

From: [Britta Muiznieks](#)
To: [Kurt Repanshek](#)
Bcc: [Mike Murray](#)
Subject: Re: Turtle Questions
Date: 09/23/2010 05:03 PM

Kurt-

Below are responses to the questions you emailed me the other day. I had other staff review the responses to the ORV questions since I am not as involved with those issues.

Do you have a density chart of turtle nests?

To get a general visual of where our turtle nests are this year you can go to the following website.

http://www.seaturtle.org/nestdb/index.shtml?view_beach=2&dyn=1285012752

You can compare this to last year's nest locations from the maps in last year's annual reports.

<http://www.nps.gov/caha/naturescience/upload/2009%20Appendix%20E%20Sea%20Turtle%20Maps.pdf>

Are there several places where the nests seem to congregate?

It appears to be pretty random with areas with higher concentrations that vary from year to year.

Has anyone done a study on where the bulk of the ORVs go, and for what purpose?

There has been a year-long ramp count study conducted for the ORV plan/EIS. There is some information about the number and distribution of ORVs at the Seashore on pp. 264-266 of the DEIS, but the year-long survey had not been completed when the DEIS was published. I'm not sure if the final report is available, but expect it will be covered in the final ORV plan/EIS (FEIS).

Are they spread evenly out along the seashore, or do most head for Cape Point or some other popular area?

ORV users tend to concentrate adjacent to access ramps, Cape Point and the spits. The farther you travel from those areas the fewer ORV's you tend to see.

Are most of these drivers heading for fishing spots, or to haul their families to the beach?

Cape Point and the spits tend to have a higher concentration of serious fisherman. Other areas of the beach tend to be visited by families and others participating in a variety of activities (swimming, surfing, sunbathing, shelling and general relaxation) which may also include some fishing.

As a reminder, bird nesting activity also affects access, often to a greater extent than turtle nests. Compared to turtles, the various species of beach nesting birds tend to nest in more predictable or concentrated locations, based on habitat quality and availability, such as at the spits and points and in certain locations where there is a wider beach. In developing our action alternatives for the draft ORV management plan/EIS (DEIS), we considered the known and probable bird nesting areas in relation to desired beach destinations and tried to come up with management options (such as new parking and access points) that would protect resources, as well as provide for access when not in conflict with resource protection needs. In some cases at some times, such as when unfledged chicks are present, resource protection and access can be temporarily mutually exclusive; however, those phases pass and access can be restored.

Was Matthew Godfrey able to answer your questions on pivotal temperatures? Let me know if you have any more questions.

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cc

09/20/2010 02:51 PM

Subject Turtle Questions

NATIONAL PARKS
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Hi Britta,

I've got two dangling questions I hope you can help me with.

1. Do you have a density chart of turtle nests? Are there several places where the nests seem to congregate? If so, how do these spots correlate with ORV traffic?
2. Has anyone done a study on where the bulk of the ORVs go, and for what purpose? Are they spread evenly out along the seashore, or do most head for Cape Point or some other popular area? Are most of these drivers heading for fishing spots, or to haul their families to the beach?

Thanks,

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