National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Assateague Island National Seashore

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Superintendent's Compendium

Of Designations, Closures, Permit Requirements and Other Restrictions Imposed Under Discretionary Authority.

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Deborah Darden, Superintendent

Introduction

The purpose of this compendium is to provide a written document which provides the special designations, closures, public use limits, permit requirements and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority of the Superintendent. The preparation of a compendium is required under Section 1.7, Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations and shall be made available to the public upon request. The compendium will be reviewed and updated annually to ensure adequate protection of the park's resources, provide for public safety and enjoyment and to meet changes in recreational use patterns.

It is important to utilize this document in conjunction with Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, since the compendium only addresses restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority of the Superintendent or regulations that authorize special designations, closures or use limits. The use of this compendium in conjunction with park brochures, maps, signs and other media will provide a clear understanding of Assateague Island National Seashore rules and regulations for both National Park Service employees and our visitors.

In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations ("36 CFR"), Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following provisions apply to all lands and waters administered by the National Park Service, within the boundaries of Assateague Island National Seashore. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7.

Written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, as required by Section 1.5(c), appear in this document identified by italicized print.

I. 36 CFR §1.5 – VISITING HOURS, PUBLIC USE LIMITS, CLOSURES, AND AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR SPECIFIC USE OR ACTIVITIES

(a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the park, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use or to a certain use or activity:

Overnight Parking: Overnight parking of unattended vehicles is permitted only in the following designated parking lots: North Beach, Bayside Day Use Parking area, and Old Ferry Landing. Bull Pen users, OSV users, front country campers, and backcountry campers are permitted to park an extra vehicle in designated parking lots only. All other parking lots are closed to overnight parking to maximize the number of available parking spaces for day users and to facilitate emergency responses for overdue visitors. Vehicles left overnight in undesignated parking areas alert Rangers to the possibility of a visitor in distress and may initiate a search process.

Public Use Limits:

- Willfully remaining or approaching within 10 feet of horses and other wildlife is prohibited. Touching, feeding or attracting of horses and other wildlife is prohibited. *Approaching within 10 feet of wildlife creates an unsafe condition for humans, horses and other wildlife. This use limit does not apply to inadvertent or casual encounters with wildlife in developed areas where normal foot or motor vehicle traffic is required or essential, or in other areas where there is no reasonable alternative travel route. acquire*
- Food Storage – Food, food scraps, garbage, and equipment used to store food must be maintained in such a manner as to prevent and deter the ability of wildlife to obtain it in all public use areas. Unprotected/unsecured food is subject to confiscation. See §2.10 for additional food storage requirements in camping and picnic areas. *Food and food scents attract animals. Animals which gain access to human food sources tend to return to those sources and may cause property damage or injury. Reducing habituated and nuisance wildlife also reduces the potential for wildlife bites and kicks, and provides for the safety and well-being of park visitors and wildlife.*
- The designated Over Sand Vehicle (OSV) routes are closed to the use of tow-behind travel trailer campers *(overnight/camper type). Tow behind trailers destroy the tire tracks in the sand utilized by vehicles and present a significant risk of getting stuck in sand.*
- The maximum number of motor vehicles that are allowed in the Maryland OSV zone at any one time is 145. The maximum number of motor vehicles that are allowed in the Virginia OSV zone at any one time is 48 (18 maximum when the hook is closed due to bird nesting). *This limit is based on approximately 12 vehicles per mile to provide for visitors' use of the resource, while protecting the fragile resources of the barrier island.*
- Beach parties of more than 12 persons are prohibited in the Maryland Developed Area except where allowed by permit in the designated beach party area north of the Maryland lifeguarded beach area. Permitted groups are limited to a maximum of 100 people per site. *These restrictions are in place for reasons of visitor safety, to avoid conflict between visitors, and to protect natural resources.*
- All public areas of the park are closed to the possession or use of, all balloons including latex, Mylar, or plastic balloons. *Balloons are routinely mistaken as a food source by marine mammals and seas turtles. Ingestion of such items presents a serious health risk to these protected species.*
- Tents and shade structures are authorized on the beach only between sunrise and sunset. *Shade structures are sometimes necessary for infants or visitors needing to limit sun exposure.*
- Camping is prohibited except in designated areas. Tent camping or sleeping overnight on beaches is prohibited. *Camping impacts natural resources and leaves a "footprint" or damage on those resources wherever it occurs. By limiting camping to designated areas, the NPS can limit potential damage from this use.*

