

Sundar, Danielle

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**From:** Mike\_Murray@nps.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2009 1:01 PM  
**To:** Sandra\_Hamilton@nps.gov  
**Cc:** Otto, Dana; Wetmore, Doug; Fox, Lori; Van Dyke, Nancy  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Buxton Res. Mgmt.'s Comments on DEIS

**Attachments:** Buxton Comments on DEIS.doc



Buxton Comments on DEIS.doc (3...

The staff edits look fine to me. (Not sure if any are in conflict with my edits, but I would defer to the staff edits on the factual issues.)

Mike Murray  
Superintendent  
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Sandra  
Hamilton/DENVER/N  
PS

02/05/2009 02:15  
PM

Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS

lfox@louisberger.com,  
dotto@louisberger.com,  
dwetmore@louisberger.com,  
nvandyke@louisberger.com

To  
cc

Subject  
Fw: Buxton Res. Mgmt.'s Comments on  
DEIS

Hi Mike,

Please let me know if you are NOT OK with any of the changes attached below. I received and dropped off your comments at LB yesterday. Thanks.

Sandy

Sandy Hamilton  
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----- Forwarded by Sandra Hamilton/DENVER/NPS on 02/05/2009 12:11 PM -----

Thayer  
Broilli/CAHA/NPS

02/05/2009 01:47  
PM EST

To  
Sandra Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS  
cc  
Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Timothy  
Pinion/Atlanta/NPS@NPS  
Subject  
Buxton Res. Mgmt.'s Comments on  
DEIS

Sandy,

Here are comments from RM Buxton staff. I believe you've now received all comments from Park except my and Meghan's hard copy comments and any electronic comments that Meghan may have. I will try to get the hard copy info. fedexed this PM as soon as Meghan's finished. If not, I'll do it tomorrow AM. Tim was going to generate his comments by today or tomorrow. I suggest he send them directly to you with copy to me, Mike, and Britta.

On another matter, please note that all the 2008 annual reports are now posted. Please find all the documents listed under the Interim Protected Species Management project here:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=358&projectId=13331&documentID=25800>

Thayer Broilli  
Chief of Resource Management  
Cape Hatteras National Seashore  
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----- Forwarded by Thayer Broilli/CAHA/NPS on 02/05/2009 01:11 PM -----

Britta  
Muiznieks/CAHA/NP  
S

02/05/2009 12:08  
PM

To  
Thayer Broilli/CAHA/NPS@NPS  
cc  
Subject  
Comments on DEIS

Thayer-

The table in the PIPL section only go up to 2007. I'm assuming that they can get this information from the 2008 PIPL reports so I did not include this information in the comments.

(See attached file: Buxton Comments on DEIS.doc)

Britta

0022715

Britta Muiznieks  
Wildlife Biologist  
Cape Hatteras National Seashore

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## Chapter 1-Purpose and Need for Action

P17, L28-29: "Seabeach amaranth, a federally listed plant species, has been found in limited numbers at the Seashore" **add** "in the recent past. However, no plants have been documented since 2005."

P 17, L31-32: **replace** "and Kemp's ridley turtles are occasional visitors" **with** "Kemp's ridley and hawksbill, are known to occur only on the beaches of the Seashore through strandings."

P 40, L 11-12: **replace** "The Seashore is developing a predator management plan to address native and non-native predators that prey on protected species of shorebirds and on sea turtle hatchlings. The plan/Environmental Assessment..." **with** "The Seashore is developing a Predator Control Program for Protected Species Management (i.e. Environmental Assessment) to address native and non-native predators that prey on protected species of shorebirds and on sea turtle eggs and hatchlings. The Environmental Assessment..."

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 Chapter 2-Alternatives

P 3, L9: **delete** "in traditionally higher use pedestrian areas". The pass through ORV corridors are not necessarily in areas of higher pedestrian use.

P 9, L 11: Frisbee should not be capitalized.

P 9, L 26: **replace** "Improve signage related to beach closures and Seashore resources so that it is more readily available and presented in a clear manner to the public." **with** "Improve signage wording related to beach closures and Seashore resources and make beach closure information more readily available." The original statement appears to confuse closures (and the public's disregard for signs) and the weekly beach access reports.

P 13, L 31-32-P14, L 1: **replace** "Vehicle-free areas would be established year-round at Cape Point and the spits to provide a simplified approach to sensitive species management for Seashore operations, maximizing contiguous protected areas and eliminating seasonal changes in designated ORV use areas and the associated demands on enforcing those changes." **with** "Vehicle-free areas would be established year-round at Cape Point and the spits. The winter closures will be modified to provide ocean shoreline access to the Cape Point and the spits."

