

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 819

To authorize pedestrian and motorized vehicular access in Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2013

Mr. JONES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize pedestrian and motorized vehicular access in Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Preserving Access to
5 Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REINSTATEMENT OF INTERIM MANAGEMENT**
 2 **STRATEGY.**

3 (a) **MANAGEMENT.**—After the date of the enactment
 4 of this Act, Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational
 5 Area shall be managed in accordance with the Interim
 6 Protected Species Management Strategy/Environmental
 7 Assessment issued by the National Park Service on June
 8 13, 2007, for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Rec-
 9 reational Area, North Carolina, unless the Secretary of the
 10 Interior (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Sec-
 11 retary”) issues a new final rule that meets the require-
 12 ments set forth in section 3.

13 (b) **RESTRICTIONS.**—The Secretary shall not impose
 14 any additional restrictions on pedestrian or motorized ve-
 15 hicular access to any portion of Cape Hatteras National
 16 Seashore Recreational Area for species protection beyond
 17 those in the Interim Management Strategy, other than as
 18 specifically authorized pursuant to section 3 of this Act.

19 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS TO CAPE**
 20 **HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE REC-**
 21 **REATIONAL AREA FOR SPECIES PROTEC-**
 22 **TION.**

23 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—If, based on peer-reviewed science
 24 and after public comment, the Secretary determines that
 25 additional restrictions on access to a portion of the Cape
 26 Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area are nec-

1 essary to protect species listed as endangered under the
2 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.),
3 the Secretary may only restrict, by limitation, closure,
4 buffer, or otherwise, pedestrian and motorized vehicular
5 access for recreational activities for the shortest possible
6 time and on the smallest possible portions of the Cape
7 Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

8 (b) LIMITATION ON RESTRICTIONS.—Restrictions
9 imposed under this section for protection of species listed
10 as endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973
11 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) shall not be greater than the
12 restrictions in effect for that species at any other National
13 Seashore.

14 (c) CORRIDORS AROUND CLOSURES.—To the max-
15 imum extent possible, the Secretary shall designate pedes-
16 trian and vehicular corridors of minimal distance on the
17 beach or interdunal area around closures implemented
18 under this section to allow access to areas not closed.

19 **SEC. 4. INAPPLICABILITY OF FINAL RULE AND CONSENT**
20 **DEGREE.**

21 (a) FINAL RULE.—The final rule titled “Special Reg-
22 ulations, Areas of the National Park System, Cape Hat-
23 teras National Seashore—Off-Road Vehicle Management”
24 (77 Fed. Reg. 3123–3144) shall have no force or effect
25 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 (b) CONSENT DECREE.—The April 30, 2008, consent
2 decree filed in the United States District Court for the
3 Eastern District of North Carolina regarding off-road ve-
4 hicle use at Cape Hatteras National Seashore in North
5 Carolina shall not apply after the date of the enactment
6 of this Act.

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