

From: basicpatrick@aol.com
To: jkeene@franklineq.com; oferguson@cbuilding.org; derbc@selcnc.org; Topatneal@aol.com; Paul_Stevens@nps.gov; Cahoonr@embarqmail.com; djoyner@beldar.com
Cc: pfield@cbuilding.org; rcf@fisherccs.com; Cyndy_Holda@nps.gov; Mike_Murray@nps.gov
Subject: Re: Vehicle Characteristics & Operations - feedback from NPS
Date: 11/07/2008 12:57 PM

To all,

I will work with my alternate and some of my constituents to draft a position paper on this subject. I will also be contacting committee members that represent the local business interests. I hope to send something out in the middle of next week.

Patrick Paquette

-----Original Message-----

From: keene9558 <keene9558@charter.net>
To: 'Ona Ferguson' <oferguson@cbuilding.org>; derbc@selcnc.org; Topatneal@aol.com; Paul_Stevens@nps.gov; 'Patrick Paquette' <BasicPatrick@aol.com>; 'Renee Cahoon' <Cahoonr@embarqmail.com>; djoyner@beldar.com
Cc: 'Pat Field' <pfield@cbuilding.org>; 'Robert Fisher' <rcf@fisherccs.com>; 'Cyndy Holda' <Cyndy_Holda@nps.gov>; Mike_Murray@nps.gov
Sent: Thu, 6 Nov 2008 9:41 am
Subject: RE: Vehicle Characteristics & Operations - feedback from NPS

ALL

I would ask for a report from P. Parquette & Ronnie Bounds concerning the operation of "self contained" camping. How does this work @ Cape Cod/Assateague National Seashores? The NPS seems to be expanding the perceived burdens for the type of camping experience requested (understanding that trash removal & patrols will be necessary).

With this explanation I would suggest contact with Chamber of Commerce and Business Allies representatives.

Jim Keene

-----Original Message-----

From: Ona Ferguson [<mailto:oferguson@cbuilding.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 05, 2008 11:17 PM
To: derbc@selcnc.org; jkeene@franklineq.com; Topatneal@aol.com; Paul_Stevens@nps.gov; Patrick Paquette; Renee Cahoon; djoyner@beldar.com
Cc: Pat Field; Robert Fisher; Cyndy Holda; Mike_Murray@nps.gov
Subject: Vehicle Characteristics & Operations - feedback from NPS

Vehicle Characteristics and Operations Subcommittee,

We've gotten some feedback from NPS on the newest iteration of the Document (attached as a reminder - you should already have this). There don't seem to be any concerns about most of the document, which is good. NPS does have several comments/concerns about the self-contained vehicle camping topic, which are as follows:

1. Demand vs. Funding constraints: Historically, the demand for off-season camping has not supported operating the NPS campgrounds beyond the current dates. No matter how "self-contained" the vehicles might be, there are inherent costs (patrol, trash removal, etc.) with operating a self-contained area. Campground facilities, including dump stations, are not winterized and would have to be upgraded. NPS cannot commit to keeping three campgrounds (or even one) open for self-contained units in the off-season, unless the operation is "cost neutral."
2. Competition with local businesses: NPS does not want to compete with local commercial campgrounds for off-season customers, which is a concern already expressed by some business owners. This concern must be addressed.

3. Fairness issue: If NPS opens park campgrounds to provide a low-amenity off-season camping opportunity for self-contained vehicles, then tent campers, who are not necessarily well represented by stakeholders on the committee, will likely request the same opportunity, which leads back to Item # 1 concerns about operating costs.

If you all continue to feel strongly that one or more self-contained camping areas is worth pursuing further, NPS suggests that this group work toward resolving the concerns above. We might start by talking with the business representatives on the Committee checking with the local campground operators to determine their level of support or opposition to this proposal. If there is significant opposition, then perhaps a win-win solution would be for the committee to work with the campground operators to ensure there are reasonably priced off-season rates for self-contained vehicles (i.e., for RV's that do not need hook-ups). If there is strong support by local businesses for the idea, then focus on resolving items # 1 and 3. Another way to address NPS concerns might be to make a recommendation that NPS address the issue of off-season camping opportunities in its upcoming General Management Plan.

What would you all like to do given this feedback? We could proceed to distribute the document, noting NPS concerns in the distribution email or the document itself. A few of you could talk with Scott or Judy (Chamber of Commerce/Business reps) to get their input in the next day or two then you could let us know what you hear from them. Or there are certainly other ways to proceed - we could have another subcommittee call, say on Monday. Your preferences?

I will be out of the office for the next two days teaching a course, but will be checking email and phone messages. Please let me and the group know your thoughts.

Best,

Ona