

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: [Carla Boucher](#)
Cc: smaddock@audubon.org; oferguson@cbuilding.org; [Cyndy Holda](#)
Subject: Re: CAHA Reg/Neg committee beach tour
Date: 04/20/2007 06:28 PM

Hi Carla,

I understand you and Sidney are coordinating rides the field trips. Thank you both for doing that.

We have limited time for field trips during this workshop, so the plan is to visit a few key sites that are representative of the challenging management issues related to providing for resource protection as well as access. The goal of the field trips are: to give the group an opportunity to see two of our most difficult-to-manage areas; generate some on-site information sharing about interests and values; and help develop a better understanding of why these sites are so important to fishermen and ORV users, as well as to wildlife. The way it worked out on the schedule, it was decided to have two short field trip opportunities instead one longer one; in part, to have at least one trip in the morning when wildlife viewing may be more optimal.

Here is what I've been thinking:

Trip 1: Go to Cape Point/South Beach in the morning since it is logistically close to Avon where the meeting is being held. We will meet at the Cape Hatteras Light parking lot to gather the group, then car-pool in 4WD's out Ramp 44 to Cape Point to see whatever there is to see in the way of human and wildlife activity. There currently are and will likely be some resource closures in place for wildlife protection and be able to see how access is being managed under the circumstances. Can't predict today what that will look like in late May. We will not go into the closures but could have an NPS biologist on hand to brief the group on what resource activity is occurring (i.e., what species activity is occurring at the site), and various stakeholders may want to add their own point of view. It is not uncommon to be able to see some birds, such as piping plovers, from outside the closure with the aid of binoculars or a spotting scope (which NPS can provide). May even have some turtle nests somewhere in the vicinity (e.g., South Beach) by May 21, so the group may be able to see what a turtle closure looks like and how access is managed around it. I would also like the group to see whatever human activity is occurring (how people access the beach, what they do when they get there, etc.) and give stakeholders a chance to talk briefly about what their interests/values are, whether it is access, fishing, solitude, wildlife protection, etc. I do not want to debate current management practices or dwell on critiquing the current situation. I would like all the stakeholders to get a sense of the diverse interests we are trying to juggle and the complexity and difficulty of managing an area like Cape Point to the satisfaction of all interests. I've found that seeing the situation on the beach helps make the issues more tangible for everyone. If we have time, we could/should drive back toward Ramp 44, take the interdunal road over to South Beach (Ramp 45), so the group can get a feel for the benefits of having a back-road system (and current limitations of having only a partial system). Interdunal roads and other alternate routes help us provide access around resource closures while not compromising resource protection. In the long run, I think the ORV plan needs to come up with more of that in order to give NPS the route options needed to serve both resource protection and access, but it will be up to the group to help figure that out.

Trip 2: On the second tour opportunity, I thought we could go to Bodie Island Spit, which is logistically convenient for those heading north from Avon on Tuesday afternoon. It is a chance to see another key site, which is at an inlet.

We will meet in the parking lot at the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center to group up in 4WD's, car-pool out Ramp 4 to Bodie Island Spit (Oregon Inlet), and see discuss whatever is happening out there at the moment. Bodie Island Spit has its own version of management complexities similar to Cape Point. Cape Point is somewhat unique in that it is not at an inlet; whereas, Bodie Island Spit is a good example of a spit at an inlet. It has its own unique issues - have to travel down a narrow beach, which may be impassible during some high tides, to get to the spit. There is no "backroad" or alternate route around the narrow beach, so that can limit access.

I'm hoping we can efficiently car-pool and minimize the total number of vehicles, since it is more conducive to having conversations en route and will make it more efficient to stop a few places on the beach and gather up for a discussion. I would not feel good about taking 50 vehicles on the beach. Hopefully, we can manage it with at least 3-4 riders in each vehicle. Hopefully, committee participants including NPS can provide most of the vehicles (without us needing to bring in a whole bunch of extra people and vehicles as a shuttle service for the group.

Those are my thoughts. Hopefully, this answers your question. If not, feel free to call or e-mail again. Feedback is welcome!

Thanks again Carla and Sidney for taking the lead on coordinating transportation for the field trips.

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To: <mike_murray@nps.gov>
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Subject: CAHA Reg/Neg committee beach tour

04/19/2007 04:15 PM
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Hi Mr. Mike. This is Carla Boucher, Attorney for United Four Wheel Drive Associations and hopefully a future member of the Reg/Neg committee.

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Would you be so kind as to give me an indication of the places you hope to visit during the two beach tours, Cape Point and Oregon Inlet? I'm interested to know where you hope to take the tour, what route you'd like to take, what sights you want to see and discuss, things of that nature.

Thank you for taking the time to respond. I hope this message finds you well.

Yours truly,

Carla

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