

SUBCOMMITTEE DOCUMENT

DRAFT 1/28/09						
	<i>Bodie Island Ranger District</i>				<i>Bodie Island Ranger District</i>	<i>Bodie Island Ranger District</i>
	None. Same as alternative A	Same as alternative A	Same as alternative A	Same as alternative A	Same as alternative A	To be determined with design/access of new ramp 2 & 3. (replacing current ramps 2 & 4)
	<i>Hatteras Island Ranger District</i>					<i>Hatteras Island Ranger District</i>
	Cape Point between Ramp 44 to Ramp 45		Same as alternative A, plus		Same as alternative A, plus	Cape Point between Ramp 44 to Ramp 45
	Hatteras Inlet from Ramp 55 to the inlet (includes Pole Road and Spur Road).	Same as alternative A	Extend interdunal road west of Ramp 45 to new Ramp 47	Same as alternative A	Extend interdunal road west of Ramp 45 to Ramp 49. Establish new Ramp 47 off of interdunal road.	Extend interdunal road west of Ramp 45 to Ramp 49. Establish new Ramp 47 off of interdunal road.
						Maintain Pole Road, Bone Road & Spur Road to allow for safe 2 way passage.
	<i>Ocracoke Island Ranger District</i>					
	None.	Same as alternative A	Same as alternative A	Same as alternative A	Same as alternative A	All current soundside access routes to be kept open with maintenance to allow safe access for ORV & PED. Reopen soundside access @ So boundry of Village. Reopen soundside access from ramp 72 south of spur around SW end of dune in non-breeding seasn.
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Hours of Allowable ORV		November 16 – April 30: All beaches open to ORV use 24 hours a day.	November 16 through April 30: Designated ORV routes and areas open to ORV use 24 hours a day.	November 16 through April 30: Designated ORV routes and areas open to ORV use 24 hours a day.	November 16 - April 30: Designated ORV routes and areas open to ORV use 24 hours a day.	November 16 - March 24: Designated ORV routes & areas open to ORV use 24 hours a day.
Operation on Beach	All areas of the seashore open 24 hours a day year round.	May 1 – November 15: Beaches open from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and closed from 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.; except that from September 16 to November 15 ORV use is allowed from 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. subject to terms and conditions of a permit.	May 1 – November 15: All potential sea turtle nesting habitat (ocean intertidal zone, ocean backshore, and dunes) closed to non-essential ORV use from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	May 1 – November 15: All potential sea turtle nesting habitat (ocean intertidal zone, ocean backshore, and dunes) closed to non-essential ORV use from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	May 1 – September 15: All potential sea turtle nesting habitat (ocean intertidal zone, ocean backshore, and dunes) closed to non-essential ORV use from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m.	May 25- August 31: All potential sea turtle nesting habitat (ocean intertidal zone, ocean backshore & dunes) closed to non-essential ORV use from 10:00 pm until 6:00 am.
					September 16 – November 15: ORV routes and areas with no or low density of turtle nests remaining (as determined by NPS) open between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. subject to terms and conditions of permit.	September 2 - November 15: ORV route & areas with no or low density of remaining turtle nests (as determined by NPS) open between 10:00 pm & 6:00 am subject to terms of free educational permit. Stationary vehicles (for nighttime enjoyment) are allowed up to a maximum number to be determined.
	A	B	C	D	E	F
ORV Routes	Visitors accessing the Seashore by ORV must drive only on marked ORV routes and comply with posted restrictions.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Visitors accessing the Seashore by ORV must drive only on marked ORV routes and comply with posted restrictions.
	The ORV corridor will be marked by posts placed approximately 150 feet landward from the average, normal high tide line, or if less than 150 feet of space is available, at the vegetation or the toe of the remnant dune line; except as noted in the Interim Protected Species Management Strategy. The corridor width will fluctuate over time due to the dynamic nature of beach and surf. (Superintendent's Order #7)	Same as alternative A, except: In all locations not in front of the villages that are open to ORV use, NPS shall provide an ORV-free zone in the ocean backshore at least 10 m wide, wherever there is sufficient beach width to all an ORV corridor of at least 20 m above the mean high tide line, from March 15 to November 30.	ORV beach routes would be a designated area seaward from the toe of dune or vegetation line to high tide line.	Same as alternative C.	September 1 – March 14: ORV beach routes would be a designated area seaward from the toe of dune or vegetation line to high tide line. March 15 – August 31: ORV beach routes would be a designated area from 10 meters from the toe of the dune to the existing tide line in areas open to ORV use. Such backshore closures would be implemented only when there is sufficient beach width to allow an ORV corridor of at least 20 meters above the mean high tide line.	ORV beach routes would be a designated area seaward from the toe of dune or vegetation line to high tide line.
