

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

Defenders of Wildlife and  
National Audubon Society

Plaintiffs,

v.

National Park Service, United States Department of  
the Interior, *et al.*

Defendant,

)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)

No. 207 CV 45

DECLARATION OF RAYMOND STURZA

Raymond Sturza, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am over 18 years of age and have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein and, if asked, could competently testify to same.

2. I am the Planning Director of Dare County, North Carolina. The County contains much of what is known as North Carolina's "Outer Banks" resort and vacation areas and contains approximately one-fourth of the North Carolina coastline. It is host to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CHNS), the Wright Brothers National Monument, the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, Jockey's Ridge State Park, the Elizabeth II State Historic Site, the Roanoke Island Festival Park, the North Carolina Aquarium, the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, and the Nags Head Woods Nature Preserve.

4. Dare County has a permanent population of approximately 39,600. However, the County's tourism industry results in a large seasonal population –

with an average daily population from June through August estimated to be approximately 200,000 to 225,000 (a total of 4.2 million in the year 2000). Six municipalities are located within the County: Duck, Kill Devil Hills, Kitty Hawk, Manteo, Nags Head, and Southern Shores. Seven unincorporated villages that lie within the CHNS boundaries are in Dare County. The CHNS is a major tourist destination, with over 2.2 million visitors in 2006, and the County's economic health is heavily dependent on revenues from tourism. In 2006 alone, the County's revenues from tourism were over \$700 million.

5. I understand that Plaintiffs Defenders of Wildlife and the National Audubon Society in the above captioned case are seeking an injunction ordering Defendant National Park Service to restrict ORV use at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CHNS) until a long-term plan to manage ORV use at CHNS is implemented. In my opinion, such an order would have a devastating effect on the County's tourist based economy.

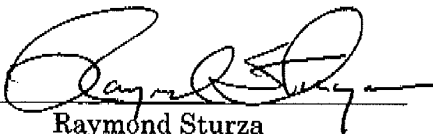
6. Recreational access to the CHNS beaches via Off Road Vehicles (ORVs) is an essential component of the County's tourist-based economy. Visitors to the Outer Banks routinely utilize ORVs to engage in recreational activities such as surf fishing as well as to reach the significant portion of the CHNS that is not accessible by paved roads.

7. As Planning Director I have had the opportunity to interact directly with visitors to the Outer Banks for many years and have heard first hand from tourists who have indicated that they will stop coming to the Outer Banks ORV use

on the CHNS is restricted. The views expressed in these informal discussions are consistent with the results of a survey commissioned by the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance and conducted by William D. Neal, which showed that 24% of visitors would not return to the Outer Banks of North Carolina if an ORV ban were implemented, and an additional 18% of visitors would visit less often.

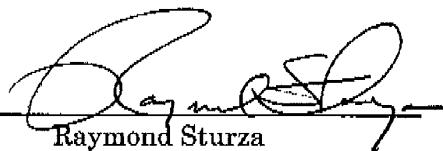
8. If ORV restrictions are imposed and fewer tourists visit the Outer Banks, Dare County and its citizens will suffer direct economic harm. Dare County is heavily dependent upon tourism related revenues, which compose 50% to 70% of Dare County's total revenue. Any decrease in those revenues will result in reduced funding for County priorities including public safety, education, and human services.

Further the declarant sayeth not.

  
Raymond Sturza

Pursuant to the requirements of 28 U.S.C. § 1746(b), I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 11/28/07

  
Raymond Sturza