- Bait Launching cannons/ devices: These devices are permitted on the OSV zone between KM 22 - KM 27 only. When this section of the beach is closed, this activity is prohibited. *This area is outside of the primary day use areas for pedestrians on the beach. It is also not immediately adjacent to any of the backcountry campgrounds. Because this activity tends to attract on-lookers, this area limitation is necessary to minimize exposure to this device by bystanders and passersby.*

Closures:

- Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Assateague Island National Seashore is prohibited except as approved in writing by the superintendent. *The prohibition of unmanned aircraft operation is necessary to maintain public health and safety, and to protect park resources and values until the NPS can determine whether specific uses of unmanned aircraft on lands and waters administered by the NPS are appropriate and will not cause unacceptable impacts on park resources and values. The term "unmanned aircraft" means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quadcopters, drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.*
- The buildings, docks, grounds and any other infrastructure of the former Coast Guard Station at Toms Cove are temporarily closed to the public until the damage from Hurricane Sandy is repaired. *The piers and other structures were damaged by Hurricane Sandy and are dangerous to the public. This closure will be in effect until such time as the damage can be repaired and the facilities safely opened to the public.*
- Jumping and or diving from the Verrazano Bridge (MD) and Assateague Bridge (VA) is prohibited. *The closure is based on hazardous conditions and visitor safety. The waters under the bridges have a number of submerged pilings and a sunken barge on the bay bottom that present hazards to anyone jumping or diving from bridges.*
- Fishing or crabbing off the Assateague and Sheepshead Bridges (VA) and Verrazano Bridge (MD) is prohibited. *Public use of these areas would conflict with bridge, vehicle and bicycle traffic. Boat traffic passing under the bridge may become entangled in fishing lines or tackle.*
- The dwellings and surrounding property of buildings south of the Maryland OSV entrance to the Virginia state line including Pope Island are closed to public entry. *A 150 foot safety zone around each building is in effect for public safety and security. These buildings are in a dilapidated condition and unsafe for public entry. They are closed to the general public for reasons of safety and to prevent vandalism.*
- All active bird breeding colonies are closed to public entry. *Bird breeding areas are closed to public entry during the breeding season to prevent the loss of eggs and chicks through disturbance or destruction by persons, remotely operated toys, vehicles, and pets. Visitors, pets, vehicles and remotely-operated toys entering a breeding area cause the parent birds to leave their nests or chicks to avoid contact with the threat, or to lure the threat away from their young. When the adults stop tending to the eggs or young, the offspring are injured or killed by exposure to high temperatures, blowing sand, and predators. Additionally, eggs and chicks are camouflaged to avoid detection making them susceptible to being crushed by pedestrians or vehicles.*
- All active sea turtle nest sites and associated areas are closed to public entry. *Sea turtle nests are closed to public entry to prevent the loss of eggs and hatchlings from disturbance or destruction by persons, vehicles and pets.*
- The headquarters housing area is closed to public access, except for invited guests. *The housing area is closed to ensure the safety and security of park residents and government facilities.*

- The headquarters maintenance area is closed to public access except for official government business. *These areas are closed to ensure the security of government facilities and equipment, public safety, and to avoid interference with official government operations.*
- The eastern half or unimproved portion of the north end jetty is closed to public entry. *This closure was put into effect 1/1/2010 due to concerns for public and rescuer safety. Visitors falling into the water from the jetty cannot be rescued without significant personal risk to rescuers due to the constant violent wave and ocean currents activity here.*

(a)(2) The following areas have been designated for a specific use or activity, under the conditions and/or restrictions as noted:

Camping: Please refer to §2.10 for detailed camping area designations.

