



Washington Times Publishes Op-Ed, Updated Report On Closures, and Voices Of The People



The July 4th holiday is just around the corner. On the day that most of America celebrates freedom, the residents and visitors of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area will continue to suffer under the court-ordered consent decree.

People are expressing outrage that here, in the United States of America, we are now being denied access to our public lands because of birds that are not even classified as endangered.

Frustrated by broken promises, many believe freedom is at risk in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area, where access was promised in the enabling legislation.

Our founding fathers were people of the land. They farmed, hunted and fished. They understood the importance of living in harmony with nature. They settled and cultivated the land while maintaining the balance of nature.

Imagine what Thomas Jefferson and others would say today if special interest groups tried to tell him he was harming wildlife in his ecosystem.

Washington Times Publishes Beach Access Op-Ed

In This Issue

[Washington Times](#)

[Latest Closure Report](#)

[Voices of the People](#)

[You Can Help](#)

Quick Links

[Act Now](#)

[Send E-Card](#)

[We Believe](#)

[Our Links](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)



Learn how the consent decree is hurting people and businesses. To see *My Story* videos

[Click Here](#)

The Dare County campaign to preserve access to America's Beaches posted an Op-Ed this week on the beach access website. The article was written by Commissioner Jack Shea and published in the Washington Times newspaper.



This Op-Ed is part of the on-going effort to keep everyone in Washington, D.C. informed about our struggle for open and accessible beaches in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

[Click Here to Read the Op-Ed](#)

Closure Report on portions of Cape Hatteras Beaches

This week several closures were expanded in portions of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area and one new closure was established.

These modifications were attributed to breeding behavior of Least Terns and American Oystercatchers and Least Tern chicks. Neither of these species are classified as endangered.



In one case, there was a slight reduction in the closure to a small portion of the area south of Ramp 4 (approx 0.3 of a mile) Even with this modification, vehicular access is still restricted to the popular fishing and recreational opportunities on Bodie Island Spit located south of Ramp 4.

In another case, a closure was expanded on the north end and reduced on the south end for Least Tern and American Oystercatcher breeding behavior 1.7 miles south of Ramp 38.

The closure at Ramp 34 was reported as removed which provided ORV and pedestrian access for 2.4 miles north of the ramp, and for a distance of 0.4 of a mile south to the Avon Village seasonal closure.

These modifications were outlined in the National Park Service Access Report for June 25, 2009. A link to this report is on the Home Page of the beach access website under "Today's Access."

[Click Here to Read the Report](#) & [Park Service Correction](#)

The beach access website is also your direct connection to a Google Earth map used by the National Park Service to show open and closed areas of the beach. A color-coded legend highlights specific areas open to pedestrians and ORV's, pedestrian only, limited access areas (open to pedestrians between closures) and areas closed to all public access due to resource closures. [Click Here for the Map](#)

Unfortunately, closure conditions under the consent decree can change on short notice. It is possible you could encounter an area closed by a recently placed sign, while it is still indicated as open on the National Park Services's access map. They update the map up to five times per week as conditions change, and may not include very recent changes made in the field by Park Service staff.

REMEMBER - when special interest groups claim that huge portions of the beach are open, the areas they are talking about may not really be accessible. This often happens when an open area is located on the north or sound side of a restricted closure. In other words, while the area may technically be "open," in reality, you need a helicopter or parachute to get there. As the old expression says, "You can't get there from here."

Voices of the People

People from around the country are adding their voice in support of open and accessible beaches on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. Following are a few comments from people signing up this week at "Act Now" on the beach access website.

Carol - Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the effort being put forth to keep our beaches open. There is nothing sadder than going over the Oregon Inlet bridge and seeing empty beaches

.

James - Midlothian, Virginia

As someone who comes to Hatteras twice per year and spends several thousand dollars while in NC, I am at my wits end with the government capitulating to environmental groups and allowing the beach to be for the birds and not for those who have existed for generations fishing and enjoying the seashore.

Kenneth - Douglasville, Pennsylvania

The lack of beach access will destroy local business on the OBX and further add to the economic downturn. The beaches are what makes the island great. I want my kids to enjoy them as I have for years.

Mike - Manteo, North Carolina

Freedom is not free. We must all work for it.

Sheila - Ashland, Virginia

What has this world come to? Closing beaches because of BIRDS? Birds will always be around, however, businesses being impacted and people moving closer to the beaches for "late in life" pleasures and/or health reasons WON'T! Are birds more important to us than people? This is absolutely CRAZY!

Robert - Newton, North Carolina

Due to health problems I cannot walk any length of time or distance. Disability issues need to be addressed so that handicapped people can still access the beach via vehicle.

You Can Help

Stay involved. The residents and visitors of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area need your support. Right now, businesses are hurting and people are worried about their future. Here's how you can help -

Forward this Newsletter to others. Click the "Forward email" link at the bottom of this newsletter.

Send an free E-Card to your friends and family [Click Here](#)

Write Congress. Let your Senators and Representative know you support H.R. 718. [Click Here for Sample Letter](#)

Add a link on your business or group's website to the beach access website [Click Here for Instructions](#)



*There is more to be done
Freedom is at risk
and you can make a difference*