



United States Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
OUTER BANKS GROUP



Fort Raleigh National Historic Site      Wright Brothers National Memorial  
Cape Hatteras National Seashore  
1401 National Park Drive  
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A96 (CAHA)

March 2, 2010

Memorandum

To: Chief of Resources Management and Chief Ranger, Outer Banks Group

From: Superintendent, Outer Banks Group *Michael B. Murray*

Subject: Delegation of Authority for Approving Resource Closures

During implementation of the Interim Protected Species Management Strategy, as modified by the consent decree (April 30, 2008), it will be necessary to establish and/or modify resource protection closures to protect shorebirds and sea turtles at various locations throughout Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The Resources Management staff is responsible for monitoring conditions and recommending resource protection closures and modifications. FONSI Tables 1-3 for the Interim Protected Species Management Strategy (IPSMS), as modified by the consent decree, are to be used as guidance on criteria and buffer distances for resource protection closures. All resource protection closures are to be documented using the CAHA Resource Protection Closure form.

I hereby assign responsibility and delegate authority for actions/review/approval related to resource protection closures that are proposed and/or implemented in accordance with the guidance referenced above:

- 1) District Lead Biological Technicians (District Leads) are authorized to take the following actions:
  - Initiate/review/recommend and implement all resource protection closures and re-openings.
  - Initiate and recommend resource protection closures for deliberate violations as described in the consent decree.
  - At any location, approve immediate closures with the appropriate buffers around newly observed shorebird breeding behavior, newly found shorebird or sea turtles nests, and new found chicks. The priority is to take action immediately to protect nests and chicks in accordance with the consent decree, and then submit written closure request form after-the-fact to the appropriate level for review/approval.
  - Give verbal approval for the installation of resource protection closures and modifications that do not preclude thru access to ORVs between ramps, close a ramp, or restrict ORV and/or pedestrian access to the points and spits.

- Initiate/review/recommend and implement re-opening (removal) or reduction in size of any resource closures if/when resource conditions permit.
  - The above actions require timely notification of the Wildlife Biologist, the Chief of Resources Management, the local District Ranger, and the Community Liaison.
- 2) The Wildlife Biologist, or Chief of Resource Management (CRM), or designated Acting for CRM, is authorized to take the following actions:
- Any/all of the above actions, if such actions are referred by the District Leads for review/approval.
  - Approve requests involving closures and modifications that would result in a full beach closure, or expansion of a full beach closure, at any area except for Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point/South Beach, Hatteras Spit, North Ocracoke, and South Ocracoke.
  - Review/recommend requests involving full beach closures at Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point/South Beach, Hatteras Spit, North Ocracoke, and South Ocracoke, or buffer expansions for deliberate violations as described in the consent decree.
  - The above actions require timely notification of the Community Liaison, the Chief Ranger, and the Superintendent (or Acting).
- 3) Superintendent, or designated Acting, retains the authority to take the following actions:
- Review of any/all of the above actions.
  - Approve written requests involving full beach closures and modifications at Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point/South Beach, Hatteras Spit, North Ocracoke, and South Ocracoke, and buffer expansions for deliberate violations as described in the consent decree.
  - Approve requests involving any closures that restrict or preclude access to/through interdunal, by-pass, or ramp access routes.
  - The above actions require timely notification of the Public Affairs Specialist and the Chief Ranger.

This designation and your responsibilities under it will remain in effect until rescinded in writing by me or the Acting Superintendent.

cc:

Deputy Superintendent  
CAHA Division Chiefs