

News Release

Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Block Island NWR □ John H. Chafee NWR at Pettaquamscutt Cove □ Ninigret NWR □ Sachuest Point NWR □ Trustum Pond NWR
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For Immediate Release

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Public Comment Sought for West Beach Sand Trail Re-construction

The West beach Sand trail on Block Island was severely damaged from Hurricane Sandy and is vulnerable to further erosion. This has resulted in only limited vehicular access by the public to this area, and has limited access to the Block Island National Wildlife Refuge's Beane Point facility. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is developing an Environmental Assessment for determining how best to restore vehicular access to this area and to Beane Point, or to examine other access alternatives. The planning area includes the area from the end of West Beach Road near the transfer station to Beane Point.

Public comment is currently being sought regarding any issues, concerns, or opportunities the public may have regarding this proposal. All comments received will be evaluated as part of the Environmental Assessment. The Service has identified the following issues to be addressed in the Assessment:

- How will vehicular access and possible realignment or reconstruction of the sand trail affect barrier beach and shoreline conditions?
- What effect will the proposal have on recreational use of the area?
- How will wildlife resources be impacted by the project?
- How will cultural resources be impacted by the project?

The public is invited to submit any additional issues, concerns, or opportunities which they feel the Service should evaluate and address during the process. To be considered, comments must be received by March 25, 2014.

Comments can be submitted to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

West Beach Sand Trail
50 Bend Road
Charlestown, RI 02813

Or comments can be submitted from the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex website at <http://www.fws.gov/ninigret/complex/> and clicking on the “Contact us” link.

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