Hunting: The Seashore is closed to all hunting from February through September. Hunting is permitted in designated areas and in accordance with state law as outlined in the annually approved Assateague Island Seashore Hunting Regulations document. The document includes hunting regulations and harvesting restrictions that are adopted as part of the Superintendent's Compendium. *Hunting is permitted by the enabling legislation of Assateague Island National Seashore, P.L. 89-195.*

Horseback Riding: The NPS-owned portion of Assateague Island (in Maryland) is closed to horses and other saddle or pack animals from May 15 to October 9 of each calendar year. *This restriction is necessary to prevent the spread of insect-borne equine diseases into the wild horse herds of Assateague.*

Kites & Airborne Flying Devices : Use of kites above or within 100 meters of any area designated by signs as a "Closed – Bird Nesting Area", or in lifeguarded beaches, is prohibited. *Kite use disturbs breeding birds because adult birds view kites of all kinds as birds of prey. When kites are within visible range of adult birds with nests or chicks, the adults flee the area to lure the potential threat away from the eggs or chicks. Eggs and young chicks may be killed by exposure when they are not being protected from high temperatures, blowing sand and predators. Kite flying presents undue hazards to other visitors in crowded lifeguarded beach areas.*

Kite Surfing is authorized at the following locations and during the following times:

1) From October 1 through March 15
    (a) OCEANSIDE: All waters open
    (b) BAYSIDE: All waters open
2) From March 16 through September 30
    (c) BAYSIDE: Open from Verrazano Bridge to 1 mile south of Bayside Peninsula (Bayside Rd Picnic Area). The southern limit of this use area is located approximately 150 yards north of Lumber Marsh Island.
    (d) OCEANSIDE: Open from the south boundary of Assateague State Park south to the area in the OSV zone known as the "Bullpen" (@KM 21.5) **except** for the National Park lifeguard protected beach areas (Memorial Day to Labor Day) and the OSV zone when closed.

Area and time restrictions are to minimize visitor and operational conflicts and to protect shorebirds that are nesting.

The following restrictions and/or conditions are in effect for the specific uses or activities noted:

Passenger Carrying Buses: Engines must be shut down when not underway. *The idling of bus engines adds unnecessary exhaust fumes to the air and diminishes the enjoyment by visitors of the peace and tranquility of the park.*

II. 36 CFR §1.6 – ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT

(f) The following is a compilation of some of the activities for which a permit from the superintendent is required. Contact the Maryland Ranger Station (410-641-3030) for permit applications:

- §2.5(a) Specimen collection (Taking of plant, fish, wildlife, rocks or minerals)
- §2.10(a) The following camping activities:
  - A permit is required for front country and backcountry camping at Assateague Island National Seashore.
  - Refer to §2.10(a) under III General Regulations for specific camping regulations.
- §2.12 Audio Disturbances:
  - (a)(3) Operation of any type of portable motor or engine, or device powered by a portable motor or engine in non-developed areas
  - (a)(4) Operation of a public address system in connection with a public gathering or special event.
- §2.17 Aircraft & Air Delivery:
  - (a)(3) Delivery or retrieval of a person or object by parachute, helicopter or other airborne means
  - (c)(1) Removal of a downed aircraft
- §2.23(b) Over-sand vehicle use
- §2.37 Soliciting or demanding gifts, money, goods or services
- §2.50(a) Conducting a sports event, pageant, regatta, public spectator attraction, entertainment, ceremony, beach party (12 or more), wedding ceremony, fishing tournaments and similar events.
- §2.51(a) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades and other public expressions of views. (In accordance with recent 36CFR changes related to freedom of speech rules, some small groups may be exempt)
- §2.52(c) Sale or distribution of printed matter
- §2.60(b) Livestock use
- §2.61(a) Residing on federal lands
- §2.62 Memorialization:
  - (a) Erection of monuments (Requires approval from the NPS Director)
  - (b) Scattering ashes from cremation
- §4.11(a) Exceeding established vehicle load, weight and size limits.
- §5.1 Advertisements - (Display, posting or distribution).
- §5.3 Engaging in or soliciting any business (Requires a permit, contract or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to special regulations).
- §5.5 Commercial Photography/Filming:
  - (a) Commercial filming of motion pictures or television involving the use of professional casts, settings or crews, other than by bona-fide newsreel or news television personnel.
  - (b) Still photography of vehicles, or other articles of commerce, or models for the purpose of commercial advertising.
- §5.6(c) Use of commercial vehicles on park area roads for other than park business
- §5.7 Construction of buildings, facilities, trails, roads, boat docks, paths, structures, etc.

