

BRIEF SUMMARY

Village Closure Subcommittee
July 29, 2008 Conference Call

Participants: John Alley, Sonny Duke, Robert Fisher, Steve Kayota, Wayne Mathis, Mike Murray, Jim Lyons, Jeff Wells

Next Steps:

1. Mike Murray will provide the subcommittee the visitation data he referred to on the call.
2. Subcommittee members will develop "middle ground" proposals and send to Robert Fisher by Tuesday August 12th. Subcommittee members are encouraged to confer with others in preparing proposals. Robert will combine the proposals into a single document and distribute to the subcommittee for review.
3. Tuesday August 26th at 11AM – conference call to review draft proposals.

Speed Limits:

The Subcommittee discussed the information from the Vehicle Characteristics subcommittee concerning speed limits. Discussion topics included: consistency with the Executive Orders; potential closure dates; access for commercial and recreational fishing; potential criteria for evaluating speed limit proposals – simplicity, consistency, enforceability; driving purpose – access rather than recreation; beach conditions that might foster higher speeds; impact of posted speed limits on average speed; reducing the limit to 10 mph within 100' of a pedestrian within village limits and elsewhere. Mike Murray also informed the subcommittee that NPS was developing a draft alternative for a speed limit of 15 mph year-round based on simplicity for the public, visitor education, and Park management considerations.

The subcommittee recommends that the Vehicle Characteristics subcommittee adopt and recommend to the Committee a uniform speed limit of 15 mph, unless otherwise posted.

Closure Recommendations:

The subcommittee identified two recommendations for Committee consideration at the September meeting: (1) keep the [2008?] status quo, and (2) ban all driving in front of villages year round. The subcommittee will work on developing a third recommendation in the middle.

Mike Murray reported visitation data and John Alley reported real estate occupancy rates. The subcommittee also discussed: whether to treat all villages the same or develop different approaches for different villages; assessing views of different villages using a village-by-village survey or visitor survey information; and possibly using the village areas for some of the pedestrian only areas discussed by the routes and areas subcommittee.