

Off Road Vehicle Management Proposed Regulation Update

Public Information Meeting

Fire Island National Seashore

Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal

November 5, 2022 10:30 am – 12:00 pm



Welcome



- Purpose of Today's Meeting
- Introductions and Meeting Logistics
- Presentation
 - Overview of ORV Driving Management Planning Process
- Questions and Answers
- Participant Feedback

Purpose of the Meeting

■ Topics for Today

- Why the Seashore is reviewing the Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Management Program
- The regulatory planning process
- Responding to questions that the Seashore can answer now
- Collecting appropriate questions that the Seashore can answer later
- Highlighting how you can engage moving forward

■ Topics for Another Time and Place

- Questions about current or pending permits and waitlist
- Alternative changes to the “blue book” in development – expect engagement during NEPA scoping
- This is an informational meeting – not formal comment period

Ground Rules

- **Please interact respectfully.**
- **Assume good intentions.**
- **Listen to UNDERSTAND, please do not listen to RESPOND**
- **Challenge with care.**
- **Threatening, profane or other inappropriate language will not be permitted. Disruptive participants will be asked to leave.**

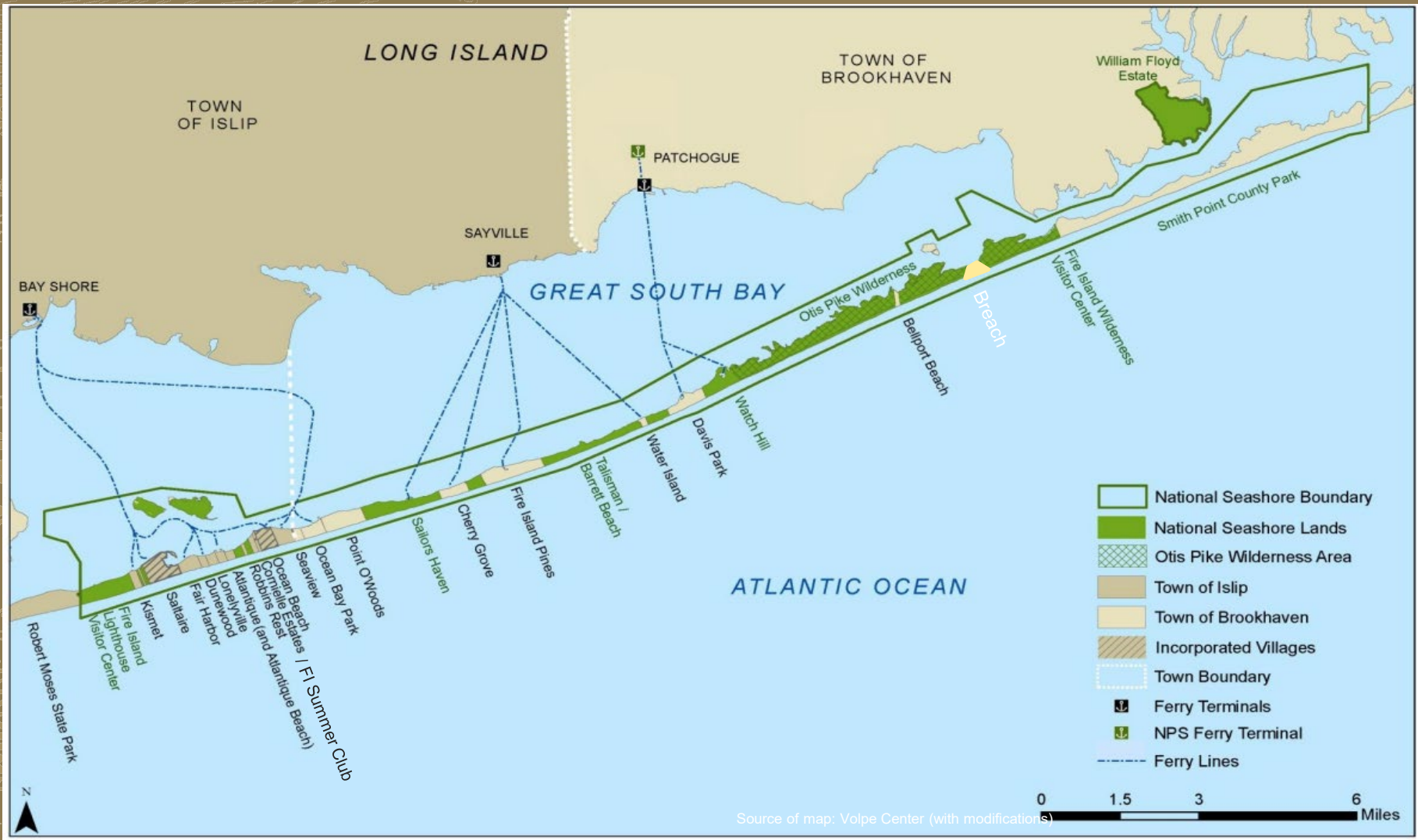
Questions during the Session

- **Panelist will be**
 - Alexcy Romero
 - Brendan Newell
 - Michael Bilecki
 - Sonia Taiani
 - Jon Swindle
- **We are also joined by Erik Westphal, Claire Formanski, and Phil Salvador**
- **Provide question using index cards – raise your hand, cards will be collected.**
 - Q&A will continue until 12:00 pm
