

Preserve Beach Access Newsletter



Our Mission

to Keep America's Beaches
Open and Accessible to All

April 24, 2010

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Public hearings begin Monday on the long-awaited Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

If you can possibly attend one of these public hearings, please do so. Your presence and your comments will help make a difference. If you are unable to attend one of the hearings, then consider making on-line or written comments before the May 11 deadline.

Recently the Coalition for Beach Access conducted Workshops throughout the Outer Banks. These were designed to help people learn more about the DEIS and how to make effective comments. In this newsletter, you can see a video replay of an entire Workshop.

Making public comments before the May 11 deadline is critical for the future of beach access.

Now is the time to let your voice be heard. The future of beach access is **NOW**

Public Hearings Begin Monday

Your help is urgently needed to attend public hearings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement DEIS for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. Following is a list of the five public hearings to be conducted by the National Park Service -

Ocracoke, NC - Monday, April 26, 2010, 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Ocracoke School, 1 Schoolhouse Road, Ocracoke, NC 27960
(Doors open at 8:30 am for sign-in, the meeting will begin at 9:00 am)

Buxton, NC - Monday, April 26, 2010, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Cape Hatteras Secondary School, 48576 Hwy. 12, Buxton, NC 27920
(Doors open at 4:30 pm for sign-in, the meeting will begin at 5:00 pm)

Kill Devil Hills, NC - Tuesday, April 27, 2010, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Wright Brothers National Memorial First Flight Centennial Pavilion,
1000 Croatan Hwy., M.P. 7 ½, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948
(Doors open at 5:30 pm for sign-in, the meeting will begin at 6:00 pm)

Raleigh, NC - Wednesday, April 28, 2010, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
McKimmon Conference & Training Center (NC State University
Campus),
1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27695
(Doors open at 5:30 pm for sign-in, the meeting will begin at 6:00 pm)
--- Directions are available at www.PreserveBeachAccess.org ---

Hampton, VA - Thursday, April 29, 2010, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Holiday Inn & Conference Center,
1815 West Mercury Boulevard, Hampton, VA 23666
(Doors open at 5:30 pm for sign-in, the meeting will begin at 6:00 pm)
--- Directions are available at www.PreserveBeachAccess.org ---

DEIS "Main Page"

PreserveBeachAccess.org has a convenient DEIS "Main Page" that contains comprehensive information about the DEIS, including ---

- All 810 pages of the Park Service's DEIS
- Schedule of Public Hearings & Directions
- Direct link for making on-line public comments
- Video replay of an entire DEIS Workshop
- Handout material given out at the Workshop
- Coalition for Beach Access Position Statement
- Videos, Newspaper Articles, and more

Here is one handy link to everything:

<http://www.preservebeachaccess.org/landingnew/deis.html>

Video Workshop Now Available

The Coalition for Beach Access conducted a series of Workshops throughout the Outer Banks to help people learn more about the DEIS and how to make effective public comments.

A video of the entire Workshop held in Buxton, NC is available at the following link:

http://www.darenc.com/video/player.php?title=beach_access_04_13_10.wmv

Here you will have a front row seat, just as if you were at the Workshop. Plus, you can download the Hand-out information distributed at the Workshop:

<http://www.obpa-nc.org/position/assessment.pdf>

Helpful Information in Preparing Public Comments

The following information comes from a Facebook posting by Natalie Kavanagh, an active OBPA Board Member and part of the Coalition for Beach Access. She highlights a list of 10 items to consider when preparing your own public comments on the DEIS. Included are page numbers as references to the DEIS. Natalie suggests, "State your concern and then outline your solution."

- 1- To Be Closed Year Round: Hatteras Inlet, North End Ocracoke Island, Ramp 27-Ramp 30 (Salvo)
- 2- Why do non-endangered or non threatened species like Oystercatchers get so much area closed for them? They are being used for closing more area every year!
- 3- Large, inflexible buffers (p.121-127) Up to 1000 meters for piping plovers!
- 4- NPS does not adequately consider locations neighboring the Recreational Area that are part of the same ecosystem. This includes dredge and spoil islands that have less predator presence. (p124)
- 5- NPS will NOT adopt more proactive techniques used at other east coast locations to encourage turtle nesting success-WHY? (p392-396)
- 6- Why is it OK to tamper with nature in some instances but not others? NPS: OK to set aside areas of beach to "extirpated" sea beach amaranth, but not OK to clear vegetation at Cape Point ponds to create more favorable piping plover habitat (outside of the prime ORV corridor)!
- 7- NPS: OK to relocate Turtle nests when storms are imminent, but not before. (Coincidentally the high-risk nests are in prime ORV corridors)
- 8- "...Prohibition of PETS in the seashore during bird breeding season, including in front of the villages."(p136)= No pets in public areas-beaches, campgrounds, sound-front, foot trails, park maintained roads from March 15 - July 31
- 9- NPS: OK to kill predators (greatest risk to birds and turtles), not OK to drive on the beach at night (deterrent to predators, low risk to turtles and birds).
- 10- Nowhere is it clearly addressed that the OVERWHELMING majority of negative impacts will be felt by the small businesses in the seashore villages

rather than by overall economic interests within the region of influence(ROI).

How to Make On-Line or Written Comments

Public comments will be accepted until Midnight (Mountain Time) May 11, 2010.

ON-LINE comments may be submitted by -

- visiting <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/caha>
- click on "Open for Comment"
- click on "Draft ORV Management Plan/EIS"
- click on "Comment on Document"

WRITTEN comments may be submitted by -

- U.S. Postal Service, other mail delivery, or hand-delivered to:
 - Mike Murray, Superintendent
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, NC 27954

Comments will **NOT** be accepted by fax, email, or in any other way than those specified above. Bulk comments in any format (hard copy or electronic) submitted on behalf of others will not be accepted.

Let Congress Know



As important as the DEIS process is to the future of beach access, another important front during 2010 will be in Washington, D.C. We need people to write their legislators urging them to support **H.R. 718 and S.1557**. This bi-partisan legislation would set aside the consent decree and reinstate the previous Interim plan, which would remain in effect until a long term management plan is in place.

H.R. 718 and S.1557 would bring back an effective plan that was carefully developed by the National Park Service and went through a very public process. The Interim plan had an Environmental Assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and an ESA section 7 consultation with a biological review by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The consent decree never had these comprehensive reviews or public scrutiny.

A sample letter to Congress is available at the following link: [Write Congress](#)

twitter



**Preserve Beach Access
is now on Facebook &
Twitter**

facebook

Follow the Dare County
beach access campaign
on **Twitter** & **Facebook**

For Twitter, [Click Here](#) For Facebook, [Click Here](#)

Help Spread the Word

This is a critical time in the effort to preserve open and accessible beaches. We have legislation pending in Washington, D.C. and an important document now open for public comment.

Please take a moment and write your friends, family and colleagues about beach access. Ask them to visit PreserveBeachAccess.org and sign-up at "[Act Now](#)." This will assure that your contacts will automatically receive important news updates along with practical ways they can help us.



You can use the "Forward this E-mail" link at the bottom of this newsletter. Or, send a free E-Card, available at the following link: [Send an E-Card](#)

We often receive jokes and other non-essential things through e-mails. Here is an opportunity for you to forward something of lasting value that will make a difference in the lives of others. Please help by reaching out to those you know.

You Can Help

The residents and visitors of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area need your support. Here's how you can help -

Forward this newsletter

Click "Forward email" at bottom of this newsletter

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

Write Congress

Ask your elected officials to support S.1557 and H.R. 718. [Sample Letter](#)

Add a link on your website for instructions [Click Here](#)



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