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Introduction

PART I. INTRODUCTION

Project Background

Off-road vehicle (ORV) management has become an issue of concern in many National Park Service (NPS) seashore parks in recent years. Presently, at the sound and ocean beaches of Cape Hatteras National Seashore, ORVs are used for commercial and recreational fishing, sightseeing, travel to and from swimming and surfing areas, and pleasure driving. The NPS recognizes ORVs must be regulated in a manner that is not only consistent with applicable law, but also appropriately addresses resource protection (including threatened, endangered, and other sensitive species) and potential conflicts among the various users at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

The Planning Process

Executive Order #11644 of 1972 requires that all federal land management agencies designate areas for ORV use and that the use of ORVs on public lands "will be controlled and directed so as to protect the resources of those lands, to promote the safety of all users of those lands, and to minimize conflicts among the various users of those lands." In response to the Executive Order, Cape Hatteras National Seashore initiated the ORV management planning process in December 2006 with the publication of a Notice of Intent to prepare an ORV Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (plan/EIS). In February and March of 2007, the NPS held public scoping meetings to gain public input on the plan's proposed purpose, need, objectives, issues, and preliminary alternative concepts which will serve as the framework in developing the plan. During the public scoping process, the public provided comment on the purpose, need, and objectives and also suggested potential management actions the NPS could implement at the Seashore. The NPS considered these suggested management actions and has compiled this information, and its own ideas, into potential alternative options. The workbook alternative options are not intended to be all inclusive, nor necessarily always compatible or mutually exclusive. Multiple compatible elements can be considered in combination later to develop a diverse range of management alternatives for evaluation in the Draft EIS. This range of potential alternative options is now presented to you, through this public meeting and comment process, to gain additional input during the alternatives development process.

How You Can Help

The purpose of this workbook is to get your input on the draft alternative options for managing ORV use at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Public input is an essential component of a successful management plan and it is important to us that you provide your opinion on the effectiveness of the alternative options and suggest options of your own.

Completing the Workbook

Immediately following the introduction, regulatory framework, and glossary sections, the workbook presents a series of tables providing alternative options for ORV management at the Seashore. Each row of the tables provides an alternative option for you to consider and rank as "definitely effective", "may be effective" or "not effective." If you rank a particular option as "not effective" or "may be effective," please complete the "comments" section on the right side

of the chart and provide input on how the particular management option could be improved or re-stated. After each of the nine alternative option tables, a separate comment sheet is provided for you to offer additional input on any of the alternative options, including providing new alternative options that are not presented here. If you choose to provide a new alternative option, please ensure that it is within the bounds of the regulatory framework in which the NPS must operate and meets the objectives of the ORV management plan (see Part II of this workbook entitled "Regulatory Framework"). If you have downloaded this form, please note that only the text you see in the comment box will appear when you print or submit the workbook. If you do not have enough room to discuss an option in a particular box, please provide the additional text on the comment sheet.

Please take time to complete as much of the workbook as possible. Also, please take advantage of the "comments" column on each of the charts and the separate comment pages at the end of the workbook. Your detailed comments and suggestions regarding the effectiveness of these alternative elements are critical to the success of the planning process.

Submitting the Workbook

If you attend a public meeting, you can turn in your completed workbook there. If you are mailing in your workbook, please send it to:

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, NC 27954

This workbook can also be downloaded from http://parkplannning.nps.gov/caha, completed electronically, and emailed to cahaorveis@louisberger.com.

Thank you for your participation.

Regulatory Framework

PART II. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Based on internal and public scoping, the purpose, need, and objective statements for the ORV management plan/EIS were developed. Please review the following statements, keeping them in mind as you complete the workbook. As mentioned, you are encouraged to provide comments on the alternative options or suggestions for new alternative options. However, any proposed new alternative options must meet the purpose, need, and objectives established for this project to a large degree. If suggested alternative options do not meet the purpose, need, and objective statements, they may not be considered in the planning process. The following pages present a wide range of potential alternative options and ask you how effective you feel they would be in meeting the following purpose, need, and objectives.

PURPOSE OF ACTION

"Purpose" is an overarching statement of what the plan must do to be considered a success. The purpose of this plan is to develop regulations and procedures that manage ORV use/access in the Seashore to:

- Protect and preserve natural and cultural resources and natural processes.
- Provide a variety of appropriate visitor use experiences while minimizing conflicts among various users.
- Promote the safety of all visitors.

NEED FOR ACTION

"Need" is an overarching statement of why action is required. An ORV management plan is needed to:

- Bring the Seashore in compliance with Executive Orders 11644 and 11989 respecting ORV use, and with NPS laws, regulations (36 CFR 4.10), and policies to minimize impacts to Seashore resources and values.
- Address the lack of an approved plan, which has led over time to inconsistent management of ORV use, user conflicts, and safety concerns.
- Provide for protected species management in relation to ORV use upon expiration of the *Cape Hatteras National Seashore Interim Protected Species Management Strategy/EA* and associated Biological Opinion and Amendment.

OBJECTIVES

Objectives are "what must be achieved to a large degree for the action to be considered a success" (NPS Director's Order 12 and Handbook: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision Making). Objectives must be grounded in the Seashore's enabling legislation, purpose, significance, and mission goals and must be compatible with direction and guidance provided by the Seashore's general management plan, strategic plan, and/or other management guidance.

Management Methodology

- Identify criteria to designate ORV use areas and routes.
- Establish ORV management practices and procedures that have the ability to adapt in response to changes in the Seashore's dynamic physical and biological environment.
- Establish a civic engagement component for ORV management.

- Establish procedures for prompt and efficient public notification of beach access status including any temporary ORV use restrictions for such things as ramp maintenance, resource and public safety closures, storm events, etc.
- Build stewardship through public awareness and understanding of NPS resource management and visitor use policies and responsibilities as they pertain to the Seashore and ORV management.

Natural Physical Resources

- Minimize adverse impacts from ORV use to soils and topographic features, e.g., dunes, mud flats, etc.

Threatened, Endangered, and Other Protected Species

- For threatened, endangered, and other protected species (e.g., state-listed species) and their habitats, minimize adverse impacts related to ORV uses as required by laws and policies, such as the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and NPS laws and management policies.

Vegetation

- Minimize adverse impacts to native plant species related to ORV use.

Other Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

- Minimize adverse impacts to wildlife species and their habitats related to ORV use.

Cultural Resources

- Protect cultural resources such as shipwrecks, archeological sites, and cultural landscapes from adverse impacts related to ORV use.

Visitor Experience

- Manage ORV use to allow for a variety of appropriate visitor use experiences.
- Minimize conflicts between ORV use and other uses.

Visitor Use

- Ensure that ORV operators are informed about the rules and regulations regarding ORV use at the Seashore.

Visitor Safety

- Ensure that ORV management promotes the safety of all visitors.

Seashore Operations

- Identify operational needs and costs to fully implement an ORV management plan.
- Identify potential sources of funding necessary to implement an ORV management plan.
- Provide consistent guidelines, according to site conditions, for ORV routes, ramps, and signage.

Glossary Of Terms

III. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Beach ambassador program – A National Park Service program designed to increase preventative lifesaving efforts through educational materials and personal contacts with the visiting public to Cape Hatteras National Seashore and village beaches. The program educates and informs the public of potential hazards associated with beach recreation, including rip current awareness.

Carrying capacity – ORV carrying capacity is the type and level of ORV use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resource and visitor experience conditions in the Seashore.

Commercial Fishing - (from NC General Statute 113-168) – "Commercial fishing operation" means any activity preparatory to, during, or subsequent to the taking of any fish, the taking of which is subject to regulation by the [NC Marine Fisheries] Commission, either with the use of commercial fishing equipment or gear, or by any means if the purpose of the taking is to obtain fish for sale. Commercial fishing operation does not include: (i) the taking of fish as part of a recreational fishing tournament, unless commercial fishing equipment or gear is used; (ii) the taking of fish under an RCGL (Recreational Commercial Gear License); or (iii) the taking of fish provided in G.S. 113-261 (Taking fish and wildlife for scientific purposes; permits to take in normally unauthorized manner; cultural and scientific operations.)

Essential Use Vehicle – Essential vehicles are those emergency, law enforcement, and seashore vehicles necessary to provide for the safety of recreationists, law enforcement, resource management, maintenance of public property, or access to private dwellings not otherwise accessible.

Indicators for carrying capacity – Indicators are defined as specific, measurable physical, ecological, or social variables that reflect the overall condition of an area. Resource indicators measure visitor impacts on the biological, physical, and/or cultural resources of a park; social indicators measure visitor impacts on the visitor experience.

