



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site Wright Brothers National Memorial

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

1401 National Park Drive

Manteo, NC 27954

252-473-2111



A96 (CAHA)

March 16, 2009

(revised April 24, 2009)

Memorandum

To: Chief of Resources Management and Chief Ranger, Outer Banks Group

From: Superintendent, Outer Banks Group

Subject: Delegation of Authority for Approving Resource Closures

During implementation of the Interim Protected Species Management Strategy, as modified by the consent decree (April 30, 2008), it will be necessary to establish and/or modify resource protection closures to protect shorebirds and sea turtles at various locations throughout Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The Resources Management staff is responsible for monitoring conditions and recommending resource protection closures and modifications. FONSI Tables 1-3 for the Interim Protected Species Management Strategy (IPSMS), as modified by the consent decree, are to be used as guidance on criteria and buffer distances for resource protection closures. All resource protection closures are to be documented using the CAHA Resource Protection Closure form.

I hereby assign responsibility and delegate authority for actions/review/approval related to resource protection closures that are proposed and/or implemented in accordance with the guidance referenced above:

1) Wildlife Biologist, or designated Acting, is authorized to take the following actions:

- Initiate/review/recommend and implement all resource protection closures, including buffer expansions for deliberate violations as described in the consent decree, and re-openings.
- At any location, approve immediate temporary closures around newly observed shorebird breeding behavior, newly found shorebird or sea turtles nests, and new found chicks. The priority is to take action immediately to protect nests and chicks in accordance with the consent decree, then submit written closure request form after-the-fact to the appropriate level for review/approval.
- Approve written resource protection closure and modification requests that do not completely preclude visitor access at the site (i.e., does not cause a full beach closure).

- Approve re-opening (removal) **or reduction in size** of any resource closures if/when resource conditions permit.
- The above actions require timely notification of the Chief of Resources Management, the local District Ranger, and the Community Liaison.

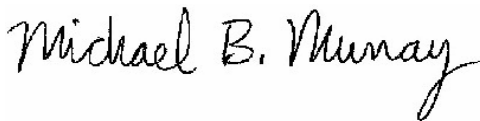
2) Chief of Resources Management (CRM), or designated Acting, is authorized to take the following actions:

- Any/all of the above actions, if such actions are referred to the CRM by the Wildlife Biologist, or designated Acting, for review/approval.
- Approve written requests involving closures and modifications that would result in a full beach closure, or expansion of a full beach closure, at any area except for Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point/South Beach, Hatteras Spit, North Ocracoke, and South Ocracoke
- Review/recommend written requests involving full beach closures at Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point/South Beach, Hatteras Spit, North Ocracoke, and South Ocracoke, or buffer expansions for deliberate violations as described in the consent decree.
- The above actions require timely notification of the Community Liaison, the Chief Ranger, and the Superintendent (or Acting).

3) Superintendent, or designated Acting, retains the authority to take the following actions:

- Review of any/all of the above actions.
- Approve written requests involving full beach closures at Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point/South Beach, Hatteras Spit, North Ocracoke, and South Ocracoke, and buffer expansions for deliberate violations as described in the consent decree.
- Approve written requests involving any closures that restrict or preclude access to/through interdunal, by-pass, or ramp access routes.
- The above actions require timely notification of the Community Liaison, the Chief of Resources Management and the Chief Ranger.

This designation and your responsibilities under it will remain in effect until rescinded in writing by me or the Acting Superintendent.



Michael B. Murray

cc: Deputy Superintendent
Wildlife Biologist
Acting Chief Ranger
District Rangers