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March 24, 2010

Mike Murray, Superintendent
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Re: Request for Extension of Public Comment Period on Draft Environmental
Impact Statement for Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Dear Superintendent Murray,

On March 5, 2010, the National Park Service ("NPS") published public notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore (Seashore) Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan ("DEIS"). *Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Cape Hatteras National Seashore*, 75 Fed. Reg. 01307 (Mar. 5, 2010). Pursuant to the NPS's Notice, and the Environmental Protection Agency's publication of the Notice of Availability on March 12, 2010, interested parties currently have until May 11, 2010 to submit comments on the DEIS. *Environmental Impacts Statements; Notice of Availability*, 75 Fed. Reg. 11881, 11882 (Mar. 12, 2010).

Given the substantial length of the DEIS and the significant amount of time required to meaningfully evaluate the information contained in the document, Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance ("CHAPA") hereby requests that the NPS grant a thirty (30)-day extension of the public comment period in order to allow interested parties sufficient time to review and constructively comment on the DEIS.

As the NPS has stated, the environmental impact statement, once finalized, "will form the basis for a special regulation, guiding the management and control of ORVs at the Seashore for the next 10 to 15 years." According to the DEIS, "Seashore staff place a high priority on meeting the intent of public involvement in the NEPA process and giving the public an opportunity to comment on proposed actions." DEIS at 633. Given the amount of time and effort already invested by the agency and stakeholders with respect to

developing the special regulation, and the importance of the issues involved for these interested, affected parties, CHAPA believes that providing stakeholders additional time to review and comment on the DEIS is critical to the public participation process and the overall success of the new regulation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of CHAPA's request. We look forward to your prompt reply.

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan D. Simon
Counsel for Cape Hatteras Access
Preservation Alliance

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