

D-770B

general management plan /
development concept plan

december 1982

CAPE LOOKOUT



NATIONAL SEASHORE / NORTH CAROLINA

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

75 Spring Street, S.W.

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

APR 14 1983

RECORD OF DECISION

General Management Plan
Cape Lookout National Seashore
North Carolina

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Introduction

In January 1983 a proposed General Management Plan for Cape Lookout National Seashore was made available to the public. The plan was accompanied by a Final Environmental Impact Statement which evaluated the environmental consequences of the proposed plan and its alternatives. The purpose of the Record of Decision is to document the National Park Service's determination of how Cape Lookout National Seashore will be managed for the foreseeable future. Copies of the Record of Decision are being distributed to Federal, State and local governmental agencies and interested parties. In addition, the Record of Decision is being printed in newspapers published in towns near the park.

The suitability or non-suitability of any area within the seashore for preservation as wilderness will be evaluated in a forthcoming analysis. The area under wilderness consideration (Shackleford Banks) will be managed to preserve potential wilderness values until such time as the President makes a recommendation and Congress decides whether to designate wilderness at Cape Lookout National Seashore.

Decision and Rationale

After analysis of the proposal and alternatives presented in the plan's Final Environmental Impact Statement and consideration of public comments on the plan, the National Park Service has determined that the General Management Plan provides acceptable management direction to Cape Lookout National Seashore.

The barrier islands of the national seashore will be managed mostly as a natural area. To meet visitor needs, ferryboat landings and overland public transportation at Cape Lookout Point will be provided along with development of administrative headquarters at the east end of Harkers Island. Private motorized vehicles will be allowed on Core Banks/Portsmouth Island and private boats will continue to be allowed to land along the shoreline. For the foreseeable future, ferryboats will continue to follow natural channels and periodic maintenance dredging of ferryboat basins will occur as needed. Present outmoded

cabins in the fish camps will be replaced with enclosed camping shelters and primitive camping will continue to be allowed throughout the seashore. Special measures will be taken to protect the threatened Atlantic loggerhead turtle and other endangered species.

All practicable means will be taken to avoid or minimize environmental harm in implementing the plan. This will include close monitoring during construction to avoid adverse impacts on cultural and natural resources. Other mitigating measures incorporated in the plan's implementation are described in the environmental consequences section of the Final Environmental Impact Statement, pages 55-74.

The National Park Service will monitor visitor activities and services at Harkers Island; and if considered inadequate, additional services will be considered.

Summary of Alternatives Considered

The General Management Plan for the seashore is described as Alternative 1 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement. It is a modification of Alternative 1 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement distributed in July 1980. The changes were made by the National Park Service following public comments on and agency evaluation of the draft document.

The other alternatives considered in formulating the park's General management Plan were:

Alternative 2, No Action: continuation of the present administrative and maintenance functions at Beaufort and visitor contact functions at Harkers Island; ferryboats to five landing points; on-island transportation at Cape Lookout Point only; retention of some cabins in the old fishing camps; continued use of private vehicles on the islands.

Alternative 3: consolidation of administrative/public use/management functions at Harkers Island; ferryboats serving six landing points; on-island transportation along the full length of Core Banks; private vehicle use from Cape Lookout to New Drum Inlet; construction of three modern cabin camps and five campgrounds on the barrier islands.

Alternative 4: use of the Harkers Island site as the base for the management and operation of the national seashore; ferryboats to four land points; no private vehicles permitted; and no fish camp cabins on the barrier islands.

Alternative 4 can probably be considered the environmentally preferable alternative. However, with the proposed mitigation measures in place and enforced, Alternative 1 is not expected to result in environmental consequences significantly different from Alternative 4.

Conclusion

It is our determination that the management direction in the General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement is in keeping with the mission of the National Park Service, as stated in the 1916 Organic Act and subsequent legislation and policy statements. Thus, this General Management Plan is accepted and approved today as the management approach to be followed at Cape Lookout National Seashore in the coming years.

