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Subject: very preliminary ORV counts
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Hi all,

Sandy said you were meeting today and tomorrow about the alternatives. I'm not sure if some preliminary results from the ramp counting will be useful or not, but I thought I would pass it on. These numbers have not been QA/QC'd, so they may change when we write up the report. This is just to give you a sense of the numbers we are coming up with. The confidence intervals are wide, too.

We counted at randomly selected ramps for 2 hour periods between 6am and 10pm. The sample frame includes the whole year. The probability that we selected a ramp was weighted by data on rental house occupancy (as a proxy for how many people were at the beach). The individual counts were weighted to produce the numbers below.

Total vehicles using the access ramps over the 12 month period from April 2009 to March 2010: 499,802 vehicles, 95% confidence interval 276,945 to 722,659

Total for "high" season (April 2009 to end of November 2009): 344,999 vehicles, 95% confidence interval 284,695 to 405,302

In the high season, maybe 80% of the vehicles are on Bodie/Hatteras and the other 20% are on Ocracoke (this number has really not been re-checked)

Total for "low" season (December 2009 to end of March 2010): 154,803 vehicles, 95% confidence interval 0 to 392,594 (the low season confidence interval is much wider because we have many fewer observations)

In the low season, maybe 75% of the vehicles are on Bodie/Hatteras and the other 15% are on Ocracoke (this number has really not been re-checked)

Based on license plates, it looks like in the high season, the majority of the vehicles come from NC and VA, with a few from other states. Some time periods we counted more cars from VA than NC. In the low season (really starting around the end of Oct), the majority of the vehicles come from NC, with fewer from VA and almost none from other states.

As I said, we will be finalizing these numbers in our report, these are just preliminary. Let me know if you have questions.

Carol

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