

Ford Signs Park Bill; Now All Core Banks Lies in Seashore

PRESIDENT Gerald Ford signed Saturday the National Park Service omnibus bill, which amends the 1966 Cape Lookout Seashore bill.

Preston Riddel, superintendent of Cape Lookout Seashore, Beaufort, announced the signing Tuesday.

The amendments make all of Core Banks a part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore (an exclusion of 232 acres around the Cape, contained in the 1966 bill, is eliminated). Amendments authorize the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to declare establishment of the Seashore when he considers

that "an administrable" park has been acquired, and authorizes a maximum of \$7,903,000 for acquiring lands (including Shackleford), of which no more than \$1 million will go toward acquiring Core Banks Gun Club property on Core Banks.

The amendments set \$2,935,000 for development and specify that in three years the National Park Service shall develop a "final master plan for the full development of the Seashore consistent with the preservation objectives of this act."

DOUGLAS Wheeler, deputy

assistant secretary, Department of the Interior, says that development will be kept to a minimum. It will consist of pollution abatement facilities, utilities, ferry access centers, removal of structures and waste materials (old cars) now on the banks, establishment of foot and bike trails, campsites, interpretation centers and recreation programs in keeping with natural characteristics. No hard-surface roads will be built in the park.

Another amendment specifies that the National Park Service, by Jan. 1, 1978, shall determine which areas

within the park shall be designated as "wilderness areas" in accord with the federal Wilderness Act. This act seeks to preserve certain sections of the nation from any development, in the interest of preserving a wild and natural state.

"Certainly the maritime forest on Shackleford will be seriously considered as a wilderness area," Mr. Riddel comments.

THE NEW park boundaries established by the bill signed Saturday also include a hundred acres at the tip of Harkers Island, Shell Point.

The original bill authorized acquisition of a hundred acres of land for a headquarters site "at or near Beaufort."

The Harkers Island site (see map) is now owned by a number of private individuals including Earl Davis, Mrs. Gladys Harker, Jack McCann (who has an air strip there), and a number of others.

Mr. Riddel explains that in establishing park boundaries, the federal government authorizes acquisition of lands within those boundaries. No options have been taken on the Harkers Island property, or

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