

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Outer Banks Group:

- Cape Hatteras National Seashore
- · Fort Raleigh National Historic Site
- Wright Brothers National Memorial

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NPS Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Cape Hatteras National Seashore's ORV Management Plan

The National Park Service (NPS) announces the NPS Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan (DEIS) has been published today in the Federal Register.

The DEIS evaluates the impacts of several alternatives for regulations and procedures that would carefully manage off-road vehicle (ORV) use/access in the National Seashore to protect and preserve natural and cultural resources and natural processes, to provide a variety of visitor use experiences while minimizing conflicts among various users, and to promote the safety of all visitors.

Now that the DEIS has been cleared for release, the document has been sent to the printer for publication. Once printed copies of the document are available, NPS will request that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publish its Notice of Availability (NOA) for the DEIS, which officially initiates the 60-day public comment period. Meanwhile, electronic copies of the DEIS are available for public review on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) web site for the project at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/caha. The NPS NOA is also available on the PEPC web site for the project. Please consult the NPS NOA for important information on submitting comments on the DEIS.

"The release of the DEIS is a long-awaited step forward in the process of developing an ORV management plan and special regulation," said Superintendent Murray.