



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Southeast Regional Office  
Atlanta Federal Center  
1924 Building  
100 Alabama St., SW.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
A7221

**APR 29 2010**

The Honorable Walter B. Jones  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Jones:

Thank you for your letter of April 16, 2010, to National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis regarding your request for a 30-day extension to the current 60-day comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan (DEIS). I have been asked to respond on behalf of the National Park Service.

As you noted, the notice of availability of the DEIS was published in the Federal Register (75 Fed. Reg. 10307) on March 5, 2010, and included a closing date of May 11, 2010, for comments. 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 oral comments on the DEIS after reviewing it; however, the public may submit written comments any time through May 11. Oral comments and written comments are considered in the same manner.

Approximately 25 organizations, including the Dare County and Hyde County governments, that represent large constituencies interested in the ORV management issue 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. Also, please 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 this history and the current status of the process, we believe the current 60-day comment period fully meets 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 share your concern for protecting the enormous recreational and economic value of these parks for local communities and the public. We greatly appreciate hearing from you and value your partnership in our shared endeavor of conserving these outdoor treasures.

Sincerely,



David Vela  
Regional Director  
Southeast Region



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APR 29 2010

The Honorable Kay Hagan  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hagan:

Thank you for your letter of April 16, 2010, to National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis regarding your request for a 30-day extension to the current 60-day comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan (DEIS). I have been asked to respond on behalf of the National Park Service.

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David Vela  
Regional Director  
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APR 29 2010

The Honorable Richard Burr  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Burr:

Thank you for your letter of April 16, 2010, to National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis regarding your request for a 30-day extension to the current 60-day comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan (DEIS). I have been asked to respond on behalf of the National Park Service.

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TAKE PRIDE  
IN AMERICA 

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Vela", is written over a faint, illegible typed name.

David Vela  
Regional Director  
Southeast Region