

**From:** [Mike Murray](#)  
**To:** [Britta Muiznieks](#)  
**Cc:** [Sandra Hamilton](#); [Thayer Broili](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Chapter 4 comments  
**Date:** 11/17/2009 08:25 AM

---

Britta,

Please continue your review of Chapter 4 but focus your efforts only the sections related to T&E Species, State-Listed Species and Species of Concern, and Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat. All other sections are being reviewed by others (including me).

Thanks,

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

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE**

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.

▼ [Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS**

11/16/2009 04:45 PM

To Sandra Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS, lfox@louisberger.com, dwetmore@louisberger.com  
cc Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS  
Subject Chapter 4 comments

Sorry I am behind schedule getting my comments to you. I have reviewed the chapter up to page 100. I decided to send these out to you so you can start taking them into consideration as to whether you want to include them or not. Following are some general comments.

- ML2 under alt C is very confusing to me and is described differently in different pages of the document.. The wording below may be a little different than what you have since it includes my revisions.

On page 38 - Under ML2, once pre-nesting closures are implemented, a narrow **ORV access corridor or pedestrian corridor** could potentially be established.

On page 39 - ML2 differs from ML1 in that it has the potential to establish a

narrow access corridor open to ORVs where ORV use is permitted or the corridor could be open only to pedestrians, where ORV use is not permitted. Upon the first observation of breeding activity, the standard buffers would apply, which depending upon the circumstance could close the access corridor.

On page 41 - Regarding timing under alternative C, all SMAs are closed to ORVs 7 months per year and a pedestrian access corridor is established at Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point, and South Point Ocracoke on March 15 (subject to ML2 actions when breeding activity observed).

On page 42 - Three areas of seasonal ORV use would be managed under ML2 procedures and would maintain an open pedestrian access corridor along the shoreline to the inlet or point, subject to resource closures.

On page 49 - In three SMAs, under ML2 procedures, adjacent to the pre-nesting area NPS would provide an ORV corridor with a pass through zone at the start of the breeding season (March 15). When breeding activity is observed, standard buffers would apply, which depending upon the circumstances could close the access corridor until breeding activity has concluded.

- Another clarification that Mike had asked me about last week is the difference between surveys and monitoring. At the Park we survey for turtle nests/crawls but monitor a nest for hatching. Surveys are usually conducted to determine presence/absence of nests. Monitoring is usually based on observations made at a specific location (ex. chick movements within the area, PIPL breeding activity) or changes over time (checking a chick/nest for normal development or hatching). I have changed surveying to surveys in my comments but that is only a personal preference.
- Need to decide whether or not to capitalize "spit"-ex. Bodie Island **spit** or Bodie Island **Spit**.
- The tables seem to emphasize similarities rather than differences between the alternatives. If we say impacts would be greater in alt X than impacts under alt Y, it should include what those are. If dates for closures are different, they should be included in the tables.
- In this chapter, staff is generally referred to as Seashore staff and in the previous chapter it was Park staff. Need to decide one way or another and stick with it.
- Turtle nest have closures, not buffers. A 30 foot buffer is different than a

30 foot closure.

- Information will be available at visitor centers or at the ramps.... Information is available through a number of different outlets including the Park's website, Google Earth, Weekly Beach Access and Resource Management Reports. References to outreach could be beefed up a bit.
- I prefer nesting season to breeding season for turtles since turtles don't breed on the seashore. In some instances we have to be careful about when we refer to night driving restrictions as being beneficial to sea turtles. The restrictions will benefit nesting turtles but won't always be in place to benefit the hatchlings as they emerge. Restrictions in different alternatives are lifted on different dates (August 31, September 15, and November 15).

Following are my comments through page 100. Sorry it is taking me so long but it is a very slow process for me. You can either let me know when you are ready for the next set of comments or I can try to finish the entire document and send it to you then. I don't know what your timeline is other than I know it is short.

[attachment "Chapter 4\_110609-revised bdm (comments through pg 100).doc" deleted by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS]

Britta Muiznieks  
Wildlife Biologist  
Cape Hatteras National Seashore

252-995-3740-**Office**  
252-475-8348-**Cell**  
252-995-6998-**FAX**

0024803