

## **Attachment A: OVERSAND VEHICLE USER SURVEY**

Dear Assateague Island National Seashore Visitor,

This study will develop information about Oversand Vehicle Zone use and expectations and preferences of visitors to the zone at Assateague Island National Seashore. The results will assist in the upcoming General Management Planning process by providing information that will inform decision-making about the future management of the Oversand Vehicle Zone and backcountry areas at the National Seashore.

You are one of a select number of park visitors sampled, and your opinions are very important to the success of this project. The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete, and your answers are completely voluntary.

Reports from this study will summarize findings across all responses so that individual answers will not be associated with you in any way. Your contact information is kept only so we can record who has returned a survey. After the survey is completed, all contact information will be destroyed.

After you have finished the survey, please put it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope and place it in any U.S. mailbox. Or, if you prefer, you can access the survey online at:

[www.XXXXXX](http://www.XXXXXX).

Your user name: XXX

Password: XXXX

Thank you for your time and cooperation in completing the survey. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Bransford, Eppley Institute at Indiana University, 501 N. Morton St., Suite 101, Bloomington, IN 47404; (812) 856-3870.

Sincerely,

Trish Kicklighter, Superintendent  
Assateague Island National Seashore

**A. OVERSAND VEHICLE USERS**

**1. About how many annual Assateague Island National Seashore Oversand Vehicle Zone permits have you purchased in the last 10 years?**

\_\_\_\_\_ # permits

**2. In a typical year, how often do you use the Oversand Vehicle Zone in Assateague Island National Seashore?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Once a year
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 – 5 times a year
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6 – 10 times a year
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11 – 20 times a year
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21 – 49 times a year
- \_\_\_\_\_ 50 or more times a year

**3. Do you participate in beach driving opportunities outside of the Assateague Island National Seashore?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes → Go to Question 3a.
- \_\_\_\_\_ No → Skip to Question 4

**3a. If yes, where:** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Is Assateague Island National Seashore your primary beach driving area?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes
- \_\_\_\_\_ No

**5. How much of your typical visit to the Oversand Vehicle Zone is spent driving on the beach?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Less than 10%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10 to 50%
- \_\_\_\_\_ Greater than 50%

**6. Who do you usually use the Oversand Vehicle Zone with? (Please check only one.)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Alone
- \_\_\_\_\_ With family
- \_\_\_\_\_ With friends
- \_\_\_\_\_ With family and friends
- \_\_\_\_\_ With an organized group
- \_\_\_\_\_ With a group of vehicles

**7. What time of day do you prefer to use the Oversand Vehicle Zone?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Morning (6:00 a.m. to noon)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Afternoon (noon to 4:00 p.m.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Evening (4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Late Night (10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.)

- 8. Do you prefer to visit during: (Please check only one.)**  
 High tides  
 Low tides  
 Doesn't matter
- 9. Do fish trends matter to you when planning trips to the Oversand Vehicle Zone?**  
 Yes  
 No
- 10. What day(s) of the week do you prefer to use the Oversand Vehicle Zone?**  
 Weekday (Monday – Thursday)  
 Weekend (Friday – Sunday)  
 No preference
- 11. What percentage of your visits in the last 12 months occurred during the following seasons?**  
 May through August  
 September through January  
 February through April  
 (Total must equal 100%)
- 12. What is your most frequent destination inside the Oversand Vehicle Zone?**  
 Within ½ mile of the entrance to Oversand Vehicle Zone  
 Closest open spot  
 Bullpen  
 Within first 3 miles  
 Bayside  
 State line  
 South of the Bullpen  
 Marker # \_\_\_\_\_ (Please specify.)
- 13. On a typical visit to Assateague Island National Seashore, do you stay overnight?**  
 Yes → Go to Question 13a.  
 No → Skip to Question 15.
- 13a. If yes, where do you usually stay? Please check only one.**  
 The Bullpen  
 National Park Service campground  
 State park campground  
 Private campground  
 Local hotel or motel  
 Stay with family or friends  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**14. If you stay in the Bullpen, about how many nights per year do you typically stay?**

\_\_\_\_\_ # nights

**15. Do you generally have a dog with you in the Oversand Vehicle Zone?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

**B. VISITOR EXPERIENCE**

**16. Which characteristics of the National Seashore are most important to the quality of your oversand vehicle experience? Please check your top 5.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Natural beach and landscape

\_\_\_\_\_ Clean water / pristine ocean

\_\_\_\_\_ Beach life (shells, crabs, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Wildlife (horses, deer, fox, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Natural views

