

0028543

**From:** [Britta Muiznieks](#)  
**To:** [Mike Murray](#)  
**Cc:** [Thayer Broili](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Table 10-1 language  
**Date:** 09/27/2010 04:33 PM


---

Possible tweaks.

Britta Muiznieks  
Wildlife Biologist  
Cape Hatteras National Seashore

252-995-3740-**Office**  
252-475-8348-**Cell**  
252-995-6998-**FAX**

----- Forwarded by Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS on 09/27/2010 04:18 PM -----

**Mike  
Murray/CAHA/NPS** To Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS  
cc Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS  
09/27/2010 04:12 PM Subject Re: Table 10-1 language 

Britta,

See how this sounds and please suggest language for the item in RED.

In general, NPS staff will follow guidance in the NCWRC handbook and FWS Loggerhead Sea Turtle Recovery Plan, which is to allow nests to incubate at their original location if there is any reasonable likelihood of survival. Relocation of a nest is considered **only** as **an option of** last resort. **The NPS shall not relocate turtle nests to accommodate ORV access. When relocation is necessary, nests will be moved toward the dunes immediately behind the original nest location (when possible).** **Narrow beaches or beaches without nearby dunes (i.e. points and spits) may necessitate relocations to adjacent areas above the high tide line that are free of vegetation.**

I also think we need to add a sentence to the "Prenesting Closures" section for Shorebirds in Table 10-1, under All Species, p. 135, middle of the paragraph:

The NPS will determine the configuration of specific pre-nesting closures based on an annual habitat assessment. **Once established at the beginning of the breeding season, the**

**pre-nesting areas closures would not be reduced to accommodate an ORV corridor.** Pre-

0028544

nesting closures would be removed if no breeding activity is seen in the area by **Jul 31** (or **Aug 15** if black skimmers are present), or 2 weeks after all chicks have fledged, whichever comes later.

Thanks,

Mike Murray  
Superintendent  
Cape Hatteras NS/ Wright Brothers NMem/ Ft. Raleigh NHS  
(w) 252-473-2111, ext. 148  
(c) 252-216-5520  
fax 252-473-2595

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE**

This message is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is proprietary, privileged or confidential or otherwise legally exempt from disclosure.


▼ [Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Britta  
Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS**

To Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS

cc Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS

09/27/2010 01:51 PM

Subject Re: Table 10-1 language 

I could live with your wording. If we want to expand it even more you can add my comments in **red** below.

Britta Muiznieks  
Wildlife Biologist  
Cape Hatteras National Seashore

252-995-3740-**Office**

252-475-8348-**Cell**

252-995-6998-**FAX**

▼ [Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Mike  
Murray/CAHA/NPS**

To Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS

cc Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS

09/27/2010 12:59 PM

Subject Table 10-1 language

Britta,

The recent comments/complaints from ORV stakeholders about the turtle nest that was relocated higher on the beach at the same site south of Ramp 44 make me wonder if our current policy about the relocation of turtle nests under the Interim Strategy/Consent Decree (WRC handbook) is not stated clearly enough to be understood by the public. Prior to your arrival, an early draft of the Interim Strategy had allowed for the relocation of turtle nests in order to facilitate recreational access; however, during consultation discussions it became clear that FWS would not approve of that in the BO, so NPS revised the Interim Strategy before it was released and the BO was issued on the revised procedures. Although it was not explicitly stated in the Interim Strategy, its FONSI or the BO, it was implied via reference to the WRC Handbook and clear in my mind that we were not to relocate nests primarily or solely to facilitate ORV access. Yet, we are still subject to stakeholder comments/complaints almost five years later. In thinking about the FEIS, I would like to make the policy in Table 10-1 clear, explicit rather than implied, in order to reduce the commenting/complaining in the future. My thought would be to add a sentence to the current wording in Table 10-1 in the first paragraph about turtle nest relocation. See below. What do you think?

In general, NPS staff will follow guidance in the NCWRC handbook and FWS Loggerhead Sea Turtle Recovery Plan, which is to allow nests to incubate at their original location if there is any reasonable likelihood of survival. Relocation of a nest is considered **only** as **an option of last resort**. **The NPS shall not relocate turtle nests to accommodate ORV access. When relocation is necessary, nests will be moved toward the dunes immediately behind the original nest location (when possible).**

Your thoughts?

Mike Murray  
Superintendent  
Cape Hatteras NS/ Wright Brothers NMem/ Ft. Raleigh NHS  
(w) 252-473-2111, ext. 148  
(c) 252-216-5520  
fax 252-473-2595

#### CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This message is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is proprietary, privileged or confidential or otherwise legally exempt from disclosure.