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From: [Britta Muiznieks](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#)
Cc: [Angela Woody](#); [Cyndy Holda](#); [Darrell Echols](#); [Ellen Hand](#); [Marie Reed](#); [Paul Stevens](#); [Thayer Broili](#)
Subject: Re: new Congressional inquiry
Date: 08/02/2011 03:21 PM

Mike-

There has been no difference in the distance between signs that were posted this year compared to previous years. Every wooden post has always had a sign on it when it is placed out in the field. The pre-nesting closure signs installed at the beginning of the season are measured out with a rope tied to the back of the truck, so these signs are all spaced approximately 75' apart. The rest of the closures are paced out by the techs on foot. In the last couple of years, primarily due to the cost of the carsonite, we have switched from red carsonite to PVC posts down at the waterline. We also started using the red and white derby rope to tie the PVC, carsonite, and bird signs together so that when they do wash out we don't have to search the entire beach for the washed out signs. In areas where a lot of closure intrusions occur (primarily the full beach closures at the points and spits), we may put additional "stop" signs and "shoreline closed at all tides" signs because in the past pedestrians often said that they thought the signs were meant only for ORVs. We have made a concerted effort to try to keep pedestrians out of closed areas and for the most part they would have to lift the string or step over the rope in order to enter a closed area. Overall, we try to do what we can to improve compliance but we have not intentionally increased the number of signs we have out in the field.

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▼ [Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Mike
Murray/CAHA/NPS**

08/02/2011 09:58 AM

To Ellen Hand/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Paul Stevens/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Angela Woody/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Darrell Echols/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Marie Reed/CAHA/NPS@NPS
Subject new Congressional inquiry

Ellen and Britta,

We've received a new Congressional inquiry on behalf of Bob Davis about the cost of resource closure signing. In brief, the questions asked are as follows:

"I have noticed an increased use of signage on the bird enclosures this spring. In the past a few signs were distributed along the symbolic fencing. This year every wooden post has a sign attached. **Could you request how much taxpayers' money is spent on materials and personnel to erect those closures?** Does Congress intend to continue this level of funding on personal and materials, as required by the court ordered Consent Decree, into the foreseeable future?"

Ellen, would you or Angela please work with Thayer and Marie to determine how much we have spent on resource closure signing and fencing supplies in 2011? I am asking only for the approximate total amount spent in FY 2011 for the resource closure materials. (Note: My response regarding personnel costs will be along the lines of the following: The installation of resource protection signs and fencing is one of many resource management duties performed by the biological technician staff during the course of a day and over the course of the breeding season and it is not possible to accurately isolate or estimate personnel costs specifically for fencing duties. Compared to other duties performed by the staff, such as patrolling almost 70 miles of beach to monitor and survey for wildlife and documenting wildlife observations, the installation of signs and fencing occupies a relatively small portion of their assigned duty time.)

Britta, any comments or suggested response to the assertion that there are more signs posted this year compared to previous years? Sitting here at HQ, my assumption would be that we have been using signs/fencing similar to what we have done in previous years. From your experience, has there been any noticeable change in our approach this year (e.g., are we using more signs to improve compliance)?

Please respond by COB on Friday, August 5.

Thanks,

Mike Murray
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