\_\_\_\_\_ Clean air

\_\_\_\_\_ Sand dunes

\_\_\_\_\_ Bay sea life (sea grasses, clams, mussels, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Bird life (shore birds, gulls, raptors, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Natural sounds and quiet

\_\_\_\_\_ Ocean sea life (dolphins, fish, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Starry night skies

\_\_\_\_\_ Clean beach

\_\_\_\_\_ Natural vegetation and plant life

\_\_\_\_\_ Solitude

\_\_\_\_\_ Other? Please describe \_\_\_\_\_

**17. Which recreational activities and/or opportunities are most important to your oversand vehicle experience? Please check your top 5.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Sightseeing

\_\_\_\_\_ Camping

\_\_\_\_\_ Beach driving

\_\_\_\_\_ Swimming / boogie boarding

\_\_\_\_\_ Stargazing

\_\_\_\_\_ Fishing

\_\_\_\_\_ Surfing

\_\_\_\_\_ Birdwatching

\_\_\_\_\_ Sunbathing

\_\_\_\_\_ Viewing wildlife

\_\_\_\_\_ Barbecuing / beach fires

\_\_\_\_\_ Photography

\_\_\_\_\_ Duck hunting

- Clamming
- Kite surfing
- Relaxing
- Deer hunting
- Gathering with family / friends
- Kayaking / canoeing
- Beachcombing
- Partying
- Other? Please describe \_\_\_\_\_

**18. Which factor MOST influences the spot you choose to spend your time in the Oversand Vehicle Zone? (Please check ONE only.)**

- Crowding
- Fishing opportunities
- Natural views
- Overnight parking
- Hunting opportunities
- Availability of restroom facilities
- Solitude
- Wildlife viewing opportunities
- Fuel consumption
- Safety
- Other? Please describe \_\_\_\_\_

**19. Which of the following, if any, have been a problem for you during your oversand vehicle experience? (Please check your top 5.)**

- I haven't experienced any problems → Skip to Question 20
- Too many vehicles on the beach
- Too many people
- Trash and litter
- Bad driving habits by others
- Waiting in line at park entrance station
- Cost of permit
- Pets off leash
- Too many vehicles on park roads
- Closures to protect safety due to high tides and overwash
- Lack of restroom facilities
- Back-ups at air station or broken air pumps
- Fishermen and fishing lines
- Driving restrictions
- Sand ruts / poor driving conditions
- Conflicts with other user groups
- Too many vehicles in parking lots
- Closures to protect plants and wildlife

- Too many overnight users in Bullpen
- Waiting in line at Oversand Vehicle Zone entrance
- Special events in Oversand Vehicle Zone
- Other? Please describe \_\_\_\_\_

**20. The Assateague Island backcountry, which includes all the area south of the developed area, is designated for different types of recreation, including oversand vehicle use, backcountry camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, and other uses. In the last 12 months have you experienced a problem of any kind with one of these users?**

Yes → Go to Question 20a.

No → Skip to Question 21.

**20a. If yes, please describe** \_\_\_\_\_

**21. Do you feel that the Oversand Vehicle Zone is too crowded?**

Yes → Go to Question 21a.

No → Skip to Question 20.

**21a. If yes, what makes you feel that it is too crowded? Check all that apply.**

Too many vehicles are allowed in the zone

There is not enough space away from other users

Other users are too loud

I prefer to not see as many people when I am in the Oversand Vehicle Zone.

Other (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

**22. Please place a check next to your primary reason for recreating in the Oversand Vehicle Zone. (Check only one.)**

Spend time with family and friends

Experience peace and quiet

Get away from beach crowds

See and experience nature

Physical and mental challenges

Get away from demands of daily life

Continue traditions

Thrills and excitement

Relaxation

Experience a sense of personal freedom

Other. Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**23. How important is the protection of the following attributes at Assateague Island National Seashore to you? Please circle one response for each attribute.**

| Attribute                                       | Importance |          |          |       |            |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|-------|------------|
|                                                 | Not at all | A little | Somewhat | A lot | No Opinion |
| History & culture of Assateague                 | 1          | 2        | 3        | 4     | 5          |
| Undisturbed wild areas                          | 1          | 2        | 3        | 4     | 5          |
| Natural barrier island conditions and processes | 1          | 2        | 3        | 4     | 5          |
| Natural wildlife and plant communities          | 1          | 2        | 3        | 4     | 5          |
| Rare species and their habitats                 | 1          | 2        | 3        | 4     | 5          |
| Natural landscapes and ocean views              | 1          | 2        | 3        | 4     | 5          |
| Opportunities for use and enjoyment             | 1          | 2        | 3        | 4     | 5          |

**C. MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

**24. About how many times during the last 12 months have you had to wait in line to get on the Oversand Vehicle Zone?**

\_\_\_\_\_ (number of times) → Go to Question 24a.