Interdunal road – A travel route providing access to beach areas without having to access NC 12.

Interim Strategy - The NPS-adopted management plan for species protection that is in place until the ORV plan/EIS is completed.

ORV – "Off-road vehicle." Off-road vehicle means any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain; except that such term excludes (A) any registered motorboat, (B) any fire, military, emergency or law enforcement vehicle when used for emergency purposes, and any combat or combat support vehicle when used for national defense purposes, and (C) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the respective agency head under a permit, lease, license, or contract.

Passive Recreation – For the purposes of this plan/EIS, "passive recreation" includes non-motorized activities such as walking, sunbathing, fishing, picnicking, beach combing, surfing, and bird watching. Resource management activities would still be applicable in passive recreation areas. Passive recreation does not include the use of motorized vehicles.

Ranger District Boundaries

Bodie Island District – From the northern boundary of the Seashore to Ramp 27.
Hatteras Island District – From Ramp 27 to the southern end of Hatteras Island.
Ocracoke Island District – From the northern end of Ocracoke Island to the southern end of the island.

Tri-Village Area - The area that includes the communities of Rodanthe, Salvo, and Waves.

U.S. Geological Survey Protocols – Measures developed by the U.S. Geological Survey that provide recommendations for the implementation of a protected species surveying and habitat conservation program to enable the continued existence and recovery of endangered, threatened, and species of concern at the seashore. Protocols have been developed for piping plover, American oystercatcher, colonial nesting waterbirds, sea turtles, and the seabeach amaranth. The protocols provide detailed guidance for conservation of each species including topics such as closures, surveying, monitoring frequency and methodology, and identification of specific habitat needs and potential key threats. Please refer to **Appendix A** for the detailed management recommendations for the protocols.

ORV Management

1. ORV Management

Options	Effectiveness	Comments
	Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	**Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?**
1.A. Designation of ORV Routes		
1.A.1 Designate all existing ramps, interdunal roads, and beach corridors that are currently open to ORV use as ORV routes. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.A.2 Reconfigure existing ORV access system by designating different, additional, or fewer ORV access ramps, interdunal roads and beach corridors as ORV routes.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.B. Designation of Passive Recreation and Resource Protection Areas		
1.B.1 Continue with current options for ORVs and pedestrians (ORVs and pedestrians are prohibited in all resource closures. Seasonal and safety closures exclude ORVs but allow pedestrian use (*status quo*).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.B.2 Provide predictability for visitors by designating ORV and passive recreation use areas with non-adjustable boundaries.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.B.3 Provide flexibility by designating ORV and passive recreation use areas with adjustable boundaries (e.g. if an ORV route is closed temporarily because of a full beach resource closure, the park could temporarily extend ORV use into a nearby passive recreation area to help offset the closure).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.B.4 Redefine areas open to ORVs and pedestrians on a seasonal or year-round basis.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

1. ORV Management

Options	Effectiveness	Comments
	Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	**Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?**
1.B.5 Develop and define consistent names for designations of closures (e.g., seasonal closure, safety closure, resource closure).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1C. Consistent Management Approach for Beaches in Front of Villages		
1.C.1 Continue May 15 – September 15 seasonal ORV closures in front of all villages. (*status quo*)	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.C.2 Adjust May 15 – September 15 seasonal ORV closures in front of all villages to decrease time of closure.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.C.3 Expand duration of seasonal ORV closures in front of all villages (e.g., from May 1 – October 15).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.C.4 Establish year-round ORV closures on the beach in front of the villages.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.C.5 Expand passive recreation areas for a set distance (e.g., 1/2 mile or 1 mile) on either side of each village to provide pedestrians access to undeveloped non-ORV areas.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.C.6 Open all beaches in front of all villages to ORVs outside of the seasonal ORV closure dates.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.C.7 Establish/increase parking on the edge of each village.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.D. Village-Specific Management Approach for Beaches in Front of Villages		
1.D.1 Establish village-specific dates for seasonal ORV closures in front of villages.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

1. ORV Management

Options	Effectiveness	Comments
	Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	**Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?**
1.D.2 Establish year-round ORV closures on the beach in front of some, but not all, villages.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.D.3 Expand passive recreation areas (e.g., 1/2 mile, 1 mile) on either side of some, but not all, villages.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.D.4 Evaluate and expand parking on a village-by-village basis.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.E. Consistent Management Approach for Beaches in Front of NPS Campgrounds and for Lifeguarded Beaches		
1.E.1 Designate passive recreation areas in front of all campgrounds during the summer season.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.E.2 Designate passive recreation areas in front of lifeguarded beaches during the summer season.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.E.3 Designate an ORV pass through corridor (no parking) in front of campgrounds on the upper beach, and designate the lower beach as a passive recreation area (e.g., pedestrians, sunbathers, beachcombers, anglers, surfers, etc.).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

1. ORV Management

Options	Effectiveness	Comments
	Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	**Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?**
1.F. Case-by-Case Management Approach for Beaches in Front of NPS Campgrounds and Lifeguarded Beaches		
1.F.1 Continue status quo for lifeguarded beaches i.e., Coquina Beach closed to ORVs during summer season from Nags Head Village line to south of Ramp 2, and closed to ORV during winter season as a safety closure from Nags Head Village line to Ramp 2 (open south of Ramp 2 in winter); Buxton lifeguarded beach closed to ORVs in the summer and Hatteras Island lighthouse area closed to ORVs in the winter; Ocracoke lifeguarded beach closed to ORVs within the campground during the summer, and open to ORV use in the winter use when the campground is not open to visitors. *(status quo*)	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.F.2 Continue "status quo" for campgrounds (i.e., beach in front of Oregon Inlet Campground, Cape Point Campground, Frisco Campground open to ORV use year round; beach in front of Ocracoke Campground closed to ORV use during the summer season and open to ORV use during the winter season when the campground is closed to visitors). (*status quo*)	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.F.3 Redefine which areas in front of NPS campgrounds and which lifeguarded beaches are open or closed to ORV use during the camping and lifeguard season on a case-by-case basis.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

1. ORV Management

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
1.G. "Cell System" of ORV Routes to Facilitate Access Around Closed Areas		
1.G.1 Add more ORV access ramps (no more than 2 miles apart) where NC-12 parallels the beach to facilitate access around full beach ORV closures.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.G.2 Provide strategically located interdunal roads or bypasses (e.g., at spits and Cape Point-South Beach area) where NC-12 is not parallel to the beach. Designate a sufficient number of "cross over" routes to connect the interdunal route to the beach and facilitate access around full beach ORV closures.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.H. Improve ORV Routes and Provision of Additional Amenities		
1.H.1 Improve routine maintenance of access ramps.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.H.2 Improve or redesign "difficult" ramps where inexperienced ORV operators often get bogged down (e.g., Ramp 4 and Ramp 49).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.H.3 Provide more pull-outs on long, narrow ramps and interdunal roads to facilitate vehicles passing.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.H.4 Provide adequate parking/staging areas at ORV access ramps to allow for airing down of vehicles before driving on the beach and to reduce congestion at ramp entrances.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.H.5 Improve signing of ramps, both on the beach and at the intersection of the ramp with the paved roadway.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

1. ORV Management

Options	Effectiveness	Comments
	Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	**Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?**
1.H.6 Provide permanent restroom facilities (e.g., sweet-smelling vault toilets) and trash disposal containers at high-use access ramps.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.H.7 Work with local businesses to provide air stations near major ORV ramps, or install air stations in the Seashore if unavailable locally.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.H.8 Address drainage problems, where feasible, to minimize the size and duration of closures due to flooding.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.I. Beach Access Alternatives to ORV Use		
1.I.1 Expand existing parking lots on NPS land and provide boardwalks from lots to the beach.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.I.2 Build additional parking lots at strategic locations, such as adjacent to the villages.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.I.3 Provide parking and pedestrian access at some/all ORV access ramps.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.I.4 Work with Dare County to identify and increase public parking for beach access within the Hatteras Island villages.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.I.5 Establish alternative transportation for Seashore visitors in sensitive resource areas such as Cape Point, Hatteras Spit, Bodie Island Spit, and South Point on Ocracoke Island. Alternative transportation could include: beach shuttles (e.g.. authorize operators to shuttle visitors around closures) or boat shuttles to spits near marinas.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

