

Fire Island National Seashore - Wilderness Breach Management Plan

September 1st, 2015

Dear Friend,

The National Park Service (NPS) is in the process of making a decision to determine whether or not to close the breach that opened in the Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness Area (the wilderness) in Fire Island National Seashore (the Seashore) during Hurricane Sandy.

To assist in the decision-making process, the National Park Service is preparing an environmental impact statement (plan/EIS). The plan/EIS will analyze a range of alternatives for managing the wilderness breach.

The desired outcome of this plan/EIS is to ensure the continued integrity of the natural and cultural features of the Seashore and its surrounding ecosystems while protecting human life and managing the risk of economic and physical damage to the surrounding areas.

Your participation is vital to our planning process. There are a number of ways to be involved throughout the process, including participation in public scoping and the review of and comment on the draft plan/EIS.

The first step in the process is scoping. Scoping is an information gathering process through which we invite you to express your views on the information, issues, and alternatives that need to be addressed in the plan/EIS. The scoping newsletter is available for review and comment online at the National park Service park planning website at:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/FireIslandBreachManagementPlan>.

We have also included questions at the end of the newsletter #1 document for you to consider in your comments. Responses to these questions, as well as any other comments you may wish to provide, will help us in framing the issues and alternatives that will be evaluated in the plan/EIS. Comments will be accepted for at least 30 days.

We look forward to hearing from you.

