

From: Mike Murray
To: rcf@fisherccs.com
Cc: pfield@cbuilding.org
Subject: Routes & Areas suggestions
Date: 12/15/2008 11:50 AM

Robert,

Some private thoughts and suggestions for your consideration to help Routes & Areas Subcommittee resolve their remaining differences on the Routes & Areas maps:

1) If the disagreement on ORV or non-ORV designation of a particular area is due primarily to pedestrian vs. ORV interests, then try to resolve the difference(s) with an compromise alternative that provides a pedestrian only experience in the same or similar area without completely restricting ORV access. Possible examples:

- Bodie Island Spit - Establish parking near pavement (campground/Ramp 4 area?) and provide a pedestrian access trail through the "interior" of the spit to the north side of the bait pond, where the bait pond and sound meet. This would be a unique pedestrian experience opportunity; i.e., 1 mile hike to a portion of sound shoreline without any ORVs present that would not take away any ORV access on the ocean side.
- Cape Point - Establish parking near pavement (Ramp 44 or campground?) and develop a loop trail from there around the big Salt Pond. May need to be seasonally restricted for resource protection but would create a great bird watching opportunity.
- Hatteras Spit - Consider a seasonal flip-flop of designations between the ocean and sound beaches: Ocean shoreline south of the terminus of Pole Road to the inlet could be non-ORV March 15 - July 31 (breeding season) while the sound shoreline from the terminus of Spur Road to the inlet is "ORV" (with walking access to the inlet). In the "off-season", the ocean shoreline could be open to ORV while the sound shoreline could be non-ORV, with parking for ORV established near the terminus of the Spur Road but not on the soundside beach. In other words, during the off-season ORVs can get to the inlet via the ocean beach and pedestrians could have the sandy sound beach to the inlet to themselves. People that want to fish for flounder on the sound side, could still drive almost there but would have to walk a short distance. And/or could make the few hundred yards of shoreline at the Rip as "non-ORV" but allow ORV access to within short walking distance. (Under the current highly eroded conditions, the latter idea makes sense. May not make sense if the spit rebuilds substantially over time.)
- North Ocracoke - Could allow either a seasonal or year-round ORV designation to within some distance (1/4 mile?) of the inlet or the respective sound shoreline, then pedestrian only access beyond that, which would provide a lower density experience and reduce disturbance of foraging shorebirds. Could establish parking and/or pedestrian route from near the ferry terminal and/or along the sound shoreline away from the ORV area

2) If the disagreement is primarily between environmental and ORV interests (i.e., resource protection issues), try to resolve the issue on a seasonal basis (e.g., is it a breeding season conflict? or a migrating/wintering season conflict?). For now, the

Solicitors seem to think the best approach to dealing with designation of ORV routes and areas that have seasonal conflicts with the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat is to designate these areas as seasonally open (or closed) to ORVs to minimize those conflicts. Based on that, the wiggle room to negotiate is the dates (e.g., "Mar 15 - Aug 31"; or "Mar 15 to July 31, or two weeks after all chicks in the area have fledged, whichever is later") and the specific location boundaries (e.g., the west side of Cape Point could be seasonally non-ORV during the breeding season and the east side could be "ORV, subject to resource closures".) I will continue to explore internally to see if there is any other way to deal more flexibly with route designation of these areas, but until/unless that changes the subcommittee should not get bogged down in how to resolve that, since it is a legal and procedural determination. The subcommittee should focus on what areas could/should be open to ORV at least part of the year. The subcommittee could:

- Agree to designate the route as "ORV" with a known or expected seasonal resource conflict (dates and management methodology to be determined by some other portion of the plan). Just as the subcommittee has used the color **BLUE** on their draft maps to signify areas with seasonal pedestrian conflicts that are "Open to peds all year and ORV in the off-season", you could use a different color on the map to show the "ORV areas" with seasonal limitations due to resource protection issues and maybe break the stalemate, then let the Natural Resource subcommittee work out the dates, etc. (In essence, this is what NPS did in our alternatives by identifying the Resource Areas and having a set of dates for ORV use applicable to those sites. In this case, the subcommittee would be acknowledging the resource conflicts at these areas but would stop short of declaring the areas a "sensitive resource area." If the likely breeding season conflict at the spits and Cape Point is not somehow acknowledged on the maps, I think it would be misleading to the general public to think that the spits and Cape Point are year-round ORV areas because those areas, or large portions of those areas, are likely to be closed to ORVs during a good portion of the breeding season.)

Feel free to call if you want to discuss this.

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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----- Forwarded by Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS on 12/15/2008 10:30 AM -----

**Cyndy
 Holda/CAHA/NPS**

12/15/2008 09:13 AM

To Robert Fisher <rcf@fisherccs.com>
 cc Beau Brehm/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Mike
 Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS

Subject Re: Meeting on Dec 17th 

Yes, stop by.

I'll be here until 12: noon, out of the office for the rest of the afternoon on the 17th. Mike will be over at Wright Brothers in the morning for an event there; back in the office in the afternoon.

Call me. If it looks like we're going to miss each other, I'll ask **Beau** (at the front desk) **to bag up the phone and have it ready for you on Wed., 17th!**

Cyndy M. Holda
Assistant to the Superintendent &
Community Liaison
Cape Hatteras NS/Fort Raleigh NHS/Wright Brothers NM
252-473-2111 ext. 148
252-216-6455 cell
252-473-2595 fax
Email: cyndy_holda@nps.gov

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▼ [Robert Fisher <rcf@fisherics.com>](mailto:rcf@fisherics.com)

Robert Fisher
<rcf@fisherics.com>

12/14/2008 12:50 PM

To: Cyndy Holda <cyndy_holda@nps.gov>
cc: Pat Field <pfield@cbuilding.org>, Ona Ferguson
<oferguson@cbuilding.org>

Subject: Meeting on Dec 17th

Hi Cyndy,

The Routes and Areas subcommittee will be meeting on Hatteras Island this coming Wednesday starting at 10 AM. Jim Keene is making the arrangements. I will need the conference phone. Can I pick it up Wed morning?

Robert