

PEPC Project ID: 28897, Document ID: 60638

Project: Fire Island National Seashore White-tailed Deer Management Plan

Correspondence ID: 1 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,04,2014 11:27:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It is unlikely that reducing the deer herd to the levels stated in Alternatives B, C & D, eg 20/sq. mile will achieve the stated objective of restoring native plant regeneration.

Studies done on eastern Long island by TNC suggest that forest regeneration & recovery is only modestly improved by reducing deer density to the stated level.

Relying on non-lethal control options when managing a wild free-roaming deer population is unrealistic, as is waiting or postponing lethal methods until such time (if ever) that the technology advances to the point where this is a viable option.

Correspondence ID: 2 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,15,2014 20:05:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: For nearly fifty years I have resided on FI. At the start in Oakleyville prior to and after the formation of the National Seashore. There were no deer walking from Ocean Bay Park to Oakleyville. There were no deer in the sunken forest. There were no deer when we visited other FI communities. Wild beach plum grew along the Burma Rd. Sometime in the late seventies deer began to proliferate. All beach plum disappeared. I had one of the first un-diagnosed Lyme cases in 1979. A group of 8 deer lived at the Northwest corner of my property in Seaview and we began partial fencing. In 1988 or thereabouts my husband contracted Lyme. We had to fence in our entire property and spread Daminex every year for the mice that also carry the tics. Based on this history I urge you to cull the deer herd(s) by humane eradication of all mature males and by sterilizing all females. Any young male deer should be relocated off the island to prevent the ruination of the Sunken Forest and any other remediation plantings that might be done. Deer will eat anything and everything that grows up to a height of about 7 feet. Young trees are denuded and only plants that have thorns or are now of no interest remain. There used to be white tail rabbits and foxes as well as mature box turtles on my property. No more. This past spring for the first time I saw a huge rat(9-10" long) running across the Midway in Seaview.

Deer do not belong on Fire Island. They have no natural predators and are reproducing despite efforts to curtail reproduction. The natural wonder of the Sunken Forest will never revive if the deer continue to be in the area as they will eat all new growth. Be aware that they eat young holly leaves.

Correspondence ID: 3 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,17,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support alternate A, the do-nothing alternate. I do not believe that we have the right to kill the deer. They were here before us and they will be here after us. I understand that they eat the foliage but it is the natural order of things.

Correspondence ID: 4 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,18,2014 13:56:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

I think the buck deer (male) should be caught & Castrated. Not caught & shot. It will also be a more economical practice rather than having to "haul off" a dead deer. This will effectively cull the herd with out having people protest the cruelty to the animals by sharpshooting them.

They do this to Stallions , Bulls & other male animals (as well as humans) which need to be thinned out. This is a more humane way to cull the herd. The deer that now come up to humans have been doing so for years. They are not dangerous to humans. Education is also an effective way to keep humans from coming in contact with them. Ocean

Beach has a cat neutering every few years. You can have a deer neutering program every few years as well. I am sure the FINS can find Vets. to do these services at a cheaper cost than sharpshooters & transporting of caucus.

P.S. I think your telling people who write in that there letters will be made "publicly available" sounds like a "scare tactic".

I think if some one sends in a good idea it should be shared with others as such..A good idea!!!!

Correspondence ID: 5 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,18,2014 20:51:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for soliciting comments. I am totally opposed to any action that involves killing the deer on Fire Island. Nothing more to say.... The first two plans are okay, however, plans 3 and 4 are totally unacceptable.

Correspondence ID: 6 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,19,2014 00:12:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My first choice is Option A. If population must be managed Option B would be acceptable. I'm sickened by the thought of the government killing off the deer and allowing the general public to hunt the deer. I am not a fan of hunting in general, but it's particularly upsetting in such a serene and peaceful environment. Is it possible to put your study in context? What are the adverse effects of the deer compared to the adverse effects of people? I've seen a dramatic increase in the number of daily visitors to Fire Island, and Ocean Beach in particular, as a result of aggressive marketing campaigns over the past 5 years. Ocean Beach and the surrounding communities do not do a good job of keeping people off the dunes or enforcing other laws that could negatively impact Fire Island. Is there a saturation point? Is the issue of overcrowding and excessive visitors within the federal governments purview? Reducing the number and frequency of ferries to the island would be a good place to start. I also really hate the idea that deer who are familiar with people would be specifically targeted for euthanasia. We're going to kill them for a problem we created? Horrible.

Correspondence ID: 7 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,19,2014 11:04:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Seashore Deer Management Plan

Agreed we need to manage the deer population as documented.

Too many deer tic's and cases of lime disease.

Deer eat the garbage not there natural food's.

Deer have invaded Fire Island by swimming across the smith point bridge area.(NOT NATIVE)

Too many kids are coming in contact with the deer.

Day trippers are feeding deer to take pictures of them.

Deer crap all over the place.

Deer are eating the flowers and garden veggie's.

Deer are rampant in Davis Park.

FAVOR ALTERNATE "C"

Correspondence ID: 8 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,19,2014 16:15:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Allow hunters with disabled veteran licence to be partnered with a park ranger and allow for the harvesting of deer. Samples can be taken and examined for research purposes and if the meat is Deemed to be disease free allow the veteran to take 10% o the meat with the rest donated to the states game meat donation program.

Respectfully

Correspondence ID: 9 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,19,2014 18:24:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I vote for Alternative D. In comparing veg between control and deer excluded plots in CT it's clear that high deer populations have a negative impact on Northeastern landscapes. It's great to see that NPS is finally looking to control FI deer densities.

Correspondence ID: 10 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,19,2014 21:05:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: This proposal is really just terrible. To propose removing, or killing (euthanizing) any deer which is observed interacting with humans in the Fire Island Communities is inhumane, and unacceptable. Under this definition, EVERY SINGLE deer within the 17 Fire Island Communities will be subject to killing or relocation. There is absolutely no practical way that deer living within these 17 communities can possibly avoid "interaction" with humans. There is no place for them to hide, or to run when faced with humans. They have had to adapt, and co-exist with humans, an apex predator species that they would ideally avoid in a true state of nature, which the populated areas of Fire Island are not.

Furthermore, the notion of sharpshooters operating within the close confines of the Fire Island communities is terrifying, and horrifying. This is a recipe for disaster, and likely to result in the injury or death of a human at some point. These communities are very small, and contain many children. The idea of public hunting is even more so. Any "hunter" who would come to Fire Island to kill tame deer is a person to be avoided, a disgrace to the hunting community in general.

What is acceptable to all is the resumption of the contraceptive program aimed at a gradual reduction of the deer population. In the past does were darted, and live births sharply curtailed. As an alternative, perhaps the bucks could be castrated.

In conclusion, this Fire Island property owner is supportive of efforts to control the deer population through non-lethal means, particularly contraceptive methods, and entirely opposed to any program that involves killing or re-locating deer.

Correspondence ID: 11 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,20,2014 10:29:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Plan C should be implemented. No past efforts have reduced the population of the deer problem on Fire Island. It has only been increasing.

Alternative C (the environmentally preferable alternative), additional actions would include:

• to directly reduce and maintain the deer population at an appropriate deer density to allow for vegetation regeneration.

• Deer population reduction and maintenance would be implemented through a combination of sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia of individual deer (where necessary), and public hunting (within the Fire Island Wilderness only).

• Deer observed approaching humans within the Fire Island communities would be captured and euthanized to reduce the risk of negative human-deer interactions and prevent other deer from learning this behavior through observation

THE RACCOON PROBLEM SHOULD ALSO BE ADDRESSED. They are all over the towns in the garbage and living in many houses causing incredible damage to the property.

They have no natural enemies and are fearless.

Correspondence ID: 12 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,22,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: For the health of the residents of Fire Island and the health of the deer, I think the herd should be culled.

Correspondence ID: 13 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,22,2014 08:46:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I hold a home in Ocean Beach. I am also an environmental and development economist professionally, having been a professor for some decades. The details of the four options are thus largely beyond my expertise, but I can comment on the broad outlines of the alternatives.

First, there is little doubt in my mind that the deer population on Fire Island has become too great and needs to be reduced. Humans are damaged by the overpopulation in the form of excessive exposure to deer ticks and in the damage done by deer to human-initiated vegetation and other land development. Deer are also impaired by their overpopulation, developing such non-adaptive traits as excessive acceptance of humans and possibly reliance on humans as sources of nutrition, not to mention human structures as sources of shelter (sleeping under houses and decks).

Reducing the deer population is thus essential.

That rules out Alternatives A and B for failing to adequately address the deer population issue.

The essential difference between alternatives C and D is the matter of fencing at the William Floyd Estate and some greater attention paid to the density of deer population near the estate (which might move away anyway if the herd is thinned elsewhere on the island and eventually reduce the need for the fencing altogether).

The key issue, then, are really the weight placed on different mechanisms for reducing the deer population and the timing of the actions proposed. Each may be considered individually, but, first, I want to comment on the uses to which the deer should be put.

Venison is a meat long consumed by humans. Given hunger issues and poverty in communities on Long Island adjacent to the Great South Bay, there is every reason to want to assure that those deer that are killed are used for food, regardless of how they are killed. Carcass harvesting for butchering and distribution to food kitchens, etc., thus needs to be part of the NPS plan if it is not already built in (I did not read the details of the plan, as I noted above). The plan devised should include the products of deer hunting in the event that hunters want only trophy heads or antlers. Obviously, euthanasia should not use a means that renders the meat inedible.

â€ sharpshooting - Presumably wherever safe, which probably means rarely in any communities during the prime summer months. Blocking off streets for short periods may be a viable tactic outside the Memorial Day - Labor Day stretch, especially during the week. Creating such "no go" zones should take ongoing construction and related work into consideration. Given the width of the island in most communities, periods of quarantine to keep out humans to protect them should probably not have to exceed 2 hours, but a schedule must be posted well in advance so as to minimize adverse impacts on other activities. One issue here, regardless of the accuracy of the sharpshooters, is the impact on bystanders, especially children who might see "bambi" shot and killed, or even just hauled off. Ideally, dead cull from the herd should be covered when transported.

â€ capture and euthanasia of individual deer (where necessary) - Seems to be primarily concerned with deer that approach humans, which means that the process has to start when there are a lot of humans around. That means this process is likely to be undertaken in prime tourist season. Many witnesses are likely, so capture has to appear as humane as possible if there is not to be sentimental objection and spoiled vacation memories. That implies reliance on tranquilizer darts or similar technology, so struggle is not part of the capture. The biggest problem, however, may be identifying the deer that approach humans, since the humans who encourage the behavior are not likely to report the deer or otherwise cooperate with their capture. Unfortunately, reliance on neighbors or other third party reporting may be necessary, which can generate conflicts within communities that should be avoided. The education functions will be essential to the success of this effort.

â€ public hunting (within the Fire Island Wilderness only) - The issue with public hunting is not starting the process, but terminating it. Once public hunting is permitted - possibly on a season schedule that does not correspond to deer seasons in mainland New York - it may be difficult to terminate or modify the practice. Unless

hunters are well accustomed to seasons of varying duration in different years, the public hunt should be for a length of season that seems to be sustainable over time as part of maintaining herd size. The public hunt is the means of controlling the deer population that is the least intrusive in terms of impact on the communities on the island and their populations, especially in peak summer seasons. But the hunting season, if it is not to intrude on the communities, may also need to be supported by special ferry access to the Wilderness area or close to it. Providing ferry access and denial of vehicular access by way of the bridges and beach to the hunters may also help to control poaching out of season or taking more than the permitted number of animals during the hunting season. (Motorized land vehicles should not be permitted in the Wilderness anyway.) That cost, moreover, is likely to be lower than the cost of sharpshooters and capture/euthanasia.