OR

\_\_\_\_\_ I haven't had to wait in line → Skip to Question 25.

**24a. Typically, how long is the wait?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Less than 10 minutes

\_\_\_\_\_ 10-29 minutes

\_\_\_\_\_ 30-59 minutes

\_\_\_\_\_ One hour or longer

\_\_\_\_\_ Not sure

**24b. What day(s) of the week did you typically have to wait in line?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**24c. What month(s) of the year did you typically have to wait in line?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**25. Do you avoid the Oversand Vehicle Zone during certain times of the year or day?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes → Go to Question 25a.

\_\_\_\_\_ No → Skip to Question 26.

**25a. If yes, what times of the year or day do you avoid the Oversand Vehicle Zone?** \_\_\_\_\_

**25b. If yes, why do you avoid the Oversand Vehicle Zone during some times?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**26. Assateague Island National Seashore managers are considering different options for managing access to the Oversand Vehicle Zone. The following are**

**possible alternatives under consideration. For each one, please circle your level of support or opposition.**

| <b>Alternative</b>                                                        | <b>Strongly Support</b> | <b>Somewhat Support</b> | <b>Neither Support nor Oppose</b> | <b>Somewhat Oppose</b> | <b>Strongly Oppose</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Raise cost of camping permit fee by up to 50% for the Bullpen             | 1                       | 2                       | 3                                 | 4                      | 5                      |
| Limit number of overnight users in the Bullpen                            | 1                       | 2                       | 3                                 | 4                      | 5                      |
| Increase OSV permit fee by up to 25%                                      | 1                       | 2                       | 3                                 | 4                      | 5                      |
| Require reservations for overnight camping in the Bullpen                 | 1                       | 2                       | 3                                 | 4                      | 5                      |
| Continue to manage OSV use as is currently done                           | 1                       | 2                       | 3                                 | 4                      | 5                      |
| Charge a \$5 separate nightly overnight camping fee in the Bullpen        | 1                       | 2                       | 3                                 | 4                      | 5                      |
| Eliminate all overnight camping in the Bullpen                            | 1                       | 2                       | 3                                 | 4                      | 5                      |
| Limit the number of nights per year an individual can camp in the Bullpen | 1                       | 2                       | 3                                 | 4                      | 5                      |
| Increase the number of vehicles allowed on the Oversand Vehicle Zone      | 1                       | 2                       | 3                                 | 4                      | 5                      |

**27. In your opinion, enforcement of rules and regulations in the Oversand Vehicle Zone by the National Park Service is: (Check only one.)**

- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Excellent
- Don't know

**27a.** If poor or fair, please describe the needed improvements: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**28. During the last 12 months, how many times have you observed the following violations of the rules and regulations in the Oversand Vehicle Zone? Please circle one response for each violation.**

| <b>Violation Type</b> | <b>Number of Times</b> |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
|-----------------------|------------------------|



|                                                    |   |     |           |
|----------------------------------------------------|---|-----|-----------|
| Dogs off leash                                     | 0 | 1-2 | 3 or more |
| Excessive vehicle speed                            | 0 | 1-2 | 3 or more |
| Driving outside Oversand Vehicle Zone              | 0 | 1-2 | 3 or more |
| Littering                                          | 0 | 1-2 | 3 or more |
| Use of a metal detector                            | 0 | 1-2 | 3 or more |
| Feeding wildlife                                   | 0 | 1-2 | 3 or more |
| Destruction of plants or animals                   | 0 | 1-2 | 3 or more |
| Illegal overnight camping                          | 0 | 1-2 | 3 or more |
| Un-permitted vehicles in the Oversand Vehicle Zone | 0 | 1-2 | 3 or more |
| Illegal fishing (size, species, etc.)              | 0 | 1-2 | 3 or more |
| Other _____                                        | 0 | 1-2 | 3 or more |

