

From: [Britta Muiznieks](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#)
Subject: Re: Your input requested
Date: 03/09/2009 08:05 AM

1) C

2) "C" is the most protective of the options. We have had enough incidents with adult females coming up to lay and with hatchlings for beach fires to be a concern under "status quo". Turtles still lay nests in villages so exempting them would not be appropriate.

3) If "1C" is not chosen then there should be an educational component to why there are beach fire restrictions.

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▼ [Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS](#)

Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS

03/05/2009 05:20 PM To
cc
Subject Your input requested



CONFIDENTIAL DELIBERATIVE COMMUNICATION

If you have received this message, I am requesting your individual professional opinion about the park policy on beach fires. During the RegNeg process, we decided it was not an issue under the purview of the Committee. During natural resource subcommittee discussions, the issue of beach fires did come up occasionally, with regard to sea turtle protection, and there was some interest in NPS regulating beach fires more restrictively than we have done in the past (until 2008, there were no restrictions). In any case, though it is not related directly to ORV management, it is an issue that I want to include in our plan (alternatives matrix) since it will help establish a long-term policy on light management and other sources of recreational impacts to nesting sea turtles. My objective is to provide reasonable opportunities for visitor enjoyment of the beach experience, of which beach fires have a long tradition, both good (family oriented fires) and bad (late night partying fires), while trying to minimize law enforcement problems and potential impacts to

sea turtles (nesting and hatchlings).

I would appreciate your feedback on three questions:

1. Which of the following beach fire policy options would you choose? (*pick one*) If you think a variation of any of the three options would be better, please suggest it, BUT submit only ONE variation and keep it simple. (I don't want to brainstorm more options. I want to home in on a preferred option.)

Options:

- a. *Status quo*: Beach fires prohibited from 12 a.m. (midnight) to 6 a.m. year-round.
- b. Beach fires prohibited year-round, except at the following locations: Coquina Beach, Village Beaches on Hatteras Island, and Ocracoke Day Use Area. At these locations, beach fires prohibited from 12 a.m. (midnight) to 6 a.m. year-round.
- c. Beach fires prohibited (everywhere) from May 1 to November 15 (turtle season). Beach fires allowed, but prohibited from 12 a.m. (midnight) to 6 a.m. between November 16 - April 30

2) Why did you choose the option you chose and reject the other two?

3) Should we require an educational permit for beach fires? (Let's assume we can figure out the workload issue; the question really is as follows: Are the potential educational and compliance benefits of requiring fire permits worth the operational and visitor inconvenience of doing so? I don't have a strong opinion on this, but think if the benefit doesn't considerably outweigh the inconvenience, then let's don't do it.

Please respond NLT 0900 on Monday, March 9, if you want your input to be considered.

Thank you,

Mike Murray
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