AM
Attachments: [Prenesting Assessment.doc](#)

Here's the draft.

Doug McGee
Lead Avian BioTech
Resource Management Division
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
P.O. Box 190 Buxton, NC 27920
(252) 475-8315

-----Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS wrote: -----

To: Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS
From: Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS
Date: 10/24/2008 10:30AM
cc: Darrell Echols/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Doug McGee/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Margaret Carfioli/CAHA/NPS@NPS
Subject: Re: Fw: Action items for Natural Resources Subcommittee

Item #1 is completed. Doug McGee is drafting item #2. With respect to compliance if we have volunteers remove vegetation, I can argue it either way and pass the "straight face" if we were to do a CE, but it's very much subject to interpretation. I'd like Darrell to weigh in on this and suggest you might also want to poll Sandy Hamilton. Quite frankly, I'd feel more comfortable just moving the posts back and see how vehicle traffic affects the situation. Also, I've discussed with Meghan and asked for her opinion. Finally, I've asked Meghan to contact the CAMA folks and get their field rep. down to look at the situation. We need to engage them sooner or later and it might as well be sooner.

Thayer Broili
Chief of Resource Management
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Phone 252-473-2111 ext.137
Fax 252-473-2595

 Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS

**Mike
Murray/CAHA/NPS**

10/24/2008 08:36
AM

ToThayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS
ccDoug McGee/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Darrell
Echols/CAHA/NPS@NPS
SubjectFw: Action items for Natural Resources
Subcommittee

Thayer,

Please handle two items identified below.

1. Share our technical assistance request for Cape Point habitat restoration with the subcommittee. If there is anything in the request that is sensitive, then perhaps we could at least share the text describing the issue or need. (Can email it directly to Pat Field and he will distribute it.)
2. Please have Doug draft some basic criteria for conducting a habitat assessment to determine prenesting areas. My suggestion: Keep it simple. Try to articulate the thought process, in

outline or bullet format, that was used in spring of 2008 to determine how to configure the prenesting areas last year. My impression is that we considered recent nesting and chick foraging history, looked at current habitat conditions including likely chick foraging habitat (such as the outflow from the small pond at Cape Point), then configured the prenesting closure to encompass recent nesting sites and/or nesting habitat and the current likely foraging areas to the extent possible, while trying to fulfill the general intent of the Interim Strategy to have access to Cape Point during prenesting (100 ft corridor, etc.). In any case, you get the idea: try to articulate whatever factors were evaluated or considered, in whatever order or relative priority they were considered, the timing of the process (e.g., mid-February (?)) so we had completed the annual report for the previous year and so we could see the latest on-the-ground conditions, etc.), and then how all that information played into the decision (best professional judgment, etc.). Keep in mind that the subcommittee wants the information to better understand the thought process and probably also to make recommendations about the process. I'd like to see the draft after your review, before we send it to Patrick.

Please complete both by COB on Wednesday, October 29.

On the item (below) that NPS will consider short-term actions regarding vegetation management, I'll set up a field trip in the next few weeks to go down and look at the area with Doug McGee and John McCutcheon. I'm willing to consider moving some brown carsonite posts closer to the toe of the dune in a few locations to put some of the vegetation that is impacting potential nesting habitat into the ORV corridor (rather than outside of the corridor). Just south of Ramp 45 is one area that comes to mind. I want to look at it and get Doug and John's input. If we decide to do that, then they can coordinate a project day, with help from Maintenance and a tractor, to move some posts. Would like to hear your thoughts about what sort of compliance, if any, we might need if we were to allow volunteers to actively remove plants within the ORV corridor (not to keep and possess the plants, but simply to accelerate vegetation removal), or is it better to allow passive vegetation loss from driving?

Thanks,

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.

----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 10/24/2008 07:02 AM -----

Patrick Field
<pfield@cbuilding.org>

10/23/2008 06:52 PM

To<allend@coastalnet.com>,
 <bobeakes@aginet.com>,
 <cahabusinessallies@embarqmail.com>,
 <camerons@coastalnet.com>,
 <ccboucher@cox.net>, Cyndy Holda
 <Cyndy_Holda@nps.gov>,
 <Darrell_Echols@nps.gov>,
 <davandme@embarqmail.com>,
 <david_rabon@fws.gov>,
 <hardhead@embarqmail.com>,
 <jrylander@defenders.org>,
 <Mike_Murray@nps.gov>, Ona
 Ferguson <oferguson@cbuilding.org>,
 Patrick Field <pfield@cbuilding.org>,
 <rcmheritage@mac.com>, Robert
 Fisher <rcf@fisherccs.com>,
 "Sandra_Hamilton@nps.gov"
 <Sandra_Hamilton@nps.gov>,

<Thayer_Broili@nps.gov>,
<wgolder@audubon.org>
ccPatrick Field <pfield@cbuilding.org>
SubjectAction items for Natural Resources
Subcommittee

ALL

Here's the action items I have from our meeting yesterday. Let me know if I missed anything?

PAT

- Walker to send to Subcommittee bibliography and abstracts related to bird species
- David Allen to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for using decoys
- CBI to work with Park to develop general criteria used for developing pre-nesting areas and process suggestions for how a small, effective group might advise the Park on this issue
- **NPS to share with subcommittee request for technical assistance for considering vegetation management**
- Destry to prepare list/description of policies that support active management of vegetation.
- **CBI to identify next NR meeting to discuss South Point and/or other areas.**
- NPS to consider short term actions, after reviewing policies, that might allow some kind of modest vegetation management sooner rather than later, recognizing more intensive action would require a well-developed plan.

Pre-nesting Habitat Assessment

1. Assessment of recent (three years) nesting habitat.
 - A map is created with 50 meter buffers around recent nests and the previous year's scrapes.
 - Areas are surveyed no later than February 15, to determine if nesting habitat has changed.
 - If areas have changed, buffers may be modified in, or outward to account for that change. (e.g. erosion, or accretion)
2. Assessment of recent foraging habitat.
 - Areas where adults and chicks foraged in the previous year are surveyed to determine if the preferred foraging habitat conditions are still present.
 - Ocean or sound-side shorelines within previous year's closures are included in the survey.
 - Ocean or sound-side shorelines adjacent to the previous year's closures are surveyed to determine if conditions exist which would necessitate inclusion in the closure.
 - The habitat inside and outside the previous year's closures are surveyed for new tidal and ephemeral ponds, or the loss of areas which contained these features.
3. Designation of proposed pre-nesting closures.
 - GPS points for proposed boundaries are taken at each location and a map is generated.
 - A written justification with a description of any changes of the habitat or alterations to past years closures is completed for each location.
 - The map and justification for the proposed pre-nesting closures is sent to upper management for consideration.