

From: [Thayer Broili](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#); [Darrell Echols](#)
Cc: [Margaret Carfioli](#)
Subject: Fw: PEPC: Project Description Changed: Install a Temporary Electric Fence at Bodie Island Spit to Protect CWB Nesting (30289)
Date: 02/19/2010 03:30 PM

We are trying to go forward with research of the usefulness of a predator control fence at Bodie Island Spit. If we do it, we should have it installed by the end of April which means we need to be doing all the preinstallation effort ASAP. We need to complete documenting it in PEPC (we think there are a couple of CEs that could be applied) and we want to get some sort of "sign-off" by FWS/WRC folks before we implement, get out a press release, etc. the question is do you support going forward with implementation this spring? Meghan is the NEPA coordinator on this and Tyler will be the guy to install/maintain. Tyler is very interested in trying this out and I'm sure he'll be very diligent and dedicated to managing and since he's the Lead Bio Tech for BI District, it's a good fit.

Let me know your thoughts/whether you want to do a telecon on it, etc. before we go too far in spending more effort on this I'm sure that the LE and Maintenance folks will also want to weigh in.

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Cape Hatteras National Seashore
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----- Forwarded by Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS on 02/19/2010 03:21 PM -----

WASO-
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cc

02/18/2010 12:41 PM

Subject PEPC: Project Description Changed: Install a Temporary
Electric Fence at Bodie Island Spit to Protect CWB Nesting
(30289)

* (Note:This a PEPC System generated message. PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND TO
THIS MESSAGE. *
* Thank you for your cooperation.) *

The project description was changed by Margaret Carfioli on 02/18/2010 for the following project:

Park: Cape Hatteras NS
Park Code: CAHA
Park Region: Southeast

Project ID: 30289
Project Title: Install a Temporary Electric Fence at Bodie Island Spit to Protect CWB Nesting

New Description:
The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to install a temporary electric fence at Bodie Island Spit to protect nesting colonial waterbirds (CWB) from mammalian predators. The purpose of the proposed action to determine if an electric fence reduces nocturnal (7:00pm - 6:00am) predation by mammals on colonial waterbirds. Mammalian predators have negatively impacted the hatching success of colonial

waterbirds at Bodie Island. Current predator management activities includes removal of mammalian predators near nesting sites, but colonial waterbirds fledgling success has been minimal.

Mammalian predators targeted for exclusion include: coyote, red fox, gray fox, raccoon, opossum, and feral cat. The colonial waterbird species nesting at Bodie Island Spit include: least tern, common tern, and black skimmer. American oystercatchers and piping plover also nest at nesting at Bodie Island Spit.

A site survey and preferred location of the fence have been conducted and displayed in a map (attached). The electric fence is proposed to be installed within the pre-nesting closure area on Bodie Island Spit. The target start date for the installation of the electric fence is mid-April to mid-May and removal in August or September of the same year; the fence would be on-site for 4-5 months. Installation must be done prior to the colonial waterbirds nesting to minimize disturbance to the birds. Daily fence maintenance will be performed by the NPS to check for correct voltage readings, shorts in fence, removal of debris, and monitoring for predator sign and bird interactions. To obtain accurate voltage readings a digital voltage meter will be used. All observations of predator activity in the area or near or within the electric fence will be recorded. Monitoring the colony will be done daily from a point outside of the electric fence. Monitors will observe for numbers of adults and chicks, and look for behavioral displays resulting from the presence of the electric fence. Any colonial waterbirds nesting outside of the electric fence will also be observed from a distance daily. A complete nest count will be performed by a walk through survey during the survey window of June 5th-20th. The fence will be removed after all chicks have fledged from the colony so as not to disturb any nesting or fledging attempts (August-September). The fence will be deconstructed, and evaluation of the materials will be conducted prior to storage.

The electric fence proposed is readily available for purchase and is being proposed for use consistent with its design. It's low amperage, a 12 Volt DC programmable timer, the placement of the electric fence away from the piping plover breeding areas, and arrangement of wires of the electric fence will minimize the potential for adverse impacts or injury to the public, field staff, mammalian predator species, nesting colonial waterbirds, nesting piping plover and American oystercatcher, nesting sea turtles, and non-breeding birds such as gulls and crows. The bottom wire will be six inches above the ground surface, to allow for the piping plover and other nesting birds to safely walk under the wire.

Potential impacts to nesting sea turtles appear to be low at the proposed site. Very few sea turtles nest in this area, and many do not nest more than ~20 meters from the high tide. The placement of the electric fence will be much greater than 20 meters from the high tide line.

Injury to field staff is expected to be minimal, and a JHA is attached. Injury to the public is expected to be minimal due to the placement of the fence within an established resource closure and the use of a programmable timer. The timer will be set so that the fence will be non-active or cold from 6:00am to 7:00pm. Signage will be installed near and on the electric fence.

Old Description:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to install a temporary electric fence at Bodie Island Spit to protect nesting colonial waterbirds (CWB) from mammalian predators. The purpose of the proposed action to determine if an electric fence reduces night-time predation by mammals on colonial waterbirds. Mammalian predators have negatively impacted the hatching success of colonial waterbirds at Bodie Island. Current predator management activities includes removal of mammalian predators near nesting sites, but colonial waterbirds fledgling success has been minimal.

Mammalian predators targeted for exclusion include: coyote, red fox, gray fox, raccoon, opossum, and feral cat. The colonial waterbird species nesting at Bodie Island Spit include: least tern, common tern, and black skimmer. American oystercatchers and piping plover also nest at nesting at Bodie Island Spit.

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You can view the project information in your browser at the following URL:
<https://pepc.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=30289>