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From: [Paul Stevens](#)
To: [Darrell Echols](#)
Cc: [Britta Muiznieks](#); [Dennis McGinnis](#); [Doug Stover](#); [Margaret Carfioli](#); [Marie Reed](#); [Michelle Baker](#); [Mike Murray](#); [Thayer Broili](#); [Warren Wrenn](#)
Subject: Re: Fw: ATV/UTV Issues at Bodie/Hatteras
Date: 04/13/2009 09:58 AM
Signed by: CN=Paul Stevens/OU=CAHA/O=NPS

There is water at the Pea Island Headquarters area and room for an out building.

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▼ [Darrell Echols/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Darrell
Echols/CAHA/NPS**

04/09/2009 07:39 PM

To Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Dennis McGinnis/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Doug Stover/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Margaret Carfioli/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Marie Reed/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Michelle Baker/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Paul Stevens/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Warren Wrenn/CAHA/NPS@NPS

Subject Re: Fw: ATV/UTV Issues at Bodie/Hatteras 

To all,

Michelle did a good job drafting the history and outlining various options to resolve the need. I agree with other comments that the decision is upon us and we need to decide and move forward quickly. From my point of view, I agree with option 7. This provides us access to the beach, water, and reasonable security. Security issues could be enhanced depending on the location of the shed, such as behind the bathroom instead of the side or front. There may also be areas shielded by vegetation that would limit the buildings exposure.

As for crossing NC12, this is risky; however, it is less risky than walking across the road. The risk could be minimized by selecting the shortest distant to cross, using a yellow flashing light to draw attention, and ensuring that operators stop and look both directions twice prior to crossing the road.

Not to further complicate the options already outlined, but I had a conversation with Scott Lanier at FWS and he offered a location at Pea Island for us to house a UTV.

We would still need to purchase a building and I don't know if water is available, but it may be worth a phone call. If this is not an acceptable location, then I would choose option 7. I am interested in the comments from other folks on this email prior to making a decision.

Darrell

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▼ Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS

**Thayer
Broili/CAHA/NPS**

04/09/2009 02:39 PM

To Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Darrell Echols/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Paul Stevens/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Dennis McGinnis/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Warren Wrenn/CAHA/NPS@NPS

cc Marie Reed/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Michelle Baker/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Doug Stover/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Margaret Carfioli/CAHA/NPS@NPS

Subject Fw: ATV/UTV Issues at Bodie/Hatteras

Please read the below information from Michelle Baker and contact her directly if you have questions or different thoughts. Although this issue has been discussed several times, most of the discussion has centered on why we should not do something. We are to the point where **we have to determine what we will do** ASAP. We have looked into purchase of a shed should we take Michelle's recommendation and implement #7. If we picked it up and Maintenance staff installed it, we could likely purchase it under credit card spending limits. At a minimum, we need to decide on a path forward by the week of April 20 (realizing that a number of you are gone next week). Thanks to Michelle for preparing this information.

Thayer Broili

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----- Forwarded by Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS on 04/09/2009 02:21 PM -----

**Michelle
Baker/CAHA/NPS**

To Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc

04/09/2009 10:46 AM

Subject ATV/UTV Issues at Bodie/Hatteras

Hello all,

It has come to my attention that we are again in the position of not knowing what we are doing in terms of our ATV storage site for sea turtle patrol in the Bodie/Hatteras area (Pea Island to Ramp 30). As the season is quickly approaching and we need to begin turtle patrol by May 1, we need to come to a resolution as quickly as possible. In order to help with this process I have given a brief history of what we have done in the past, as well as all of our current options and the difficulties presented by them. Please take the time to fully read these options as a variation of one of these is likely to become the plan for this season.

Sea turtle patrol is conducted from May 1 through September 15. The patrols are split among four areas: Bodie and Bodie/Hatteras, North Hatteras, South Hatteras, and Ocracoke. The Bodie and Bodie/Hatteras route begins at Ramp 1, where the patroller uses a truck to check Bodie Spit. The patroller then continues south to wherever an ATV is kept (this has varied over the years), heads north to the border with Pea Island, and then south until he reaches Ramp 30. A truck is used at Bodie due to the limited number of ATVs we have had in the past. An ATV has always been necessary at Bodie/Hatteras due to the extremely narrow beaches from the pier north to the Pea Island border (roughly 2 miles). Additionally, after driving the beach this year and conferring with the bird staff, we have seen a dramatic loss of beach between 23 and 27 that is very difficult to get a truck through.

In order to use an ATV or UTV, the vehicle needs proper storage, such as a shed, and a functional water hose to rinse off the sand and salt. Additionally, the ATVs are not street legal, so crossing highway 12 is dangerous. The further north the ATV is located within the district, the more efficient the patrols are. This is where things have gotten tricky, as it is difficult to find these things in a good location.

So...what have we done in the past?

Prior to 2007, it seems that patrols were conducted at Bodie/Hatteras via truck. The problem was that once north of the pier, patrollers had to walk or not complete the survey. Often the survey was not completed, and Doug remembers that there were several

nests that were missed up there but found later on.