Correspondence ID: 14 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,22,2014 09:06:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: August 22, 2014

Dear colleagues:

I write to comment on Fire Island National Seashores (FIIS) Draft White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. I write as someone with a long and deep history with Fire Islands deer management issues and practices, having been part of the original research team that began the PZP immunocontraception study in 1993, and whose peer-reviewed papers on PZP immunocontraception are generously cited in the draft document.

I strongly support the National Park Services (NPS) management objectives at FIIS. The protection of the Seashores valuable and in some cases unique natural and cultural resources, the management of a healthy deer herd, the education of the public about deer and deer-human interactions, and the minimization of harmful interactions between deer and people are all, in my view, worthy and virtuous goals.

I also understand, as well as anyone, the challenges that the NPS faces in achieving those objectives. Deer management and the resolution of deer-human conflicts are idiosyncratic and tied deeply to place and to the deer and people that share that place. Because of the Seashores particular mosaic of communities and natural areas, the potential movement of deer between them, and the history of intense interaction between deer and human residents and visitors, the challenges of deer management on FIIS are extreme.

However: despite more than a quarter-century of experience and opportunities for learning while grappling with deer issues on FIIS, the NPS has offered a Draft Plan that relies on a top-down vision strikingly removed from the place, the values of its human residents and visitors, and its historical relationship between people and deer. If Alternative D, the preferred alternative, is implemented without significant modification, the NPS will fail to meet its management objectives. The Seashores failure will be public, painful, and predictable.

The most telling and astonishing detail of Alternative D (as well as Alternative C) is the proposal to selectively target and kill deer that approach people. Yes, deer approaching people is a recipe for trouble, especially if they approach people with an expectation of being fed. But in the late 1990s, the PZP research team, The Humane Society of the United States, and the Biological Resource Division of the U.S. Geological Survey worked closely and successfully with the NPS to sharply reduce the amount of artificial feeding of deer being carried out by FIIS residents and visitors. This was accomplished by aggressively educating visitors and, perhaps more importantly, recruiting the communities and the deer-feeders as collaborators in the PZP research project, working with them to gradually restrict the amount, timing, and location of feeding. The partnership worked.

The FIIS staff knows that the Seashores deer approach people because people feed them, and that many of the people who feed them know them as individuals. I am not a supporter of deer feeding. But no resident or visitor whose favorite deer is singled out for killing because the residents feed them will be open to receiving any educational message from the NPS. Anger and hurt do not open peoples hearts to messages of change, especially from the source of the anger and hurt.

Sensitive to the interest of the public in non-lethal approaches to deer management, and aiming appropriately to sharply reduce localized deer impacts on natural plant communities and culturally valuable ornamentals, the NPS has incorporated into the Draft liberal and creative use of fencing in all action alternatives. These actions are likely to be effective, and I strongly support them. Consistent with these public values, FIIS has also incorporated deer fertility control into its preferred Alternative D and into Alternative B.

I wish I could also support the Seashore for proposing to use fertility control to manage its deer, but I cannot. My reluctance stems from the condition stipulated in both alternatives: when an acceptable agent, i.e., an agent meeting criteria specified in the plan/EIS, becomes available (p. vi and elsewhere). I believe that - - as artfully and arbitrarily qualified and restricted by the NPS policy criteria - no agent will be found to be acceptable within the lifespan of the plan, and fertility control will not be applied to deer at FIIS under either alternative. Neither of these alternatives is real.

Five criteria for the acceptability of fertility control agents have been adopted by the NPS (Table 6, p. 41). Criterion 1, Federally approved and state registered, and Criterion 4, Meat safe for human and non-target animal consumption, are clearly defensible on public safety, ecological, and (although state jurisdiction is ambiguous on the National Seashore) legal grounds.

Criterion 5, Minimal impact on deer behavior, also appears reasonable, and I am on record as supporting the concept. However, as written, the meaning of minimal is completely open to interpretation, and it is very creatively interpreted in the Draft. Native PZP, for example, is dismissed from consideration because of repeated estrous cycles (Table 6). These have been demonstrated; despite much speculation, however, repeated estrous cycles have never been shown to be associated with any general adverse impact on deer health, disruptive effects on social organization, or increase in the frequency of deer-vehicle collisions (Appendix D). Thus, the behavioral effects of repeated estrous cycles could easily be construed as minimal. In contrast, GonaCon" lacks such repeated estrous cycles and with respect to behavior is deemed acceptable; yet, because it operates by shutting down the entire system of reproductive hormones, GonaCon" is likely to have far more pervasive effects on physiology and behavior than does PZP. Curiously, the behavioral effects of surgical ovariectomy, which provokes the same hormonal response as GonaCon", are deemed unacceptable, and contribute to the exclusion of that technique from consideration. Again, I support the principle; but in this Draft EIS, the application of Criterion 5 seems utterly arbitrary.

Meeting Criteria 2 and 3 is desirable, and the research community is slowly working towards them. Yet our previous experience on FIIS as well as on Fripp Island, SC, has demonstrated that it was not necessary to meet either criterion to achieve the management goal, which was deer population stabilization and reduction. As noted in Appendix D, a one-year, remotely deliverable PZP vaccine reduced populations in the Kismet-Lonelyville stretch by 58% over approximately 10 years (Rutberg et al. 2008). On Fripp Island, a hand-injected 2-3 year PZP vaccine reduced the islands deer population by 50% over 5 years (Rutberg et al. 2013). If these vaccines are safe and become legal (meeting Criteria 1 and 4), and accomplish the management task, the application of Criteria 2 and 3 to exclude them likewise seems arbitrary.

It thus appears to me that the NPS selection criteria are flexible enough to exclude any fertility control agent, and have been and will be used to that end here. To augment the argument for arbitrary application, I remind the NPS that (1) only 3 pages after describing the fertility control agent criteria, the Draft asserts (Application Procedures, p. 44) that all treated deer will have to be captured for tagging and potentially recaptured for re-treatment, which renders the remote delivery criterion meaningless; and (2) Assateague Island National Seashore, MD, and Cape Lookout National Seashore, NC, both use the one-year, remotely deliverable, EPA-registered PZP vaccine ZonaStat-H to manage wild horse populations on those properties, and that this vaccine unambiguously fails Criterion 2.

Finally: after the extensive screening, procedural controls, and impact measurements are applied to fertility control (and sharp-shooting), both Alternatives C & D prescribe a controlled public hunt in the Wilderness Area. The Draft describes no undesirable deer impacts in the Wilderness Area; sets no deer management objectives; prescribes no deer density targets or vegetation targets, or procedures to measure them; and analyzes no impacts, blithely assuming there will not be any. However, unless deer population densities are significantly reduced by hunting in the Wilderness Area, deer impacts will likely worsen, as the higher mortality associated with the hunt is compensated for by increased reproduction and increased foraging by pregnant and lactating females. The hunt will

have impacts; these must be analyzed, and the management justification for the hunt made explicit.

To effectively achieve its goals, protect natural plant communities and cultural resources, educate the public, and reduce undesirable deer-human interactions, FIIS must produce and implement a plan that contains credible non-lethal deer population control, and which will truly engage and partner with the residents of its human community. I will support the Seashore in creating and implementing such a plan in any way that I can.

References Cited:

Rutberg, A.T., and R.E. Naugle. 2008. Population-level effects of immunocontraception in white-tailed deer. *Wildlife Research* 35:494-501.

Rutberg, A.T., R.E. Naugle, and F. Verret. 2013. Single-treatment PZP immunocontraception associated with reduction of a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) population. *Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine* 44(4S):S75-S83.

Correspondence ID: 15 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,23,2014 15:35:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I do not agree with any of the options presented. I do not want to see the deer either hunted, tranquilized and move which often results in harm or death, or euthanized!

The best management is to use some sort of birth control - either to dart the does like they do with the ponies in the west and in Asseteague, or as mentioned at the hearing in Ocean Beach, to neuter the bucks and mark their ears like they do with feral cats (a vet at the meeting there offered his services). The best way to manage the herds is through population control. I am on the Board of Directors of the Taxpayers Association of Lonelyville, and have not heard one positive response to any of the options since we sent out the deer management plans to our membership. All comments I have received have been suggesting some form of birth control to manage the population and have been vehemently opposed to hunting and euthanasia to manage the herd size. Most people find the deer to be some of the most unique and beautiful assets of Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 16 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,23,2014 22:57:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I was at the meeting at the Fire Island school and did not care plan A B C or D.....I wasn't happy about the setup until the meeting switched over to a majority rule vote and it became more civil and friendly..

I feel that the bucks being castrated is the best route to be taken at this time.

As far as saving vegetation on the island, 40 years there wasn't any. you could see the beach from bay to ocean..

The deer aren't the only thing that has destroyed the plants here, storms too have damaged plants such as Sandy and Nor'easters...

Trying to stop deer conceptive program is ridiculous so you can shoot deer maybe feed deer to homeless is just crazy...

Lets just say let the buck stop here castrate a majority a vet offered his time and money to do it....and go back to the drawing board and do another study for another 100 years....

Correspondence ID: 17 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,24,2014 12:25:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I suppose Hurricane Sandy and the long running success of the contraception darting program wasn't enough of an impact on the deer population. Now you want to open Fire Island to hunting season. Of course the deer are friendly because they are neighborhood deer and they have been forced to survive amongst humans,

who resent them for eating their unnatural landscaping. Why haven't you posted the fact that killing of deer has all ready occurred in PointO'Woods and buried in mass graves. We go to Fire Island for our tranquility and beauty and to think that it may become a hunters paradise is a horror. To drug a "friendly" deer then haul it off to be killed is outrageous. Hunters tromping on the protected sand dunes, leaving behind shell casings and cigarette butts; along with gunshots riddling over the sounds of breaking waves is truly not what a National Seashore is about . How clever to use the Month of October as a deadline since most of the seasonal homeowners will be gone and just in time for the hunters loading up the guns and arrows.

Why not bring back the contraception darting program or is this really about revenue hunters bring in having to buy hunting licenses? Whomever thought of this deer management program should be questioned on their stance about hunting. There are many people who will do their utmost best to not allow this disgusting inhumane program to become successful. You will have a fight from the animal lovers along with the Fire Island lovers too.

Correspondence ID: 18 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Aug,24,2014 15:59:46

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not allow the hunting of deer on Fire Island. The management plan is based on outdated data, and should not be used to justify hunting season on the island.

Correspondence ID: 19 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Aug,25,2014 12:20:54

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: APHIS AND NY DEC ARE BOTH DEER KILLING PROFITEERS. THEY MAKE MONEY FROM KILLING DEER SO CALLING THEM IN IS CALLING FOR DEER MURDEROUS PEOPLE TO COMMENT. YOU HAVE SKEWED THE PUBLIC COMMENT WITH THIS COLLABORATION. I CALL FOR NO ACTION OR SURGICAL STERILIZATION, WHICH WORKS IN MANY COMMUNITIES IN THE USA VERY VERY WELL OR USE OF GONA CON WHICH IS ABOUT 85% EFECTIVE. I NOTE THAT THE LAST HUMANE STUDY WITH NPS WORKED VERY WELL AND BELIEVE YOU SHOULD USE THAT MODEL AGAIN AS A MODEL FOR ANY ACTION. PLEASE STOP SKEWING PUBLIC COMMENT BY CALLING IN NOTORIOUS DEER KILLERS AS COLLABORATORS. WE NEED BLANCE IN OUR GOVT NOT EXTREMISM BY THE LIMITED NUMBER OF HUNTERS IN NYS.

