

From: [Thayer Broili](#)  
To: [Mike Murray](#)  
Cc: [Cyndy Holda](#)  
Subject: Re: Fw: dredge pond  
Date: 04/08/2009 11:06 AM

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Here's the "report" which is a paragraph from the 1998 Piping Plover Report:

*Source: 1998 Piping Plover Report*

**In attempts to improve plover nesting\foraging habitat, vegetation was mechanically removed from Cape Point and Hatteras Inlet spit sites in March. A prime reason for disking was to reopen access to brackish ponds where plover broods had foraged in previous years. For the sixth consecutive year, approximately 90 acres was disked at Cape Point. At Hatteras Inlet, approximately 22 acres was disked from 1995-1997. In 1997, both sites were initially mowed to augment disking operations.**

**Dense vegetation, up to 18" high returned to the disked sites by mid-July making them unsuitable habitat.**

**Between 1992 and 1995, two nests and several broods have been sighted in the Cape Point enhancement site (Collazo 1992, 1993, 1994, Lyons 1995). No nests or chicks have been seen in the past three years. Broods forage in adjacent sand flats. Vegetation growth has increased at the Cape Point site making discing efforts less effective. No plovers were ever found utilizing the Hatteras Inlet enhanced site. In 1998, experimental manipulation at this site was not possible due to shoreline changes. Another suitable foraging habitat has recently developed closer to the inlet.**

**Habitat enhancement project at Cape Point has not produced the intended results in recent years. No plover activity was ever observed at the Hatteras Inlet site and shoreline changes have negated any need to continue there.**

**At present, it is not recommended to continue the habitat enhancement projects at Cape Point and Hatteras Inlet.” -Marcia Lyons, Natural Resource Specialist 1998.**

Further explanation is contained in a October 2007 correspondence from Marcia Lyons to Britta Muiznieks, NPS Wildlife Biologist:

**Britta,**

**When PIPL monitoring began in 1989, most plover nesting and foraging at Cape Point occurred between the south side of the salt pond and the south facing beach. The area was open and sparsely vegetated. As the area became more vegetated, there was concern that the veg was claiming breeding sites along the south facing beach and acting as barrier between the nesting sites and the salt pond, where many broods foraged. Ries Collier, park biologist, had the idea of discing the site to remove the grasses, sedges and rushes. The first year (or two) Doug Blackman disced upland areas and then Ries met with CAMA and got approval to disc the lower spots. Doug disced the Cape Point site each March between 1992 and 1998. I believe Suzanne Wrenn (working with Jamie Callazo) documented one nest in the disced area and a few broods traversing the site to forage at the pond. I documented one nest in 1995. Each season, vegetation grew back before the end of the nesting season. I remember S. Wrenn recommending in a report that mowed paths be maintained between the south facing beach and the salt pond to allow brood access to the salt pond. This was never done as**

the activity would have been a disturbance to the birds. As years progressed the veg became very dense and Doug sometimes had to mow the site before discing it. The tractor also left behind deep ruts in the poorly drained soils that did not disappear from one season to the next. No plover activity was found at the Cape Point site between 1996 and 1998. It was felt the vegetation became too dense to remove properly by discing and what was removed grew back quickly. It was also felt that the deeply rutted terrain could hinder brood movements. Several of the breeding plovers had also started to nest on the east facing beaches and use newly developed foraging flats which formed to the east and southeast of the salt pond.

Between 1995 - 1997, Doug also disced a recently vegetated area at Hatteras Inlet to reopen access between nesting sites and a soundside foraging pond. No plover activity was ever documented using the managed site. Broods foraged in small interior flats. The soundside pond disappeared after a storm in 1998 and new flats closer to the inlet were formed. The PIPL started to use these new flats as well as the interior sites.

One reason the park started the habitat manipulation at Cape Point was to try to keep a suitable breeding habitat available where it did not conflict with ORV use. The discing project were abandoned because it was a lot of work with little or no positive results. A FWS person said we might even have enhanced vegetation growth by aerating the soils through discing. Additional foraging flats formed naturally as the old ones became inaccessible.

**Marcia Lyons**

Thayer Broili  
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Cape Hatteras National Seashore  
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▼ [Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Mike  
Murray/CAHA/NPS**

To Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS  
cc Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS@NPS

04/08/2009 08:53 AM

Subject Fw: dredge pond

Thayer,

Is there any sort of "report" on this? Would you please provide me with a copy, if there is one.

Mike Murray  
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----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 04/08/2009 07:52 AM -----

"jeffrey"  
<wheatland@charter.net> To "Mike Murray" <mike\_murray@nps.gov>  
cc  
04/08/2009 07:14 AM Subject dredge pond

Mike,

I read an NPS report on the successful breeding habitat around the dredge pond at Cape Point when the service cleared approximately 90 acres around same and it seems to have dissappeared from the face of the earth. I know NPS did a study and bird count there...can you send me that information, please?

Thanks,

Wheat