- §5.10(a) Operation of eating, drinking, or lodging establishments in certain park areas.
- §6.9(a) Operation of a solid waste disposal site
- Part 7 Special Regulations:
  - Sec. 7.65 Assateague Island National Seashore. (a) Hunting. (1) Hunting, <u>except</u> with a shotgun, muzzleloader or bow and arrow, is prohibited. Hunting with a shotgun, muzzleloader, or bow and arrow, is permitted in accordance with State and Federal law, and in accordance with regulations in the ASIS annual hunting plan.
  - §7.65 (b) (2) Over Sand Vehicle use (outside of established roadways) requires the purchase of an OSV permit

Permits are required to manage uses that have potential for impact to natural resources and/or other visitors, and/or may not be in concert with overall NPS policies and mission.

III. <u>GENERAL REGULATIONS</u>

<u>36 CFR §2.1 – PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES</u>

(a)(4) Dead wood on the ground may be collected for use as fuel for campfires within the park in the following areas:

- Park-wide
- Driftwood (free of any metal objects such as metal bolts, nails, screws, etc.) may be collected for personal use equivalent to the amount of one 5 gallon bucket per day or one arm-full.

Driftwood with metal fasteners may be from archeological resources (shipwrecks) and must be reported to park staff to protect park resources.

(b) Hiking or pedestrian traffic in developed areas is restricted to trails or walkways where provided and as listed in Section 1.5 of this document. *Pedestrian traffic off trails and walkways destroys natural resources, accelerates erosion, and disturbs wildlife.*

(c)(1), (c)(2) The following fruits, nuts, berries or unoccupied seashells may be gathered by hand for <u>personal use or consumption</u>, in accordance with the noted size, quantity, collection sites and/or use or consumption restrictions:

- Blueberries – not to exceed 1 quart for each individual per visit.
- Blackberries – not to exceed 1 quart for each individual per visit.
- Grapes – not to exceed 1 quart per each individual per visit.
- Seashells Free of Animal Habitation – not to exceed 1 gallon for each individual per visit. (Shells may not be taken from archaeological sites)
- Pine Cones – not to exceed 50 pine cones that must be harvested off of the ground, per individual per visit.
- Pine needles (straw) may also be taken off of the ground, and should not exceed one 5 gallon bucket per individual, per visit.
- Horse Manure – Manure must be taken only from paved areas within the park (roads, bike paths, and parking lots) (no limits).
- Mussels – may be taken in accordance with tool and collection method restrictions. Visitors wishing to harvest mussels must acquire and review closely the latest mussel harvesting informational handout available at visitor centers and Ranger Stations.
- Game fish, clams, crabs may be harvested in accordance with applicable state regulations.

It has been determined that the minor collection of any of these items will not result in an adverse effect to park wildlife, the reproduction of any plant species, or other park resources.

36 CFR §2.2 - WILDLIFE PROTECTION

(d) The transporting of lawfully taken wildlife through the park is permitted under the following conditions and procedures:

- Deer Check-In: All Hunters should reference the annual Assateague Island National Seashore hunting regulations released each August for up-to-date regulations and information pertaining to hunting. Hunters are required to check in deer at the Ranger Station. Deer will be weighed and rangers will confirm that Maryland Big Game Harvest Record is completed in ink and that the "Managed Hunt Deer" box is checked. Deer taken on Assateague Island will not count toward state bag limits. In addition all hunters are required to register their deer with Maryland Department of Natural Resources using the Tele-check System by midnight on the day the deer is harvested. The Tele-check system can be accessed using one of the following methods: 1) Via phone by calling the Big Game Registration Phone Line at 1-888-800-0121, or 2) Via the internet at www.gamecheck.dnr.state.md.us. Hunters will be asked to provide a deer hunt code. The hunt code for Assateague Island National Seashore is 585.
- Waterfowl Check-In: All successful waterfowl hunters are required to check their harvest at the hunter information station. *Waterfowl harvest statistics are reported to and utilized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help set waterfowl harvest limits and season dates. This data is also utilized by the NPS to help manage and ensure the success of the overall waterfowl hunting program.*

(e) All areas are closed to the viewing of wildlife with the use of artificial lighting. *Artificial lights are known to disturb wildlife and are widely used in illegal hunting activities.*

36 CFR §2.3 – FISHING

(d)(4) In accordance with federal statutory law, fishing is authorized in the following areas, under the conditions noted:

Anglers fishing in all salt waters in Maryland and Virginia must possess a valid Maryland or Virginia saltwater fishing license. *Public Law 89-195 Sec.5: The Secretary shall permit hunting and fishing on land and waters under his control within the seashore in accordance with the appropriate State laws, to the extent applicable, except that the Secretary may designate zones where, and establish periods when no hunting or fishing shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, fish or wildlife management or public use and enjoyment: Provided. That nothing in this Act shall limit or interfere with the authority of the States to permit or to regulate shell fishing in any waters included in the national seashore.*

