



COUNTY OF DARE

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Dare County Objects to Expanded Vandalism Closures

Citing vandalism to pre-nesting closure fencing, the National Park Service announced Tuesday, March 24, 2009 they were expanding the closure at the South Point area on Ocracoke Island. The existing closure was expanded by 50 meters as required by the consent decree for a deliberate act of vandalism.

“It is extremely disappointing to receive this news, said Dare County Board of Commissioners Chairman, Warren Judge. “I need to voice my objection to the punishment that the fine people of Dare County and our visitors will experience because of this.”

Judge urged the Park Service, “To investigate and penalize the people who are actually guilty.” He suggested, “Look for the ones who have the most to gain from these acts of vandalism. Those are not the people who favor access to the Cape Hatteras national Seashore Recreational Area.”

In a letter to Park Superintendent, Mike Murray, Judge asked that punitive closures be revisited as a matter of civil rights and due process.

On Monday morning, March 23, 2009, National Park Service staff discovered five “Area Closed” signs on wooden posts broken off at the sand line. They reported visible vehicle tracks at three of the broken signs. No footprints were reported. Destruction of government property and entering a resource closure are federal criminal violations subject to a fine and imprisonment.

If anyone has information about this violation, National Park Service Rangers can be reached at 252-928-5111.

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