

**From:** [Mike Murray](#)  
**To:** [Michelle Bogardus](#)  
**Cc:** [Britta Muiznieks](#); [Thayer Broili](#); [Darrell Echols](#)  
**Subject:** DEIS issue  
**Date:** 05/25/2010 01:16 PM

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Michelle,

In reading through some of the DEIS comments on turtle nest management, NCWRC writes: "Considerations of nest relocation can be contentious and based on inexact science. To reduce the level of subjectivity in decision making, we recommend the NPS evaluate the applicability of sea turtle nest relocation criteria, similar to those used at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, that quantify geomorphic characteristics of beach width, beach slope and distance from mean high tide." In addition, in a recent phone call with Pete Benjamin, he mentioned that CAHA may have some of the same conditions as PINWR (narrow beaches due to perpetuation of the man-made dune ridge) and we may want to consider similar criteria for nest relocation.

Would you please check with someone at Pea Island NWR to see what criteria they use to determine where and when to relocate a turtle nests. Ideally, get a copy of their procedures or any other information that provides the details of how they measure and apply the criteria.

Please provide the information to Thayer, Britta and me, and provide input to Britta/Thayer regarding your opinion of the applicability of the PINWR criteria to CAHA beaches. Would using something similar reduce the subjectivity of nest relocation decisions. Then, on June 10-11, Thayer and Britta will be participating in a meeting to discuss possible changes in the ORV plan and related species management procedures, which will include a review of the turtle nest relocation procedures

Thanks,

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