36 CFR §2.10 – CAMPING and FOOD STORAGE

(a) The sites and areas listed below have been designated for camping activities as noted. A permit system has been established for certain campgrounds or camping activities, and conditions for camping and camping activities are in effect as noted:

- A permit is required for all camping activities at Assateague Island National Seashore.
- The designated bayside campsites in the backcountry of the island are closed to landing of motorized watercraft.
- Camping or overnight use is permitted at the following designated locations:
  Bayside Campground
  Green Run (bay side) campsite
  Group Campsites
  Little Levels campsite (ocean side)
  Oceanside Campground

Pine Tree (bay side) campsite
Pope Island (bay side) campsite
Self-contained OSV Parking Area (Bull Pen)
State Line campsite (ocean side)
Tingles Island (bay side) campsite
Horse Camp-Oceanside

- Camping time limitations are as follows:
  No person shall be allowed to camp in any campsite or moor or anchor their vessels within the boundaries of the seashore for more than a total of 28 cumulative days during the period from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The cumulative limit for the remainder of the year is 28 days. *Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. The intent of this regulation is to augment 36 CFR 2.61, "Residing on Federal Lands"; the establishing of resource-impacting and/or long-term campsites by people who seek to make the park their primary residence, or seek to reside in the park while working elsewhere.*
    - A 14-day continuous stay or reservation limit is in effect for campers and boaters in any one site or location. This limit applies to individuals as well as all of their camping equipment.
    - In backcountry campsites the limit is 7 consecutive days per visit and 28 cumulative days in a calendar year.
    - Reservations exceeding the stay limits will be cancelled by the reservation company without notice.
- Group campsites are limited to tents only (with one utility trailer located in parking lot). The minimum number of individuals for a group site is 13 and the maximum number is 25.
- Backcountry campers must have at least one adult over the age of 18 in their group.

Front Country Camping Regulations
The following apply to camping at Bayside and Oceanside Campgrounds:

- Camping is allowed in designated campsites only and equipment must be within 30 feet of the metal grill located at each campsite.
- Camping is limited per site to six persons or an immediate family and no more than 3 tents.
- Large, organized groups or non-family groups with more than 12 people must camp in a Group campsite, and are prohibited from staying in either the Bayside or Oceanside campgrounds.
- Two vehicles maximum per drive-in site and one vehicle maximum per walk-in site.
- All vehicles and associated trailers must be parked at the campsite within the confines of the paved area. All vehicles and equipment must be parked in such a way as to not block the flow of traffic.
- At walk-in campsites camping is restricted per site to tent camping only with no more than 3 tents, a maximum of six persons (or an immediate family).
- No vehicles are allowed within the boundaries of walk-in campgrounds.
- All vehicles assigned to campsites must display a campground parking pass.
- To retain a campsite the site registration must be completed and the site occupied. Sites not properly occupied or attended are subject to resale.
- Campground check-out is 11:00 am.
- Tying or hanging any lines from trees, shrubs, sign posts, etc., is prohibited.
- The use of power generators is prohibited in the Walk-in campsites, as well as those campsites in designated "Generator Free Zones".
- Quiet hours, in all park campground areas, are from 10PM through 6AM.
- Campers must have at least one adult over the age of 18 in their group.
- § 2.10(b) Food Storage –Food, refuse, and equipment used to cook or store food must be used in such a manner as to prevent and deter the ability of wildlife to obtain it in all campgrounds and camping areas. Additionally, food and all food preparation must be

secured inside hard sided storage (i.e. vehicle, locked cooler, other latched storage) or provided NPS food storage lockers. Unprotected/unsecured food is subject to confiscation.

Backcountry Camping Regulations - The following apply to camping at Pine Tree, Green Run, Tingles Island, Pope Island, Little Levels, and State Line backcountry sites.

