



Summary of Beach Access

In the Cape Hatteras
National Seashore Recreational Area

November 2009



What is the current status of beach access?

We have completed a summer of unprecedented closures under a consent decree put in place after special interest groups sued the National Park Service. Although the American taxpayers have spent a fortune on this decree, it has scored a failing grade. A complete analysis of shorebirds and sea turtles is available at www.PreserveBeachAccess.org. The consent decree remains in effect while the Park Service prepares a long-term plan.

What is coming next?

Sometime this fall the Park Service is expected to release a "Draft Environmental Impact Statement" (DEIS) outlining alternatives for their long-term plan. It is impossible to predict when they will release it, but in a broadcast interview, Superintendent Mike Murray said he expected it would be, "*late this fall, so probably December.*" We won't know what is in the DEIS until it is published. However, Dare County and others will study it immediately and make recommendations based upon which alternative best utilizes science to manage wildlife resources and provide reasonable access.

What happens after the DEIS is published?

The public will only have a short 60-day period to make comments on this important document affecting the future of beach access. During this time, we need an outpouring of grassroots support from across the nation.

How will I know when the public comment period begins?

Everyone who signs-up at "Act Now" on the website www.PreserveBeachAccess.org will automatically receive an e-mail when the DEIS is released along with information on how and where to file comments in a timely way.

How can I help?

You can make a difference by helping now with two vital steps before the DEIS is released

- Visit www.PreserveBeachAccess.org and sign-up at "Act Now"
- Contact everyone you know, throughout the country, and ask them to sign-up

What else is being done?

While the Park Service works to complete their long-term management plan, Dare County is continuing its efforts to enlist support from members of Congress for H.R. 718 & S.1557. This bipartisan legislation would set aside the unpopular consent decree and reinstate the carefully prepared Interim Plan until a long-term plan is finished. Even during the DEIS public comment period, Dare County will be continuing these efforts in Washington, D.C.