Correspondence ID: 20 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Aug,25,2014 18:00:37

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Surgical sterilization of Bucks should be considered and implemented as a replacement to birth control hormones. It will reduce the buck's territorial roaming, reproduction rates and the threat to humans during ruts. It is also not subject to FDA regulations. There is a veterinarian in Ocean Beach who is willing to perform the procedures for free!!!

Correspondence ID: 21 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Aug,25,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly urge that plan C or plan D be adopted and implemented. The deer on Fire Island are a very significant problem and their numbers need to be reduced rapidly and dramatically. Both of these plans include sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia, and hunting (as appropriate) and these steps are required to deal with the problem. In addition to the threat the deer pose for the spread of tic born diseases, they are damaging pests. They eat precious vegetation, damage property, and are a constant annoyance because of their incessant efforts to eat human garbage. They no longer behave like wild animals. They are damaging the habitat, human health, property, and undermine the pleasure of being on Fire Island. Again, I strongly urge that plan C or D be adopted rapidly.

Correspondence ID: 22 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Aug,25,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Plan C or plan D should be implemented. The deer on Fire Island are a nuisance and a threat to human health and safety. In addition to the threat the deer pose for the spread of tic born diseases, they are damaging pests. They eat beneficial vegetation, damage property, and are constantly spilling and eating human garbage. They

no longer behave like wild animals, showing no fear of humans.

Correspondence ID: 23 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Aug,26,2014 09:45:02

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: So instead of going back to the IMMUNOCONTRACEPTION program that works we are not going to allow hunters to come into your backyard and hunt animals that trust us! we are destroying their environments, and yet they are going to be exterminated so we can build more homes. I am not aware of any deer able to swim across a bay in order for them to go find a safer shelter. this program is launched on false data as we all know many deers got killed during Sandy. Everyone should be ashamed of wanting to kill the way they suggest it! It is inhumane and not the solution. Hunters will walk into your own backyard to kill! This sounds safe and smart for our kids and domestic animals! Killing is not the solution to all our problems and all the wars taking place around the globe are showing us that, yet as the smart ones on this planet we keep repeating the same stupidity over and over! Get real and take smart actions!

Correspondence ID: 24 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Aug,26,2014 11:15:44

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I feel that there is very little reason that I can see to spend any government funds controlling deer populations. There are 700,000 hunters that live in NYS, who would be happy to pay for just a chance to receive a special permit (lottery system etc) to hunt or bow hunt in Fire Island. I personally am a bow hunter, and a person who spends every summer on Fire Island. I also work in the the hunting and outdoor industry, and have a great deal of insight into the many options available to responsibly manage deer populations through public hunting. I feel that a well monitored hunting season during a time of year that fire island is virtually vacant (November-January), and on the remote parts of the island would be very effective.

I would recommend an "earn a buck" system where the hunter would have to check-in a doe before they can harvest a buck in order to increase the take of does first and foremost. These sorts of special seasons have been instituted in many areas around the country. High Point State Park in NJ comes to mind.

In summary, some deer on fire island ads to the unique landscape and charm, but it is not worth the damage to the fragile ecosystem to allow for their overpopulation. The most logical solution is a carefully instituted public hunt. I feel you could charge \$100 for a lottery to hunt, and actually gain revenue for the NPS and Fire Island National Shore instead of wasting money to manage the deer through other means. I would be very interested in the hunt myself.

Correspondence ID: 25 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Aug,27,2014 01:28:45

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I heard about this plan and knew that the real motive behind these plans is to open fire island to hunting

So many deer were killed during hurricane sandy that the deer population is at the lowest it's been in many decades and the officials even admitted they were were operating on pre-sandy deer statistics.

A list of reasons why this deceptive so-called "Deer-Management Plan" makes no sense would be long, but here is the big one

KILLING IS NOT MANAGEMENT

These agencies did not dream up this hideous scenario on their own...

They are getting their direction from elected officials who are pro hunting and who are supported by gun lobbies like the NRA

The human Society of the United States (HSUS) ran a deer immunocontraception program on fire island together with the nation seashore for 13 years and it worked! with no reasonable explanation it was stopped four years ago and now we see why.....it's a crafty attempt to bring in hunting insteadI was a deer monitor at one of the darting areas for the entire program and saw first hand how this program decreased the populationI also have documents from each year stating how this program was successful.

The deer are a huge reason why so many of us love fire island

Hunting is NOT WELCOMED here and. You will see how many people feel the same
We will not allow hunting.....NOT EVER!

Correspondence ID: 26 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly urge that plan C or plan D be adopted and implemented. The deer on Fire Island are a very significant problem and their numbers need to be reduced rapidly and dramatically. Both of these plans include sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia, and hunting (as appropriate) and these steps are required to deal with the problem. In addition to the threat the deer pose for the spread of tic born diseases, they are damaging pests. They eat precious vegetation, damage property, and are a constant annoyance because of their incessant efforts to eat human garbage. They no longer behave like wild animals. They are damaging the habitat, human health, property, and undermine the pleasure of being on Fire Island.

Again, I strongly urge that plan C or D be adopted rapidly.

Correspondence ID: 27 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,29,2014 08:13:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am commenting in support of Alternative B as a solution to the problem of deer overpopulation in Fire Island. I understand that this is a problem but any plan that includes the killing of these gentle, beautiful animals is unacceptable. I spend time on Fire Island often and being able to see the deer during these visits only makes them more pleasurable for me and my family. Fertility control of deer has proven to be an effective and humane means of controlling the population. In East Hampton a deer sterilization plan will take place this January. It's nice to see a community utilizing a non-lethal method as a solution to this problem. It's time to stop the killing and create a means to live with wildlife, not destroy it. Killing is not a solution, it's part of the problem. It has been proven that culling the herd does not reduce the population long term. The remaining deer continue to thrive and reproduce. As a result, this inhumane practice of killing needs to be repeated again and again. This is not an effective plan.

I therefore support Alternative B as a nonlethal method to control the population of deer in Fire Island. The "easy and quick" solution of killing is unacceptable, ineffective long term and inhumane. People need to coexist peacefully with wildlife and appreciate its beauty, not destroy it.

Correspondence ID: 28 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,29,2014 18:41:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Surely there must be some way to save and protect these beautiful, majestic animals. I know I would love to be able to watch them and would donate my time and money to feed them. Have you thought about enclosing them some what into a sanctuary so people could visit with their families and walk around to watch them? You could open a Deer Sanctuary and ask for donations and memberships. The thought of killing these animals is just awful. They are so sweet and peaceful. Isn't there a place on Long Island where they could be relocated and eat over grown vegetation? There are many of us animal lovers out here who would donate what they can to keep the deer safe and maintained. Couldn't the males be neutered or separated if over population is a problem? I HOPE KILLING THEM IS A LAST RESORT AND ONLY DONE IF THEY ARE SUFFERING. Hopefully you will keep the public informed and reach out for help so these deer can be observed and enjoyed. Maybe there are folks upstate or in other locations who would gladly adopt them.

Correspondence ID: 29 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,30,2014 16:21:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Keep in mind that our wildlife, in particular our deer, did nothing wrong and continue to do

nothing wrong, YET, they are being punished for living and paying with their lives - - something is very wrong.

Deer population management could be achieved through reproductive means - - an acceptable vaccine already exists. WE MUST NOT KILL THEM, WE MUST NOT HUNT THEM DOWN, WE MUST NOT SLAUGHTER THEM!

Please approve a non-lethal surgical sterilization project to humanely reduce the population of white-tailed deer, as they've done elsewhere. Everyone would be proud and would applaud these groundbreaking efforts to develop and implement a humane, effective and sustainable deer management program that everyone can live with, including the deer.

What's more, coupled with administering vaccinations, many of the deer, keeping families intact, can be transferred to other locations where they can continue to thrive within and outside the state.

There are many animal rescue organizations that can assist with advice and finances - - there is no excuse for hunting deer, there is no justification in this day and age for slaughtering them - - this is cruel, primitive, draconian and downright unconscionable. I STRONGLY OBJECT TO THIS! It sounds like the easy way out - - it sounds like the coward's way out - - it sounds like the killer's way out - - it sounds like the lazy way out.

Many residents, as well as visitors, hope and pray that the deer population is controlled without the deer being injured or murdered - - they want spaying and neutering along with deer not only moving out of the area BUT moving into a comparable area elsewhere where it's not so crowded and where the deer can continue to live and thrive.

Correspondence ID: 30 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Aug,30,2014 17:29:52

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

catch the deer and ship them up state.

Or take the people that don't want the deer on long island and ship them up state.

thank you

Correspondence ID: 31 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,02,2014 09:40:11

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a long time Fire Island resident who has see the deer population at zero and now who knows how many. I am in accord with other residents who want option E - mandatory castration of male deer. As local vets have offered to provide this service gratis, it is the most cost effective and humane option of dealing with the overpopulation of the deer.

Correspondence ID: 32 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,02,2014 14:29:05

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I can't believe that in this day and age we are still considering expensive alternatives to reducing the deer population on Long island. Many of the mentioned methods have been proven ineffective in other parts of long island and have cost the tax payers of this state thousands of dollars. In my opinion, the only real solution is to have the hunting community on Long Island take part in an effective bow hunting season to reduce the deer herd. This cost the taxpayers nothing, and in fact generates revenue through the sales of hunting licenses and collection of sales tax on hunting merchandise. This method has been proven to be effective and safe throughout the state. Please consider this as the only alternative and open the land to our local hunters.

Correspondence ID: 33 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,03,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

TO WHOM IT MY CONCERN,

AS A I BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE ALWAYS CONTROLLED BY ARCHERY HUNTING,WITH NO COST TO TAX PAYERS.THE HUNT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE DURING THE NORMAL SEASONS, IT COULD BE ANY TIME IN FALL AND WINTER BEING A SPECIAL HUNT.

IN REGARDS TO ANIMAL ACTIVIST, YOU CAN USE A REPRODUCTIVE VACCINES AND HUNTING BOTH, TOGETHER, THE AT SAME IN MAINTAINING "TARGET DEER DENSITY".

Correspondence ID: 34 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,03,2014 08:39:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: ("CORRECTED LETTER")

TO WHOM IT MY CONCERN,

AS A HUNTER AND TAX PAYER I BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE ALWAYS CONTROLLED BY ARCHERY HUNTING,WITH NO COST TO TAX PAYERS.THE HUNT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE DURING THE NORMAL SEASONS. IT COULD BE ANY TIME IN FALL AND WINTER BEING A SPECIAL HUNT.

IN REGARDS TO ANIMAL ACTIVIST CONCERNS, YOU CAN USE REPRODUCTIVE VACCINES AND HUNTING BOTH, AT SAME IN MAINTAINING "TARGET DEER DENSITY".

Correspondence ID: 35 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,03,2014 13:00:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: have you considered an expanded hunting season?

