

From: [Britta Muiznieks](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#)
Cc: [Darrell Echols](#); [Thayer Broili](#)
Subject: Re: idea for BI Spit predator management
Date: 06/16/2010 11:50 AM

Mike-

I don't want to give up on this site either. It has been productive in the past and has a lot of potential. It will just take a lot of time and effort to keep this area predator free so that we could get some productivity out of the area. Timing of the removals in this area is key to the success of the breeding birds in the area. Some years we will be successful and others we won't. Bodie Spit has always been a problematic location to keep predator free because of the constant influx of new predators into the area. We have tossed around the idea of some sort of fence in the area but we just weren't sure how effective it would be given the landscape of the area. I think if we worked out some of the issues with the electric fencing we experimented with this year and tried to funnel the predators with another fence, it might be more effective. I know that Tyler has been frustrated because the predators (i.e. coyote and fox) will often travel along the ocean shoreline (i.e. the path of least resistance) which makes it almost impossible for him to trap/snare them since it is such an exposed area. Because of access by the public he is limited as to where he can set his traps/snares and he isn't always able to set them in ideal locations for capture. I'm not sure if there is anything we could do to prevent animals from utilizing this natural corridor. On the opposite side of the ocean shoreline you have the Bait Pond and we know that many of the predators are agile swimmers. It will be difficult to keep animals from going around either of these ends. We could do some more research on effective ways of utilizing funnel fencing and see what options we have. We would just have to make sure that maintenance of it (due to shifting sand etc.) doesn't become a nightmare. I would say that funneling is worth a try, I'm just not sure how effective it would be.

Another possible solution is to target some of the problem animals. I know that staff have wanted to conduct some nighttime spotting/shooting of some difficult to capture individuals but currently they are not permitted to do so. Is this something we could consider in the future? I know that with the snares it takes patience (i.e. time) and luck to capture some of these individuals. Tyler's crew documented the loss of a 3-day old AMOY chick on Bodie Spit on 6/14/10 and he finally capture the coyote on 6/15/2010, just a couple days too late!

Let me know how you would like us to proceed.

Britta Muiznieks
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▼ [Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Mike
Murray/CAHA/NPS**

06/14/2010 08:35 AM

To Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc Thayer Brolli/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Darrell
Echols/CAHA/NPS@NPS
Subject idea for BI Spit predator management

Britta,

This is to follow up on our conversation the other day about the potential for shorebird breeding success at Bodie Island being forever limited due to relentless predation. I'm not sure that NPS (or I) would be willing to "give up" on the site. I'd like to figure out a way to effectively address the predation issue at BI Spit, because shorebird "productivity" at the site plays into how we treat the site in terms of ORV route designation (dates, etc.), which leads me to the question of "What can we do to make the site more productive?"

Would it be worthwhile to consider installing a chain link fence from the sound almost to the ocean, somewhere just north of the Bait Pond (e.g., 10 meters into the vegetation north of the flats, so the fence is not so intrusive to the open landscape of the flats? The fence could be designed so that it is not easily dug under. I realize that mammalian predators could still walk around the end of the fence near the ocean shoreline; however, the fence would funnel predator travel routes toward the east end of the fence where it could be more easily monitored and addressed through focused trapping efforts. What do you think? Would something like that significantly improve the chances of better productivity at the site?

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