- Backcountry permits are required for overnight use of backcountry sites.
- At bayside sites all camping must be within 50 feet of the various fire rings. At Oceanside sites all camping must be within posted boundaries (no camping on the dunes or beach) and not on top of any vegetation.
- Transportation of campers or their equipment to or from backcountry campsites by motor vehicles is prohibited.
- Vehicles are prohibited from parking in, or adjacent to the Bullpen between the hours of 9PM and 6AM, except permitted self-contained vehicles as defined in 36 CFR 7.65 (b)(ii).
- Tents, except for shade during daylight hours, are prohibited in the Bullpen except under Special Park Use Permit.

§ 2.10(b) Food Storage – Food, refuse, and equipment used to cook or store food must be used in such a manner as to prevent and deter the ability of wildlife to interact with it in all campgrounds and camping and picnic areas. Where available, metal food storage boxes must be utilized for all food as well as food storage and preparation items.

Camping is an intensive use of park resources. The NPS promotes "Leave No Trace" camping. All of the camping regulations are in effect to protect (1) the natural features of the park from damage that can result when camping activities go unchecked and (2) to reduce visitor use conflicts while providing for the quality of the visitors' camping experience. Limitations on camping days and on persons per site seek to achieve this protection while still providing an equitable allocation of camping opportunities. All restrictions seek to avoid exposing visitors to potential public safety hazards or conflicts with wildlife and other user groups.

36 CFR 2.13 – FIRES

(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is generally prohibited, except as provided for in the following designated areas and/or receptacles, and under the conditions noted:

Designated Areas:

- Fires are prohibited in the Virginia portion of the Seashore except at the designated open fire sites pursuant to a permit or in containers as noted below.
- Fires are prohibited in the Maryland portion of the Seashore except: On the ocean beach below the normal mean high tide line, in the OSV zones self-contained overnight parking area (Bull Pen), in the Maryland Beach designated special events site and within campground receptacles.
- Fires and/or use of any cooking equipment is prohibited at all times (24 hrs.) in the Lifeguarded beach areas and extending 100 yards north and 100 yards south of these areas.

Severe injuries have occurred in the lifeguarded beach areas due to remaining coals and debris from previous fires, often buried in the sand.

Receptacles Allowed:

- Fires may be built in grills, fireplaces or other receptacles/containers, including portable grills in Bayside Campground and Oceanside Campground and on the Virginia developed area beaches at designated sites. Containers must have sides and a bottom.
- Fires may be built in the designated fire ring in the following backcountry campsites: Green Run, Pine Tree, Pope Island, and Tingles Island.
- At Oceanside campsites Little Levels and State Line fires are only permitted on the beach below the high tide line.
- Fires must be built in grills in the following: Bayside Picnic Area, Oceanside Picnic Area and Maryland Visitor Center picnic area.
- Over Sand Vehicles that are self-contained in the Overnight Parking Area (Bull Pen) must provide and utilize their own grills.

Use of NPS provided or personal grills are required to reduce fire debris in heavily used areas. They also help eliminate the severe safety hazard created by fires left burning or buried that are not in receptacles.

Established Conditions for Fires:

- Fires shall be continuously monitored by at least one person at least 16 years or older.
- Firewood shall be free of any metal such as metal bolts, fasteners, screws, nails, or any other metal objects. Any debris of this type must be removed from the fire area and disposed of properly. *Metal trash left behind from fires leaves a long-lasting trash impact to the seashore. Wood with metal may also be associated with shipwrecks, which are protected.*
- Partially burned firewood must be completely extinguished. Fire builders should attempt to use only the amount of firewood that can be completely consumed prior to their departure. *Partially burned firewood creates litter and destroys the scenic character of the beach.*

(b) Fires must be extinguished according to the following conditions: Fires shall be extinguished upon termination of use only by extinguishing with a non-flammable liquid. Smothering fires with dry sand is prohibited. *Fires buried under sand can smolder for days, and have caused severe injuries when stepped upon by humans and animals.*

36 CFR §2.15 – PETS

(a)(1) The following structures and/or areas are closed to the possession of pets:

- Pets are prohibited on land in the Toms Cove (Virginia) District of the park.
- Pets are prohibited on lands within the Maryland portion of the Seashore north of Assateague State Park.
- Pets are prohibited in all backpack and canoe-in backcountry campsites, and on all trails.
- Pets are prohibited in the protected (guarded) beach area from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

(a)(5) Pet excrement must be disposed of in accordance with the following conditions: Pet feces are to be cleaned up by the owner and disposed of in trash receptacles.