Correspondence ID: 36 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,03,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: To Whom It May Concern:

It think it's disgraceful and would be a terrible inhumane move to get sharp shooters to kill deer on Fire Island. You could be slaughtering females of young deer. You can't weed out the weak and leave the strong of the group.

You must eliminate the population by other means such as causing the females not to reproduce.

Please do not move forward with this tactic. Let's not revert to prehistoric methods. Let's be humane and show the young people how we handle this.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Correspondence ID: 37 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Aug,17,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Thank you for inviting the South Shore Waterfowlers Association (SSWA) to comment on the Fire Island National Seashore Draft White-tailed Deer Management Plan and EIS. The SSWA is an association of about 250 hunters who have a common interest in duck and goose hunting. Many if not most of our members are

also Long Island deer hunters, and as such, believe that public hunting should be permitted on public Federal lands and in Federal Parks wherever possible.

That said, we also consider ourselves conservationists, and we would like to comment on each of the four alternatives offered in the draft management plan. The last time that a public hunt of any kind was conducted on a portion of Fire Island was 25 years ago. So it follows that you have recognized the need to better control the deer population size for at least that long. Since it is 2014, and you are once again offering alternatives to your current practices (Alternative "A") it would seem that current practices are not satisfactory in keeping the deer population in check. During much of this same time period, you have experimented with different contraceptive programs, and although you cite a 50% reduction in small areas after some 16 years, clearly these techniques are expensive, labor intensive, and are not satisfactory towards effectively achieving your goal. (Otherwise, it follows that you would have employed them throughout the range of the Fire Island National Seashore, instead of discontinuing them in 2009).

Alternative "B" admits that today's contraceptive practices are inadequate, and the plan assumes that practical agents will not be available for another 10 years. Meanwhile, it would seem that fencing and translocation are the major changes from Alternative "A".

Alternative "D" differs from Alternative "C" in two major ways. First, in Alternative "D", sharpshooting, capture/euthanasia, and public hunting are all mentioned in the draft. Each of these would be implemented right away, in an attempt to reach the desired population density as quickly as possible. Once reached, it is implied that public hunting would give way to the other lethal means for control until such time in the future as new types of fertility control become available. The second way Alternative "D" differs from Alternative "C" is that the plan includes future fertility control as a preferred method for continued population control. And so, it seems, Alternative "D" will actually phase out public hunting rather quickly.

We believe that public hunting is a proven and effective way to manage deer populations. We further believe that it should be a major tool in any deer management program. While you have outlined that the alternatives that include public hunting would be restricted to the Fire Island Wilderness Area of the Park, (about a third of the total park area) this is still a sizeable portion of the park.

We support Alternative "C". We find that it has the fewest negatives, and it offers the most promise for successful deer management. It is the environmentally preferred alternative because it will cause the least damage to the biological and physical environment. It ensures an immediate reduction in the deer population, and thus will reduce browsing pressure and promote plant regeneration throughout the life of the plan. The methods proposed in Alternative "C" will serve to reduce the deer population in part using public hunting, a method which has proven to be effective. Furthermore, public hunting is currently a main tool in New York State for the management of the state deer population. By sustaining a public hunt as part of the management plan, you will be increasing public recreational use of the land, secure in the knowledge that its proven effectiveness will help to ensure successful deer management.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. We applaud your attempt to establish a comprehensive Fire Island Deer Management Plan, and we urge you to choose Alternative "C".

Correspondence ID: 38 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,04,2014 07:04:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: In response to the BARBARIC proposal of 'Deer observed approaching humans within the Fire Island communities to be captured and euthanized to reduce the risk of negative human-deer interactions and prevent other deer from learning this behavior through observation , I vote NO F*\$%in Way !!!! I hope that is clear enough ... the mere suggestion of killing the animals that do not behave in a way that is acceptable to the FINS, National Park Service (NPS), or US Department of the Interior makes me sick to my stomach.

I am utterly AGAINST any euthanizing of animals for the ultimate perceived good of 'our people'.

Correspondence ID: 39 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,04,2014 08:35:18

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I live at Water Island in the summer and love sharing this island with the deer. This summer, the deer looked healthier than they have in a long time.

Killing the deer would be such an unforgivable and repugnant thing to do.

I believe that there should be a vigorous campaign to educate people not to feed them or interact with them too closely. We should be able to watch them with great pleasure but we should not encourage them to be tame.

I understand that there was an immunization program and a contraceptive program that was working and it was discontinued. Every effort should be made to help the deer remain healthy and control the population through contraception so the environment can maintain the deer.

Please feel free to publish my letter and do keep me informed.

Correspondence ID: 40 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,04,2014 10:42:15

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: While I do support birth control for the deer, it seems much more ethical to fine people for feeding deer or leaving garbage available to them than shooting the deer themselves. The deer population in Fair Harbor seemed to be controlled for a number of years by the corn stations baited with birth control that limited their offspring to only 1 fawn. Why not continue that program intermittently?

As part of this plan it is also important to give people some guidelines/rules about plantings. Let's plant native plants and control the planting of extremely invasive species such as bamboo which does not seem to support native fauna. Communities with nonnative grasses, shrubs and ornamentals seem to have significantly fewer birds and native insects. It would be great if pitch pine, beach plum, juniper, saltmeadow cordgrass, blueberry, bayberry and beach heath were made more available to the public for planting.

Correspondence ID: 41 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,04,2014 14:04:32

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a 70 year resident of Fire Island , I.e. my whole life and I have witnessed many erosions... Those caused by natural disasters such as hurricanes which removed houses and beachfront walks in Seaview and Ocean Beach and since about 1979 the gradual erosion of the natural topography and vegetation of the island. Most people now live behind fences in my community.The fences push the deer out on to the beach and the street and non fenced-in properties. We do not have a fenceas we are not gardeners. The number of deer that I spot on any given day is between 2-8. I had heard that there was an effort to sterilize females but that would mean that all the Bambis we see every summer must be adopted! Many people have suffered from Lyme disease, some multiple times.I was bitten by a tick several years ago the one time i stepped on to my property.ePeople continue to feed the deer and find them"cute". Others think they are more important than humans because "they were here first", a myth. And then there are the fanatic animal PETA people.

Persons caught feeding deer should be heavily fined as should those who place garbage out in unprotected cans.... But who will police this effort. Is there a hunting season? The deer are not a new problem . The National Park system must take the problem into its own hands as it is the body which understands the issues that deer pose to the physical and human environment. Please do so soon! By the way, we also have raccoons .

Correspondence ID: 42 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,04,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: A recent article in Newsday told of your intent to take the lives of the deer that live on Fire Island. The expression used was to cull the herd, I think. The reason given for this intent was that the deer are eating the vegetation.

It is my feeling that nature has provided this vegetation for her children - - her creatures, and will be in charge of Fire Island's natural evolution.

Please do not give further consideration to interfering with the natural life of Fire Island - - the life of which includes the deer and their right to inhabit the island - - even more than the National Park Service.

Correspondence ID: 43 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,07,2014 07:57:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We see a giant 10 point buck eating garbage near Flynn's in Ocean Bay park often. The local drunks named him and a few others. It is a truly sad and disturbing site to see deer walking among the locals. The deer appear each night, eat garbage, beer labels, paper and appear quite well fed. This is humane compared to a cull?

You need to consider hunting as an option.

Correspondence ID: 44 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,08,2014 18:48:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I live in Ocean Beach, NY. The deer population is at its lowest since so many were killed during hurricane Sandy. I was out all summer this year and I only saw 2 deer. Your plan to "kill off" the remaining deer on Fire Island is brutal and unnecessary. Families enjoy seeing the few remaining deer on Fire Island. It is part of the culture in Fire Island. It is part of what makes Fire Island so special. It is part of what brings the tourists and families coming back to Fire Island each summer. If you "kill off" the remaining deer population, a huge part of the heart of Fire Island will be gone and you will lose many tourists. The few remaining deer never bother anyone. They are harmless and beautiful. Your plan is unnecessary and it is not wanted or needed on Fire Island - neither is hunting. Leave our beautiful Fire Island alone!!

Correspondence ID: 45 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,08,2014 19:54:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Killing harmless deer is in no way management! Ive spent the last 8 summers in Fire Island. I as well as many others have grown accustom to watching these deer and other wild life that live near our homes. Some of us have even given them names (Bob & Steve) To take that away from us would be inhumane. We certainly have an over population of government agencies trying to dictate what is good for our well being! Where's the management plan for that!

Correspondence ID: 46 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,10,2014 12:07:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a Carpenter on the Island I have noticed the sheer volume of deer, their over browsing of vegetation and their non fear of humans. People feed them by hand during the middle of the day. It is not a natural interaction.

The population of deer are emaciated due to fleas and ticks causing the majority of the herd to have bitten and scratched their coats off in the places they can to mitigate what I am sure is horrible irritation.

Open the Island to closely regulated deer hunting with strict quotas and have the meat of each animal donated to local charities until the population is again at sustainable levels. It would provide needed revenue to communities in a slower part of the season after the summer crowds have subsided and give people in need much needed sustenance.

Why have tax payer dollars pay for fencing which detracts from the beauty of the area or pay to euthanize deer when the public will gladly do it for free!

Correspondence ID: 47 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,11,2014 07:41:12

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I'm in favor of Plan B. I like a few deer walking around. With so much anger and death in the world, it's beautiful to see baby deer a few minutes after they're born and the deer are gentle creatures. That said, I understand the overpopulation issue. IN NO WAY DO I WANT HUNTING IN FIRE ISLAND.

If you can capture to relocate the deer, how about capture to do visectomies on the male deer. Darting the females is great too. I'm all for birth control.

I'm also strongly in favor of putting frontline on the deer. With a dog and garden, we haven't seen a deer tick in about 5 years. It working!!!!

Thanks.

I heard about this through our community association.

Correspondence ID: 48 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,11,2014 08:50:43

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have a home in Fair Harbor on Fire Island.

The deer are out of control and Lyme disease is a major issue. I recommend Plan C of the deer management plan be utilize.

Correspondence ID: 49 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,11,2014 08:51:13

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am vehemently against hunting the deer - There is no justification for this and the deer attract tourism and are a valuable asset to the island. Furthermore, it is cruel and also creates a dangerous precedent by introducing weapons to Fire Island.

Very concerned home owner in Fair Harbor, Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 50 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,11,2014 08:52:21

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: plan d seems necessary the number of deer seen in September in Fair Harbor, was startling. They seemed to have very little fear of humans. A large one lied next to us for an entire evening, behind a holly bush.

The Fair Harbor Community Association sent me this notice

Correspondence ID: 51 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,11,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I vote for Plan B. Relocate deer. Provide more contraceptive feeding stations. Do not shoot.

Correspondence ID: 52 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,11,2014 10:12:28

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Ever since moving to NY, 19 years ago, I have enjoyed Fire Island every summer. The wildlife, including deer, are part of it's charm. The deer in Fair Harbor, where I rent a house, co-exist peacefully with us humans. Although they do not approach us, they will cross our paths with little hesitancy. Deer used to enjoy the geraniums I plant annually, until I learned to swipe a bar of soap across the planter from time to time. Apparently, the smell of the soap confuses them and they don't nibble. Works for me. As far as lyme, the deer population in the recent years have been noticeably free of ticks. Whereas every inch of their ears used to be covered with ticks, I can no longer spot one. I had been told it's because they fit their heads under/between a bar at feeding stations that applies something like Front Line. Front Line works on my dog and it looks like it's working for the sweet deer too. There are plenty of other creatures that could be hosts for the lyme carrying tick such as the abundant feral cats and the family of racoons that live below our particular house. We should learn to live with this and take precautions, not start killing the wildlife. For these reasons I support an alternative version of Plan B - with the caveat that the use of contraception is with intent to keep the population close to where it is for the Kismet-Lonelyville (if not entire Fire Island) area. Taking the population from 80 +/- down to 7 +/- (if I understand the chart correctly),in our area, is way too much!