ORV Use Areas	All areas of the Seashore are open to ORV access.	Same as alternative A.	ORV access would be prohibited in all areas of the Seashore except where routes and areas are specifically designated.	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C	ORV access would be prohibited in all areas of the Seashore except where routes and areas are specifically designated.
	Refer to Use Areas Table.		Refer to Use Areas Table.			Refer to Use Areas Table.

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	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Safety closures apply only to ORV safety.		Safety closures established in areas open	Safety closures would not be established.	Same as alternative C, plus:	
Safety Closures	ORV safety closures established as needed to address safety conditions such as debris on the beach or narrow beaches. Narrow beaches are reopened as the beach widens. Safety closures applicable only to ORV access; pedestrian access is maintained.	Same as alternative A.	to ORV use as needed to address ORV and pedestrian safety considerations, including debris on the beach, narrow beaches, and congested areas. Safety closures would preclude ORV access, while pedestrian access would be maintained through all safety closures.	ORV drivers would need to determine conditions and safety and would drive at own risk.	For village beaches that are open to ORV use during the winter season, the village beaches must be at least 30 m (100 ft) wide from the toe of the dune seaward to mean high tide line in order to be open to ORV use.	See safety closure as developed by subcommittee/approved by committee (12/12/08)
	Existing ORV safety closures include: Ramp 1 to Ramp 2 1.8 miles south of Ramp 38 to 0.4 mile north of Ramp 43 Buxton to Lighthouse Beach Northern boundary of Frisco to Hatteras Village September 16 – May 14: Hatteras Village 1.5 miles north of Ramp 67 to 1 mile south of Ramp 59		Safety closures would be reopened when/if conditions improve as determined by monitoring every two weeks by Seashore law enforcement.			
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Administrative ORV Closures	Beach in front of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse closed to ORV access. Buxton Woods road closed to ORV access.	Same as alternative A.	No administrative closures would be established. (Buxton Woods road is a non-ORV area.)	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.	No administrative closures would be established. (Buxton Woods road is a non-ORV area.)
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Ramp Characteristics			2-lanes wide with shell/clay base Standard regulatory signs and information boards at all ramps Gates at all ramps and access points Designated air down area with hardened surface (e.g., shell/clay base)	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C, plus for "high-use" ramps (to be determined); add toilet facility	Same as alternative C, plus for "high-use" ramps (to be determined); add, toilet facilities, predator proof dumpsters and fish cleaning stations. 2-lanes wide with shell/clay base Standard regulatory signs and information boards at all ramps Gates at all ramps and access points Designated air down area with hardened surface (e.g., shell/clay base)
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Wintering Closures	Suitable interior habitats at spits and at Cape Point closed year-round to all recreational users to provide for resting and foraging for all species. For example, at present, such suitable habitats include ephemeral ponds and moist flats at Cape Point, Hatteras Spit, Ocracoke, and Bodie Island Spit. Actual locations of suitable foraging and resting habitat may change periodically due to natural processes.	Same as alternative A	Based on an annual wintering habitat assessment of the RAs conducted after the breeding season, wintering areas are established within the respective RAs, while allowing an access corridor (pedestrian or pedestrian/ORV) as identified in ORV Use Areas Table. At spits, access will be maintained to inlet shoreline via ocean shoreline.	Same as alternative C	Same as alternative C	Based on an annual wintering habitat assessment of the RA's conducted after the breeding season, wintering areas are established within the respective RA's, while allowing an access corridor (pedestrian and pedestrian/ORV) as identified in the Use Areas Table. At the spits and Cape Point access will be maintained via ocean shoreline and interdunal roads.