1. ORV Management

Options	Effectiveness	Comments
	Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	**Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?**
1.J. Access for Commercial Fishing		
1.J.1 Allow commercial fishing permit holders to use ORVs for fishing access in seasonal and safety closures but not resource closures. (*status quo*)	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.J.2 Revise types of closures commercial fishermen may enter with ORVs.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.J.3 If passive recreation areas are designated, allow commercial fishermen access through them by ORVs consistently through the Seashore.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.J.4 If passive recreation areas are designated, restrict commercial fishermen access through them by ORVs consistently through the Seashore.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
1.J.5 If passive recreation areas are designated, allow or restrict commercial fishermen access through them by ORVs on an area-specific basis.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

ORV Management

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding potential ORV management options below:

Education and Outreach

2. Education and Outreach

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
2.A. Education and Outreach on ORV Management and Related Resource Protection Issues		
2.A.1 Provide information about endangered species at the visitor centers. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.A.2 Provide educational and outreach materials regarding the impacts of trash disposal, wildlife feeding, fireworks, and pets on sensitive resources at the Seashore. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.A.3 Notify the public of species management closures that temporarily limit ORV traffic, which would include sending a press release to local and regional newspapers and contacting local tackle shops and ORV organizations when species closures are established or reopened. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.A.4 Provide information to local shops, the Seashore website, and the local cable TV channel.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.A.5 Hire more park rangers to provide additional informal education/stewardship.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.A.6 Expand the "Know Your Park" speaker series to include programs on ORV management and related resource protection issues.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.A.7 Improve signage in the Seashore so beach closures and Seashore resource information is readily available and presented in a clear manner to the public.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.A.8 Partner with other federal, state and local government agencies to develop and distribute joint information about ORV use and protection of beach resources.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

2. Education and Outreach

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
2.B. Education and Outreach for Local Interest Groups and Other Interested Citizens		
2.B.1 Solicit from interested parties how to convey information about the species management program. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.B.2 Work with local organizations and businesses to ensure wider distribution of ORV and resource protection information.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.B.3 Encourage the Visitors Bureau and local tackle shops to link their websites to the Seashore's website to ensure different segments of the visiting public have up-to-date information on beach closures and, if an ORV permitting system is developed, ORV permitting information.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.B.4 Work with ORV groups to develop and implement an ORV operator training program.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.B.5 Develop a user-friendly ORV educational program (e.g., video, DVD, or on-line) that could be self-administered at a variety of outlets such as tackle shops, welcome centers, and NPS offices.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.B.6 Encourage ORV groups to provide beach driving information at key access ramps (e.g., Ramp 4) to help novice drivers.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.C. Resource Oriented Education and Outreach Programs Relevant to ORV Management and Protection of Beach Resources		
2.C.1 Conduct educational programs during the sea turtle hatching season where public school students could learn about sea turtles by participating in post-hatching nest examinations. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.C.2 Provide information to the public about nesting sea turtles and measures taken by the Seashore to protect nests and hatchlings. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

2. Education and Outreach

Options	Effectiveness **Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?**	Comments **Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?**
2.C.3 Post information about seabeach amaranth at all ORV ramp bulletin boards. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.C.4 Provide roving interpreters at key beach driving locations to provide information on beach driving rules and beach resource protection.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.C.5 Establish an "adopt a beach" program with local schools or community groups.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.C.6 Conduct community clean-ups at known breeding areas right before pre-nesting management begins (before the birds arrive). Partner with the Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts on projects (e.g., an eagle scout project for maintaining closures).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.C.7 Involve local environmental groups, such as the Audubon Society, to lead bird-watching tours.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.C.8 Partner with a local business organization to develop information on resource-based business opportunities.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.C.9 Increase NPS involvement in local festivals to provide information on ORV use and beach resource protection (e.g., continue Seashore participation in Wings Over Water, participate in resource oriented festivals with a focus on the Seashore such as Wildfest).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.C.10 Submit a weekly article about Seashore resource issues (e.g., notes from the Superintendent) to the local newspaper.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.C.11 Provide a workshop for store owners on beach driving and resource stewardship to help improve the knowledge of species life history and reasons for protection.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.C.12 Create an "adopt a plover" program and partner with universities and schools to shadow NPS biotechnical staff.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

2. Education and Outreach

Options	Effectiveness **Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?**	Comments **Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?**
2.C.13 Implement more educational programs in local schools and expand the Junior Ranger program to include more web-based options to interest youth in Seashore resources and stewardship.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
2.C.14 If an ORV permit system is developed, include an educational component in the permitting process to promote better beach stewardship and safe beach driving practices.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

Education and Outreach

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding potential education and outreach options below:

Law Enforcement

3. Law Enforcement

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
3.A.1 Enforce proper trash disposal (pack in/pack out) and anti wildlife-feeding regulations throughout the Seashore. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.2 Provide periodic nighttime patrols to observe and enforce compliance with regulations and closures. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.3 Maintain a 10 mph speed limit for essential use vehicles. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.4 Increase visitor access to information on beach driving requirements.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.5 Ensure enforcement has an educational component (e.g., provide equipment for education, video).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.6 Standardize signage on all ramps and explain the regulations in place at the Seashore so visitors understand what is considered a violation.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.7 Provide signage at Seashore entrances so visitors are aware when they enter the Seashore.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.8 Increase presence of law enforcement (LE) personnel on the beach by increasing staffing, as funding allows, and by improving schedules and assignment of existing LE staff.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.9 Increase emphasis on patrolling resource closures and issuing violations for resource closure violations.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.10 Adjust fines for violations to improve compliance.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.11 Raise fines, especially related to dog off-leash and alcohol violations.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.12 Lower fines for the first dog off-leash offense, but increase fines for second offense to encourage citing people with dogs off-leash and reporting of violations.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

3. Law Enforcement

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
3.A.13 Use a tiered fine system for all offenses starting with a lower fine for the first offense, increasing with each subsequent offense.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.14 Reduce current Seashore-wide speed limit from 25 mph to 15 mph year-round.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.15 Provide electronic speed signs ("posted speed limit" vs. "your speed" signs) at congested locations.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.16 Selectively do radar enforcement of speed limits on congested beaches.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.17 Prohibit beach fires from 11 pm to 5 am.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.18 Close beaches to ORV use from 11 pm to 5 am year-round.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.19 Limit the number of vehicles allowed in highly congested areas during high visitation weekends (when one vehicle leaves, another vehicle is allowed entry).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.20 Prohibit alcohol Seashore-wide.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.21 Enlist citizens as volunteers to provide information (including the beach ambassador programs) regarding rules and regulations of the Seashore.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.22 Establish and publicize a phone number the public can use to report violations on the beach.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.23 If an ORV permit system is developed, educate permit holders to ensure they are aware of the regulations before they operate ORVs at the Seashore.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
3.A.24 If an ORV permit system is developed, revoke beach access permits for serious violations.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

Law Enforcement

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding potential law enforcement options below:

ORV Permits

4. ORV Permits

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
4.A. Establishment of a Permit System		
4.A.1 Continue option of allowing vehicular beach access without requiring permits. (*status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.A.2 Establish a permit system for ORV use.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.B. Permit Requirements (if a permit system is implemented)		
4.B.1 Require permit applicants to watch an informational video before they are issued a permit. The video would provide education on Seashore resources and proper ORV driving techniques.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.B.2 Develop a "drivers test" that would be required before issuance of permit. The permit applicant would need to take this test after viewing a video either in person or on-line.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.B.3 Provide a permit sticker that would be placed on the ORV bumper for annual permits, a mirror hanger for weekly permits. A visible permit on the vehicles would encourage peer pressure and reporting of non-permitted vehicles.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.B.4 Require all ORV permit holders to carry a signed copy of the rules and regulations while operating an ORV on the beach.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.B.5 Assign permit to the vehicle.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.B.6 Assign permit to the operator.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

4. ORV Permits

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
4.C. Permit Distribution (if a permit system is implemented)		
4.C.1 Issue permits only at NPS offices to ensure completion of education component.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.C.2 Make permits readily available through tackle shops, other businesses, NPS offices, and/or the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau or other welcome centers.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.C.3 Make permits available on-line.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.C.4 Use the North Carolina saltwater fishing license system as a model for distributing ORV permits.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.C.5 Develop a computer-administered system for ORV permitting that allows the NPS to gather demographic information on permit buyers.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.C.6 Construct a system of kiosk stations that issue ORV permits.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.D. Permit Fees and Types (if a permit system is implemented)		
4.D.1 Issue only annual permits.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.D.2 Issue both annual and two-week permits.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.D.3 Do not charge a permit fee.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.D.4 Charge a permit fee based on duration of permit.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

