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From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: [Mary Helen Goodloe-Murphy](#)
Bcc: [Cyndy Holda](#); [Paul Stevens](#)
Subject: Re: Vehicle carrying capacity
Date: 07/11/2011 09:50 AM

Hi Mary Helen,

The intent of the carrying capacity throughout the DEIS/FEIS/ROD process has been that it would apply to the amount of the designated route that is currently open to ORVs. It was designed as a simple formula, since the length of the open route and hence carrying capacity for an open area could vary, depending on various factors such as resource closures. For example, if a designated route were 2.0 miles long on paper, but only 1 mile were open due to a resource closure; then the carrying capacity on that mile would be the distance (1.0 mile or 5,280 ft.) divided by 6 meters (20 ft) = 264 vehicles. There were a number of comments on the DEIS regarding the proposed carrying capacity. See NPS response to comments on p. C-125 of Appendix C in Volume II of the FEIS. The adequacy or clarity of wording in the proposed rule is open to comment.

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Mary Helen Goodloe-Murphy
<atmmhgm@aol.com> To: Mike_Murray@nps.gov
cc
Subject: Vehicle carrying capacity
07/11/2011 08:08 AM

Hi Mike –

The proposed regulation at paragraph (13) details vehicle carrying capacity as “the linear distance of the route divided by 6 meters (20 feet).”

So, I calculate that 2.3 miles of ocean beach on Bodie Island would be open as

the year-round route, subject to wildlife resource closures. The vehicle carrying capacity of this route would be 607.2 vehicles.

The draft regulation doesn't say route open for beach driving and walking at a particular time. That means that 607 vehicles could cram into a much smaller space.

How will you calculate vehicle carrying capacity: by the overall route or by what's open?

Do I write that the vehicle carrying capacity is open for interpretation as currently proposed?

I discovered this dilemma when writing about vehicle counts for the July 4 weekend and applying the vehicle carrying capacity to what was open.

Thanks,
Mary Helen
The Coastland Times