

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: [Larry Hardham](#)
Bcc: [Thayer Broili](#); [Britta Muiznieks](#); [Cyndy Holda](#); [Darrell Echols](#); [Catherine McCurdy](#)
Subject: Re: "Press Release: NPS Implements 2010 Sea Turtle "Nest Watch" Volunteer Program"
Date: 08/19/2010 08:54 AM

Larry,

Consultation with other agencies is part of finalizing the FEIS, which is scheduled for release before the end of the year. Final details about the turtle nest relocation procedures will be available then.

With regard to volunteering, I respect your decision. It is probably better that you not volunteer if you do not agree with the NPS management practices. The primary purpose of the NPS volunteers-in-parks program is to provide a way for the NPS to accept and utilize voluntary help in a way that is mutually beneficial to the service and the volunteer. It would not be beneficial for someone who disagrees with specific park procedures or policies to be put in the position of explaining the management practices to the public, which is one of the intended duties of the nest watch volunteers. Perhaps, in the future once the plan and procedures are final, there will be other opportunities to volunteer, if you so choose.

Mike Murray
Superintendent
Cape Hatteras NS/ Wright Brothers NMem/ Ft. Raleigh NHS
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▼ ["Larry Hardham" <hardhead@embarqmail.com>](mailto:hardhead@embarqmail.com)

"Larry Hardham"
<hardhead@embarqmail.com>

To "Mike Murray" <mike_murray@nps.gov>
cc

08/06/2010 09:37 AM

Subject Re: "Press Release: NPS Implements 2010
Sea Turtle "Nest Watch" Volunteer Program"

Mike,

Both my wife and I would be happy to volunteer, but only if you start using the "debris line from the spring high tide" as a relocation criteria (as is successfully done in South Carolina and approved by USF&W as well as SCSNR operating under the same Loggerhead Recovery Plan) and use "relocation or safe areas" as is done at Pea Island and Cape Lookout (and approved by USF&W as well as NCWRC). I would also encourage members of CHAC, OBPA and NCBBA to volunteer if these changes are made at CHNS

I am sorry, but I can not support a program that has a track record of allowing a catastrophic loss of over 35% of nests in the last ten years to produce no hatchlings. Please do not view this as an attempt to bribe you into a change as I feel very strongly that policies successfully used elsewhere can be used here to improve species recovery. I would hope that you feel the same.

Have you requested either or both of these changes in protocols from NCWRC? If not, why not?

Larry

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

From: <Cyndy_Holda@nps.gov>

Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 3:44 PM

Subject: "Press Release: NPS Implements 2010 Sea Turtle "Nest Watch" Volunteer Program"

>
> (See attached file: 080510 - 2010 Sea Turtle Volunteer Program.doc)
>
> National Park Service News Release
> FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DATE: August 5, 2010
> CONTACT: Cyndy Holda, 252-473-2111, ext. 148 or Katy McCurdy,
> 252-995-6968.
>
> NPS Implements 2010 Sea Turtle "Nest Watch" Volunteer Program
>
> Superintendent Mike Murray announced today the return of the sea turtle
> "Nest Watch" volunteer program for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore
> 2010
> summer/fall sea turtle season. Under the direction of Resource Management
> staff, the goal of the Volunteer Park (VIP) program is to ensure the
> successful hatching of sea turtle hatchlings as they emerge from their
> nests and make their way to the ocean. In addition, this program with
> provide visitors with a valuable educational experience and neighboring
> communities an opportunity to participate in sea turtle conservation and
> management.
>
> The annual program will assist the National Park Service (NPS) in
> monitoring sea turtle nests that have reached the point where hatching is
> imminent. Volunteers are needed and will be trained to assist NPS
> biologists with monitoring nest sites, educating the general public about
> sea turtle management, installing and maintaining closures, handling
> hatchlings, and assisting with excavations.
>
> There are three species of sea turtles that nest within Cape Hatteras
> National Seashore; the loggerhead, green, and leatherback. All of these
> species are federally listed as either threatened or endangered. Each
> year
> from May through September, park employees conduct daily patrols to find
> the nests and protect them. Nests begin to hatch after 50 days of
> incubation, which generally begins in late July and can continue into
> November. When emerging from their nests, hatchlings face many obstacles
> on the beach, including the threat of artificial lighting which leads them
> away from the water, as well as beach furniture, trash, fire pits, or
> other
> human related impediments that may obstruct the hatchling's path. These
> obstacles may increase prolonged exposure on the beach for hatchlings
> making them more susceptible to predation from ghost crabs and other
> predators.
>
> Weekly visitors are welcome to observe training classes while interested
> VIPs are asked to commit to a certain number of hours. If anyone is
> interested in becoming a VIP for this program and attending the training,
> please call Katy McCurdy at 252-995-6968 or 252-216-7829, and leave
> contact
> information.
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