4. ORV Permits

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
4.D.5 Establish fee permits for congested areas only; ORV users of "non-congested areas" would obtain free permits.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.D.6 Base permit fees on "cost recovery" for administering and distributing the permits.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.D.7 Base permit fees on "cost recovery" for administering the entire ORV management program including additional ranger vehicles, research to establish carrying capacity standards and indicators, research on the effects of ORVs, monitoring, additional and improved fish cleaning stations, or any other element included in an ORV management plan.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.D.8 Adjust permit fees periodically (e.g., every 3 years) based on administrative costs.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.E. Permit Quantity (if a permit system is implemented)		
4.E.1 Issue an unlimited number of permits Note: Site specific capacity limits on the number of vehicles in congested areas could apply (see option 4.E.3).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.E.2 Limit the total number of permits issued.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.E.3 Limit the number of vehicles on the beach, such as in congested areas, at any one time instead of limiting the number of permits issued.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.E.4 Issue permits for Seashore-wide access.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

4. ORV Permits

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
4.E.5 Issue permits for site-specific access.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.E.6 Apply limits on numbers of permits or vehicles only to congested areas (e.g., spits and Cape Point). Areas would be managed adaptively so if visitation at currently non-congested areas increased, these areas could be added.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.F. Other Permit System Options (if a permit system is implemented)		
4.F.1 Establish an education component for natural resource awareness and understanding of the Seashore regulations as a requirement for obtaining a permit.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.F.2 Work with local organizations to provide beach driving training related to permitting.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.F.3 Revoke permits for certain violations (drunk driving, unsafe operation, resource closure entry); permits would be revoked for the remainder of the permit year.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.F.4 Issue different permits for each island (color coded) to consider different carrying capacities for different islands.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
4.F.5 Use a permit system as an educational tool requiring a contact, possibly on-line, so education and information can be provided.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

4. ORV Permits

Options	Effectiveness	Comments
	Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	**Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?**
4.F.6 Provide a built-in periodic review process (2-5 years) to determine if the permitting system is functioning correctly. The system would be adaptive so NPS can react to increasing demand and Seashore use.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

ORV Permits

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding potential ORV permit options below:

Other ORV Management Issues

5. Other ORV Management Issues

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
5.A. Carrying Capacity		
5.A.1 Do not establish an ORV carrying capacity for the Seashore. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.A.2 Establish an ORV carrying capacity for the Seashore.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.A.3 Establish an ORV carrying capacity for heavy use areas at the Seashore.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.A.4 Develop indicators for determining an ORV carrying capacity for the Seashore.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.A.5 Determine how many vehicles could fit at a certain beach and restrict further beach access once this number is reached.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.A.6 Limit numbers such that ORVs can be parked on the beach in a single row for safety reasons. For example, if up to 21 ft. of space were allowed per vehicle (21:1), which is sufficient for most vehicles to open doors on both sides and still have room between vehicles, a one mile section of beach could hold approximately 250 vehicles parked one deep perpendicular to the beach. The ratio (21:1) could differ for high use areas and lower use areas. The capacity of an area could vary based on the current amount of beach accessible to beach driving, which may vary due to closures.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.A.7 Allow for more capacity in certain areas. For example, designate Cape Point a sport fishing area and allow cars to park two deep. Users in this area would expect it to be crowded and could go to a lower capacity area for other uses.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.A.8 During special events, limit access to no more participants than the ORV carrying capacity allows.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.A.9 Determine ORV capacity based on peak use and reevaluate this level occasionally to determine where this use occurs.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

5. Other ORV Management Issues

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
5.A.10 Base ORV capacity on the resource conditions. Determine the level of activity tolerated by Seashore species to determine this level of use.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.A.11 Determine an ORV carrying capacity based on the effort required for law enforcement (LE) vs. available LE resources to preserve quality and safety.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.A.12 Limit or prohibit vehicles at the spits and Cape Point during the breeding season.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.A.13 Regulate types of vehicles on the beach.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.A.14 Provide the ability to adjust an established ORV carrying capacity as the Seashore becomes more crowded.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.A.15 Issue night fishing permits for a limited number of consecutive nights in any one area.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.B. Sanitation/Waste Management		
5.B.1 Evaluate dumpster locations and provide predator-proof dumpsters.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.B.2 Evaluate portable toilet locations and provide portable toilets at high use ORV access ramps.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.B.3 Provide dumpsters and restroom facilities only in developed areas (e.g., adjacent to parking lots) and not at trail heads or boat launch areas.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.B.4 Relocate dumpsters, portable toilets and fish cleaning tables away from sensitive resource areas.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.B.5 Implement a trash cleanup plan and educational program.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.B.6 Initiate a "trash-free" Seashore program (Leave No Trace), such as used at the C&O Canal and other parks.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

5. Other ORV Management Issues

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
5.B.7 Provide a mechanized on-site waste disposal system, such as grinding, at all fish cleaning stations to replace trash cans. Provide the infrastructure to get the waste into the disposal system so fish waste is not put into trash cans or dumpsters or discarded into the environment.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.B.8 Require vehicle operators to carry a personal waste disposal device and institute a pack in/pack out policy, including human waste.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.C. Accessibility		
5.C.1 Provide access for the disabled in accordance with appropriate guidelines (found at Accessboard.gov). *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.C.2 Issue a special use permit for areas in front of the villages to allow ORVs to drop disabled visitors off at the beach and then return the vehicle back to the street. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.C.3 Provide beach wheelchairs that can be checked out at each Ranger District. (*status quo*)	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.C.4 Retrofit existing boardwalks with accessible ramps to provide more opportunities for disabled persons to access or view the beach.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.C.5 Allow disabled visitors to take vehicles into areas closed to vehicles, except resource closures.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
5.C.6 If passive recreation areas are established, allow disabled visitors to take vehicles into some, but not all, to provide for some completely vehicle-free areas where viewscape/soundscape/ solitude/natural experience have been identified as important to the visitor experience for that passive recreation area.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

Other ORV Management Issues

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding options related to other ORV management issues below:

Species Protection

6. Species Protection

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
6.A. Establish Resource Protection Areas, Closures, and Buffers		
6.A.1 Establish closures for American oystercatchers when a territory is established or a nest is located, beginning March 15. Remove closures when areas have been abandoned for a two week period. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.2 Establish closures in recent breeding areas for piping plover that are adapted to current habitat and physiographic conditions with symbolic fencing on April 1. Remove closures if no bird activity is seen by July 15 or when the area has been abandoned for a 2-week period, which ever comes later. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.3 Establish a 150-foot buffer around piping plovers observed in courtship or copulations outside an existing closure. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.4 Establish a 150-foot buffer/closure around piping plover nests occurring outside existing closures and expand closures when necessary, using flexible increments dependent on bird behavior. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.5 Establish a buffer/closure for American Oystercatcher nests based on the adults reaction to human disturbance. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.6 Establish a buffer/closure of 150-feet to 300-feet around colonial waterbird nests or colonies, based on observed bird behavior, while maintaining the ORV pedestrian corridor. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.7 Establish closures for colonial nesting waterbirds when a territory is established or a nest located, beginning May 1. Remove closures when areas have been abandoned for a two week period. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

6. Species Protection

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
6.A.8 Establish a buffer, based on bird behavior and suitable habitat, around territorial or courting American oystercatcher and colonial waterbirds outside of existing closures. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.9 Establish a 30-foot by 30-foot closure around seabeach amaranth found between April 15 and November 30 *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.10 Establish buffers around unfledged chicks. For piping plover the buffer would be a minimum of 600-feet on either side of the brood and may require expansion up to 3,000 feet, and for American oystercatcher and colonial nesting waterbirds, establish a 150-foot to 300-foot buffer for unfledged chicks. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.11 Close resource protection areas during breeding season. Resource areas would be closed to ORV use during these times. Pedestrians would still have access to these areas.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.12 Adopt some or all of the interim protected species management strategy actions.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.13 Use the interim protected species management strategy as a starting point. Identify limitations/concerns with it and revise accordingly.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.14 Assimilate USGS protocol Option B or C to determine resource areas and buffer distances for colonial nesting birds (for more detail on the USGS protocols, see Appendix A).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

6. Species Protection

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
6.A.15 Assimilate USGS protocol Option A to determine resource areas and buffer distances for American oystercatcher (for more detail on the USGS protocols, see Appendix A).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.16 Assimilate USGS protocol Option A or B to determine resource areas and buffer distances for piping plover (for more detail on the USGS protocols, see Appendix A).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.17 Provide the flexibility to "un-designate" and reopen a resource area through adaptive management if it ceases to be suitable habitat or to designate a new area that has become suitable habitat.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.18 Simplify resource closures so they are easier and less staff intensive to implement **(e.g., close west of Cape Point to Salt Pond Road from April 1 to August 31).**	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.19 Establish larger closures for piping plover instead of the minimum buffer so that dawn to dusk monitoring may not be needed.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.20 Establish pre-nesting closures (i.e., before birds arrive) for American oystercatcher and colonial waterbirds in previously used areas that are used regularly, if the site still contains suitable habitat (e.g., area between Ramps 23 and 27 and between Ramps 27 and 30).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

