

From: [David Goodwin](#)
To: [Robert Fisher](#)
Cc: [Patrick Field](#); [Mike Murray](#); [Jim Keene](#); [Frank Folb](#)
Subject: Routes/Areas Subcommittee
Date: 12/23/2008 01:42 AM

Robert,

We had a good meeting yesterday; thanks for your help.

On behalf of the Access Group in the Routes/Areas Subcommittee, there are a couple of things that we need to bring to your attention:

1. The Environmental Groups keep bringing the vaunted Red Knot into the Routes/Areas conversation, as well as referencing other bird species that are not Federally listed. While giving abeyance to NPS policy to consider (this is a *recommendation*, not law) those species listed by NC state for additional protection, the continual reference to any species as "going to be listed" is disruptive at best to the conversations during our meetings. The Red Knot is **not** currently a listed species and is a non-breeding/migrating species in this area. It is only a candidate for listing and has been rejected once for listing by FWS. We can only address those species that are **currently** listed, not those that *may* (or may not) be listed sometime in the future. There is no guarantee that the Red Knot will be listed, despite sincere optimism by any subcommittee member. We therefore request that any references to the Red Knot or any other species that is not currently a Federally listed or state-sponsored species be withheld from comment(s) during our subcommittee meetings. If the Red Knot (or other species) becomes a Federally listed species in the future, it will be dealt with at that time. It is not within our purview to delve into possible future events. This should apply to ALL subcommittees across the board.

2. There is great concern among those in the Access Group about the disposition of the South Beach (Hatteras Island) area. The importance of this area to not only local concerns, but also to fishing, tourism & business (economic) concerns is simply too great to ignore. It is our considered position that South Beach **must** be open to the waterline for human use/ORV access year-round. We have yet to see any hard evidence that requires any special management of South Beach, other than the possibility of a species being Federally listed in the future. Should South Beach access to the waterline via ORV be compromised (other than a necessary resource overlay), the Access Group will withdraw its concessions to resource and pedestrian interests in other areas of the Seashore. We will consider all options for this area other than closure for reasons not mandated by NPS resource management policy for nesting/breeding/chick protection or those issued by the Natural Resources subcommittee.

If the Routes/Areas subcommittee is to produce a viable alternative for the Reg-Neg committee, this issues must be addressed in some form. The same issue applies at Bodie Island spit and Hatteras Inlet spit. We have done our part and conceded areas that we feel will be useful to pedestrians/resource concerns. Someone needs to start negotiating. If there is to be a prolonged argument over Item #2, then we might as well just stay at home.

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