In 2007, the ATV was housed at Little Kinnakeet Life Saving Station, located just north of 34. The problem here was timing. The patroller was required to drive from Bodie all the way to Kinnakeet, and then drive north to 30 before his patrol even began. This resulted in patrols taking an exceptionally long time, and decreased our chances of finding nests at the northern end of the route. Additionally, the ATV was housed across Highway 12 from the beach, so the patroller had to cross the road.

In 2008, the ATV was moved to Chicimacomico. This was an ideal situation, as the Life Saving Station provided the shed, water, and Oceanside access. Patrollers were beginning runs at the northern end of the district, maximizing their time on the beach and conducting patrols in the most efficient means possible. Unfortunately, Chicimacomico has security concerns, and was uncomfortable continuing to have patrollers at the site.

So...in 2009 we have some options and some decisions to make. None of the options are perfect; none of the options will make everyone happy. At this point though I think we need to make the best decision possible and go from there. So here they are.

1. USE A TRUCK TO CONDUCT SURVEYS: Trucks can be used to patrol the beach up to the pier and then patrollers walk the 2 miles up and back from there. If the beach between 23 and 27 is too narrow, they will have to walk the area, come back to the truck and then drive around to the other side. *Issues: This option maximizes the amount of time needed to conduct patrols. It is inefficient and not a good use of our limited staff time. In addition, the CD states that we will "conduct patrols as expeditiously as possible." Potentially, we could miss nests at the end of the run that patrolled last. Also, nests that needed to be relocated may not be able to be moved as they were found too late in the day.*
2. GO BACK TO LITTLE KINNAKEET: Potentially we could move the ATV/UTV back to Little Kinnakeet. *Issues: Nothing has changed, so this location poses the same problems that it did two years ago. In addition, the shed at this location is big enough for an ATV but not a UTV. So next year, when the ATVs are basically phased out, the UTV will not fit in that space.*
3. Trailer an ATV from Bodie to Ramp 23 everyday and/or load an ATV into the back of a truck everyday: This plan would enable staff to keep the vehicle at Bodie Maintenance where there is water and space. *Issues: Loading a ATV or UTV into a trailer has inherent risk. Especially when done daily the potential safety hazard to staff and the possibility of damaging equipment is high. Honestly, I don't even*

like to do it myself. With the staff that will be conducting patrols at Bodie/Hatteras this year, I am very concerned about the appropriateness of this plan. Additionally, a UTV is too big to fit in the bed of a truck.

4. PUT A SHED AT RAMP 23 PARKING LOT: This plan would provide Oceanside access so that patrollers would not have to cross Highway 12. *Issues: ATVs/UTVs require a daily wash with a high powered hose in order to keep them running. The life span of these vehicles is already short, and water is absolutely mandatory. Additionally, some have expressed safety concerns for a vehicle and structure at a Ramp parking lot.*

5. COVER THE PATROL FROM BUXTON: Theoretically, this would allow Bodie/Hatteras to be patrolled separate from the Bodie Spit area. This would eliminate the need for Bodie patrollers to drive down past Pea Island before covering Bodie/Hatteras. *Issues: This would require the patroller from N. Hatteras to conduct their survey and then keep going an extra 12-13 miles before returning. The vehicles can just make it, but again the patrols would take until past noon at least, as well as put nests at the end of run at risk of being missing, being disturbed by human activity, or not being able to be relocated due to the late find.*

6. TALK TO COMMUNITY PARTNERS ABOUT POTENTIAL SITES: Like Chicimacomico, we could approach other partners in the area about potentially using one of their sites to place the ATV/UTV. Ideally this would be a partner that was on the Oceanside of the road, had access to water, and had a shed we could use, etc. *Issues: We have already looked at the majority of these other groups and they have either declined or do not have the things that we are looking for. One option was the land that Dare County recently purchased just south of the water plant in Rodanthe. However, they were unwilling to talk about it without some kind of agreement about access. I think ultimately, given our current situation, that no matter who we find to work with, a vehicle on anyone else's property is not a long term solution.*

7. PLACE A SHED AT SALVO DAY USE AREA: Salvo Day Use Area is

owned by the Park, which means that we are obligated to nobody, and it is far enough north in the district to make patrolling efficient. Additionally it has water. While it has no shed, we have the ability to put a new shed there that would be big enough to fit the UTV, providing a long-term solution. The area is directly across from Ramp 23, offering easy access to the beach. *Issues: Patrollers will have to cross Highway 12 again. Also, some have expressed concern over the safety of the vehicle in a location that does not have surveillance.*

So, here we are. I realize that this is longest email known to man, but this is an important and time critical issue that needs to be resolved. If I could pick an option, my turtle expertise and my knowledge of the Park lead me to Option 7. That being said, it will mean we have to cross the road. However, if we put a UTV up there, they are fully capable of crossing the road while still being safe. I think that is a much smaller risk than trailering a vehicle on a daily basis. But this is my opinion, and not 100% my decision to make. Regardless of what we choose, it needs to be reasonably safe, compliant with the consent decree, and feasible to implement. If anyone has any further options, that is good too. Thanks for your time in reading this. Please get back to me about questions or concerns that you might have over these options. We will need to make a final decision soon in order to begin patrols by May 1.

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