6. Species Protection

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
6.A.21 Close all resting/roosting and foraging habitats used by non-breeding piping plovers, including soundside wet sand or mud flats near inlets, margins of ephemeral pool or pond habitats, and adjacent upland sandy dune or beach within 50 meters to ORVs and recreation activity.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.22 Establish pre-nesting closures for piping plover in suitable habitat used during the last 10 years.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.23 Establish pre-nesting closures for American oystercatcher and colonial waterbirds used during the past 3 years outside areas on spits/points already closed for piping plover nesting. As more data becomes available, the definition of historical habitat would be expanded, up to a maximum of 10 years.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.24 Establish a 150-foot buffer around American oystercatcher and colonial waterbirds exhibiting territorial or courting behaviors.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.25 Establish a 300-400 foot buffer around American oystercatcher nests.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.26 Establish a 300-foot buffer around unfledged American oystercatcher chicks that moves with the brood.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.27 Establish a 600-foot buffer around unfledged American oystercatcher chicks that moves with the brood.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

6. Species Protection

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
6.A.28 Establish a 300-foot buffer around colonial waterbird nests at the outside edge of the colony (if only least terns are present in the colony). Establish a 600-foot buffer from the outside edge of the colony if other term species or black skimmer nests are present in the colony.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.29 Establish a 300-foot buffer around unfledged colonial waterbird chicks at the outside edge of the colony (if only least terns are present in the colony). Establish a 600-foot buffer from the outside edge of the colony if other tern species or black skimmer nests are present in the colony.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.A.30 Close the beach between Ramp 23 and Ramp 27 as a resource area to protect nesting areas.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.B. Establish ORV Routes or Passive Recreation Areas Based on Resource Protection		
6.B.1 Designate a 100-foot-wide ORV and pedestrian corridor. Outside the ORV corridor, prohibit pedestrian access to breeding areas beyond the symbolic fencing. Delineate the corridor with posts placed up to 100 feet above the high tide line. In areas of reduced corridor width (i.e., narrower than 100 feet), post a reduced speed limit of 10 mph. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.B.2 Establish criteria for designating ORV routes where there would be the least conflict with resources.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.B.3 Close some resource areas year-round to the public for all uses.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

6. Species Protection

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
6.B.4 Establish non-kite boarding zones around resource areas (i.e., have no-launch zones in locations where kite boards, if launched there, might travel into the resource areas). Partner with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to establish regulations for kite boarding in waters adjacent to high priority resource areas.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.B.5 Give more protection to the resource area by reducing the width of the ORV corridor adjacent to it.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.B.6 Limit or prohibit vehicles at the spits and Cape Point during breeding season.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.B.7 Identify areas and routes with fewest resource conflicts during the breeding season as open to ORV use.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.B.8 Prohibit ORVs and pedestrians in all resource protection closures. (*status quo*)	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.B.9 Expand the areas where ORV use is permitted during times of extensive resource closures	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.B.10 Protect the area 10 meters seaward from the toe of the dune by placing it outside of the ORV corridor, except for those few areas where the beach is so narrow that it would preclude an ORV corridor.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.C. Options for Spits and Cape Point/South Beach		
6.C.1 Designate specific resource areas (i.e., bird habitat areas) and set aside these areas for resource protection. These areas could include: South Point, Cape Point, South Beach, the north end of Ocracoke, and all spits.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

6. Species Protection

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
6.C.2 Maintain east side access to Cape Point to the extent possible. Designate west of Cape Point to Salt Pond Road or Ramp 45 as a year-round or seasonal resource area that would be closed to ORVs.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.C.3 Implement a rest and rotation system at certain locations such as Hatteras Spit. Under this system the soundside could be open to ORV use in the summer while the oceanside would be closed for species protection. In the winter this could be reversed and the soundside would be closed to ORV use and the oceanside open, providing the more sheltered soundside shoreline to wintering and migrating birds as a place to forage.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.C.4 Close certain spits to all public use during part of the year (April 1 to August 15 or when the last birds fledge, including terns) or year-round.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.C.5 Close certain spits to ORVs and pets during part of the year (April 1 to August 15 or when the last birds fledge, including terns).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.C.6 Designate one or more of the spits or Cape Point to be closed year-round to all access.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.C.7 Designate one or more of the spits or Cape Point to be closed year-round to ORV access. Area would be open to pedestrian access outside of breeding season.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.D. Management Tools Related to Sea Turtles		
6.D.1 Encourage concessioners to install turtle friendly lighting *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.D.2 Establish turtle-friendly lighting standards for all Seashore (NPS) structures (*status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

6. Species Protection

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
6.D.3 Establish an approximately 30 feet by 30 feet buffer around sea turtle nests. Approximately 50 to 55 days into incubation, expand closure to the surfline (*status quo*).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.D.4 Restrict or prohibit night driving during turtle nesting season dusk to dawn.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.D.5 Restrict or prohibit night driving during turtle nesting season throughout the Seashore between 8:00 pm and 5:00 am from June 1 to August 31.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.D.6 Issue night fishing permits to allow nighttime ORV use for fishing access under certain circumstances.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.D.7 Create an "adopt a turtle nest" volunteer program.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.D.8 Work with Dare County to develop turtle friendly lighting standards in the villages and create incentives for voluntary compliance. Support program with educational component.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.E. Regulate Pet Access		
6.E.1 Pets must be crated, caged, restrained on a leash or otherwise physically confined at all times in all areas of the Seashore. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.E.2 Allow pets on a leash in all locations except within resource protection closures. (*status quo*)	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.E.3 Prohibit pets at spits and Cape Point during breeding season.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

6. Species Protection

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
6.E.4 Provide a minimum 300 foot additional buffer distance for bird resource closures for locations where pets are permitted.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.E.5 Prohibit pets everywhere but in developed areas (lighthouses, historic districts, etc.).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.F. Implement Additional Research Programs		
6.F.1 Develop a local program with USFWS to band and track piping plovers to improve identification of breeding pairs and obtain a long-term analysis on the effect of ORVs and other factors on piping plover.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.F.2 Conduct local research to determine causes of piping plover chick mortality.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.F.3 Conduct local research to determine the impact of ORVs on the beach ecosystem as a whole (e.g., food sources).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.F.4 Experiment with a year-round closure in one prime bird area to let natural processes take place.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.F.5 Work with USFWS, other national seashores, and state wildlife agencies to develop shorebird websites so agencies and the public can track migration up and down the coast of tagged shorebirds.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.G. Other Tools Related to Species Protection		
6.G.1 Continue existing predator management activities including trapping predators for removal and surveying around nests for signs of predators and erecting predator exclosures around nests with eggs *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

6. Species Protection

Options	Effectiveness	Comments
	Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	**Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?**
6.G.2 Prohibit all fireworks in the Seashore at all times. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.G.3 Prohibit kite flying, kite boards, and ball and Frisbee tossing within or above all bird closures. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.G.4 Identify opportunities for habitat restoration or enhancement.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.G.5 Conduct controlled habitat restoration research using spoil from dredging to cover a vegetated area and create new habitat if funding and the opportunity were available, but not as a scheduled action.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.G.6 Increase core resource management staffing on a year-round basis, instead of relying so heavily on seasonal employees.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
6.G.7 Turn over management of bird habitat areas to USFWS under an interagency agreement.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

Species Protection

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding potential species protection options below:

Site Specific Management: Bodie Island Ranger District

7. Site Specific Management: Bodie Island Ranger District

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
7.A. Ramp 1 to Ramp 4		
7.A.1 Establish passive recreation area from Ramp 1 to Ramp 2 year-round. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.A.2 Continue seasonal ORV closure from Ramp 2 to approximately 0.5 mile south of Ramp 2. Create a new ramp at mile 2.5 to facilitate ORV access during the summer season.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.A.3 Reduce the seasonal ORV closure to 0.1 mile south of Ramp 2 to provide more ORV area to offset areas closed at Bodie Island Spit during the breeding season.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.A.4 Establish the 0.5 mile between Ramp 2 and a newly established Ramp 2.5 as a year-round, passive recreation area.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.A.5 Expand existing parking areas around Ramps 1 and 2 and provide pedestrian access to the beach.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.B. Ramp 4 to Bodie Island Spit		
7.B.1 Continue current practice of open access, subject to resource closures and weather/tide conditions. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.B.2 Allow ORV use from Ramp 4 to Oregon Inlet year round.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.B.3 Close spit to ORV use during breeding season or summer months.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.B.4 Close a portion of the spit year round to ORV use. Allow pedestrian access, except in resource closures.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.B.5 Close the whole spit to ORV use year round. Allow pedestrian access, except in resource closures.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.B.6 Increase parking area at Ramp 4.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

