

***** NEWS RELEASE *****

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
OUTER BANKS GROUP
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Fort Raleigh National Historic Site
Wright Brothers National Memorial**

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**Contact:
Mary Doll
(252) 473-2111 x154**

**NPS Schedules Information Sessions for Interim
Protected Species Management Plan**

The National Park Service has recently started planning efforts to develop an Interim Protected Species Management Plan for Cape Hatteras National Seashore. This plan will be the guiding document for protected species management at the Seashore until the park's Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan is completed in 2008 as currently scheduled.

To help maximize public involvement in the development of the Interim Protected Species Management Plan, Acting Superintendent Patrick Reed announced today that the National Park Service has scheduled three public information meetings: Tuesday, Sept. 13th at the Ocracoke Civic and Business Association Building; Wednesday, Sept. 14th at the Dare County Fessenden Center in Buxton; and Thursday, Sept. 15 at the Wright Brothers National Memorial First Flight Centennial Pavilion. Each meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.

"These meetings are really very important to us. We place a high value on working together in partnerships with our communities to make sure we balance the National Park Service responsibilities with their needs" stated Reed. "We need to hear from everyone we can so that we can shape this interim management strategy to provide the greatest continued public use and access possible, while at the same time meeting the requirements of law designed to protect the resources that contribute to making Cape Hatteras National Seashore the very special place it is."

The Service will also be holding scheduled open information sessions during the week of September 19 in several community locations to provide a similar opportunity for those that could not attend the earlier meetings. Times and locations for these sessions will be announced and posted in community areas such as local post offices; and on the park's website. "I hope that everyone that can will

take advantage of these follow up sessions. We really do want to hear from as many people as possible," stated Reed.

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National Park Service
Outer Banks Group
1401 National Park Road
Manteo, NC 27954
(252) 473-2111