

0026796

**From:** [Michelle Bogardus](#)  
**To:** [Britta Muiznieks](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle comments  
**Date:** 06/17/2010 02:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [Michelle Comments on the new Wording in the DEIS.docx](#)

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Attached is a word document where I messed with the language of table 10. I could not do it in the table without messing with Mike's track changes. I still am not thrilled about all of this, but I think the relocation stuff is good. I have not yet drafted a letter to Matthew and Sandy but will do so tomorrow.

Michelle



Michelle Comments on the new Wording in the DEIS.docx

### Michelle Comments on the new Wording in the DEIS

Once the buffer expansion is implemented, NPS staff will use rakes or a steel mat attached to an ATV or UTV to smooth any vehicle tracks between the nest and the water, so that tracks do not impede hatchlings from reaching the water.

By Apr 15, Seashore staff will conduct an annual sea turtle nesting habitat assessment to identify areas deemed unsuitable for turtle nests (e.g., those with a high erosion rate) and will discuss with NCWRC prior to nesting season to confirm the high erosion area(s) in which nest relocation would occur during the upcoming nesting season.

When a nest is found, designated NPS staff members will assess the need for nest relocation. If it is determined that the nest will NOT be relocated, it will be immediately protected with symbolic fencing and signs approximately 10 x 10 meters in size. Closure size may vary at the discretion of NPS staff depending on the environmental factors at a nest location. If it is determined that the nest will be relocated, NPS will follow relocation procedure identified in the NCWRC handbook. A nest will be relocated only when one or more of the following situations exist:

The nest is located at or below the average high tide line, or within an existing "trough" or flooding pool above the average high tide line, where regular inundation or standing water will result in embryonic mortality.

The nest is laid in an area that is known to be susceptible to erosion, as identified by the annual habitat assessment. Such areas typically include ~~the following~~ locations: where known erosion or water table issues are known to cause nest mortality, such as spits, points, manmade groins, and re-constructed beaches, as is the case between Frisco and Hatteras Villages.

Bodie Island Spit

Lighthouse Beach groins

Cape Point

Isabel Inlet

North Ocracoke

South Ocracoke

When a nest is inspected to verify the presence of eggs and it is found that there are broken eggs in the nest resulting in yolk dripping down into the egg chamber. This situation can result from either predation or ~~vehicle~~ human impacts and can result in increased predation if the nest is left in place. NPS may "screen" a nest to further discourage additional predation from mammalian predators.

The nest is laid in an area in which unusual, but lawfully conducted, human activities pose a serious threat to nests, such as emergency "beach push" following a major storm event. When these situations arise, NPS will consult with NCWRC prior to ~~relocating the nest~~ conducting these activities to discuss the impact on existing turtle nests.

If a nest is threatened by an imminent storm event, NPS will consult with NCWRC to determine appropriate action.

From May 15, or after the first loggerhead or green turtle nest of the season is found, until Nov 15 all non-essential vehicle use is restricted or prohibited from 9:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. From Sept 16 to Nov 15, ORV routes with no turtle nests remaining will reopen for night driving.

**Comment [MDB1]:** I still don't think that these areas are covering our bases....but they are better than 10pm-6am.