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Resource Protection Buffers	As identified in the Interim Strategy	As identified in the Interim Strategy, as modified by the Consent Decree.	SM1 and SM2 as described in the Resources Protection Measures Table. Implement SM1 at all locations, except implement SM2 at areas designated in Use Areas Table.	SM1 as described in the Resources Protection Measures Table. Implement alternative SM1 at all locations.	Same as Alternative C.	To be determined and agreed to by the subcommittee and committee.
	ORV buffers are established for observed breeding behavior. See Resources Protection Measures table for SM1 and SM2 alternatives.					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Permit Requirements	No permits required.	10p.m. – 6:00 a.m. September 16 – November 15.	permit req'd	permt req'd	permit req'd	As agreed to by the committee.
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Permit Distribution	n/a	To follow Seashore guidelines to be developed	Available in-person at various locations and on-line.	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.	As agreed to by the committee.

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	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Temporary emergency closures established per Superintendent's Compendium and NPS policy.	In addition to beach closure restrictions under the Consent Decree, NPS retains the authority to implement a temporary emergency beach closure if any of the following conditions are observed:	The NPS retains the authority to implement a temporary emergency beach closure if any of the following conditions are observed:	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.	As agreed to by the committee (12/12/08).
Temporary Emergency Beach Closures		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * ORV traffic backing up on the beach access ramps, either on- or off-beach bound, which threatens to impede traffic flow * ORV traffic on the beach is parked in such a way that 2-way traffic is impeded * Multiple incidents of disorderly behavior are observed or reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * ORV traffic backing up on the beach access ramps, either on- or off-beach bound, which threatens to impede traffic flow * ORV traffic on the beach is parked in such a way that 2-way traffic is impeded * Multiple incidents of disorderly behavior are observed or reported 			
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Seasonal Element related to Carrying Capacity	n/a	n/a	Applicable March 15 – October 14.	n/a	Focus is on peak use periods during breeding season, but may be implemented any time need arises.	
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Periodic Review of Carrying Capacity	n/a	n/a	Visitation, crowding, and safety monitored periodically to determine if implementation of carrying capacity is warranted. Once implemented, carrying capacity limits would be reviewed every 2 years.	n/a	Same as alternative C.	Visitation, crowding, and safety monitored periodically to determine if implementation of carrying capacity is warranted. Once implemented, carrying capacity limits would be reviewed every 2 years. Review to include NPS and the appointed FACA committee at least every 2 years and more often if requested.
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Areas of Implementation	n/a	n/a	Would apply to all areas in the seashore. Carrying capacity requirements only implemented if increased visitation results in crowding threshold being met.	n/a	Same as alternative C.	
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Off-Road Vehicle Requirements	All vehicles operating in area of the Seashore must:	Same as alternative A.	Vehicle Characteristics:	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.	As agreed to by the committee(12/12/08).
	* Have a valid vehicle registration, insurance, and license plate.		1. All vehicles must be registered, licensed, and insured for highway use and comply with state inspection regulations within the state, country or province where the vehicle is registered.			
	Vehicles must be street legal. ATVs prohibited from beach driving.		2. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended			
	Recommend "air down" of tires prior to driving on beach.		3. Two wheel drive vehicles are allowed.			
			4. Motorcycles are prohibited on the ocean beachfront.			
			5. ATVs are prohibited.			
			6. There is a three axle maximum for vehicles (this is the axle maximum for the powered vehicle only and does not include the additional number of axles on towed trailers).			
			7. Any trailers are limited to no more than two axles.			
			8. The maximum vehicle length is thirty (30') feet (this is the maximum length for the powered vehicle and does not include the additional length of a towed trailer)			
			9. Tires must be U.S. Department of Transportation listed and/or approved tires only.			

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	A	B	C	D	E	F
Equipment Requirements	n/a	n/a	Equipment Requirements: * All vehicles shall contain a low pressure tire gauge, shovel, jack, and jack stand * A full sized spare tire, first aid kit, fire extinguisher, trash bag or container, flashlight (if night driving), and tow strap are recommended. * When driving on designated routes, tire pressure must be lowered sufficiently to maintain adequate traction within posted speed limit. 20 psi recommended for most vehicles.	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.	As agreed to by committee (12-12-08).
