

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: nicolas.dewulf@laughlin.af.mil
Bcc: [Cyndy Holda](#)
Subject: Fw: From NPS.gov: KITESURF
Date: 01/27/2010 10:42 AM

Dear Mr. De Wulf,

I apologize for the belated response to your inquiry about kiteboarding at Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CAHA).

In general, activities that are considered appropriate at one unit of the national park system may or may not be deemed appropriate at other park units. Much depends upon the specific purpose of each park, as described in its enabling legislation, as well as the specific circumstances related to each park's protected natural and cultural resources, property ownership, and jurisdiction. An evaluation of the appropriateness of any significant recreational activity, including kiteboarding, is up to the respective superintendent to make based on each park's specific circumstances. In that regard, I am not familiar with Amistad NRA and have no opinion about the appropriateness of kiteboarding there, other than it falls under the authority and responsibility of Superintendent Cox to make that determination based on the particular circumstances at Amistad.

Kiteboarding has been allowed at CAHA for many years, with relatively few restrictions. This is (obviously) a different scenario than opening (or re-opening) an area to kiteboarding that has previously been closed to it, the latter being (perhaps) a more difficult decision to make. The 1937 enabling legislation for the Seashore allows for "recreational uses, particularly swimming, boating, sailing, fishing, and other recreational activities of similar nature" and a variety of watersports such as surfing, windsurfing, and kiteboarding fit reasonably well under that mandate. NPS jurisdiction at CAHA is primarily land-based, with limited water jurisdiction. The park boundary is the mean low water mark on the ocean shoreline and, generally, 150 ft. from shore (i.e., in the water) on the sound shoreline. Kiteboarders launch from shore within the Seashore's jurisdiction, but much of the water-based activity occurs outside of the park boundary. In recent years, kiteboarding has grown in popularity here. As with many recreational activities that can result in heavy use within a concentrated area, we do have management concerns about the impacts of kiteboarding at popular launch or landing points. Concerns include recurring entanglements with adjacent powerlines, visitor complaints about being unable to enjoy traditional family activities along some sections of shoreline when there are heavy concentrations of kiteboarders, and occasional violations of wildlife protection areas. These impacts have generally been manageable by working cooperatively with the local kiteboarding community to ensure visiting kiteboarders are aware of local regulations and concerns. Again, in our case, seashore property is used as the launch/landing point, but most of the activity occurs outside of the park boundary and is therefore of limited concern.

I hope this information is helpful to you and wish you well in your endeavors.

Best wishes,

Mike Murray
Superintendent

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----- Forwarded by Beau Brehm/CAHA/NPS on 12/21/2009 02:42 PM -----

nicolas.dewulf@laughlin.af.mil

12/21/2009 11:18 AM

To caha_information@nps.gov

cc

Subject From NPS.gov: KITESURF

Email submitted from: nicolas.dewulf@laughlin.af.mil at /caha/contacts.htm

Mailing Address

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USA

Mr. Mike Murray,

I recently moved to Del Rio Texas from Seattle Washington. There is a beautiful National Recreation Area here in Del Rio (Lake Amistad National Recreation Area).

I am a big windsurfing and kitesurfing activist and participant, and I have found that they do not currently allow kiteboarding or windsurfing under the superintendent's compendium. I have been working with the superintendent of the lake, Alan Cox, to allow kitesurfing and he is reluctant to cooperate.

I am curious what your opinion of the sport of kitesurfing is and how you have integrated it as a compatible sport on specific beaches in your park.

My ultimate goal is to have this great sport not only contribute to the benefits of Lake Amistad National Recreation Area, but the city of Del Rio as well. It has tremendous potential to economically benefit the city of Del Rio.

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I would truly appreciate your thoughts on this issue as well as your input as to how you have made kitesurfing a compatible sport for your park.

Very Respectfully,

Nicolas F De Wulf