



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site Wright Brothers National Memorial

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

1401 National Park Drive

Manteo, NC 27954

252-473-2111



IN REPLY REFER TO:

A3815 (CAHA)

FEB 19 2010

Mr. Warren Judge, Chairman
Dare County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 1000
Manteo, NC 27954

Dear Mr. Judge:

This responds to your letter regarding the cover photographs used for the recent annual resource reports. All three photos were taken at Cape Hatteras National Seashore by NPS staff during the course of their assigned duties. None of the photos were staged. We attach no particular significance to tire tracks being present in two of the photos. The tracks were located in areas of beach that were open to ORV use at the time of the photograph. We have no knowledge of who owned the vehicle(s) that created the tracks and neither photo indicates a violation of a resource closure or other negative interaction.

The piping plover photo was taken during the 2008 spring-summer season and shows a migratory (i.e., nonbreeding) bird in an area open to ORV use between Ramps 70 and 72 on Ocracoke Island. The American oystercatcher photo was taken near Ramp 44 on Hatteras Island during the 2009 spring-summer season and shows a breeding pair that had not yet set up a territory, hence no resource closure had been established. The colonial waterbird photo was taken on South Beach during the 2009 breeding season and shows two least terns chicks that had sought shade inside a hat that had washed up on the beach in the wrack line within an established resource closure. Chicks will often use any available shade to seek relief during the heat of the day.

We appreciate your interest in the management of Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Murray

Michael B. Murray
Superintendent