

0025828

**From:** [basicpatrick@aol.com](mailto:basicpatrick@aol.com)  
**To:** [Mike\\_Murray@nps.gov](mailto:Mike_Murray@nps.gov)  
**Cc:** [Sandra\\_Hamilton@nps.gov](mailto:Sandra_Hamilton@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: Public Meeting Schedule  
**Date:** 03/29/2010 10:43 PM

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Mike,

Thanks for the quick response.

I understand and am very familiar with the NEPA process and always find it surprising that NPS seems to always cut the timing to what seems like the shortest number of legal days allowed. Now that the meetings have been announced my argument for more time is definitely questionable, however with the never ending delays in this process you must admit my concerns were very valid.

I also want to thank you as your email will help me clarify the purpose of the meetings with both local and national constituents and press. I do not know where it started but there is a description of the meetings being spread that refers to the meetings as "informational" and you have clarified clearly for me the purpose so that I may make sure that my constituents are reminded this is the final public comment meetings of the process.

I am sure I will see you soon.

.Capt. Patrick Paquette  
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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mike\_Murray@nps.gov  
**To:** basicpatrick@aol.com  
**Cc:** Sandra\_Hamilton@nps.gov  
**Sent:** Mon, Mar 29, 2010 12:03 pm  
**Subject:** Re: Public Meeting Schedule

Patrick,

This responds to your request for an 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. Notice of the public hearing times and locations 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.

As indicated in the press release and Federal Register Notice, comments may be submitted any time between March 12 and May 11, either electronically via the PEPC website or in writing by mailing them to me at the park address. The scheduled meetings are an alternate way for the public to submit comments; however, comments submitted via any of the ways described in the press release and Federal Register Notice are given equal consideration. The meetings are not, as suggested in your message, a forum in which NPS will further explain or answer questions about the document. Please understand that under the NEPA process once a major planning document such as the DEIS is released to the public, NPS does not typically provide responses to individual questions about the document until the release of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS), at which time written responses to substantive comments will be provided as part of the FEIS.

Based on the current status of the process, we believe the current 60 day

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comment period 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.

We appreciate your ongoing interest in the ORV management issue at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

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03/23/2010 04:56  
PM

[Sandra.Hamilton@nps.gov](mailto:Sandra.Hamilton@nps.gov),  
[Mike.Murray@nps.gov](mailto:Mike.Murray@nps.gov)

To

cc

Subject

Public Meeting Schedule

Mike/Sandy,

I am writing you as I have a huge issue with the fact that NPS has still not scheduled any public meetings presenting/explaining the DEIS to the public. I should not have to remind you that this is a national issue with a potential for significant travel and tourism implications specifically the permanent loss of access to destinations of national significance to the recreational fishing community. To have not announced the public meetings thus far indicates that the public meetings will be just before the end of the public comment period.

I am writing to inform you that I have already heard from constituents that have informed me the current not released but assumed schedule will make it impossible for these stakeholders who wish to participate in the public meetings make appropriate travel plans. Please understand I am not being one bit dramatic when I state that most citizens in the private sector must give their employers appropriate notice to take time off from their jobs and to give less than thirty days notice may be legal but is clearly unfair to the public and will prevent stakeholder participation. In addition, considering that the DEIS is over 680 pages plus appendix sections, to not give the public at least thirty days after the public meetings to digest this document and form substantive and useful comments is in my opinion teetering on a violation of NEPA, at least in spirit.

NPS should not be taking the current strategy with regard to such a long and painstaking process as is development of the ORV plan for CAHA. At this time I would like to ask you to consider this email an official request to extend the public comment period so that there is a minimum of thirty days notice prior to the public meetings and a minimum of thirty days time after the public meetings so that the public can process the information and make informed comments. This is how many of my constituents feel an open process is best conducted.

Thank You for Your Consideration

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