As for the William Floyd Estate, I have never been there so cannot have an informed opinion. Perhaps it would be wise to treat the estate and Fire Island separately?

If Plan B can't be modified, I'd stick with Plan A.

Correspondence ID: 53 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,11,2014 10:52:25

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a year round resident of Fire Island. I moved here on 9/12/2001 with my wife and 2 daughters due to the events of 9/11/2001. We lived in Battery Park City-directly in front of the WTC. We have witnessed the ebb and flow of the deer population for the last 13 years. A couple of observations: 1. Deer heads & faces used to be covered with deer ticks. The introduction of the post rollers/feeders that kill ticks has done much to reduce the tick population(most of the deer now have very few if any ticks on them). Less ticks equals less Lyme disease and more comfortable deer. This should be continued. The introduction of guns to hunt deer on FI is insane. However, there are a lot deer. To me, the most commonsense, simple, cheapest solution is:

1. Continue with the deer roller/tick eradication devices and increase the number of them.
 2. Contraception.
 3. Leave them alone.
 4. Don't form any more committees, write any papers, waste any more resources on solving a problem that is not really a problem in my opinion and I have lived here year round for 13 years.
-

Correspondence ID: 54 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,11,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've long understood how inappropriate having Bambi on our backyards is - -- both for people, esp children and for the animals. i applaud the new plan and hope it gets enough support to begin asap.

Correspondence ID: 55 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,11,2014 14:24:23

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Re: Deer Management Plan Alternatives on Fire Island

I am strongly in favor of Plan A to allow the deer population to continue in its natural state. There is absolutely to kill innocent deer. They are not pests. They do not come up to people or bother them in any way. They are beautiful to look at and help to give Fire Island its character of unspoiled benign nature.

Please do not kill the Fire Island deer. They are not starving and in fact are thriving through the winters.

Correspondence ID: 56 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,11,2014 15:11:19

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The deer in Fair Harbor (on Fire Island) are a growing problem, and they are increasingly approaching humans or not moving out of the path of humans. I think Plan B or C is called for, not the current plan of taking no action, but not as far as open public hunting.

Correspondence ID: 57 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,12,2014 07:23:41

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: What about starting a program where yard clippings and brush, which homeowners are currently required to have to pay extra to remove, are collected to set up areas to feed the deer. They would therefore not be foraging for protected indigenous plant species or raiding peoples garbage cans.

Correspondence ID: 58 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,12,2014 08:07:43

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been coming to Fire Island since 1980 and became a year round resident in 1996. In that time period I have watched the deer population increase dramatically. As a child seeing a deer within the communities(Fair Harbor thru Lonelyville) was a rarity. Coincidentally or perhaps not there was an abundance of beach plum, black berry patches, blueberry bushes, chokeberry and inkberry and rosa rugosa growing everywhere. There were also very few ticks. I grew up playing tag running thru waist high dune grass and other plants and rarely getting ticks. By the time I was a young adult in the mid 1990's deer were commonplace to see. The rosa rugosa was all gone as were any berry patches not fenced in. The beach plum, chokeberry, blueberries etc. were being heavily grazed during the growing season and damaged if not killed by bucks rubbing the felt off their antlers during the fall rut. The tick population was off the charts in my opinion. Gardening or even stepping off your deck or boardwalks into the bushes was a guarantee to get several and sometimes dozens of ticks on you. I do not think it is coincidental that the deer population increase coincided with the habitat degradation and tick population explosion. I have seen the attempts to control this deer population with immunocontraception and do not feel it has worked. I think it is time to cull this population, which has no natural predators and is hence out of harmony with nature, and bring it down to a environmentally sound level. Perhaps immunocontraception can then be used on this small population to humanely keep it in balance.

Correspondence ID: 59 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,12,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: To add to my comment about contraceptives in feeding stations: also neuter the bucks!

Correspondence ID: 60 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,12,2014 09:18:13

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The NPS alternative makes good sense to me.

As a Fire Island summer resident of nearly four decades, I've seen my fair share of deer and gotten quite a few tick bites. Plus they've destroyed our garden more than once.

I remember when there were beach plums and rosa rogusa everywhere, but now they're all eaten away and we're stuck with these hideous prickly barberries instead.

Correspondence ID: 61 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,12,2014 22:36:07

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I rent a summer home on Fire Island. I have been going out there for over 14 summers, staying in various communities ~ Corneille Estates, Ocean Bay Park and for the past 7 years Ocean Beach.

The deer are not a problem. Many of them did not survive Hurricane Sandy. My understanding from what I read was the plan to introduce hunting was based on PRE-Sandy numbers. We are still recovering from Sandy. The deer are markedly reduced in numbers the past two summers.

For many years, the deer were controlled with birth control. That was discontinued a few years back ~ apparently to allow hunters with their weapons to start shooting deer on this tranquil patch of sand.

I don't think weapons should be introduced into what is largely a residential island. There are plenty of places for hunters to hunt. NOT HERE!!

The deer are quite friendly and people tame. For many children, they represent a lovely opportunity to interact with nature and grow a lasting, life long respect for it.

A few summers ago, I emerged from my house to find two young boys ~ around age 8 ~helpfully feeding a baby deer a slice of pizza which the deer was eagerly chewing. Three adults were stopped in their tracks watching this wonderful human/animal interaction.

One beautiful dew swept, foggy morning, I went for a walk and ran into a 15 point buck happily eating his breakfast. We communed silently and shared what a lovely misty morning it was.

So you are going to start letting assholes with a dominator model blood lust to kill shoot BAMBI? How are we going to explain it to the kids who won't get to share their pizza with a four legged peer? That 15 point buck is going to hang on some idiot's family room wall instead of enjoying a delicious, grassy breakfast?

I protest. I say no. No hunting on Fire Island.

How would YOU like to get shot? You don't want to be shot. The deer don't want to be shot either!

Correspondence ID: 62 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,13,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The method of using approved birth control for the deer was working. I believe we should continue that. The idea that we should shoot animals who you could literally walk up to and shoot with a handgun or euthanize them is outrageous. The deer population has gotten out of control because humans have fed them. We have no right to kill them because of our bad behavior. Plans including the euthanizing or shooting of the deer should not be approved. Plan b which includes the birth control would work just fine.

Correspondence ID: 63 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,13,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I thought the sterilization plan worked well. I think the drug used should be submitted for approval so that it could continue to be the plan of choice. I do not believe in culling the deer - - I would rather see the no-action plan. I thought the park service was all about leaving nature to do its thing. That doesn't happen when we have domesticated deer and allow people to kill them.

Correspondence ID: 64 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,13,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am in favor of Alternative D of the white tailed deer management plan.

Correspondence ID: 65 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,13,2014 19:30:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I feel that the most cost effective an successful way to achieve the population goals of the whitetail deer in these areas is a well regulated hunting season open to the public. The Park Service if it wishes

could interview perspective hunters and have them show proficiency in the implements chosen by the Park Service in the manor of taking the deer. Furthermore the Park Service could set up bait stations, elevated platforms, allow longer hunting hours, and close areas to the public while hunting is commencing. I feel that the Park Service would have a large pool of good hunters to choose from as the number of good seasoned hunters on Long Island is quite high.

Correspondence ID: 66 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,14,2014 04:05:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The plan to "Manage" deer on Fire Island is totally bogus and should be abandoned altogether!!

First, it is based on false data (data is based on pre Sandy population numbers). Superstorm Sandy has killed many deer on Fire Island, and the numbers today are substantially lower than they were 2 years ago. Furthermore the long, cold winter of 2013/2014 also had a major impact on the deer population. There are hardly any fawns to be seen. I know this first hand, because I visit Fire Island every week, including the winter months. Why isn't the plan based on actual numbers?? Why are you using bogus old numbers to justify this killing?

The word in the street is that this is nothing more than a personal hunting program pushed by Gov Cuomo.

I and all my household members are strongly against this plan and request you stop it.

Correspondence ID: 67 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,14,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The problem is more the ticks than the deer. Weren't there feeding stalls that administered tick repellent when the deer stuck their head in the feeder? Was that working? Also Mosquitos are deadlier than the deer. What's the tick plan?

Correspondence ID: 68 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,14,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Having read the report and having rented for over 20 years and now own a house in Lonelyville, Fire Island I would recommend Alternative A and would suggest the continued birth control methods that have been used in the past (which was not suggested as an alternative.)

Correspondence ID: 69 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,14,2014 11:27:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My family and myself have had multiple adverse interactions with the dramatic deer population. One of my children was thrown off their bike as a deer bounded across the path. Throwing her to the concrete path an tearing up her hands . Obviously it could have been worse. I have also contracted chronic Lyme disease which is a direct result of the deer population. I fear for my families health. I would recommend option 3 the culling of all deer.

Correspondence ID: 70 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,14,2014 11:42:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a homeowner (16 years) and family resident for 40 years in Point O' Woods, Fire Island, NY. I strongly support the FINS proposal to severely cull the deer population on Fire Island for several reasons:

1. Human Health: As a person who has recovered from Lyme Disease and who has had several family members who have also recovered from Lyme, the environment within our community and the park has become hostile to human population. Culling the herd would dramatically interrupt the life cycle of the deer tick and allow humans a greater freedom within the landscape. In addition, the male deer population has increased to the point that they are becoming aggressive in community with people during the late fall. In October, when I encounter the increasing number of bucks in my neighborhood I find a different path to travel rather than face them down on the sidewalk. Their response to a bike bell in October is challenging.

2. Vegetative Environment - The diversity of native species within the park has been greatly degraded due to over grazing of the deer herd. This is undisputed. We, in Point O Woods are committed to maintaining our native flora and we cannot compete with the voracious appetite of the deer. Personally, I am dismayed at the continually shrinking understory cover seen in our community and in the Sunken Forest. Culling of the herd would begin to resort the flora/fauna balance that existed even 30 years ago.

3. Deer Health : Overall deer health would improve with a much lower deer per acreage percentage.

In summary: Cull the herd dramatically! Then let's talk about reproductive controls! Its better for the deer, it's better for the flora diversity, and it's better for humans.

Correspondence ID: 71 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,14,2014 11:54:42

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The deer problem on Fire Island must addressed. I have been a long time 55 years resident of Point O' Woods. Fencing will not work. We have tried that in Point O' Woods for years, they either learn to jump over, or push through. Culling , optiion C is the only viable option. As a child 45 years ago it was a wonder to see a deer on Fire Island, now they really are just like pigeons in Central Park. It is so nice seeing the fox population make a comeback, and the osprey, and egrets, but we have way to many deer. Please finally take some action.

Correspondence ID: 72 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,14,2014 13:09:09

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I recommend active steps to reduce the deer herd consistent with option C. I've been a seasonal resident of Fire Island for 45 years and am very concerned that the ecosystem is being damaged by overgrazing from deer. In addition, the deer have become very docile, and at times even approach people, presumably because they have been fed by people. This is not healthy for deer, people or vegetation and will not be readily corrected by fencing and / or contraception.