7. Site Specific Management: Bodie Island Ranger District

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
7.B.7 Establish an interdunal road from **Ramp 4 to the open flats** near the bait pond to provide ORV access to spit when beach is impassible.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.B.8 Establish 0.5 - 0.75 mile boardwalk from Ramp 4 through marsh area for pedestrians and anglers to access the spit.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.C. Expand Pedestrian Areas		
7.C.1 Expand passive recreation area from Ramp 1 south to mile marker (MM) 2.25.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.C.2 Establish a passive recreation area from Ramp 4 north to MM 3.75 to establish a passive recreation area in front of the campground.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.D. Expand ORV Routes in Winter		
7.D.1 Provide an ORV corridor from Ramp 1 to the inlet during the winter time when the bathhouse is closed, the campground is closed and, at present, there are few pedestrians.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.E. Establish an Entrance Station for Either Fee Collection or Capacity Control		
7.E.1 Staff a year-round entrance station at Ramp 4 that provides capacity control for an established number of vehicles at any one point in time and/or provides education.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.E.2 If the entrance is for capacity control, access from Ramp 2 (or the alternate Ramp 2.5 in option 7.A.2 and 7.A.4) would be controlled/closed.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.E.3 Charge an ORV entrance fee at Ramp 4 year-round, to pay for the entrance station staff.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.E.4 Establish an ORV carrying capacity from Ramp 4 to the spit and enforce the capacity on a first come/first serve basis or by issuing permits for the area.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

7. Site Specific Management: Bodie Island Ranger District

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7.F. Provide Soundside Access		
7.F.1 Open the existing road behind the lighthouse to ORV use and designate a parking capacity to provide for kayaking and canoeing in this area to address the limited soundside access on Bodie Island.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.F.2 Provide better access to "Kite Point" (i.e., Salvo day use area) for ORVs.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.F.3 Identify and establish other soundside access points and parking areas.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.G. Provide ORV Access Seasonally		
7.G.1 Establish passive recreation area in front of Avon, Frisco, and Salvo during the summer, open to ORV use other times of the year – located in both the Bodie and Hatteras Ranger Districts. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.G.2 Continue the seasonal ORV closure from Ramp 1, south of Ramp 2 consistent with the seasonal ORV closure dates in front of the villages.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.G.3 Open the entire beach on Bodie Island (i.e., Ramp 1 to Oregon Inlet) to ORV use during the winter time.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.H. Provide Larger Parking Lots in the Tri-village Area and Establish Passive Recreation Areas		
7.H.1 Increase parking at Ramp 23. Area north of the parking lot would be a passive recreation area and ORV use would be permitted in the area south of the ramp.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.H.2 Add parking and a boardwalk between Ramps 23 and 27, with pedestrian access only on these ramps.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.H.3 Provide restroom and/or bathhouse facilities at Ramps 23 and/or 27.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

7. Site Specific Management: Bodie Island Ranger District

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
7.H.4 Close to ORV use from Ramp 23 to one mile north of Ramp 27 year-round; expanding the parking lot at Ramp 23 and create a passive recreation area (this area is not a high ORV use area and the number of cottages is expanding).	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.I. Alternative Transportation		
7.I.1 Establish alternative transportation systems in areas with sensitive resources, such as Bodie Island Spit to provide access when the spit is otherwise inaccessible by ORVs or by foot, such as could happen during breeding season.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.I.2 Increase parking at the Oregon Inlet fishing center and establish a water taxi/shuttle service that would operate under a Commercial Use Authorization to transport visitors to the spit at Oregon Inlet when it is otherwise inaccessible by land.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
7.J. Increase ORV Access Whenever Resource Closures Occur		
7.J.1 Increase ORV access elsewhere when there are resource closures at popular areas such as the spits and Cape Point. For example, increase ORV access north of Ramp 4 to some extent if/when resource closures at the spit reduce the amount of area open to ORV use. This is most applicable to the summer season when both resource use of habitat and Seashore visitation are high.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

Site Specific Management: Bodie Island Ranger District

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding site specific management options in Bodie Island Ranger District below:

Site Specific Management: Hatteras Island Ranger District

8. Site Specific Management: Hatteras Island Ranger District

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
8.A. Establish ORV Use Areas and Passive Recreation Areas (Either Seasonal or Year-round)		
8.A.1 Establish a year-round ORV use area from Ramp 27 to Ramp 30. (*status quo*)	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.2 Establish a passive recreation area seasonally in the summer around Ramp 43 in front of the life guarded beach. (*status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.3 Establish an ORV use area from Ramp 43 to Cape Point year-round. (*status quo*)	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.4 Establish a passive recreation area from Frisco to Ramp 55, which is currently closed for safety reasons. (*status quo*)	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.5 Establish an ORV use area from Ramp 55 to Hatteras Inlet. (*status quo*)	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.6 Continue the current ORV corridor from Ramp 55 on the beach and along Pole Road/Spur Road to end of the spit for ORV use when no resource closures or storm related safety closures are present. (*status quo*)	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.7 Leave Ramp 23 open and add additional parking for pedestrians as this area does not presently have heavy ORV use.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.8 Close Ramp 23 to 1 mile north of Ramp 27 to ORV use and establish a passive recreation area year-round. In addition, expand parking at Ramp 23 and close the ramp.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

8. Site Specific Management: Hatteras Island Ranger District

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
8.A.9 Establish a seasonal passive recreation area in front of the tri-village area south to one mile north of Ramp 27. Close seasonally to ORV use.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.10 Establish a year-round passive recreation area in front of the tri-village area south to one mile north of Ramp 27. Close year-round to ORV use.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.11 Designate an ORV corridor from 1 mile north of Ramp 27 to Ramp 34.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.12 Designate a passive recreation area from Ramp 34 north of Avon to Ramp 38 south of Avon.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.13 Close Ramp 34 to Ramp 43 to ORV access (this area includes villages). Close Ramp 38 to ORV access and expand parking.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.14 Continue the current ORV corridor from Ramp 43 to Cape Point to Ramp 49, subject to resource closures and storm/tide related closures.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.15 Provide a passive recreation area north of Ramp 49 in front of Frisco Campground. Allow ORVs to pass through (no parking) on the upper beach to access beaches to the north.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.16 Expand the parking areas on the access road to the Frisco campground for additional parking. This option would include providing fencing and signage around the airstrip to keep pedestrians out of this area for safety reasons.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

8. Site Specific Management: Hatteras Island Ranger District

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
8.A.17 Manage the beach between Ramp 49 and Ramp 55 (in front of Frisco and Hatteras Villages) consistent with the approach selected for other village beaches.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.18 Designate the area between Ramp 49 and Ramp 55 a passive recreation area and close it to ORV use.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.19 Close the sound shoreline access from Cable Crossing to Spur Road outlet during the winter season.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.20 Close both ocean and soundside shoreline areas to ORV access south/west of the Spur Road to the end of the spit year-round establishing a passive recreation area.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.A.21 Close the ocean shoreline south of Spur Road to the inlet to ORV use during the breeding season.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.B. Establish an Interdunal Road from Ramp 44 to Ramp 49		
8.B.1 Establish an Interdunal Road from Ramp 44 to Ramp 49 that would be used only as an alternate route when there is a complete beach closure on South Beach.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.B.2 Establish an Interdunal Road from Ramp 44 to Ramp 49 to be open seasonally, with beach access subject to resource closures and storm/tide related safety closures.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

8. Site Specific Management: Hatteras Island Ranger District

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
8.B.3 Establish an Interdunal Road from Ramp 44 to Ramp 49 that would be open all the time, with beach access subject to resource closures and storm/tide related safety closures.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.C. Provide Additional Soundside Access and Parking		
8.C.1 Expand the parking lot and close Ramps 58 and 59 (soundside ramps) at Canadian Hole (Kite Point). The road to the parking lot would be paved with shell and clay, with the road leading to the expanded parking lot. ORV access would not be permitted beyond this road and parking lot.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.C.2 Maintain Ramps 57 and 60 for ORV access, but replace and upgrade signs showing where ORV use is allowed and use bollards or another method to keep ORVs on the established path and mitigate the resource damage currently occurring at Ramp 57.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.C.3 Formalize and designate approved ORV access routes. Close inappropriate ORV access routes and provide alternatives for parking.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.C.4 Provide better signage to indicate the old 4-wheel drive spur roads are closed at Little Kinnakeet Ramp	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.C.5 Provide barriers along the road to address the current situation of parking on vegetation and the expanding width of the road.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

