

Assateague Beach Restoration Effort Kicks Off in September

Assateague Island in Maryland will soon get a facelift from three federal agencies. The Minerals Management Service, National Park Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will use federal sand from the Outer Continental Shelf to restore beaches along Assateague Island's shore.

The project will involve dredging sand from federal waters to restore the integrity of the island and minimize potential damage to threatened species that live there. A short-term project will first focus on the restoration of the island.

The second phase will consist of a long-term management plan for Assateague that will include bypassing of sand around Ocean City Inlet; it will not require use of federal sand.

The groundwork for the agreement began in 1997 with the release of an Environmental Impact Statement that focused on the short-term aspect of the Assateague project. A second assessment, completed in 1998, proposed the long-term restoration component of the effort.

"The agreement represents the diligent efforts of the participating agencies to develop a consensus-based process that will allow the restoration and maintenance of this beautiful island," said MMS Director Johnnie Burton. "MMS is proud to participate in this joint effort and provide the resources necessary to complete this project."



Assateague Island Beach.