



IN REPLY REFER TO:

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



L76

MAR 29 2010

Jonathan D. Simon
 Counsel for Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance
 VanNess Feldman, Attorneys at Law
 1050 Thomas Jefferson Street N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20007-3877

Dear Mr. Simon:

This responds to your request, submitted March 24 and received March 25, 2010 on behalf of Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance (CHAPA), for a 30-day extension of the public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CAHA) Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Management Plan. The DEIS was released to the public on March 5, 2010. The public comment period began on March 12 and is scheduled to close on May 11, 2010 at midnight Mountain Daylight Time. In addition, notice of the times and locations of public hearings was provided on March 24, allowing more than a month for interested members of the public to plan their attendance, if interested in doing so. The public hearings are an alternate way for members of the public to provide comments on the DEIS after reviewing it.

We note that the principal organizations composing CHAPA were well represented and actively participated on the CAHA negotiated rulemaking advisory committee (committee) and related sub-committees and work groups that met numerous times between January 3, 2008 and February 26, 2009. We also note that five of the six alternatives analyzed in the DEIS are substantially the same as the five alternatives (A-E) that NPS described to the committee and released to the public at a committee meeting on November 14, 2008. The sixth alternative (F) considered in the DEIS is based on the work of the committee, recognizing that the committee did not reach consensus on a recommended alternative.

Based on the current status of the process, we believe the current 60 day comment period, which is still in its early stages, satisfies the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and provides ample opportunity for public involvement and comment. We have decided not to extend the public comment period at this time.

In closing, we appreciate CHAPA's ongoing interest and participation in the ORV management issue at Cape Hatteras National Seashore and look forward to reviewing the public comments.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Murray

Michael B. Murray
 Superintendent