NOTICE TO HIKERS

2020/2021 – Gulf Islands National Seashore Closures

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Description:

The Fort Pickens, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa areas of Gulf Islands National Seashore remain closed due to effects caused by Hurricane Sally. J. Earle Bowden Way, Highway 399 between Pensacola Beach and Navarre Beach, and Fort Pickens Road were severely impacted by the storm and will not resume normal operations for several months. A timeline for road reconstruction or limited reopening is not currently available. Opal Beach remains heavily inundated with sand, but damage to facilities was limited. In the Fort Pickens Area, boardwalks, pavilions, the ferry pier, the old camp store, and all historic wooden structures were damaged. Current closure information: www.nps.gov/guis/planyourvisit/tempclosures.htm

As a result of this closure, the FNST terminus marker at Fort Pickens is currently unreachable. Thru-hikers are encouraged to consider these two alternative options:

- **Option 1:** Hikers may begin or end a thru-hike at the current furthest-north accessible point along the FT. As of October 8th, this point is the GINS boundary in Navarre Beach. Once Highway 399 reopens, this temporary terminus point will shift to Pensacola Beach.
- **Options 2:** Hikers may begin or end a thru-hike at the Alabama border terminus of the Blackwater Section, an official FT connector.