8. Site Specific Management: Hatteras Island Ranger District

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
8.D. Provide Alternative Transportation		
8.D.1 Establish a beach shuttle service to provide controlled access to popular fishing areas such as Cape Point and Hatteras Spit at times if/when those areas are otherwise closed to ORV access due to resource protection closures.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
8.D.2 Establish a boat shuttle service from Hatteras Village to Hatteras Inlet during breeding season, if/when ORV and pedestrian access is otherwise precluded by resource closures.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

Site Specific Management: Hatteras Island Ranger District

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding site specific management options in Hatteras Island Ranger District below:

Site Specific Management: Ocracoke Island Ranger District

9. Site Specific Management: Ocracoke Island Ranger District

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
9.A. Increase ORV Areas Seasonally		
9.A.1 Expand ORV access south of Ramp 59 from June through August to off-set crowding from resource closures elsewhere on the island.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
9.A.2 Allow ORV use areas to expand into passive recreation areas during resource closures at the spits.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
9.B. Provide Additional Soundside Access and Parking		
9.B.1 Formalize existing soundside access points.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
9.B.2 Identify locations for additional parking and access to existing soundside beaches.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
9.B.3 Create a swim beach at the north end of the island on the soundside.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
9.C. Provide Alternate Routes and/or Alternative Transportation		
9.C.1 Increase the number of ramps, creating a "cell system" to allow for convenient alternate routes around resource closures in ORV areas.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
9.C.2 Provide alternative access to South Point if/when it is closed to ORV access.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
9.C.3 Operate a beach shuttle service between Ramp 72 and South Point.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
9.C.4 Operate a water taxi from Silver Lake Harbor to South Point.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
9.D. Establish Passive Recreation Areas		
9.D.1 Establish a passive recreation area from Ramp 70, near the airstrip, to Ramp 68 May to September. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

9. Site Specific Management: Ocracoke Island Ranger District

Options	Effectiveness Is this an effective management option that meets the objectives of the plan?	Comments Please provide any additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel that this option would be more appropriate in one geographic area or areas than others, please state where, and why. Also, if you answered "may be" or "not" effective, how would you suggest improving the option so that it would be more effective?
9.D.2 Establish a passive recreation area from Ramp 67 to Ramp 59 year-round. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
9.D.3 Establish a seasonal passive recreation area from Ramp 67 to Ramp 59.	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
9.E. Establish ORV Use Areas		
9.E.1 Open Ramp 70 to the spit year-round to ORV use. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
9.E.2 Open Ramp 68 to Ramp 67 year-round to ORV use. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	
9.E.3 Open Ramp 59 to north end of the island to ORV use. *(status quo)*	☐ Definitely effective ☐ May be effective ☐ Not effective	

Site Specific Management: Ocracoke Island Ranger District

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding site specific management options in Ocracoke Island Ranger District below:

Maps of Ranger Districts

Appendix A

APPENDIX A: Summary of U.S. Geological Survey Sensitive Species Protocols

U.S. Geological Survey Protocols – The U.S. Geological Servey Protocols for piping plover, American oystercatcher, colonial nesting birds, sea turtles, and seabeach amaranth provide three management options for each species, each offering varying levels of protection. In general, these protocols recommend the following buffer distances for habitat closures to protect nests from disturbance at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Additional specific management measures for each option that may increase or decrease these distances are described below for each species.

Species	Buffer Distance (meters)
Piping Plover	50
Least Tern	100
Other Colonial Waterbirds	200
American Oystercatcher	150
Sea Turtles	50
Seabeach Amaranth	10

Piping Plover

Option A: Close all potential piping plover nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat (ocean and soundside intertidal zone and other MOSH (Moist substrate habitat, excluding high-wave energy intertidal zone. Particularly mud flats, sand flats, ephemeral pools, and shores of brackish ponds, ocean backshore, dunes, dry sand flats, overwashes and blowouts) to all recreation, 24 hours a day, year-round, at Bodie Island Spit, Cape Point, South Beach, Hatteras Spit, North Ocracoke, South Ocracoke. In other areas of the Seashore, there should be a zone of ocean backshore at least 10-meter wide and running the length of the site that is closed to recreation. A 50-meter buffer zone should be placed around all nests to reduce the risk of damage by essential vehicles or monitors.

Option B: Close all potential piping plover nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat (ocean and soundside intertidal zone and other MOSH, ocean backshore, dunes, dry sand flats, overwashes and blowouts) to ORV traffic, 24 hours a day year-round, as described under option A. Permit pedestrians within a narrow corridor extending landward from the mean high tide line, from sunrise to sunset, on the oceanside only. Prohibit recreation at these sites from sundown to sunrise. Narrow or close the pedestrian corridor to provide a recreation-free buffer zone 50 meters wide (or the distance recommended for other avian species using the area, whichever is greatest) around all areas of MOSH, all overwash corridors, and any place that courtship behavior or scrapes are observed. Widen buffer to 100 meters any place that disturbance of plovers by recreation is observed, then to 200 meters if disturbance persists. Throughout the remainder of the Seashore, narrow the current 50-meter ORV corridor such that a zone of ocean backshore at least 10 meters wide and running the length of the site is free of ORV traffic. For nests, prohibit pedestrians from approaching within 50 meters of the nest, or the distance recommended for other avian species if any of them are nesting nearby (whichever is greatest). Expand buffer on a nest-by-nest basis if monitors determine 50 meters to be inadequate to prevent disturbance to a particular pair (first time expand to 100 meters, and then to 200 meters). If a monitor is unavailable to alter the buffer area, the beach should be closed for 200 meters

around the nest until the fence can be restructured. Within one week of the expected hatch date of a nest, prohibit ORVs in all plover habitat within 1,000 meters of the nest. After hatch, the closed area should be 1,000 meters on either side of the brood's center of activity.

Option C: Restrict all recreation to a 50 meter corridor on the ocean side, from the mean high tide line landward, from sunrise to sunset, in the areas described under option A. This corridor will be narrow enough to provide adequate nesting, foraging, and roosting habitat for piping plovers given the size and configuration of the habitat at these sites in 2005. Alteration of the habitat by storms or other natural processes may require a narrowing of the corridor, and at a minimum no recreation should be permitted in bay intertidal zone or other MOSH (except ocean intertidal zone), dunes, dry sand flats, overwashes and blowouts, and a 10-meter wide strip of ocean backshore.

American Oystercatcher

Option A: Close all areas used by nesting and foraging American oystercatchers during the last 10 years to recreational activities from March 15 to August 15. Close winter roosting areas to recreation during times to be determined from winter roosting surveys in the future. Erect signs 200 meters from nests to warn personnel of the nesting pair and reduce disturbance in the area by other biologists, law enforcement, and managers. Move signs to boundaries of chick foraging areas after hatching so that the vast majority of foraging area is protected.

Option B: Close specific areas for nesting American oystercatchers in coordination with closure of beaches for nesting colonial waterbirds and piping plovers. Important nesting areas and ones that have been closed in the past for oystercatchers are Hatteras Island: Cape Point, South Beach, Hatteras Inlet; Bodie Island: Bodie Island flats; and Ocracoke Island: areas from Ramp 59 to Ramp 72 in addition to sites mentioned in option B for colonial waterbirds. Place signs 200 meters from nesting birds to warn persons of the nesting areas. Allow pedestrians only in oystercatcher territories and limit walking corridors to 50 meters from high tide line.

Option C: Restrict all ORV and pedestrian recreation to a corridor within 50 meters of the oceanside mean high time line from sunrise to sunset at all sites used in the last 10 years by nesting American oystercatchers. This should be in effect from March 15 to August 15 for nesting birds. The corridor should be reduced or closed during the hatchling stage (assuming the pair were successful) to reduce chick mortality from ORVs. It should remain closed until August 15 or until 60 days after last hatching date if nests were monitored in the area. Areas should be closed from sunset to sunrise for all recreation activities.

