



**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

Outer Banks Group:
· Cape Hatteras National Seashore
· Fort Raleigh National Historic Site
· Wright Brothers National Memorial

1401 National Park Road
Manteo, NC 27954

(252) 473-2111 phone
(252) 473-2595 fax

Outer Banks Group News Release

Release Date: October 1, 2005
Contact: Mary Doll, Public Information Officer
Phone: (252) 473-2111 x154

NPS Website Launched for Interim Protected Species Management Strategy

The National Park Service has published a webpage dedicated to the upcoming Cape Hatteras National Seashore Interim Protected Species Management Strategy planning project. This webpage provides project background, planning process, and public meeting notice information; as well as links to relevant update/planning documents and websites. The Interim Protected Species Management Strategy 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.

The webpage is located on the *National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC)* website, <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. The PEPC website provides public access to all of the currently PEPC-listed active plans and environmental documents for the National Park Service.

The Interim Strategy planning project webpage will be updated as project milestones are reached or when important public information is disseminated.

Later in the planning process, when planning documents are released for public review and comment, this site can be used by the public to submit comments on-line.

The public can also gain information about the Interim Strategy process by attending any of the information meetings and sessions scheduled for the weeks of Oct. 2nd and 9th. These meetings and sessions will help maximize public involvement in the development of the Interim Protected Species Management Strategy.

Formal-style public Information Meetings are scheduled for: Monday, Oct. 3rd at the Wright Brothers National Memorial First Flight Centennial Pavilion, Kill Devil Hills; Tuesday, Oct. 4th at the Dare County Fessenden Center, Buxton; and Wednesday, Oct 5th at the Ocracoke Community Center. Each meeting will begin at 7:00 pm and last until 9:00 p.m.

Open house-style, information sessions are also scheduled for Oct. 5th 12p.m.-2 p.m. at the Rodanthe/Waves/Salvo Community Building, Rodanthe; Oct. 6th 12 p.m.-2 p.m. at the Wright Brothers National Memorial First Flight Centennial Pavilion; Oct. 6th 4 p.m.-6 p.m. at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, Hatteras Village; Oct. 11th 4 p.m.-6 p.m. at the National Park Service

Ocracoke Maintenance Building. These Information Sessions will allow people to talk with park managers in a more informal setting.

“We want to hear from everyone that has an interest in the park use and species protection” stated Patrick Reed, Outer Banks Group Acting Superintendent. “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.” 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.”

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