

Sheely, Jo

From: Fox, Lori
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2010 10:46 AM
To: Sheely, Jo
Subject: FW: Questions related to ORV comment response

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

For the CAHA admin record, thanks!

Lori Fox
Deputy Director, Denver Operations/Senior Planner

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-----Original Message-----

From: Mike_Murray@nps.gov [mailto:Mike_Murray@nps.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2010 6:07 AM
To: Doug_Wetmore@nps.gov
Cc: Darrell_Echols@nps.gov; Jon_Anglin@nps.gov; Fox, Lori; Paul_Stevens@nps.gov; Sandra_Hamilton@nps.gov; Thayer_Broili@nps.gov
Subject: Re: Questions related to ORV comment response

Doug,

All alternatives, including A and B, have some year-round resource closures (e.g., areas at some spits and Cape Point, such as "interior habitat") which has the effect of excluding people. Those locations are wherever breeding season closures overlap with nonbreeding season closures. The Action Alternatives allow "research areas" which could be closed to people for study purposes (such as for a "control area" as part of a study), although these would not inherently be permanently designated people free areas.

Beyond that, I'm not aware of any discussion about designating any specific location(s) or larger areas (such as an entire inlet) as "people free". I do not believe it would be necessary to protect resources, since there are many other ways to manage impacts through other measures as described in Table 10. The fact is that many portions of the Seashore have a very low density of use; although those areas generally are not the ocean or

inlet shoreline. I do not believe that designating large areas of the Seashore as permanently "people free" would be appropriate, given the NPS Organic Act ("provide for the enjoyment of the same") and the Seashore's enabling legislation recreational emphasis. Even at Yellowstone, which has a very strong preservation mandate in its enabling legislation, there are no significant, officially designated "people free" areas. There are permanent restrictions or closures in specific resource sensitive or hazardous areas, such as no travel off of established trails in geyser basins (where people could break through the thin crust into extremely hot water or steam vents) and in some remote wilderness sections of grizzly bear habitat.

Mike Murray
Superintendent
Cape Hatteras NS/ Wright Brothers NMem/ Ft. Raleigh NHS
(w) 252-473-2111, ext. 148
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Doug
Wetmore/DENVER/NP
S

06/24/2010 06:45
PM

Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS

Darrell Echols/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Jon
Anglin/CAHA/NPS@NPS,
lfox@louisberger.com, Paul
Stevens/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Sandra
Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Thayer
Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS

To

cc

Subject

Re: Questions related to ORV
comment response(Document link:
Mike Murray)

Hi everyone.

I'm responding to a comment indicating that alternative D should contain areas where there are no people allowed at all. Was that ever discussed during scoping or during our recent conference call? Is that something the park would consider in an alternative?

Thanks.

Doug Wetmore
Environmental Protection Specialist
National Park Service - Environmental Quality Division P.O. Box 25287 Denver, CO 80225-0287
Office: (303) 987-6955
Cell: (303) 968-5214

Mike
Murray/CAHA/NPS

06/24/2010 02:49
PM

To
Paul Stevens/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Darrell
Echols/CAHA/NPS@NPS

cc
Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS,
lfox@louisberger.com, Sandra
Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Doug
Wetmore/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Jon
Anglin/CAHA/NPS@NPS

Subject
Re: Questions related to ORV
comment response(Document link:
Doug Wetmore)

Paul (or Jon), please draft (or assign someone to draft) response items 1a and 1b below.

Darrell, please draft (or assign someone to draft) response to item 2 below.

Send draft response to Lori Fox with copy to Thayer, me, Sandy Hamilton, and Doug Wetmore.

Thanks,

Mike Murray
Superintendent
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Thayer

Broili/CAHA/NPS

06/24/2010 04:39
PM

To
"Fox, Lori" <lfox@louisberger.com>
cc

Doug_Wetmore@nps.gov, Sandra
Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Mike
Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Darrell
Echols/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Paul
Stevens/CAHA/NPS@NPS

Subject
Re: Questions related to ORV
comment response(Document link:
Mike Murray)

These questions are way out of my area. I'm copying Mike and Darrell since they will know who can best respond to them. My personal thoughts on the questions are:

1. a. Sure, we'll talk to anyone. I guess my question is why can't you just indicate that we'd be willing to explore this in the response to questions without constructing a new element in the FEIS?

1. b. I don't know the answer to the number of handicapped parking spaces or wheel chair availability on Hatteras..

2. My understanding is that the funds would have to come through the Project Management Information System (PMIS) process which involves proposing and competing for project funding, including capital improvement projects, for "out years". Darrell may have a good source for a brief, concise description of the process or a reference site where such information is available to the public. Be aware that PMIS is only a process and doesn't really explain the full scope of government project approval and funding. I don't know how far you want to go into the funding

issue. However, if you want to reference it, one definition that you could modify to suit your need is:

The Project Management Information System (PMIS) is a servicewide intranet process within the National Park Service (NPS) to manage information about requests for project funding. It enables parks and NPS offices to submit project proposals to be reviewed, approved and prioritized at park units, regional directorates, and WASO.

Thayer Broili
Chief of Resource Management
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Phone 252-473-2111 ext.137
Fax 252-473-2595

"Fox, Lori"
<lfox@louisberger
.com>

06/24/2010 03:46
PM

<Thayer_Broili@nps.gov>

<Sandra_Hamilton@nps.gov>,
<Doug_Wetmore@nps.gov>

To

cc

Subject

Questions related to ORV comment
response

Hi Thayer,

I have a few questions for you for the comment response that are not species related (Richard may be sending bird ones your way). Please let me know if you would like to set a time to discuss these further.

1. Accessibility Issues

a. One commenter suggested (comment ID138979) that the NPS create a partnership with the Chicamacomico Banks Fire and Water Rescue Department to provide more locations where beach wheel chairs can be accessed (comment made by the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Civic Association). Would the park be interested in adding an element that explores (but does not promise since we don't know the Fire Departments position) this element? If not, we will need to address why.

b. One commenter (ID 140296) stated that there are only 15 handicapped parking spaces on Hatteras Island and that they do not allow wheel chair access (I assume they mean access to the beach but this was not explicitly stated). Is this a true statement? If so, I would like to acknowledge it and then explain what would be done under the plan in regards to accessibility.

2. Park Operations - Cost of the Plan

In the plan we detail staffing needs and their costs, but we don't discuss the cost of the proposed construction projects. This was recognized by some commenters and resulted in concern ID 24253. For most of this concern, I am responding to the fact that the plan will help us obtain funding needed for this plan. I would also like to note how funding would be obtained for construction projects and add that text to the plan. Is it correct to assume that funding for construction projects (parking lots, ramps, etc) would be obtained through your yearly budget process (PMIS)? If so, do you have any text that explains how that process works or suggestions of where I can find a good description of that process?

Many thanks Thayer. That does it for my non-species related questions.

Take care,
Lori
Lori Fox
Deputy Director, Denver Operations/Senior Planner

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