Correspondence ID: 73 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,14,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I do not support killing the deer. I do support contraception/sterilization for male and female deer. There are no costs that I saw associated with each of the 4 plans. If you round yup deer in one location do you plan to kill deer? What is the number you plan to kill to cull the herd? How often would you have to repeat killing to ensure control? We successfully did darting of female deer in the past and it worked. Isn't that a more humane management program?

Correspondence ID: 74 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,14,2014 16:15:13

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing in support of Alternative C of the Fire Island Deer Management Plan. I live in a forested section of Fire Island. Inevitably trees on my property have died over time, but for many years no seedlings have survived to replace the trees I have lost. A few years ago I set up a deer exclusion fence on a part of my land to see what effect it would have on tree growth. Inside the deer fence I have at least a dozen happy sassafras seedlings, among other native growth. Outside the fence only catbriar and grass survive. The over-abundance of deer on Fire Island is having a terrible impact on vegetation and something needs to be done. I believe that culling the herd is the most humane and effective way to address the problem. I am also fully supportive of euthanizing deer that have become habituated to humans. Every day I see deer that have no fear of me as I walk by, which is entirely unnatural. I look forward to a day when deer are once again majestic, but rare, animals and not the mangy, starving creatures they have become. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 75 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,14,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly support option C or D as a way to reduce and manage the deer population on Fire

Island.

Correspondence ID: 76 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,14,2014 19:48:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Having been a resident of Fire Island for 40 years and a homeowner for 28 years I have seen the foliage in our community in Point O'Woods change dramatically because of the deer. When I first came here there was abundant rose hips, blueberry, beach plum and bayberry and every spring we had daffodils. Now much of these plants have disappeared because of over grazing by the deer. Where once we enjoyed a occasional spotting of the deer we now have them confronting of us on our walks, on our decks, essentially every where. The deer are very unhealthy looking and there are too many of them and the vegetation has suffered. Fire Island cannot no longer sustain the existing population of deer. The deer and vegetation should be able to coexist but the deer population is out of control. Because the deer have no natural enemies on Fire Island the FI Sea Shore by not be able to manage the deer herd the situation to get out of control. This is not fair to the deer and to Fire Island. As an aside husband has had Lime Disease twice and our son has hand it once. I fully support the FI Sea shore Deer Management Program.

Correspondence ID: 77 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been a Fire Island resident for almost 40 years. When I first came to the island deer could only be found in the Sunken Forest, where they were rarely seen.

The deer population on Fire Island has gotten completely out of control. Everything possible should been done to remove them from the Fire Island communities where they are a major health hazard. They are also seriously damaging the vegetation on the Island. Fair Harbor has become a fenced community as people try to prevent the deer from devouring plants and gardens.

The damage that Lyme disease does to people cannot be under estimated, and the deer are a major disease vector.

I support the most aggressive possible action by the FINS (plan D) to reduce the number of deer, and restrict their habitat.

Correspondence ID: 78 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 05:56:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: To whom it may concern:

I have been a summer resident of Fair Harbor Fire Island for approximately 52 years. I own a home here, and usually live here at least 5 months a year (May through October.)

I mention this because the deer have had a considerable impact on my life.

I am in favor of reducing the deer population radically for the sake of the Island, for the Deer's sake, and for the sake of the people who live and work here. (both seasonally and year round).

The proposals offered seem inadequate. and too slow moving to be practical solutions. I respect the work and research of the team, but I suggest that the solution of neutering the Male deers, which was made at the recent Ocean Beach meeting should be written up and offered as a fifth choice for consideration.

The Ocean Beach Veterinarian said he would offer his services without charge, and the results would be instantaneous at very little expense. (the cost of rounding up deer and perhaps tranquilizing them for the neutering process, would be minimal.) I hope that this option can be considered without bruising the ego of the team who have put in substantial time and effort.

Correspondence ID: 79 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 06:20:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: September 15, 2014

National Park Service,

I urge you, as a resident of Fair Harbor, Fire Island, to not reduce the deer population in Fire Island by culling the herd and taking them to the Wilderness area and shooting them. The western end of Fire Island has been very successful in removing the tick problem from the deer and I know the deer population has been significantly reduced in the past by using birth control on the females. Culling the deer friendly to us is inhumane. They are only friendly to us because humans have encouraged them not to fear us. To then take those deer and shoot them is beyond inhumane.

Please use one of the options of reducing the deer population that does not include shooting them. The deer are not hurting anyone.

And what is that tracking device hanging off of the neck of a doe in Saltaire? Are you tracking her to kill her? And are we paying for this inhumane debacle?

There is a veterinarian in Ocean Beach willing to neuter the deer. Is this not a viable option?

I would appreciate your response and consideration.

Correspondence ID: 80 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support plan D as the humane and environmentally responsible approach. This is a year round issue with the problems of overpopulation most evident in the winter, when the least amount of people are present to witness it.

Correspondence ID: 81 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a Fire Island homeowner and summer resident I would like to support option C, culling the deer. Reducing the population will not only have a positive impact on vegetation, but also reduce the risk of Lyme tick and improve the health of the remaining animals.
Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 82 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I for one think plan B is the most effective in the long term. The birth control method will cause less stress to all humans as well as to animals: I do not believe that shooting the deer will be effective in the long run. scientific evidence shows that it increases reproduction efforts by the deer to refill the lost members. People need to be educated not to approach and not to feed, however they do it, the deer.

Correspondence ID: 83 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 07:29:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly feel that NO hunting should take place. It was tried years ago and was a disaster. It's dangerous for people who live out here.

What SHOULD be done is:

1. Have contraceptive feeding stations.
2. Neuter the bucks.

Correspondence ID: 84 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: NO hunting should take place. It's dangerous for people who live out here.

What SHOULD be done is to have have contraceptive feeding stations, and the bucks should be neutered.

Correspondence ID: 85 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Leave the deer alone. YES, reduce population, in situ, with birth control, and YES use the four poster anti-tick treatment (I had Lyme), but just leave them alone.

Correspondence ID: 86 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The deer population on Fire Island is out of control. It is a situation that is unhealthy for the deer, human residents and any other species sensitive to Lyme Tick and/ or overgrazing. There are three primary reasons to cull the deer population.

First, deer are a primary link in the Lyme Disease (deer tick) epidemic. It is now clear that these ticks have the potential to carry more than one disease that infect humans. In combination these diseases can have incurable effects. Thousand of dollars are spent every year curing Lyme Disease infections and/or protecting against it. Anything that can be done to mitigate this problem must be done.

Second, the Island cannot support the number of deer now grazing it. With a few exceptions, these deer are clearly underfed, and are generally unhealthy. It is likely that the overgrazing of the Island impacts the well being, health and survival of other species surviving in the same environment.

Third, these starving beasts are everywhere, eating whatever they can scavenge, colliding with bikes and other vehicles.

Deer are not an endangered species. On Fire Island they have no natural predators. Whomever has the authority/responsibility to do so should do the responsible thing, and cull the herd. Fencing them off will only exacerbate problems one and two above. If this overpopulation problem related to dogs, cats or any other species, it would have been dealt with long ago. Failure to address it until now is irrational and irresponsible. I am surprised there has not yet been legal action taken to correct the problem.

Correspondence ID: 87 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support alternative D

Correspondence ID: 88 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Recommend culling and fencing where appropriate the deer herd to save the native vegetation and reduce the ratio of deer per acre to a minimum which also protects people from tick-born diseases.

Correspondence ID: 89 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The deer population on Fire Island is out of control. This is bad for humans and for the deer.

We should cull the herd.

Most important, Deer are a primary link to Lyme Disease which is a major issue. This causes significant expense and hardship for many. We should do anything that we can to reduce this problem. Reducing the deer population has historically been shown to improve this.

Deer are not endangered and the overpopulation leads to unhealthy deer.

The current situation is bad for people and deer. We should reduce the population as soon as possible.

Correspondence ID: 90 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,15,2014 08:56:24

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly support deer control. Many plants are virtually gone from fire island, replaced with deer-resistant shrubs that are NOT native. Bad for bugs, birds, everything. No Understory and local delights like blueberries eaten down to the nub.

People feed them. Its a mess. Please act!!!

Correspondence ID: 91 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The deer population should be culled- option C.

Correspondence ID: 92 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Deer overpopulation is a serious concern and the consequences for the island's unique and fragile ecosystem as a whole are great. Reduced vegetation weakens the island's ability to withstand natural disasters. Reduced food supplies weakens the entire food chain as well.

As someone who is often there in April and May and sees many of the natural inhabitants before the bulk of the human residents arrive, it is clear that the island cannot support the existing deer population.

I support the proposed measure as it is in the best interests of the national seashore and the deer themselves.

Correspondence ID: 93 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly support the Preferred Option. The status quo is bad for the FINS environment, bad for the residential communities, bad for the health of the deer. Positive action is belly needed.

I am a coastal ecologist and retired university professor. I have had a residence on FI for more than 25 yrs, and I have watched the situation develop and worsen.

I am relieved that NPS is finally considering action, and the Mngmt. Plan is long overdue. The No Action option is unacceptable. The option to cull the population down to a density near natural carrying capacity makes scientific and practical sense. I emphasize that this is appropriate not only for communities and homeowners, but also for the natural habitat in the Sunken Forest and elsewhere.

Correspondence ID: 94 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Our family is in favor of alternative C to cull the deer population. Having lived in Germany where I hunted extensively, I saw such a plan in action that worked extremely well.

Correspondence ID: 95 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 11:47:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

It seems to me that a lot of thought has gone into these recommendations. While I understand the need for thinning the deer herds - - even the sharpshooters can be deemed necessary - - I cannot condone hunting by the citizenry. I would want to know exactly how the wilderness areas open to hunters would be isolated from the communities nearby. How can the possibility of accidents involving humans and/or pets possibly be avoided?

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 96 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

WE ARE TOTALLY OPPOSED TO SHOOTING OR KILLING THESE WHITE TAIL DEER - IT'S JUST WRONG WRONG WRONG!

WE NEED TO FIND EFFECTIVE WAYS TO STERILIZE THE HERD AND STOP THEIR REPRODUCTION IN A HUMANE WAY!

Correspondence ID: 97 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 13:28:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been a summer resident of Fire Island National Seashore since 1966. At that time. when white-tailed deer encountered humans, the tail flagged, as a danger signal to other deer. That was before the deer learned that humans were (a) not a danger and (b) often a source of food. Flagging no longer occurs. What had been a a unique example of Fire Island's natural surroundings has become a pest, sometimes a dangerous one. Worse, the feeling has grown in some quarters that if the deer are not being fed they are being mistreated, will starve, etc.

I applaud the Seashore's efforts to bring this problem under control.

I strongly support Alternative D.

Correspondence ID: 98 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The deer on Fire Island are a terrible problem. I vote "C", cull them.

Correspondence ID: 99 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Protect the Fire Island deer, not kill them. Enforce no-poison laws instead!

Correspondence ID: 100 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I prefer option C. The population is too large and needs to be reduced to prevent additional significant damage to native habitats and vegetation.

Correspondence ID: 101 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been a Fair Harbor, Fire Island, homeowner for over 50 years. I am concerned about too

many deer now, although the immune-contraceptive program has helped cut down the number. I am also pleased by the success of the anti-tick feeding program, which I hope will be continued as long as there are deer around.

