

Wetmore, Doug

CAHA #1761

From: Michelle_Baker@nps.gov
Sent: Monday, November 09, 2009 2:00 PM
To: Britta_Muiznieks@nps.gov; Wetmore, Doug
Subject: Re: Except from Wetmore's email-thoughts on how to respond

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Hey Doug,

We do have lots of dolphins and whales that strand, but often they are dead. The 20 or so live strandings that we receive per year are most often euthanized in the field, so ORV impacts to them are relatively minor since their presence will not change the outcome of the animal. I suppose that the presence of ORVs could increase the likelihood that people will push a live whale or dolphin back in the water (which is NOT what we want to happen). Another way that ORVs could influence cetacean stranding is when people pick up marine mammal bones and take them off the beach. Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act this is illegal, but people do it anyway if we are not quick to bury carcasses, especially on ORV beaches where they have a truck to help take big vertebra or skulls.

Ultimately we focused on seals because we know that the majority of seals on the Seashore are harassed by humans. In some cases, this has even lead to the animal having to be sent to rehab, and one seal died from harassment.

Another seal was run over by an ORV, but the animal was already dead at the time.

I hope this helps explain the marine mammal situation. Let me know if I can provide any other information.

Michelle

Britta
Muiznieks/CAHA/NP
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11/06/2009 03:17
PM

Michelle Baker/CAHA/NPS@NPS

To

cc

Subject

Except from Wetmore's
email-thoughts on how to respond

Also, I reviewed your Chapter 1 comments and my only question was in response to your marine mammal changes. It looks like you concentrated on seals, but aren't there other marine mammals that could be impacted?
Didn't you have a stranded whale last season?

Thanks for the help.

~Doug

Doug Wetmore
Environmental Planner

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