

## Designing a Workable Fee and Permit Program for

### Cape Hatteras National Seashore

(please note, this has not be reviewed by NPS fees and permits DC staff)

#### Guiding Principles

- All visitors to CAHA should pay a modest recreation (Pass) fee for entrance/use
- Visitor recreation (Pass) fees and ORV (free) permits do not have to be linked
- Separate ORV permits (free) are required for management of this use.
- Traditional park entrance station-based fee collection system will not work at CAHA.

#### Relevant Provisions of FLREA – P.L. 108-447 Section 801

- FLREA Sec. 802 (8) states *“The term recreation fee means an entrance fee, standard amenity recreation fee, expanded amenity recreation fee, or special recreation permit fee.”*
- FLREA Sec. 803 (g)(1) states that *“the Secretary of the Interior may charge an expanded amenity recreation fee, either in addition to or by itself, at Federal recreation lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service....when the Secretary determines that the visitor uses a specific or specialized facility, equipment, or service.”*
- FLREA Section 803 (h) states that *“The Secretary may issue a special recreation permit, and charge a special recreation permit fee in connection with the issuance of the permit, for specialized recreation uses of Federal recreation lands and waters, such as group activities, recreation events, motorized recreational vehicle use.”*
- FLREA Section 805 (c) states *“The Secretary may establish and charge a fee for a site-specific pass that will cover the entrance fee or standard amenity recreation fee for particular Federal recreation lands and water for specific period not to exceed twelve months.”*
- FLREA Section 806 (a) States that *“...the Secretary may enter into a fee management agreement, including a contract, which provides for a reasonable commission, reimbursement or discount with the following entities for the following purposes: (1) With any governmental or nongovernmental entity, including those in a gateway community, for the purpose of obtaining fee collection and processing services...”*
- FLREA Section 806 (c) states that *“The Secretary shall consider any proposal submitted by a county to provide services described in Subsection (a).....The fee management agreement may include cooperative site planning and management provisions.”*

#### Outline of a Fee Collection System at CAHA

- Visitor Pass fees will be collected in multiple ways.
- CAHA can rely largely on advance sale of vehicle-based sticker Pass – CAHA annual (\$75), seasonal (\$50), or week (\$25) long. Windshield display required to avoid ticket from LE.
- Two types of vehicle Pass stickers to be issued for sale– Vehicle parking sticker for parking only, and ORV sticker, for either parking or ORV access (color-coded), with identical pricing structure.
- The America the Beautiful/National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass will be acceptable for both types of access and use, including parking and ORV beach access fees (ORV still need separate free permit)

- Sale of Passes will be both in NPS offices, and through authorized agents, including area hotels, bait and tackle shops, outfitters, and tour operators, as well as the CVB visitor center. Possible to sell through the web as well. Seller keeps a percentage.
- On site day-use (only) Pass (\$5) fee collection will occur at parking lots and ramps, for all that do not make advance purchase. Fee deposit envelopes (with tear-off sticker for vehicle windshield) are available from kiosk dispensers at ramps and parking lots; envelope with fee placed in in-ground pipe, or other secure deposit device. Alternatively, an electronic fee machine can issue windshield sticker when fee is paid in cash or with credit card.
- LE Rangers will patrol parking lots and beaches throughout the day and issue tickets for failure to pay as needed.
- No on-site fee collection personnel needed, except at NPS offices.
- For parking in town lots that abut the Seashore beaches, a cooperative agreement will have to be negotiated with Dare County; this agreement should cover the fee structure differences, if any, and revenue sharing, as appropriate.
- CAHA, Dare County, and all authorized sales outlets should cooperate in a joint marketing and educational effort to maximize the % of Pass sales that occur in advance of actual parking or beach access.
- Under FLREA Sec 806 (c) CAHA could enter into an agreement with Dare County to manage the entire fee program for the National Seashore.