On the other hand, deer are not indigenous to Fire Island, and I consider them pests since I like to garden and am very limited in what I can grow. They are also a nuisance by knocking over garbage cans and spreading the refuse.

Of your four options for the deer population, I would generally support removing the deer as much as possible from the built-up parts of Fire Island, particularly in the villages from Kismet to Ocean Bay Park. I would support moving them to uninhabited parts of the island and in re-instituting the female contraceptive program. I strongly oppose hunting and shooting, although I don't have a problem with euthanasia as a last resort.

Correspondence ID: 102 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Alternatives A or B - only.

Correspondence ID: 103 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 15:04:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Plan A and B seem the most humane to me and would assist in the control of the deer population which I think is one of the key goals of these proposed initiatives. I can not imagine sharpshooters and hunters stalking these small creatures and blowing their brains out. Doesn't make sense to me, especially when the same goals can be accomplished by other means. These deer and humans have co-existed for generations and so far the vegetation, deer, and humans have not appreciably seen wholesale changes in the island.

I understand that if there are more deer on the island than the ground can support, that all of them suffer. That's not right either, especially if we can do something about it. But killing them is not the answer. They and we will all die eventually and they have the right to not have their heads blown off by being baited into a trap of some kind.

Therefore, I support the relocation, fencing, and fertility control. Any other form of control is inhumane and will be met with great resistance from many homeowners in a lot of ways that will likely not be pretty.

Regards,

Correspondence ID: 104 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

The deer population on Fire Island is out of control. It is a situation that is unhealthy for the deer, human residents and any other species sensitive to Lyme Tick and/ or overgrazing. There are three primary reasons to cull the deer population.

First, deer are a primary link in the Lyme Disease (deer tick) epidemic. It is now clear that these ticks have the potential to carry more than one disease that infect humans. In combination these diseases can have incurable effects. Thousands of dollars are spent every year curing Lyme Disease infections and/or protecting against it. Anything that can be done to mitigate this problem must be done.

Second, the Island cannot support the number of deer now grazing it. With a few exceptions, these deer are clearly underfed, and are generally unhealthy. It is likely that the overgrazing of the Island impacts the well being, health and survival of other species surviving in the same environment.

Third, these starving beasts are everywhere, eating whatever they can scavenge, colliding with bikes and other vehicles.

Deer are not an endangered species. On Fire Island they have no natural predators. Whomever has the authority/responsibility to do so should do the responsible thing, and cull the herd. Fencing them off will only exacerbate problems one and two above. If this overpopulation problem related to dogs, cats or any other species, it would have been dealt with long ago. Failure to address it until now is irrational and irresponsible. I am surprised there has not yet been legal action taken to correct the problem.

Correspondence ID: 105 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please adobo either plan 1or 2. Do not approve the killing of deer as in plans 3 and 4

Correspondence ID: 106 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 20:33:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Alternative D seems like a reasonable program to control the deer population. Atlantique seems to have a lot of deer and any reduction would be welcome.
Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 107 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,15,2014 21:33:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Fair harbor, a community of many families with small children and walkers, is overrun by deer. As I read this little mention is made to the danger deer presents to humans. the passing of Lyme ticks is a serious ongoing situation. Deer are so tamed , that they walk along the walks, do not move for bikes, or often jump out in front of children on bikes who cannot steer away quickly.

visitors to the island, not understanding the danger they present, leave open garbage which encourage deer to tear through pails and strew litter. and visitors, engaged by the crop of new borns, encourage small children to hand feed them, bread, carrots and whatever is handy. not safe, not sanitary.

Although euthanasia is not an approach i would support easily, it calls to mind the many bird strikes at JFK and the proliferation of gulls and other birds. little success has been shown so far, to prevent these strikes except for the culling of the flocks. I believe the same is necessary for deer. Co inhabiting a small space does not make sense. the deer are not natural to fire island and, protecting the environment and the people seem to be the more sensible approach. Reduce the number of deer, alternative C. and keep them isolated. The charm of Fire Island will not be diminished with fewer deer; it will however be safer for all.

Correspondence ID: 108 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,16,2014 01:49:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support a controlled hunt during deer season in Fire Island National Seashore Wilderness Areas, as well as in the undeveloped areas near the Fire Island Lighthouse and west of Robert Moses State Park's westernmost parking lot from November through March. During this time it should be posted at all entrances to these areas that hunting is underway at that time.

I also think that, given that this opportunity is likely to generate a lot of interest, that specialized licenses to hunt on

Fire Island be sold at premium prices, and that the income go towards further deer control efforts.

Correspondence ID: 109 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,16,2014 02:00:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support reducing the deer population by any means. For the safety of the human population to prevent Lyme disease and to maintain the vegetation of the island.. Fire island deer have developed very sophisticated palates, deer resistant plants in other parts of the country are eaten on fire island. Without natural Predators the deer population has created too many animals which appear mangy and carry ticks ,, I don't clearly understand the humans who don't want the herd managed but are ok with the herd dieing from starvation during severe winters.. Thanks for working to try for a healthy solution for all.

Correspondence ID: 110 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,16,2014 07:55:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've been coming to Fire Island since I was six months old, over 40 years ago.

As children, my friends and I ran and played everywhere. On the beach, in the bay, in our own backyards, in neighbors' yards, in empty lots. We weren't causing trouble. We played games like hide and seek, capture the flag, games of adventure and intrigue, games of independence and freedom.

Now as a parent of two children, I unfortunately have a panic anytime my children stray from our deck or the walk, in fear of the ticks that lay in wait in the grass, or the tick-infested deer (with literally hairless patches with multiple ticks on their backs) that seem to be everywhere now, just watching us off the walk.

This year several deer didn't even move from the middle of the road if you tried to pass them by. Each garbage day, there is litter strewn down our street because the deer get into people's garbage cans and bags - - even neighbors who have a bungee cord wrapped tightly around their garbage cans. The deer go through the garbage, poking holes in the bags, and making quite a mess. They also eat people's plants, flowers and gardens.

I have seen some people fawning over the deer, treating them as wild pets, speaking to them lovingly off their decks, sometimes feeding them. Though of course our family has compassion for the deer - - the babies are so adorable, and all the deer are probably very sweet creatures - - I feel they are an unwelcome nuisance and we need to do something serious about them. The island has become much more populated with humans, and I think there must be other places the deer would be better off. So we are all for controlling the deer population, shipping them out...whatever it takes to see their numbers decrease dramatically or simply end. Whatever we've done up to this point is not enough. The number of babies this summer makes us think drastic measures are necessary.

Correspondence ID: 111 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,16,2014 08:28:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Cull only. Fences are unnatural and would confine and concentrate the remaining deer.

Correspondence ID: 112 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,16,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a Fire Island homeowner we have lived side-by-side with the deer for decades. We are in favor of immunocontraception to control the deer population. Any of the alternatives are inhumane. Thank you

Correspondence ID: 113 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,16,2014 11:19:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: continue to feed but with tick control at the feeding stations. we should continue to dart the deer to cut down on the birth rate.

Correspondence ID: 114 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,16,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am in agreement that Option D is the preferred combination of measures to improve the health and well being of both people and the deer themselves. I am one of a minority of people who come to the Island all year long and see the weaker deer unable to compete with the stronger ones for food, which leads to the ultimate Darwinian ending.

Correspondence ID: 115 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,16,2014 11:34:05

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I believe that plan "D" is the most advantageous plan of all. I am for any plan that reduces or completely eliminates the deer population on Fire Island. I would like the tick population to be reduced and the natural flora and fauna to return. This can only happen if the deer population is drastically reduced or eliminated.

Correspondence ID: 116 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,16,2014 11:46:25

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We are highly supportive of culling the deer population to less than 20 deer/square mile via sharpshooting annually and a continual contraceptive plan. We have a large incidence of lime disease in this community as well as our vegetation is disappearing due to devastation by the deer.

Correspondence ID: 117 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,16,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a part time homeowner resident of Fire Island I encounter deer on a daily basis. If you were to euthanize all the deer that come in contact with humans you would have to kill all of them that live in the communities that exist within the National Seashore. Ridiculous! Insanity! We must go back to the birth control that has worked so well in the past. That option is not offered . I would like to know why, Therefore I vote for Plan A.

Correspondence ID: 118 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,16,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

we had a birth control program for years which seemed to control the birth population. It was harmless to the environment, the deer and the human population

It seems to me this is the way to go

Thank you for considering the reinstatement of this program

Correspondence ID: 119 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,16,2014 19:47:48

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have witnessed herds of deer each day ransacking garbage and eating vegetation. Years past there was an occasional deer. There are no known predators to balance the amount of deer present. They are beautiful animals, but not in a populated area like Fire Island; they do not belong there. It is not good for the animals, nor the people.

Interview the the people who have and had Lyme disease. Not a pretty case; for the rest of their life!

We need to rid the Island of them for good and not "pussy foot" around the issue.

Thank you for your considerations.

Correspondence ID: 120 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,17,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: For deer management at Fire Island, in support of "Plan B" (fence Floyd estate, relocate deer approaching humans, fertility control of female deer.)

Correspondence ID: 121 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,17,2014 18:23:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My recommendation is that there be culling allowed in an effort to control the deer population on FI.

Correspondence ID: 122 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,18,2014 09:13:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Comment on the Fire Island National Seashore (FINS), White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
As a half-century summer resident of Fire Island, and a scientist, I am appalled that FINS would make a claims about the negative environmental impact of deer without offering a shred of supporting data-based evidence. The four alternative plans to reduce the Fire Island deer population implicitly assume that the deer population has been increasing and produce a negative effect on local plants. Appendix C describes efforts to monitor deer populations since 1995, but notes that goals have not been met due to "staffing, budgetary and time constraints.." So they provide NO data to support the basic "problem" which they propose to solve! In order to make an informed decision about the four proposed plans, FINS must provide evidence for the claimed negative environmental changes over this period, AND then show how much of the negative effect is caused by deer, as against the effects of hurricanes and human activity. FINS is asking us to choose among four alternative plans to remedy a problem that appears to be based on arbitrary opinion completely devoid of supporting evidence. This is simply unacceptable!
I might add, that the FINS proposal appears to be based on a set of implicit values that need to be made explicit. What are the implicit values that FINS places on deer, relative to human residents, and native plantings? And does FINS take account of the positive effects of deer on the fertilization of local flora?
There are few places in this world where one can watch deer at close range without the deer racing away to escape being shot. Let's keep it that way. When children, their parents and visitors spy a couple of deer cropping fresh grass in our neighborhood, they stop and gaze in sheer delight. That sight has made their day. So I suggest that the great pleasure that watching deer gives to so many, should be figured into the value system that FINS uses to weight the effort of destroy deer in order to support human and native plantings. And let us make sure any decision about reducing deer population is based on real data .

Correspondence ID: 123 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,18,2014 09:46:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We would like to see the implementation of alternative C as defined in the Deer Management proposal. The deer are destructive and need to be controlled for the protection of themselves and for the environment and natural habitat of fire island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 124 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,18,2014 09:50:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a long time resident of Fire Island and a staunch supporter of vegetation preservation, I support Plan D, the preferred plan advocated by the National Park Service (NPS). The combination of fencing and deer capture is very appropriate in these circumstances and will reduce deer density accordingly. I have personally witnessed the astronomic growth in the deer population over the years and the adverse implications on Fire Island vegetation. Additionally, I've had Lyme Tick disease three times and all my vegetation has been eaten by the deer. I strongly advocate Plan D of the White-Tailed Deer Management Plan submitted by the National Park Service (NPS) and hope to see this management plan implemented.