P 15, L4: **delete** "through traditionally higher use pedestrian areas".

P 23, L15: This comment is probably referring to the Amaranth study conducted by Claudia Jolls from 2001-2003 at CAHA, CALO and ASIS where there were outplantings of seabeach amaranth. I'm not sure if the outplanting would be considered a non-essential experimental population the same as reintroductions with animals or if plants

are treated differently. We have a draft final report for this study but to my knowledge it has not been finalized.

Chapter 3- Comments on draft **with PIPL** information

P8, Table 4. There is a mistake in the 2007 annual report that was partially corrected in the 2008 report. Unfortunately, the 2008 report is not completely correct either. The total # of nests in 2007 should be 10 resulting in additional changes to that row for 6 nests hatched and 60% (not 55%).

P10, Top Table (Hatching and Fledging Success at Cape Point, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, 1992-2007): After submitting the 2007 report to USFWS they felt that Nest 1 and Nest 2 should be considered 1 nest since it was a continuation of the same clutch in a new location. In 2007 there were 8 nests (not 9) and 50% hatched (not 44.4%) at Cape Point.

P 13, Table 5: The total number of nests should be changed to 10 (not 11) and 4 nests were lost or abandoned for a total of 40%

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Chapter 3-Sea Turtle Comments (Page numbers correspond to draft **with no PIPL information**)

P10, L4: **add** NMFS and FWS are currently considering petitions to reclassify loggerheads in the NW Atlantic as Endangered.

P10, L9-10: **replace** “The Seashore has been consistently monitored for sea turtle nests since 1987... with only 11 nests recorded in 1987 and 99 nests recorded in 2002” **with** “The Seashore has been consistently monitoring for sea turtle nests from 2000-2008... with only 43 nests recorded in 2004 and 112 nests recorded in 2008.” We are not confident in the number recorded prior to 2000.

P10, L15: Not sure “rare” is appropriate

P10, L23: See the new 2009 NW Atlantic Loggerhead Sea Turtle Recovery Plan for more up to date references and information.

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/recovery/turtle\\_loggerhead\\_atlantic.pdf](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/recovery/turtle_loggerhead_atlantic.pdf)

P10, L25: **replace** “the majority of loggerhead nesting” **with** “the two largest nesting rookeries occur..”

P10, L27-29: See [http://www.floridamarine.org/features/view\\_article.asp?id=27537](http://www.floridamarine.org/features/view_article.asp?id=27537)

P11, L3 Graph: This graph does not show what the title indicates that it should. This graph should be for total North Carolina nests, not CAHA nests. If the intent was to show CAHA nest totals, it is wrong as well. See the 2008 Annual Report for accurate data.



P11, L8: We should exclude nest totals prior to 2000, as we have changed both monitoring and management techniques. We don't have any confidence in data prior to 2000.

P11, L11: **replace #49 with 43**

P12, L1 Graph: Delete years prior to 2000, and change years after 2000 to reflect numbers in the 2008 Sea Turtle Annual Report

P13, L4: **add** sentence: "The practice of relocating nests for recreation or lighting issues is not encouraged by FWS, and therefore beginning in 2006 nests were no longer relocated for these purposes."

P13, L13: **replace** "Below 84 °F" **with** "84.6 °F". Citation is Pivotal temperature for NC from: Mrosovsky N (1988) Pivotal temperatures for loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) from northern and southern nesting beaches. Canadian Journal of Zoology 66:661-669

P14, L3-4: **replace** "From 1999 to 2007, there was an annual average of two green turtle nests at the Seashore, with a peak of four nests in 2000." **with** "From 2000 to 2008, there was an annual average of 5 green turtle nests at the Seashore, with a peak of 12 nests in 2000."

P14, L13: **replace** "as a nesting ground" **with** "potential nesting beach."

P17, L6: **add** "In 2008 several hatchlings were found entering a fire and were recovered and released. It was unknown how many died prior to the hatchlings being noticed."

P17, L7: **replace** "Several cases of hatchlings being misdirected by lights from villages and other human structures were documented in 1999, 2000, 2002, and 2004." **with** "Hatchlings being misdirected by lights from villages and other human structures is a common occurrence on the Seashore."

P17, L8: **add** "2008"

P17, L12: Insert a space between "staff" and "have"