Recommended:

Preston W. Powell
Superintendent
Cape Lookout National Seashore

Date

4/7/83

Approved:

Neal A. Ause
Acting Regional Director
Southeast Region

Date

4-14-83

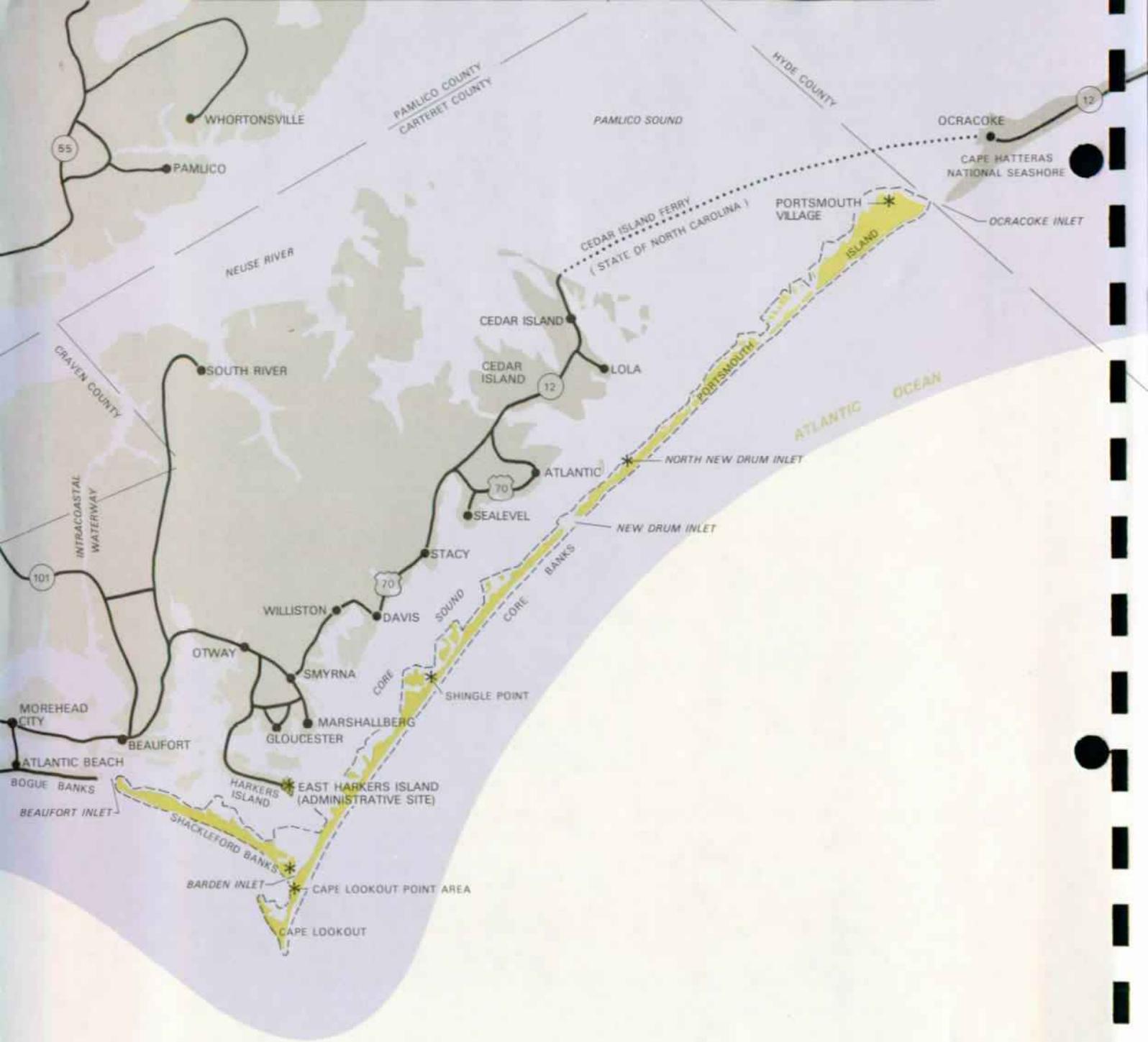
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN/
DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN

Cape Lookout National Seashore
North Carolina

A Hope for the Future

Cape Lookout National Seashore, lying just east of the North Carolina mainland, protects one of the few remaining natural barrier-island systems in the world. Its islands exhibit scarcely any of the trappings man usually provides for his convenience: there are no resort facilities and no bridge connections to the mainland. This unique area offers a setting that is both tranquil and exciting--an environment that lends itself both to relaxation and to recreation. Cape Lookout's special qualities should be preserved for the enjoyment of present and future visitors.

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