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Speed Limits	25 mph (unless otherwise posted) on park beaches for public and private vehicles.	Same as alternative A.	15 mph (unless otherwise posted). Emergency vehicles exempt when responding to a call.	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.	15 mph (unless otherwise posted). Emergency vehicles exempt when responding to a call.
	Speed limit in front of villages during off season (September 16 – May 14) on park beaches posted at 10 mph.					
	Emergency vehicles exempt when responding to a call.					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Non-ORV Areas	None designated. Temporary non-ORV areas occur as a result of seasonal (village) closures, safety closures, and resource closures.	Same as alternative A.	Non-ORV areas as designated in the ORV Use Areas Table.	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.	Non-ORV areas as designated in the ORV Use Areas Table.
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Parking Areas for Non-ORV Access	Parking is currently provided in 64 park-maintained park lots throughout the Seashore, totaling approximately 1,000 spaces.	Same as alternative A.	Any new parking areas to be located near Non-ORV Areas and located away from eroding areas or potential inlet areas. New parking areas will implement environmentally appropriate design standards to minimize stormwater runoff. New or expanded parking areas for oceanside locations are identified in ORV Use Areas Table.	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.	Any new parking areas to be located near Non-ORV Areas and located away from eroding areas or potential inlet areas. New parking areas will implement environmentally appropriate design standards to minimize stormwater runoff. New or expanded parking areas for oceanside locations are identified in ORV Use Areas Table.
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Non-ORV Parking Area Characteristics	None	None	Establish standards/amenities for non-ORV parking areas. Could include: * Each site would have a boardwalk or other appropriate pedestrian route for crossing the dune. * Parking areas with 50? 100? (to be determined) or more parking spaces would waste receptacles and toilet facilities.	* Each site would have a boardwalk or other appropriate pedestrian route for crossing the dune. * Parking areas with 50? 100? (to be determined) or more parking spaces would waste receptacles and toilet facilities.	* Each site would have a boardwalk or other appropriate pedestrian route for crossing the dune. * Parking areas with 50? 100? (to be determined) or more parking spaces would waste receptacles and toilet facilities.	* Each site would have a boardwalk or other appropriate pedestrian route for crossing the dune. * Parking areas with 25 (to be determined) or more parking spaces would waste receptacles and toilet facilities.

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	Launch sites, as designated under 36 CFR	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Launch sites, as designated under 36 CFR
Boat Access	§ 3.8(a)(2), are identified in the Superintendent's Compendium.					§ 3.8(a)(2), are identified in the Superintendent's Compendium.
	Launching or recovery of vessels is prohibited within resources closures.					Launching or recovery of vessels is prohibited within resources closures.
	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Authorized by permit to enter all ORV and pedestrian areas that are not closed for	Same as alternative A, plus are subject to night driving restriction in consent decree.	Same as alternative A, plus may be authorized by special use permit to access	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative A, plus may be authorized by special use permit to access
Commercial Fishing	resources protection. Treated as non-essential vehicles and may not enter resource closures.		non-ORV areas and night driving restricted areas if there is no resource conflict.			non-ORV areas and night driving restricted areas if there is no resource conflict.
Vehicles			To be determined.			To be determined.
	A	B	C	D	E	F
			To be determined. Need to develop "LE1" and "LE2" enforcement measures and staffing levels to complement the SM1 and SM2 Resources Protection Measures (i.e., an SM1 site needs LE1 enforcement coverage; and SM2 site needs LE2)	To be determined. Need to develop "LE1" enforcement measures and staffing levels to complement the SM1 Resources Protection Measures (i.e., an SM1 site needs LE1 enforcement coverage; and SM2 site needs LE2)	To be determined. Need to develop "LE1" and "LE2" enforcement measures and staffing levels to complement the SM1 and SM2 Resources Protection Measures (i.e., an SM1 site needs LE1 enforcement coverage; and SM2 site needs LE2)	To be determined by NPS
Law Enforcement (LE)						
	A	B	C	D	E	F
			To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined by NPS
Staffing	(including RM, sign crew, LE, Maintenance, and others?)					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
			To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined by NPS
Materials						
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Advisory Committee						An advisory committee shall be established to review the ORV Management plan annually or more often if requested by the superintendent. The committee shall consist of a reasonable cross sectional representation of the visitors to Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.