

0023326

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: [Warren Judge](#)
Cc: [AllenB@darenc.com](#); [Atmmhgm@aol.com](#); 'Bob Eakes'; [cahoonr@embarqmail.com](#); 'Carla Boucher'; 'Terry Wheeler'; 'Dorothy Toolan'; 'Mike Berry'; 'Frank Folb'; 'John Couch'; 'Larry Hardham'; [johnalley@earthlink.net](#); 'Jack Shea'; 'Katie Smith'; 'Max Dutton'; 'Mike Johnson'; 'Robert L. Outten'; [RichardJ@co.dare.nc.us](#); 'Scott Leggat'; 'Terry Wheeler'; [vtillet@co.dare.nc.us](#)
Bcc: [Cyndy Holda](#); [Paul Stevens](#); [Darrell Echols](#)
Subject: RE: "Press Release: Vandalism of Ocracoke South Point Resource Protection Signs"
Date: 03/25/2009 05:38 PM

Warren,

I appreciate your message and share your disappointment about this latest act of vandalism.

Mike Murray
Superintendent
Cape Hatteras NS/ Wright Brothers NMem/ Ft. Raleigh NHS
(w) 252-473-2111, ext. 148
(c) 252-216-5520
fax 252-473-2595

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This message is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is proprietary, privileged or confidential or otherwise legally exempt from disclosure.

▼ ["Warren Judge" <warrenj@darenc.com>](#)

"Warren Judge"
<warrenj@darenc.com>

03/25/2009 09:48 AM

To "Mike Murray" <Mike_Murray@nps.gov>
cc <AllenB@darenc.com>, <RichardJ@co.dare.nc.us>, <vtillet@co.dare.nc.us>, "Mike Johnson" <mikej@darenc.com>, "Max Dutton" <MaxD@darenc.com>, "Jack Shea" <JShea@darenc.com>, "Terry Wheeler" <terrywoffice@darenc.com>, "Terry Wheeler" <comgr@co.dare.nc.us>, "Robert L. Outten" <outten@darenc.com>, "Dorothy Toolan" <dorothy@darenc.com>, "Katie Smith" <katies@darenc.com>, "Larry Hardham" <hardhead@embarqmail.com>, "John Couch" <guitarcouch@earthlink.net>, "Bob Eakes" <bobeakes@aginet.com>, "Carla Boucher" <ccboucher@cox.net>, "Frank Folb" <ffff1@mindspring.com>, <johnalley@earthlink.net>, "Scott Leggat" <scottl@outerbeaches.com>, <cahoonr@embarqmail.com>, <Atmmhgm@aol.com>, "Mike Berry" <dr.mike.berry@verizon.net>
Subject RE: "Press Release: Vandalism of Ocracoke South Point Resource Protection Signs"

Mike,

It is extremely disappointing to receive this news only days after the closures went into effect. Once again I need to voice my objection to the punishment that the fine people of Dare County, North Carolina and the United States of America will receive because of the actions of one person or persons who will go free.

The irony that from a Court of Law, signed by a Judge we could have a document that takes away our Civil Rights our rights of due process is almost too much to comprehend.

I ask you and the US Attorney representing the Department of Interior to ask the Defenders of Wildlife, Audubon and SELC to revisit this punitive action. Penalize those that are found and are found guilty. I am not a law enforcement officer, I have no training in law enforcement, I am not a Crime Scene Investigator, but my knowledge and experience tells me that the person or persons to look for are the ones who have the most to gain from these acts of vandalism. And those who have the most to gain are not the people who favor access to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Recreational Area.

Mike, thank you for all you do for us and thank you for your efforts in REG NEG. I hope that you can find a way to help us on this issue.

Sincerely,

Warren

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

From: Cyndy_Holda@nps.gov [mailto:Cyndy_Holda@nps.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2009 4:28 PM

To: undisclosed-recipients:

Subject: "Press Release: Vandalism of Ocracoke South Point Resource Protection Signs"

(See attached file: 032409SouthOcrPreNestViolation.doc) (See attached file: 032409SoPtClosureSign.JPG)

National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DATE: March 24, 2009

CONTACT: 252-473-2111, ext. 148

Vandalism of Ocracoke South Point Resource Protection
Closure Signs Results in Expansion of Buffer

On Monday morning, March 23, National Park Service (NPS) staff discovered vandalism of symbolic fencing marking a shorebird pre-nesting closure at the South Point area on Ocracoke Island. Five "Area Closed" signs on 2" X 2" wooden posts were broken off at the sand line. Vehicle tracks were visible at three of the broken signs but no footprints were observed in the area.

As required by the court ordered consent decree, a deliberate act of vandalism to fencing results in a mandatory 50 meter expansion of the closure area. Due to the narrow width of the beach at this location, ORV access is now allowed along the ocean shoreline to the southeast corner of the point, but precluded past that location by the mandatory buffer expansion. Pedestrian access below the high tide line is permitted past the buffer expansion along portions of the inlet shoreline outside of the established pre-nesting area.

Superintendent Mike Murray reiterated the need for all parties, including the public, to comply with the consent decree requirements. "This deliberate act of vandalism is contemptible and appears to be aimed at reducing access for the many park visitors who do comply with park regulations. This is an early reminder that future acts of intentional vandalism to resource protection areas will result in greater expansion of the buffers as required under the consent decree," stated Murray.

In 2008 the park experienced six deliberate violations of resource protection areas and each time the buffers were expanded. Destruction of government property and entering a resource closure are federal criminal violations, each subject up to a \$5,000. fine and up to six months imprisonment. If anyone has information about this violation, please call National Park Service Law Enforcement Rangers at 252-928-5111.

For up-to-date information on currently open or closed areas, check the Cape Hatteras National Seashore's Google Earth maps at:
<http://www.nps.gov/caha/planyourvisit/googleearthmap.htm>