

Vine, Landon

From: Mike_Murray@nps.gov
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2008 6:32 AM
To: Sandra_Hamilton@nps.gov
Cc: Britta_Muiznieks@nps.gov; Otto, Dana; Doug_McGee@nps.gov; Wetmore, Doug; Fox, Lori; Van Dyke, Nancy; pfield@cbuilding.org; Thayer_Broili@nps.gov
Subject: Re: Prenesting Habitat Assessment
Attachments: Prenesting Habitat Assessment.NPS.10.30.08.doc



Prenesting
Habitat Assessment

Sandy, My understanding is that this is the process used in 2008 under the Interim Strategy (before the consent decree occurred). The "annual habitat assessment" as a basis for fine-tuning the prenesting closures each spring was identified in the FONSI (July 2007), but not in the EA, so Spring of 2008 was the first year the "process" had been articulated. I suspect that staff informally followed a similar process to determine the exact location of the 2007 prenesting closures, but the process was not written down. The 2006 prenesting closures more or less followed the maps in the EA, with on-site adjustments based on professional judgment.

Britta, please comment if you have anything to add to or clarify about my explanation.

Mike Murray
Superintendent
Cape Hatteras NS/ Wright Brothers NMem/ Ft. Raleigh NHS
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Sandra
Hamilton/DENVER/N
PS

11/18/2008 10:33
AM

To
Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc
Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Doug McGee/CAHA/NPS@NPS, pfield@cbuilding.org, Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS, dotto@louisberger.com, lfox@louisberger.com, dwetmore@louisberger.com, nvandyke@louisberger.com
Subject
Re: Prenesting Habitat Assessment
(Document link: Mike Murray)

Hi Mike,

Pardon my confusion. I'm unclear whether this is a new process or a written description of the process the park has used consistently since the IPSMS and proposes to continue to use.

For DEIS analysis purposes, if it's new then we need in similar detail a description of the prenesting habitat assessment processes used under the IPSMS and under the consent decree, i.e. if any changes were made in the 2008 breeding season prenesting closures as a result of the consent decree.

Thanks.

Sandy

Sandy Hamilton
National Park Service - Environmental Quality Division Academy Place P.O. Box 25287 Denver CO 80225
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Mike
Murray/CAHA/NPS

11/07/2008 08:29
AM EST

To
cc
pfield@cbuilding.org
Sandra Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS,
Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Doug
McGee/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Britta
Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS
Subject
Prenesting Habitat Assessment

Pat,

See attached for NPS recommended process for prenesting habitat assessment.

(See attached file: Prenesting Habitat Assessment.NPS.10.30.08.doc)

Mike Murray
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NPS Recommended Prenesting 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 Park management as a brief report for consideration. Park management distributes to interested parties for input at management's discretion.