 - Questions that we cannot answer now will be used by the Seashore for future engagement
- **Please self monitor the questions on your index card. If the question has been asked, please do not ask the same question.**
- **We will attempt to MOVE AT THE SPEED OF TRUST**

Proposed Regulation Update Planning Team

- Alexcy Romero – Superintendent , Fire Island National Seashore
- Lindsey Kurnath – Deputy Superintendent, Fire Island National Seashore
- Jason Pristupa – Chief of Administration, Fire Island National Seashore
- Philip Salvador – Acting Chief of Administration , Fire Island National Seashore
- Michael Bilecki– Chief of Resources Management, Fire Island National Seashore
- Erik Westpfahl – Chief Law Enforcement Ranger, Fire Island National Seashore
- Jon Swindle – Supervisory US Park Ranger, Fire Island National Seashore
- Sonia Taiani – Management Analyst, Fire Island National Seashore
- Claire Formanski – US Park Ranger, Fire Island National Seashore
- Brendan Newell – Park Planner, Fire Island National Seashore
- Plus support from NPS Environmental Quality Division and NPS Region 1
 - **Bold & Underlined = In attendance today**
 - Combined this team has over 140 years experience working on Fire Island

Fire Island National Seashore Boundaries



Current ORV Driving Regulation 36 CFR 7.20(a)

- The “blue book” defines the regulations for over-sand driving on NPS lands on the Fire Island National Seashore
- First developed in 1977 and amended in 1987, most key requirements have remained the same since
- Intended to protect resources and visitor experience while allowing access to privately owned properties within the seashore

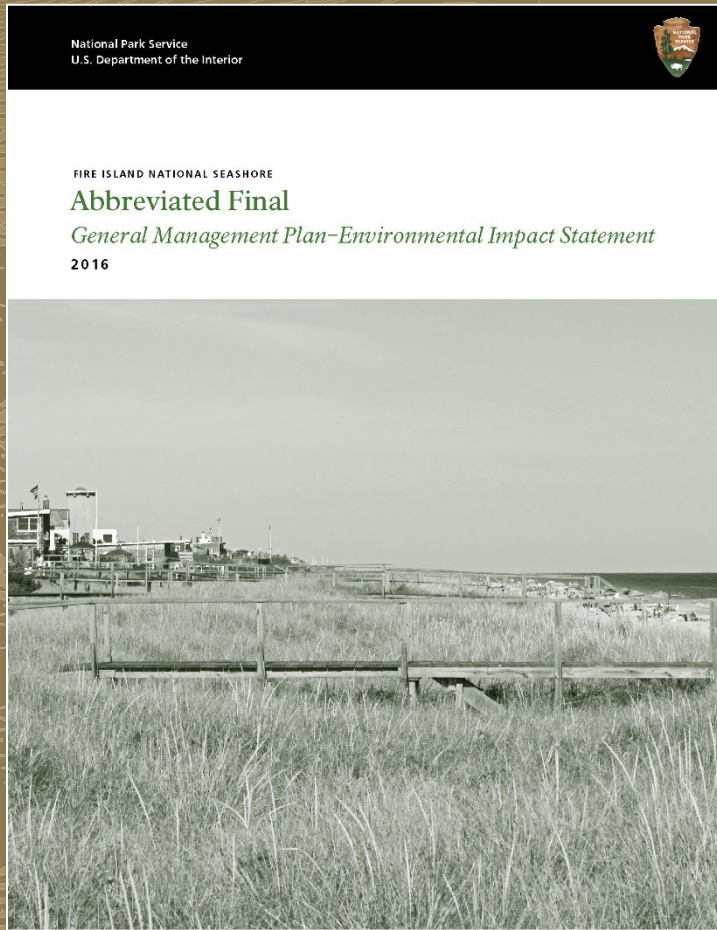


Why Update 36 CFR 7.20(a) and the ORV Program?