(b) The use of dogs in support of duck hunting must be in accordance with Federal and State laws and the following conditions: Dog training or working other than during authorized waterfowl hunting season is prohibited.

In order to improve public health and safety, to protect natural resources, and avoid conflict among user groups, pets must be on a maximum 6' leash and pet waste must be removed immediately.

36 CFR §2.16 – HORSES and PACK ANIMALS

(b) The use of horses or pack animals is allowed on the following trails, routes or areas: Horseback riding activities are permitted along the beach from the North Ocean Beach Parking Area dune crossing south to the designated Over Sand Vehicle zone. In the OSV zone, riding is limited to the areas authorized for Over Sand Vehicle travel. During full or partial temporary closures of the OSV, horseback riding is prohibited beyond the closure point for vehicles. In the developed areas, no riding is permitted on designated roadways.

(g) Other conditions concerning the use of horses or pack animals:

- Horses may not be directly tied to any living or standing vegetation.
- The total number of horses for overnight stays in the horse campground may not exceed 25, with a total cumulative day use limit of 50 horses.
- Horse campsite maximum limits: 6 people, 6 horses, 3 camping units.
- Remove excess straw, hay, or other unwanted materials before departure.

Restrictions on tying, numbers, and locations for horse use are necessary to avoid conflict among visitor use activities, resource concerns and to ensure public health.

36 CFR §2.20 – SKATING, SKATEBOARDS and SIMILAR DEVICES

The use of roller skates/blades, skateboards, roller skis, coasting vehicles, or similar devices are allowed only in the following areas:

- The use of skates, skateboards, or similar devices on the NPS-owned portion of Assateague Island is prohibited, except on the bicycle path and housing headquarters areas in the Maryland portion of the Seashore.
- The use of motorized skates, skateboards, scooters and other similar motorized devices is strictly prohibited. Electrically powered devices such as wheelchairs, scooters, Segways and other similar devices may be used by mobility-impaired persons to access Seashore trails where surfaces allow for their safe use. Visitors using electrically powered devices to access Seashore trails are cautioned to watch for loose sand, washouts and other natural hazards that are constantly changing on a natural barrier island.

Roller skates, skateboards, and other such devices may create hazards when used on the same roadways designated for vehicles or sidewalks traveled by pedestrians. For that reason, specific areas have been designated for their use where they will conflict minimally with other user groups.

36 CFR §2.21 – SMOKING

(a) In accordance with Executive Order #13058, the smoking of tobacco products and the use of ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) is prohibited within all interior spaces owned, rented, or leased by the federal government, including visitors and visitor contact stations, and in any outdoor areas within 25 feet of air intake ducts (including doors, windows, etc.). In addition, the following portions of the park are closed to smoking as noted:

- Smoking and ENDS use is prohibited in all government vehicles.
- Smoking and ENDS use is prohibited while attending interpretive programs.
- Smoking and ENDS use is prohibited at fuel and flammable storage areas.

Certain areas are restricted to protect public health and structures from fire danger or smoke. This prohibition reduces the risk of fire or prevents conflicts among visitor use activities and is consistent with federal law. Additionally, if ingested, discarded cigarette butts can be hazardous to aquatic creatures and wildlife.

36 CFR §2.23 – RECREATION FEES

(b) Recreation fees, and/or a permit, in accordance with 36 CFR part 71, are established for the following entrance fee areas, and/or for the use of the following specialized sites, facilities, equipment or services, or for participation in the following group activity, recreation events or specialized recreation uses:

For updated fee rates, visit the Assateague Island National Seashore website:
http://www.nps.gov/asis/index.htm

Entrance Fee Areas:

- **Maryland:**
  Foot/Bicycle:
- Vehicle: 7 Days
  Vehicle: Park Annual Pass, valid 12 months from date of purchase

  Individual entry fee; per person; for entry by non-commercial group passenger vehicle

- Available in Maryland and Virginia:
  - *America the Beautiful-National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass*, valid 1 year from purchase
  - *America the Beautiful-National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Senior Pass*, 62 years and older, lifetime (on-line purchase has an additional fee)
  - Free (in park issue) - *America the Beautiful-National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Access Pass*, permanent disability, lifetime. (There is a one-time fee for on-line purchase)

- Federal, USFWS Migratory Waterfowl Stamp with $15.00 Note: Maryland accepts all CNWR passes, including the CNWR Beach Parking Permit with a valid duck stamp.

