

**From:** [Britta Muiznieks](#)  
**To:** [Mike Murray](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: draft language  
**Date:** 09/27/2010 09:01 AM

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Recommended changes in red below.

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

**Mike  
Murray/CAHA/NPS**

To "CAHA Britta" <[britta\\_muiznieks@nps.gov](mailto:britta_muiznieks@nps.gov)>  
cc

09/24/2010 05:20 PM Subject Fw: draft language

Britta,

Any comments on the draft language below? Please send any suggested edits to me.

Thanks

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Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

▼ [Sandra Hamilton](#)

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

**From:** Sandra Hamilton  
**Sent:** 09/24/2010 03:11 PM MDT  
**To:** [lfox@louisberger.com](mailto:lfox@louisberger.com)  
**Cc:** Mike Murray; Doug Wetmore

Mike,

Please edit as needed and return to me and Lori. Thanks.

### **Implement a Volunteer Program to Assist with Species Protection**

During public comment on the draft plan/EIS, some commenters recommended the Seashore use volunteers to implement a range of species management measures such as monitoring nesting activity, a beach watch program, and vehicle escorts. The primary purpose of the NPS volunteers in parks program is to use volunteer help that is **mutually** beneficial to the NPS and the volunteer. The NPS recognizes the importance of encouraging stewardship through volunteer opportunities **and will utilize volunteers when deemed appropriate and resources are available to run such a program. The NPS will work at slowly integrating volunteers back into the less sensitive aspects of the species monitoring program.** At this time, NPS believes that the best use of volunteers for species protection activities would be in a trained volunteer program for watching sea turtle nests that have reached their hatch windows to monitor hatchling emergence **success** and success reaching the water, and to **inform the public on ways to** minimize negative impacts from artificial lighting, predation, and human disturbance. This program should enhance protection and encourage ownership/stewardship of resources among the public, and provide a beneficial situation for both the NPS and the volunteers. However, at this time, with the current controversy over ORV and protected species management, using volunteers to act as vehicle escorts or to monitor nesting activity (such as the morning sea turtle patrol) is not feasible as an alternative element **because actions taken by trained park staff are so closely scrutinized and criticized and we would not want to ask volunteers to be responsible for implementing controversial on-site activities or decisions. ~~it would place volunteers in situations that may bring them into conflict with the public and may erode public confidence in the volunteer program. Although volunteers may be allowed to ride along with NPS turtle patrol staff, it is not feasible at this time to ask volunteers to be responsible for controversial on-site activities or decisions.~~**

### **Create an Oversight Committee with External Experts and Scientists**

Creating an oversight committee with external experts and scientists under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) has been considered but dismissed as a reasonable alternative for further analysis. FACA restricts the establishment of such committees to situations “when they are determined to be essential” (FACA sec 2(b)(2)). The creation of the suggested oversight committee is not “essential.” In its practical application, a FACA committee would be mostly redundant with the current NPS process of seeking scientific and technical advice as required or appropriate from species scientific experts in other agencies, organizations and academia. Additionally, the significant administrative costs in staff time and money incurred in establishing and maintaining a FACA committee are not warranted when the needed scientific advice can be obtained less expensively and more efficiently. Based on the recent NPS experience with the negotiated rulemaking committee, established under FACA, the suggested oversight

committee would not be likely to provide the NPS with agreed on advice, and managing the committee would require a commitment of staff time that could not be sustained over the life of the plan.

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