

**From:** [Mike Murray](#)  
**To:** [Paul Stevens](#)  
**Cc:** [Cyndy Holda](#); [John McCutcheon](#); [Jon Anglin](#); [Kenny Ballance](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Questions about Markers and "Backshore Corridors", and FEMA:  
**Date:** 03/11/2009 12:35 PM  
**Attachments:** [Later Winter 2009 137.jpg](#)

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Paul,

Your explanation of backshore closure is consistent with my understanding of the related requirement in the consent decree. Another way to look at backshore "closures" is that the ORV corridor markers (carsonite posts) are placed 10 m from the toe of the dune wherever the beach is wide enough to allow an ORV corridor of at least 20 m. The "closure" really is a non-ORV area along the perimeter of the marked ORV corridor, rather than a full blown resource closure. The purpose, which derives from the USGS protocols, is to reduce human disturbance (i.e., vehicles repeatedly driving through the area) of upper beach nesting habitat (for shorebirds and turtles) in areas that are not otherwise within a resource closure. If breeding activity or a nest occurs in the backshore area, a resource closure will then occur.

Mike Murray  
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▼ [Paul Stevens/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Paul  
Stevens/CAHA/NPS**

03/11/2009 10:57 AM

To: Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS@NPS  
cc: Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Jon Anglin/CAHA/NPS@NPS, John McCutcheon/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Kenny Ballance/CAHA/NPS@NPS  
Subject: Re: Fw: Questions about Markers and "Backshore Corridors", and FEMA: 

District Rangers,

Please chime in on this question.

It is my understanding that the wooden stakes with blue flagging is from the FEMA surveys for the flood maps. The backshore closures are marked by carsonite posts and are only in areas where the beach is wide enough for the closure. If the beach

is too narrow, and there are no safety or resource concerns, it would remain open to ORVs.

Paul K. Stevens  
Acting Chief Ranger  
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▼ Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS

**Cyndy  
Holda/CAHA/NPS**

To Paul Stevens/CAHA/NPS@NPS

cc Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS

03/11/2009 11:38 AM

Subject Fw: Questions about Markers and "Backshore  
Corridors", and FEMA:

Paul,  
I can answer his questions re: FEMA survey.

The backshore corridor questions I need your (or your staff's) help with. I have not even seen one of the backshore closure signs yet so I need help with this. Can you assign someone to answer the questions relating to backshore corridors and ask them to work with me on the final response?

Thank you!

Cyndy M. Holda  
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----- Forwarded by Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS on 03/11/2009 11:36 AM -----

**"Alan Pitt"**  
<apitt@jewettautomation.com>

To <Cyndy\_Holda@nps.gov>

cc

03/11/2009 11:12 AM

Subject Questions about Markers and "Backshore

Please respond to <apitt@jewettautomation.com>
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Corridors", and FEMA:

Cyndy,

It's me again, with some questions about some markers observed recently, and the "Backshore Corridor" definition, and FEMA surveys. The three may actually be related.

Markers: There have been wooden stakes with a blue/white tape at the top, and what appears to be sequential numbers and location data hand-written on both sides of the stakes. These stakes have been seen from Frisco to Salvo, and there is much curiosity as to what they mean/are used for. Could you fill me in on their purpose? (See attached picture for clarity).

"Backshore Closures": Per the Consent Decree:

"Ocean Backshore Closures  
: For the benefit of all bird species, sea turtles, and seabeach amaranth, from March 15 to November 30, in all locations not in front of the villages, outside of the pre-nesting areas described above, and open to ORV use, NPS shall provide an ORV-free zone in the ocean backshore at least 10 m wide and running the length of the site, wherever backshore habitat exists, provided there is sufficient beach width to allow an ORV corridor of at least 20 m above the mean high tide line. This zone shall be adjacent to the toe of the primary dune whenever a primary dune exists (i.e., ORVs should be restricted to a corridor between the mean high tide line and the edge of the zone of the protected backshore). For the 2008 breeding season only, ocean backshore closures shall be established no later than June 1."

Several questions have arisen surrounding this subject:

1. Are the aforementioned markers part of the layout for these closures?
2. If a beach is not wide enough to support BOTH an ORV Corridor AND a Backshore closure, which, if any, takes precedence? (IE: If there is not 30 meters (20 for an ORV corridor and 10 for a backshore closure), does the area get closed, or If there is not 30 meters, is there no backshore corridor?)
3. Are there maps available to show where these areas are?
4. What is the ultimate intent for these corridors? Is it for species protection or for pedestrian access?

FEMA employees were recently spotted doing "Surveys" at numerous locations.

1. What is the purpose of these surveys?
2. Are the aforementioned markers part of the FEMA survey?
3. FEMA employees are apparently using ATV's, (Four-wheelers), to accomplish their missions. Will they be properly uniformed/marked in some fashion as to not cause their actions to be taken as a violation, and called in to the authorities as such?

That's all for now. I hope this all amounts to nothing, but many folks have come up with questions about all three topics.

Thanks in advance for your help in this matter!

Alan Pitt

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Later Winter 2009 137.jpg