- Review and improve to accomplish overlapping goals:
 - Protect Seashore resources and a safe visitor experience
 - Allow appropriate and equitable vehicular access to supplement water-based transportation
 - Improve the administration and enforcement of the ORV program
- The Seashore needs to consider revisions address changes in development, access, and technology on Fire Island, and the dynamic nature of the barrier island.
- Intent is to provide Seashore future flexibility as conditions continue to change.



Plans and Laws that are guiding our Process



- General Management Plan
- Foundation Document
- Resource Stewardship Strategy
- Code of Federal Regulations
- NPS Management Policies
- NEPA, NHPA, ESA, and other applicable Federal laws
- Many relevant studies and reports

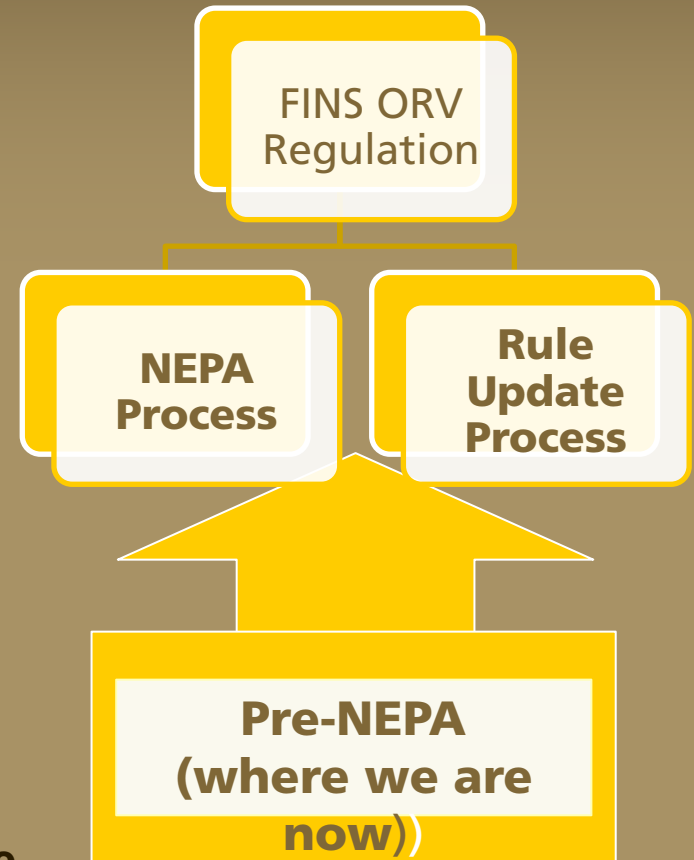
Planning to Update the ORV Management Program

- The Planning Team is evaluating the entire program
- To update the “blue book,” a new rule is needed
- Additional updates can be made through permit conditions, technology, enforcement, improved coordination
- When temporary situations become permanent, rules needs to be updates

