

0031776

**From:** [Cyndy Holda](#)  
**To:** [Mike Murray](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: ORV permit questions  
**Date:** 11/21/2011 01:59 PM

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Mike,

A few additional questions that either you or I can probably answer without referring to Pat.....and some are comments, not real questions.

Please note his mailing list that he is copying on these emails.

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----- Forwarded by Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS on 11/21/2011 01:53 PM -----

**Wayne Clark**  
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11/21/2011 01:03 PM

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Subject RE: ORV permit questions

11/21/11

Ms. Holda

**See my questions in Red (initial questions)**

See NPS Response in "black"

**See my "comments" after reviewing the NPS Response in "green"**

Wayne

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

From: Cyndy\_Holda@nps.gov [mailto:Cyndy\_Holda@nps.gov]

Sent: November 21, 2011 11:50 AM

To: Wayne Clark

Cc: Jocelyn\_Wright@nps.gov; Kenny\_Ballance@nps.gov

Subject: Fw: ORV permit questions

Mr. Clark,

Your questions were forwarded to me from Jocelyn Wright in Ocracoke. The final rule for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan **is proceeding through the proper channels in Washington (NPS/WASO, DOI, and then OMB for final review** and we should have more definite answers to your questions by early Spring 2012, once the rule is finalized and published. However, at this time, I have answered your questions as accurately as possible at this time in the process. Please see the answers to each of your questions below.

- 1. Has a fee schedule been "decisioned" for the 2012 Season? If so, please provide information on it? If not, what is the anticipated date that it will be "decisioned"?** The cost for the ORV permits has not yet been established. The cost will be published at a later date when a decision has been finalized. AS stated in the final ORV management plan/EIS, the permit fee is expected to be similar to the cost of ORV permits at Cape Cod NS or Assateague NS, where **annual permits cost in the \$90-150 price range and weekly or 7-day permits (at Cape Cod only) are \$50-75, depending on vehicle type.** It is expected that the permit requirement will go into effect in February 2012 after the final rule is published.
- 2. Will "limitations" be placed on how many ORVs are allowed on the beach at one time? If so, how will this be enforced and what will the limitations be?** There is no limit on the number of permits which can be sold. The maximum number of vehicles on an ORV route will only be limited by the carrying capacity of the route. During peak use periods this would equate to 20 ft of space per vehicle parked perpendicular to the shoreline, no more than 1 vehicle deep. If it is determined that the carrying capacity has been reached, no additional vehicles would be allowed on that route until there is adequate space available.

**3. Relative to the "permitting process" for beach access:**

**a. where will permits be sold**

ORV permit offices will be located on Bodie Island (at Coquina beach parking area), and by the visitor centers at Buxton and Ocracoke **Can an Ocracoke Vacationer purchase a permit from a location other than Ocracoke?**

**b. what will be the requirements to obtain a Permit other than the cost**

Obtaining the permit will be a two step process. A permit form must be completed and signed at any of the permit offices. This form will provide a record of Permittee and Vehicle information and state the conditions of the permit. Upon completion of the form the viewing of a 7 minute educational ORV video will be required prior to purchasing the permit. The permittee is the one who must watch the training video to ensure that he or she understands the rules and responsibilities. **Will the Application be available "on line" to allow for its completion prior to coming to the Island?**

**c. will "internet access" be part of the process as to obtaining a Permit**

Permits can only be obtained in person at one of the NPS ORV Permit Offices. **Given the "huge turnover of weekly renters" we have on Saturdays and Sundays in the peak season (say Memorial Day through Labor Day), having an "on line presence is a "got to" in my view. Letting Private Businesses have the option to sell the Permits is also worth considering? Trying to control the process at one NPS Location on Ocracoke will not work in my view?**

**d. will permits be transferable\***

Annual permits must be obtained in person, are valid for the vehicle which is listed on the permit form and must be affixed to that vehicle at time of purchase. Permits will not be transferable to another vehicle. 7-day permits must also be obtained in person by each user and cannot be transferred to another user. **Again, the logistics/system that you have outlined is not feasible on "turn over days". My thinking is that the system design for the Permits really needs to be thought through given the "turnover days" issue?**

**e. will there be multiple tiers as to costs and time frame (daily, weekly, monthly, annual)? If so, what will the schedule of fees be?**

Both annual and 7-day permits will be available.

\*The "transferable question" would cover examples as to the following:

1. transfer permit from one vehicle to another owned by the same person  
Permits will not be transferable. If multiple vehicles are used for beach

access a separate permit form would need to be completed with information for each vehicle. This would also require the purchase of individual permits.

**2. the ability to purchase a batch of permits for our Lodging Customers so they would not have to get them while on vacation. They would be ready at "check in".**

Permits cannot be purchased in bulk. The person renting and operating the vehicle will be required to complete the permit form, view the ORV video, and can purchase a 7-day permit for their use. The 7-day permit is non-transferable to another user.

**3. Say I rent 4 Wheel Drives on the Island. Can I purchase a permit for each vehicle I rent and the person who rents the vehicle be the user?**

No. The person renting the vehicle will be required to complete the permit form, view the ORV video, and can purchase a 7-day permit for their use. The 7-day permit is non-transferable to another user.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

**Levying new fees on Tourist given the economy we are in just does not make good economic sense. 2011 will probably be the worst year economically on the Island since Hurricane Isabel (2003). With an increase in Ferry Tolls expected (say \$30 each way rather than \$15), plus the new NPS Beach Access Fees (say a weekly fee of \$50), I am fearful that we are putting in place permanent barriers that will significantly harm our local economy? An additional \$80 is meaningful to a goodly number of our Weekly Renters (\$50 Access Fee plus a increase in ferry fees by \$30). Pass Through paying say a \$30 one way ferry fee rather than \$15 is also meaningful in that many are Seniors on a fixed income that has declined significantly over the last several years.**

**If the fees are a must for NPS, then at least make the process of getting them reasonable? The impact of the many negative economic issues on our Tourist Economy is of real concern. Increasing costs levied upon weekly renters be it ferry costs or NPS could drastically impact the decision of Tourist/Vacationers to come to our Island.**

**I do appreciate the time you took to address my questions. The Community on Ocracoke will be better served by your outline of the current situation.**

Cyndy M. Holda  
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