Colonial Waterbirds

Option A: Close all waterbird nesting, foraging (ponds, pools) and roosting habitat that has been used in the past 10 years to all recreational activities from April 15 to September 30. Bodie Island Spit, Green Island, Hatteras Island (Cape Point, South Beach, and Hatteras Inlet), and North and South Ocracoke Island should all be posted with area closure signs with the dates posted. In the spring (April 15 to late May) and fall migration (August to September 30) periods, all vehicles and personnel (NPS, researchers) should try to avoid tips of spits and inlet areas where colonial species often stage, or court (spring migration).

Option B: Close all potential breeding, roosting, and foraging habitat to ORV traffic at all sites where any terns or black skimmers have nested in the past decade, from April 15 until September 30. Even if no colony is established early in the season, late-season nesting by least terns and skimmers is common, and renesting may occur as late as August in some years. This should include Bodie Island Spit, Green Island, Hatteras Island, including Cape Point, South

Beach, and Hatteras Spit, and Ocracoke Island, including North Ocracoke (inlet area), and South Ocracoke. In these areas, pedestrians should be allowed within a narrow walking corridor at the high tide line from sunrise to sunset. At the remaining beach habitat outside these areas, the ORV corridor should allow at least 10 meters of ocean beach from the toe of the primary dune seaward to remain vehicle-free during the April 15 to September 30 period. If a colony becomes established, the ORV access may need to be modified for a section of beach to allow buffer. At each colony where nests are initiated (including nest scrapes), resource closure signs with string should be erected. For least terns, signs should be placed 100 meters from the perimeter of the colony. For other species of terns and black skimmers, the buffer distance should be 200 meters. Should a colony become established along a beach outside of a focal site, ORV access to the beach zone should be closed after young begin hatching, with the length of the beach closure depending on the dimensions of the colony.

Option C: Option C includes elements of B but, restricts all ORV and pedestrian recreation to a corridor within 50 meters of the oceanside mean high tide line from sunrise to sunset, at all sites where colonial waterbirds have been documented in the past decade from April 15 to September 30. Even if no colony is established early in the season, late-season nesting by least terns and skimmers is common, and renesting may occur as late as August in some years. This includes the seven sites referred to in option B above. The corridor should be narrowed (or eliminated at certain segments of beach) if the buffer distance from an active nesting colony intercepts the ORV corridor, or when young hatch from a colony. Any area with nesting birds should be closed from sunset to sunrise to all recreation.

Sea Turtles

Option A: Close all potential sea turtle nesting habitat to all recreational activities all day, all year, but at least from April 1 to November 15 or until the hatchlings from the last known sea turtle nest have emerged and entered the sea (whichever is later), wherever sea turtles nested, left false crawls, or otherwise attempted to nest from 1995-2005. Install a 10-meter fenced buffer zone around all nests. Establish a 10 mile per hour speed limit for essential vehicles in the intertidal zone. Essential vehicles should avoid driving in sea turtle habitat from sundown to sunrise. Sea turtle monitors may conduct their activities by ORV and should drive only in the ocean intertidal zone, but avoid the wrack line, at speeds not to exceed 10 mph. If monitoring must occur when the intertidal zone is not available, sea turtle monitors should consult with other protected species monitors prior to entering the field. For all nests more than 50 days into incubation, all vehicle tracks should be smoothed nightly between the nest and the sea. Essential vehicles should make extra effort to not drive in the vicinity of a nest from 50 days until hatch. Continue trapping of potential nest and brood predators prior to the onset of the nesting season. Avian predation can be further controlled by enforcing proper trash disposal and anti-wildlife feeding regulations. Protect nests with predator exclosures if nest predation becomes prevalent in a particular area. Enact turtle-friendly lighting regulations and conduct outreach with adjacent communities toward the aim of enacting lighting regulations there. Relocate nests imperiled by impending erosion or flooding. Assist stranded turtles according to the guidelines in the Handbook for Sea Turtle Volunteers in North Carolina. Outside of the restricted period detailed in option A, closures may be lifted unless doing so would conflict with protocols for other protected species in a particular area.

Option B: Close all potential sea turtle nesting habitat to ORV traffic from sunset to sunrise from April 1 to November 15 as described under option A. Pedestrians may be allowed in sea turtle habitat at night, but pets should be prohibited at night (and during the day, at the option of Cape Hatteras National Seashore). Pedestrians should be prohibited from sea turtle habitat at

night in any area where nighttime closure is recommended in the protocols of other protected species. Prohibit wildlife feeding and trash disposal in sea turtle habitat, 24 hours a day, year-round. If pedestrians are allowed on the beach at night, they should first be required to participate in an educational program on proper conduct in the habitat of protected species. Close segments of sea turtle habitat to recreation 24 hours a day from April 1 to November 15. Prohibit artificial light sources, including electric lights, campfires, and fireworks from all sea turtle nesting habitat April 1 to November 15 with the following exceptions: Pedestrian recreationists in sea turtle habitat at night may use light sources with red filters; Essential vehicles should use the bare minimum of lighting necessary for the performance of their duties. Throughout Cape Hatteras National Seashore, narrow the current 50-meter ORV corridor such that a zone of ocean backshore at least 10 meters wide and running the length of the site is free of ORV traffic. This zone should be adjacent to the toe of the primary dune wherever a primary dune exists. A 50-meter fenced buffer zone should be placed around each nest in any place where recreation occurs. Random spot checks should be made at these closures. If more than three violations of the protected area around a particular nest are observed, the buffer distance should be expanded to 100 meters, then to 200 meters if necessary. Where recreation does not occur, a 10-meter buffer zone should be used to prevent harm by essential vehicles. For all nests more than 50 days into incubation, in areas where recreation occurs expand the buffer zone to 200 meters and smooth all ORV tracks between the nest and the sea each evening. This option includes all the management recommendations under option A starting with and following the 10 mile per hour speed limit provision.

Option C: Require all recreationists (including ORV operators and passengers) that wish to enter sea turtle habitat at night to first participate in an educational program. Prohibit pets from entering sea turtle habitat at night (and during the day, at the option of Cape Hatteras National Seashore), and prohibit trash disposal and wildlife feeding 24 hours a day, year-round. For all nests more than 50 days into incubation, close the beach for 1000 meters on either side of the nest to ORV traffic. This will reduce the risk that headlights will affect emerging hatchlings. Close segments of sea turtle habitat to recreation 24 hours a day from April 1 to November 15. Prohibit artificial light sources, including electric lights, campfires, and fireworks from all sea turtle nesting habitat from April 1 to November 15, with the following exceptions: Pedestrian recreationists in sea turtle habitat at night may use light sources with red filters; ORVs must turn off their headlights or place red filters over their headlights whenever they are parked; Essential vehicles should use the bare minimum of lighting necessary for the performance of their duties. This option also includes all buffer requirements listed under option B above.

Seabeach Amaranth

Option A: Completely close all potential seabeach amaranth habitat to all recreational activities year round. During August, efforts should be directed to carefully monitor seabeach amaranth plants at all sites where it has been noted in the past decade or in any new suitable habitats. Essential vehicles (law enforcement, NPS personnel, approved researchers) should only enter restricted areas subject to the guidelines in the Essential Vehicles section of Appendix G of the Revised Recovery Plan for the piping plover. Vehicles should not exceed 10 mph. Locate and eliminate all individuals of beach vitex (Vitex rotundifolia), an invasive beach plant that is a threat to coastal dune habitats.

Option B: Completely close all potential seabeach amaranth habitat to ORV traffic and boat landings from April 15 until November 30. This could include areas on Bodie Island Spit, Green Island, Hatteras Island, including Cape Point, South Beach, and Hatteras Spit, and Ocracoke Island, including North Ocracoke (inlet area), and South Ocracoke. At the seven sites mentioned

above, pedestrians should be allowed within a 50-meter corridor from the high tide line landward, from sunrise to sunset. At areas outside of the seven focal areas, monitoring for seabeach amaranth should be conducted during August. Where plants are found, resource closures (10-meter diameter) with signs should be erected to protect each plant. Interpretive signs about the trampling susceptibility of seabeach amaranth should be placed at all ORV entry points, at all boat ramps and marinas, and at Park kiosks. Essential vehicle restrictions and beach vitex provisions under option A would be implemented under this option.

Option C: Restrict all ORV and pedestrian recreation to a corridor within 50 meters of the oceanside mean high tide line from sunrise to sunset, at all potential seabeach amaranth habitat from April 15 to November 30. This includes the seven sites referred to in option B above. In August, monitor the areas for seabeach amaranth plants as prescribed. Vehicle speed should not exceed 10 miles per hour. Essential vehicle restrictions and beach vitex provisions under option A would be implemented under this option.