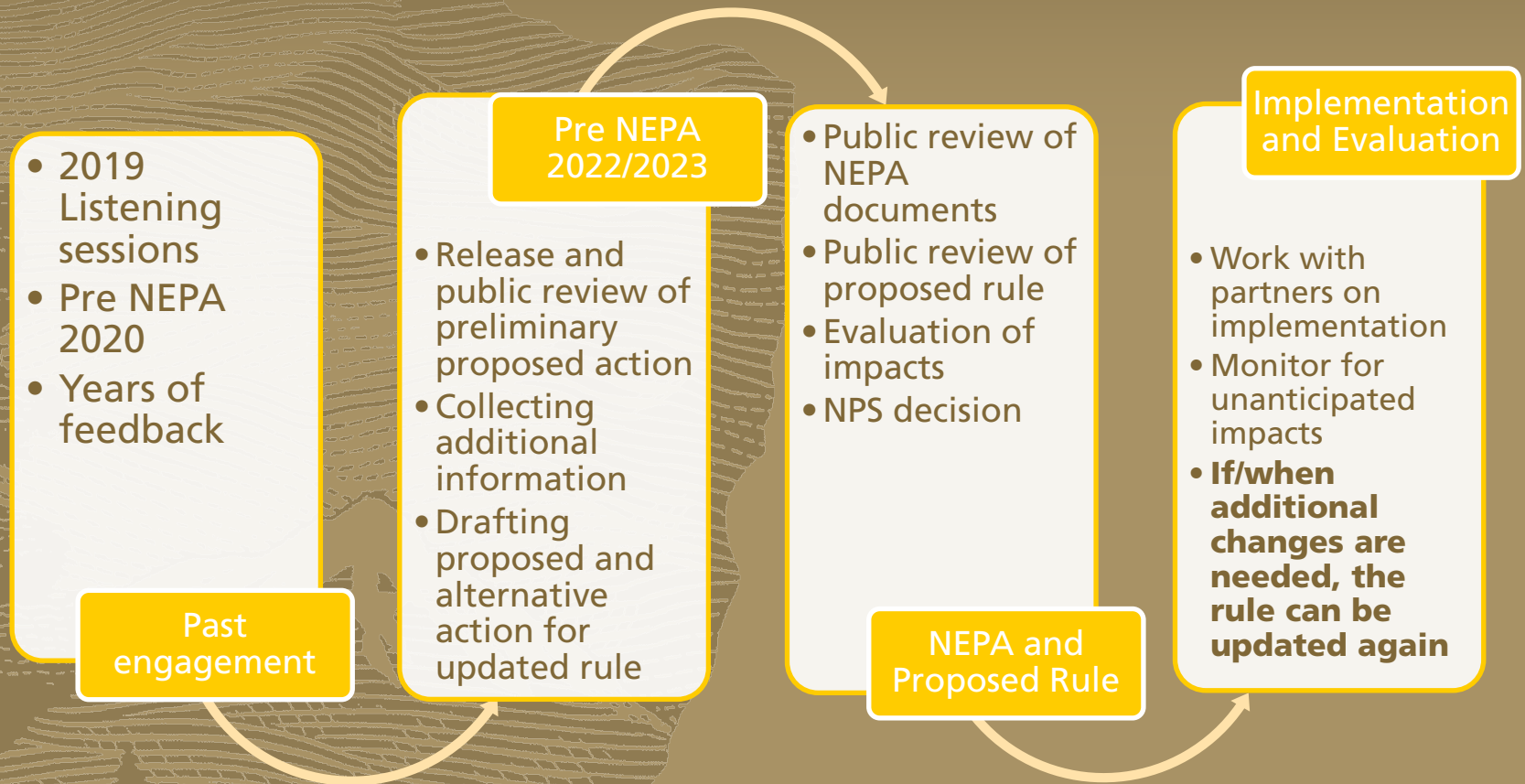


Planning to Update the ORV Management Program

- To update the “blue book,” a new rule is needed
 - Number of permits
 - Permit categories
 - Driving areas
 - Vehicle types
 - Driving dates
 - Definitions
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Analysis of environmental impacts and opportunities to address these impacts
 - Consideration of multiple alternatives, including No Action
- Both NEPA and rule-making process require public engagement. FINS continues to exceed requirements for engagement



The ORV Management Update Process



The Process & Where You Participate (*)

Pre-NEPA

May 2022*

Civic engagement on Preliminary Proposed Action

- Public meetings
- Public comments

Summer 2022 –
Spring 2023

- Reviewing and considering public comments
- Collecting additional information for NEPA and the draft regulation
- Planning team develops proposed alternatives
- Planning team prepares for NEPA-scoping, including public engagement
- Engaging with towns and villages

Note: All future schedule dates are subject to change – FINS is focused on quality decisions

The Process & Where You Participate (*)

NEPA	NEPA Public Scoping* Spring/Summer 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public review of proposed alternatives • Public meetings and comment period • Continued engagement with Towns and Villages
	Summer – Fall 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and consideration public comments • Completion of NEPA documents and proposed rule • Planning team preparing for public engagement
	NEPA Documents Public Review* Winter 2023/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public review of proposed alternatives • Public meetings and public comment periods. comment period for NEPA documents. comment period for proposed rule. • Continued engagement with Towns and Villages
	NPS Decision 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS considers all comments and updates NEPA documents and rule as needed • NPS issues final rule

Note: All future schedule dates are subject to change – FINS is focused on quality decisions

How to Continue Engaging on ORV Management

- Join the project mailing list!
 - Register by signing in today or emailing FIIS_Driving@NPS.gov
- Check NPS.gov/FIIS – FAQs available
- Attend future public engagement meetings (dates TBD)
- Submit comments during official public comment periods through PEPC (dates TBD)
- Feedback to your town, village, and/or FIA and FIYRRA
- Tell us how you are feeling!
 - Before you leave today, use the post-it notes to provide feedback

Questions and Answers

- Provide question using index cards – raise your hand and cards will be collected.
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