


#3047

Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS
05/13/2008 03:33 PM EDT

To Sandra Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Sherri
Fields/Atlanta/NPS@NPS, Timothy
Pinion/Atlanta/NPS@NPS, Britta
cc Darrell Echols/CAHA/NPS@NPS

bcc

Subject Fw: Release of Data and Formulation of a Shorebird Expert /
Peer Review Team associated with CAHA Regulatory
Negotiations and ORV EIS

History:  This message has been replied to.

Looks like the best time for all of us is:

Thursday, May 15, 8:30-9:30 EST

Teleconference no.:
1-877-507-1324

Passcode:
3156883#

Thayer Broili
Chief of Resource Management
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Phone 252-473-2111 ext.137
Fax 252-473-2595

----- Forwarded by Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS on 05/13/2008 03:22 PM -----

Thayer Broili
05/13/2008 08:29 AM
EDT

To: Sandra Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Sherri
Fields/Atlanta/NPS@NPS, Timothy Pinion/Atlanta/NPS@NPS, Britta
Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc: Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Marie Reed/CAHA/NPS@NPS,
Pete_Benjamin@fws.gov
Subject: Release of Data and Formulation of a Shorebird Expert / Peer Review
Team associated with CAHA Regulatory Negotiations and ORV EIS

To make a long story short, we have been requested, and the Superintendent has made some assurances, to :

- provide some of our historic information on bird locations to the environmental folks on the Reg Neg Committee (who were also plaintiffs in the recent consent decree)
- to provide "government experts" to review the existing protocols, e.g., USGS, interim strategy, etc., to come up with recommendations on bird management such as buffers, time frames, etc., that will go forward in the ORV EIS.

Before we go charging off to accomplish this, I'd like SER staff to weigh in and also provide any recommendations they may have. This has to at least start expeditiously in order for us to fulfill commitments and stay on schedule for the Committee and the EIS. Please let me and/or Marie Reed know when you can be available for a telecon later this week on the subject. It should take about 45 minutes. Marie will set up the call after she gets everyone's input. We may also have FWS on the call depending on whatever feedback Mike Murray gets from Pete Benjamin, Raleigh Ecological Field Office, in the next day or so. Thanks.

Thayer Broili
Chief of Resource Management
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Phone 252-473-2111 ext.137
Fax 252-473-2595

Thayer Broili /CAHA/NPS
05/14/2008 01:12 PM EDT

To: Sandra Hamilton/DENVER/NPS@NPS
cc:
bcc:
Subject: Fw: Areas and Routes question

Don't know if I sent this to you previously. Constructed by Britta.

Thayer Broili
Chief of Resource Management
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Phone 252-473-2111 ext. 137
Fax 252-473-2595

----- Forwarded by Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS on 05/14/2008 01:11 PM -----

Britta Muiznieks
04/30/2008 01:40 PM
EDT

To: Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc:
Subject: Re: Areas and Routes question 



Hot Spots for Breeding Birds at CAHA.doc

Call if you have any questions.

Britta
Mike Murray



Mike Murray
04/30/2008 07:56 AM
EST

To: Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc: Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS
Subject: Areas and Routes question

Hi Britta,

NPS regs require we determine which "areas and routes" should be designated open to ORV use (which is opposite of assuming everything is open unless it is temporarily closed for some reason, such as safety or resource protection). In the ORV plan and reg we will need to designate what areas are open to ORV use (could be year-round or could be seasonal), which are not, then the temporary closures could still apply. On Thursday (tomorrow) a RegNeg committee work group is having its first discussion on designating "Areas and Routes" for ORV use. Thayer, Paul Stevens and I will participate.

It is obvious to me that the spits, Cape Point and South Beach have inherent conflicts between resources and ORV use during the breeding season, so I am sure there will be discussion about whether we should designate some, all, or portions of the six key sites as non-ORV areas during the breeding season. Should be an interesting discussion.

I am also under the impression that away from the spits and Cape Point, there are some areas that are predictably and very likely to be closed for much of the breeding season due to bird nesting activity. For example, the area between ramp 27 and Ramp 30 strikes me as a site that we should consider designating as a non-ORV area, at least for the breeding season. Would you agree with that impression? Is there a more precise description of the high resource value area between Ramp 27 and Ramp 30 (e.g., is the current situation likely to be the recurring scenario? i.e., closed just south of R27 and 0.6 mile north of R30?). For example, if that is likely to be the recurring scenario, then the Committee may not want to

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designate the entire area as non-ORV, but may want to designate R27 to 0.5 north of R30 as non-ORV during the breeding season.

By the end of the day today , please email me a short , bullet list of all the areas , aside from the six sites, that you think will routinely , year-after-year have resource closures that would preclude ORV access during much of the "breeding season" (let's say March 15 - September 15 for the purpose of this exercise). Obviously, you don't have a crystal ball and cannot predict the random nest locations, even if you can predict individual AMOY nests. I am most interested in the obvious "areas" that seem likely to be closed for extended period due to concentrations of bird nests or predictable multiple closures that preclude access to a larger section of beach. **Please keep it simple and focused on the high use (by birds), high resource value sites .**

Thayer, please discuss with Britta so you are familiar enough with the areas to talk about it at the meeting.

Mike Murray
Superintendent
Cape Hatteras NS/ Wright Brothers NMem/ Ft. Raleigh NHS
(w) 252-473-2111, ext. 148
(c) 252-216-5520
fax 252-473-2595

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Hot Spots for Breeding Birds at CAHA since 2000

Areas that should definitely get considered for closure to ORVs:

- Ramp 27-Ramp 30 currently (and historically) heavily and consistently occupied by AMOYs and CWBs. We have had birds nesting right at the ramps in some years.
- From Ramp 34 continuing for 1.2 miles north of Ramp 34. Area has consistently been occupied by CWBs and AMOYs since 2000. In 2002 the CWB colony was south of Ramp 34.
- North of Buxton Village for ~1 mile (starting 2 ½ mi S of Ramp 38 and continuing to Buxton Village). Area consistently used by AMOYs and CWB.
- From 0.5 mi S of Ramp 68 to 1.2 mi N of R 70 (~1 mi). This corresponds to the area N of the swim beach but S of the campground on Ocracoke. Area consistently and heavily used by AMOYs.

Additional areas that should be considered for closure:

- Ramp 23-Ramp 27. Area heavily occupied by AMOYs and CWBs until 2006.
- Sandy Bay/Isabel Inlet-AMOYs consistently nesting on the soundside, CWB used the area after the breach was filled in. Without a storm, not considered good habitat. Including the soundside AMOY nests so that the area does not get considered for an alternate route.
- Overwash fans on Pole Road heading towards Hatteras Inlet (Starting from 0.5 mi SW of R 55 and continuing to 1.2 miles SW of R 55). Habitat improves after heavy storms. AMOYs nested from 2000-2006, CWB from 2005-2006.
- Ramp 59 through Ramp 67 has been consistently used by AMOYs in the past. 9+ nests from 2000-2003, 7 nests in 2004 and since then has been occupied by 2-3 AMOY pairs. This area has NOT been open to ORVs. I'm not sure how the AMOYs would react if the area were opened up to ORVs.