- **Virginia**: NOTE: For Virginia entrance fees please see Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge fee schedule

Entrance Passes purchased at Chincoteague NWR may be used to enter Assateague Island National Seashore, and passes purchased from Assateague Island National Seashore may be used to enter Chincoteague NWR.

36 CFR §2.35 –ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES and CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

(a)(3)(i) The following public use areas, portions of public use areas, and/or public facilities within the park are closed to consumption of alcoholic beverages, and/or to the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or has been opened, or whose seal has been broken or the contents of which have been partially removed:

Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in visitor centers and decks, ranger stations, nature trails, paved parking areas, boardwalks, vehicles and while attending interpretive programs. *The use of alcohol is inconsistent with the purpose for which these areas and programs were created.*

36 CFR §2.62 – MEMORIALIZATION

(b) A permit is required for the scattering of ashes from cremated remains.

The scattering of remains can be disturbing to the general public and need to be controlled by the seashore so as to allow this in areas most appropriate considering visitation, legal policies, and protection of the permittee's privacy.

36 CFR §3.8(a)(2) – BOATING OPERATIONS

The following areas/sites are designated for the launching or recovery of car top and trailered vessels:

- Ferry Landing is open to trailered motorized boat launching/beaching only during the park's hunting season and by registered hunters only. B*oat launching/beaching sites are designated for public safety, to reduce visitor use conflicts, and to protect park resources. See 36 CFR Part 7 Sec. 7.65 for PWC regulations.*
- Non-powered, trailered and "car top" style boats and self-propelled watercraft may be launched from:
  - All Bayside access points
  - Beach front, south of Assateague State Park boundary to Virginia State line (excluding lifeguarded beach areas). *For the safety of swimming visitors, all floatation devices and watercraft are prohibited from lifeguarded beaches.*

Motorized vessels may be temporarily beached at all bayside access points, except that:

- Beaching of vessels is prohibited within 100 yards of nesting shorebirds;
- Beaching of vessels is prohibited within 100 yards of bayside backcountry campsites and their associated vessel launching areas
- Beaching of vessels is prohibited within any designated closure;
- Beaching of vessels is prohibited at Old Ferry Landing except as noted above.

36 CFR §3.17 – SWIMMING AND BATHING

(c) Pets, kites, fires, glass and glass containers, fishing, boats, surfboards, or other flotation devices (other than properly worn U.S. Coast Guard approved) are prohibited in the Lifeguard-protected zone from Memorial Day through September 30. The protected zone*s* for the purpose of this restriction extend 400 feet out from the shoreline and 300 feet north and south of the protected beach. The north and south boundaries are designated by a set of yellow flags with a black circle.

Due to heavy visitation and the daily presence of small children in lifeguarded areas, the above items are prohibited for reasons of public safety.

36 CFR §4.10 – TRAVEL ON PARK ROADS AND ROUTES

(a) NPS has opened these Park roads for travel by licensed motor vehicles:

- Bayberry Drive
- Maryland Route 611
- Bayside Dr.
- Old Ferry Landing Rd.
- Oceanside Dr.
- Campground Paved Areas
- Designated Parking Areas

Travel by motor vehicles is limited to the paved portions of roadways to protect the park's natural and cultural resources.

36 CFR §4.30 – BICYCLES

The following additional routes, in developed areas or special use zones, have been designated for bicycle use:

- Bicycle use in the Maryland portion of the seashore is permitted on paved public roadways and alongside same roadways on paved designated bicycle paths/routes.
- Bicycles are not permitted on boardwalks.

The use of bicycles, motorcycles and mopeds is limited to paved public roadways only. These restrictions are in place to minimize resource damage and conflict with other user groups.

36 CFR §7.65 – SPECIAL REGULATIONS

(b)(4)(vi): Operation of Over Sand Vehicles:

- The OSV Zone may be partially or fully closed to vehicles on a temporary basis due to emergency conditions or for wildlife management purposes. *Closure determinations are necessary for the maintenance of public safety and to protect natural resources.*

(b)(2)(iv): Over Sand Permits:

- OSV permits are non-refundable and non-replaceable.
- Vehicle sale or transfer voids an OSV permit displayed on that vehicle. *The over sand permit is a special use permit issued under the authority of 36 CFR 1.6 and 4.10. The validity of each permit is limited to the specific permittee AND to the vehicle for which it was registered.*