

From: [Hudson, Rondall - FS, NC](#)
To: [Payne, Victoria - FS, NC](#)
Subject: FW: [External Email]Bewildered
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 10:37:37 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Comments on the Draft Neuse River Sites EA.



Ron Hudson
District Ranger
Forest Service
Croatan National Forest, National Forests in North Carolina

p: 252-638-5628 x4001

c: 252-649-5452

f: 252-637-9113

rondall.hudson@usda.gov

141 E. Fisher Avenue

New Bern, NC 28560

www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: Darrell Williams <twincrusader@embarqmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 10:50 PM
To: Hudson, Rondall - FS, NC <rondall.hudson@usda.gov>
Cc: Karahalidis, Sam - FS, NC <sam.karahalidis@usda.gov>; coleschumann@us-da.gov;
sue.williams780@gmail.com; edward5525@embarqmail.com; wburkhardtjr@ec.rr.com
Subject: [External Email]Bewildered

[External Email]

If this message comes from an **unexpected sender** or references a **vague/unexpected topic**;

Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov

Ron,

#1- I'm a bit bewildered by the latest FS request for public input on repairs needed to recreation sites in the Croatan due to damage by hurricane Florence. Prior information released to BCHC indicated that all the damage throughout the District from that storm, as well as the previous storm, was identified by an assessmnt team years ago. Monies were acquired for those repairs and Sam is currently overseeing that recovery program. Public input was not requested at that time.

a- Why is this new program needed?

b- Why is public inmut now being solicited now and not earlier?

#2- One of the proposed actions is to install a gate on Pine Cliff Rd, just past the entry to the

equestrian parking lot. The gate would be closed daily for the purpose of limiting access to the beach day use area. I will take this opportunity to highlight the following:

a- The equestrian parking lot is part of the Pine Cliff day use area. This has been clarified numerous times over the years by various District Rangers.

b- The parking has suffered vandalism from the day it was constructed by BCHC back in the Fall of 2016.

c- In the years since, BCHC has annually spent substantial resources in repairing damage due to that vandalism.

d- The vandalism is the result of uncontrolled access to the facility.

e- Controlling access to the facility would eliminate most, if not all, of that vandalism. BCHC has related this to District officials, including yourself, many times over the years.

f- There is already a gate at the entrance to Pine Cliff Rd at Rt 306 with signage indicating the day use hours. In my almost 13 years of volunteering in the Croatan, the District has never closed that gate on a daily basis. The stated reason has always been that the District has no resources to do it. Is there now a change in that situation?

g- Simply closing that existing gate daily would prevent unauthorized access to both the beach area and the equestrian parking lot.

h- Under the proposed new actions there's a new gate to limit access to the beach area but leaving the equestrian parking lot exposed to vandalism. Given all the above information, please explain the basis behind that decision.

i- BCHC and the Superintendent of National Forests in NC, James Melonas, have entered into a Master Challenge Cost share Agreement. A Supplemental Project Agreement is to follow. BCHC annual trail and parking lot maintenance operations are destined to be a part of that agreement and in it the District will have certain financial obligations.

j- Historically, the District has been short of funding for almost everything to do with recreation. It would seem that controlling access to the equestrian parking lot along with access to the beach area would go a long way in limiting the District's financial obligations in both areas. Is there circumstances not considered in this supposition Ron?

Respectfully,
Darrell Williams
BCHC Liaison & Work Groups Leader.