

0022504

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: [Darrell Echols](#)
Subject: Re: Horses at Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Date: 01/21/2009 03:08 PM

Sounds fine, but I would call her and have a conversation. We currently restrict hores to ORV routes and are in the process of deveolping an ORV that is more restrictive but does NOT eliminate ORV use. We have the discretion to allow horses in non-ORV areas and are willing to consider it BUT will preclude horse use in full resource closures. Details remain to be determined about where and when ORV use will be allowed, and how it will affect or relate to horse use.

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld
▼ [Darrell Echols](#)

----- Original Message -----

From: Darrell Echols
Sent: 01/21/2009 02:47 PM EST
To: Mike Murray
Subject: Horses at Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Mike,

Here is my response to Deb on the use of horses at CAHA. Does it sound appropriate to you? It follows regulation and I think it follows my recollection of how horses are treated here.

D

Ms. Balliet,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the use of horses on Cape Hatteras National Seashore beaches.

The National Park Service has specific regulations (36 CFR Section 2.16) that govern the use of horses in a national park. At Cape Hatteras NS horses are generally allowed to use the beaches, trails designated for horse use even if vehicles may be prohibited, and sections of paved road that are necessary for horses to move from one horse trail/area to another horse trail/area. Specific conditions could occur that would prohibit horses from using portions of the beach. These conditions could arise as a result of the NPS establishing buffers to protect shorebirds using the ocean or soundside beaches. In these instances, horses, pedestrians, vehicles, or certain activities (kiteboarding) may be precluded from these areas until the buffer is removed.

The issue of managing off-road vehicle use and protecting shorebirds is a contentious and emotionally charged issue that may result in

misinformation. I hope that you find this response useful and informative. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Darrell

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