**29. For each of the following topics, please circle your level of agreement or disagreement**

| <b>Topic</b>                                                                             | <b>Strongly Agree</b> | <b>Somewhat Agree</b> | <b>Neither Support nor Oppose</b> | <b>Somewhat Disagree</b> | <b>Strongly Disagree</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| The current limit of 145 vehicles in the Oversand Vehicle Zone is appropriate.           | 1                     | 2                     | 3                                 | 4                        | 5                        |
| OSV use should be limited to providing access for fishing and hunting.                   | 1                     | 2                     | 3                                 | 4                        | 5                        |
| The overall size of the Oversand Vehicle Zone should be expanded.                        | 1                     | 2                     | 3                                 | 4                        | 5                        |
| All oversand vehicle use should be prohibited in the park.                               | 1                     | 2                     | 3                                 | 4                        | 5                        |
| More ranger patrols should be provided to inform and educate visitors and enforce rules. | 1                     | 2                     | 3                                 | 4                        | 5                        |
| The overall size of the Oversand Vehicle Zone should be reduced.                         | 1                     | 2                     | 3                                 | 4                        | 5                        |
| The number of vehicles allowed on the Oversand Vehicle Zone should be increased.         | 1                     | 2                     | 3                                 | 4                        | 5                        |
| The oversand vehicle permit fee should be increased to reduce demand.                    | 1                     | 2                     | 3                                 | 4                        | 5                        |
| More vehicles should be allowed in a smaller Oversand Vehicle Zone.                      | 1                     | 2                     | 3                                 | 4                        | 5                        |
| A one-time oversand vehicle use and safety certification should be required.             | 1                     | 2                     | 3                                 | 4                        | 5                        |
| The number of vehicles allowed on the Oversand Vehicle Zone should be decreased.         | 1                     | 2                     | 3                                 | 4                        | 5                        |
| Overnight oversand vehicle use                                                           | 1                     | 2                     | 3                                 | 4                        | 5                        |

|                                                                                                                                                       |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| should be reduced to allow access for more day use.                                                                                                   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Seasonal closures of the Oversand Vehicle Zone should be used to protect plants and wildlife.                                                         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| The Bullpen should be managed more like the developed area campground.                                                                                | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| The number of multiple recreation uses (hunting, camping, OSV use) allowed in the backcountry and oversand vehicle areas should be reduced or limited | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**30. Please rate your overall satisfaction or dissatisfaction with your oversand vehicle experience(s) during the past 12 months.**

- Highly satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied
- Unsatisfied
- Highly unsatisfied

**D. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Please provide the following:**

**31. Do you live in the United States?**

- Yes (What is your Zip Code? \_\_\_\_\_)
- No (What country do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_)

**32. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_**

**33. What is your gender?  Male  Female**

**34. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?  Yes  No**

**35. What is your race? (Please check one or more.)**

- White
- Black or African American
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- American Indian or Alaska Native

**36. On a typical trip, how many children in each of the following age ranges go with you to the Oversand Vehicle Zone?**

- # 0 – 5 years old
- # 6 – 10 years old

- \_\_\_\_\_ # 11 – 13 years old
- \_\_\_\_\_ # 14 – 18 years old

**37. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Check only one.)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Some high school
- \_\_\_\_\_ High school graduate or GED
- \_\_\_\_\_ Trade/vocational school certificate
- \_\_\_\_\_ Some college
- \_\_\_\_\_ College graduate
- \_\_\_\_\_ Post-graduate degree

**38. On a typical trip to Assateague Island, does anyone in your group have a physical condition that makes it difficult to access or participate in Seashore activities or services?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**If yes, what services or activities did the person have difficulty with?**

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**39. Do you currently belong to any of the following types of organizations? Please check all that apply.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Environmental advocacy or conservation organizations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hunting or fishing organizations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Off-road Vehicle user's organizations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other recreational organizations (camping, hiking, etc.)

**40. Which category best represents your annual household income?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Less than \$24,999
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25,000-\$34,999
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$35,000-\$49,999
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50,000-\$74,999
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$75,000-\$99,999

**PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:**

16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Your name is kept for follow-up mailing purposes only. When analysis of the questionnaire is completed, all name and address files will be destroyed. Thus the permanent data will be anonymous. Please do not put your name or that of any member of your group on the questionnaire. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

OMB #:

Expiration Date:

**Burden estimate statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 15 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to:

Carl Zimmerman, Chief of Resource Protection, Assateague Island National Seashore,  
[carl\\_zimmerman@nps.gov](mailto:carl_zimmerman@nps.gov), (410) 629-6071