Correspondence ID: 125 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,18,2014 12:06:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I select Plan A which is to do nothing at this time

Correspondence ID: 126 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,18,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am in favor of Plan D and ideally a plan of only fertility control.

Correspondence ID: 127 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,19,2014 08:08:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Alternative C is the clearly the best choice. Fertility control has not proved to be a cost effective method to reduce wild deer populations, & although surgical sterilization is not mentioned in any alternative, it is even more expensive and not as effective as lethal methods. Contraception and sterilization do not reduce the impact of the individual deer undergoing these procedures and these animals will continue to live and impact the habitat for many (perhaps 10)years.

Recreational hunting will help reduce numbers, but to attain and maintain deer densities at a level where native vegetation will not be significantly impacted, the use of professional sharpshooters to cull the herd by use of bait, night shooting, suppressed rifles, etc. is very likely necessary.

Your goal of 20/sq.mi. sounds high to me, many of us in the field are now using the density of 8-10 per sq. mi. as a level where ecological damage will be at acceptable levels, this of course will vary dependent on habitat type, duration of overabundance, and other factors. Getting to 20 per is certainly a step in the right direction.

Good Luck,

Correspondence ID: 128 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,19,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the reproductive vaccine approach. Killing innocent deer is barbaric and insensitive. The vaccine is the lesser of two evils. Please rethink this matter!

Correspondence ID: 129 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,19,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Revised comment on the Fire Island National Seashore (FINS), White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
As a half-century summer resident of Fire Island, and a scientist, I am appalled that FINS would make claims about the negative environmental impact of deer without offering a shred of supporting data-based evidence. The four alternative plans to reduce the Fire Island deer population implicitly assume that the deer population has been increasing and produce a negative effect on local plants. Appendix C describes efforts to monitor deer populations since 1995, but notes that goals have not been met due to "staffing, budgetary and time constraints.." So they provide NO data to support the basic "problem" which they propose to solve! In order to make an informed decision about the four proposed plans, FINS must provide evidence for the claimed negative environmental changes over this period, AND then show how much of the negative effect is caused by deer, as against the effects of hurricanes and human activity. Note, that the FINS photo of bare sand next to grazing deer implies overgrazing by the deer. But the real cause of the erosion may have been water and wind. FINS is asking us to choose among four alternative plans to remedy a problem that appears to be based on arbitrary opinion completely devoid of supporting evidence. This is simply unacceptable!
I might add, that the FINS proposal appears to be based on a set of implicit values that need to be made explicit. What are the implicit values that FINS places on deer, relative to human residents, and native plantings? And does

FINS take account of the positive effects of deer scat on the fertilization and reseeded of local flora?
There are few places in this world where one can watch deer at close range without the deer racing away to escape being shot. Let's keep it that way. When children, their parents and visitors spy a couple of deer cropping fresh grass in our neighborhood, they stop and gaze in sheer delight. That sight has made their day. So I suggest that the great pleasure that watching deer gives to so many, should be figured into the value system that FINS uses to weight the effort of destroy deer in order to support human and native plantings. And let us make sure any decision about reducing deer population is based on real data .

Correspondence ID: 130 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,20,2014 04:26:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support Alternative D in the proposed Deer Management Plan. I have visited Fire Island every summer of my so-far 66 years. I own a house on the island and I believe I can offer a unique perspective of how crucial is it for FINS to manage the deer population as proposed in Alternative D. As a child, my father would take my sister, brother and me to Sunken Forest many Saturday mornings. The native plants were lush and gave the space a magical feeling that survived into my early adulthood. I repeated the tradition with my own children to make sure they experienced this special place.

But with the overpopulation of the deer herds there has been a stark reversal of fortune for the flora of that once magical place. We have an obligation to try to reverse the degradation this overpopulation has caused. As I read the enabling statute, FINS is responsible for preserving not just fauna but also floral. I believe At D is a reasoned and reasonable approach.

On another note, you know something is wrong when deer stand at your deck while you eat a sandwich, hoping to get a handout. This policy is not just the correct one for the flora but also the fauna and the humans!

Correspondence ID: 131 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,20,2014 06:03:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I concur with the National Park Alternative D for the White-tailed Deer Management Plan (most preferable to NPS) with the following comments:

1. The enhanced education/enforcement should include enhanced, but also work with local authorities to enhance reasonable consequences of non-compliance for infractions such as feeding or exposing garbage.
2. Though dismissed as an alternative, re-consider incentives for residents to remove vegetation favored by deer and replace with undesirable species.
3. Consideration of trans-locating deer from outside the area that are less tolerant of humans to attempt enhance the re-education of the herd.
4. Though it is unfortunate that deer must be euthanized, maximize non-chemical euthanasia so deer can be donated to food pantries.
5. Require the use of tracking dogs to ensure no wounded deer are lost.

Correspondence ID: 132 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,20,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I recommend option C, culling, to keep the Fire Island deer population modest. For too many years the deer population has been starving, which I regard as culling by neglect.

Correspondence ID: 133 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,20,2014 13:17:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I vote for Alternative A. I would agree to a way of completely humane fertility control to reduce the number and to maintain the herd at that level. Also the use of tick preventive spray/ roller stations has been very effective.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD THERE BE ANY SHARPSHOOTING, CAPTURE, EUTHANASIA

OR PUBLIC HUNTING. THESE METHODS ARE BOTH CRUEL AND DANGEROUS. THIS WAS TRIED YEARS AGO - -WINDOWS WERE SHOT OUT AND SOMEONE WAS NEARLY KILLED.

Correspondence ID: 134 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,21,2014 05:50:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hunting deer on Fire Island - someone has got to be kidding. In my mind an obvious solution (no chemicals, no toxins, no etc.) is to castrate male deer.

All, or a specific percentage, of the male deer population can readily be "put to sleep" and subsequently castrated. It sounds cruel, but it is the most humane way to deal with the situation.

Correspondence ID: 135 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,21,2014 10:31:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am a lifelong resident of Fire Island (April-November). I have experienced the growth of the deer population personally. 20 years ago, even seeing a deer was a rare occasion. The deer now carry disease, cause accidents as they get startled by people and jump into and onto public walkways, and eat all the low lying vegetation that serves to stabilize our precious island. They generally look mangy and sickly.

I have been following the progress of various ideas regarding control of the deer population and enthusiastically support the (FinalPlan/EIS) White-tailed Deer Management Plan.

Correspondence ID: 136 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,21,2014 10:37:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I heartily support the Final White-tailed Deer Management Plan /EIS. I'm a life long resident of Fire island (75 years) and this is necessary for the health of our citizens and the regrowth of the native vegetation including the Sunken Forest which has been decimated by the deer.

Correspondence ID: 137 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,21,2014 10:47:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I believe that it is in the best interest of the environment of Fire Island to manage the deer population. In an ideal world we could find a way to harvest the killed deer for its meat and create museum specimens and or mounted heads for local establishments. Thank you

Correspondence ID: 138 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,21,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Over the 40 years that I have come to Fire Island the relationship with the deer has become part of the charm. These deer are beautiful and unafraid of people (as they have had no reason to be). Over the years the amount of deer has been reduced by human intervention AND the tick problem has been successfully reduced. Why would you kill these beautiful, non-threatening animals that are part of the FINS? What are they doing to warrant this action? Who are they harming? Why interfere with nature?

This would be a very sad day for Fire Island if the culling of these herds come to pass.

Correspondence ID: 139 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,22,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Very Simply - Find something else to do besides hunting or killing deer. Maybe you should take your weapons and go across the pond and kill ISIS. Stop your nonsense NOW!!!!!! Hunting or Killing in such a pristine place is criminal.

Correspondence ID: 140 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,22,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Anything that stops deer interacting with people is what I favor. I am not opposed to exterminating deer in occupied areas.

Correspondence ID: 141 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,22,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Anything that stops deer interacting with people is what I favor. I am not opposed to exterminating deer in occupied areas.

Correspondence ID: 142 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,22,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support ALTERNATIVE A- no killing of the deer. How about birth control for the does or neutering of the bucks?

Correspondence ID: 143 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,22,2014 20:04:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It is imperative that the NPS consider ALL other options, including all the contraceptive possibilities listed in the proposal, BEFORE considering the mass murder of the deer. Prior contraceptive methods used in Western Fire Island were extremely successful, and even though the method must be repeated every three years, it MUST be attempted. It might even be possible to tranquilize and capture several of the bucks, and donate them to the National Wildlife Federation and to the Bronx Zoo. The Federation's website is:www.nwf.org. At the very least, cooler heads might give additional scientific alternatives to the NPS nearsighted proposal for deer management.

Correspondence ID: 144 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,23,2014 10:50:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

We are writing to support Plan D, the NPS preferred alternative which is the management of the deer population by culling and other means necessary. The deer have been destroying the natural environment of Fire Island. Our family has lived here for 80 years and have seen the changes made by the over population of the deer. Many of our natural vegetation are totally gone or on the verge of becoming extinct. In addition, because of the multitude of the deer on this small island there is not enough food for them hence they become sickly and weakened. Fire Island is a unique barrier beach and we want to have it saved for posterity.

Correspondence ID: 145 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,24,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am a 5 month resident of Fair Harbor, Fire Island. In regards to the White-tailed Deer Management Plans, I am in support of Alternative Plan B which will expand the fertility control program and the fencing and rotational fencing at the William Floyd Estate. I am against the plan that would call for sharpshooting,

capture and euthanasia. The fertility control program seemed to have worked in the past reducing population by close to 50%. hat is considered the acceptable population level of deer per square mile on Fire Island? Hopefully Plan B actions could bring the deer population down to such an acceptable level.

Thank you for your consideration.
Regards,

Correspondence ID: 146 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,25,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a homeowner on Fire Island for the last 29 years, I strongly oppose the culling of the deer population on Fire Island either through sharpshooting or euthanasia. These majestic creatures have every right to live on this island and the thought of slaughtering them is revolting.

I do understand the need to manage the deer population and would support contraception strongly. Surely this is a more humane approach.

Correspondence ID: 147 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,25,2014 13:39:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Hooray, Hooray, Hooray. The powers that be are finally trying to do something about the Deer Disaster on Fire Island! For years the Animal Crazies have blocked all attempts to deal realistically with this growing problem. We need help and your recommended Plan C would result in a major improvement in our lives. As I write this commentary, I am looking out my rear window where a young buck is sunning himself and chewing his cud. At night, or during stormy weather, the buck takes up residence UNDER my house. My wife is afraid to go back there. The buck is almost tame, but nobody wants to surprise a 150 pound wild animal! The recent Hurricane has provided a bonanza for the deer population. People have raised their houses per FEMA's direction and the spaces below these houses have proved ideal as Deer homes or hangouts.

The hurricane also showed us the benefit of vegetation in slowing or blocking the storm surge. The deer are relentlessly devouring this protection.

I have lived on Fire Island for over 40 years. When I first came here, the only deer were in the Sunken Forest- -at least reputed to be because nobody ever saw a deer there or elsewhere. Now we are over-run!

Personally I would favor a hunt of the entire herd, but I know that Animal Nuts will raise a big fuss. If you can get approval of the recommended Plan C, that would be a significant step in the right direction.

PS: As a Saltaire resident I am very familiar with the 4Poster experiment in our Village. Anecdotaly, it would seem to have reduced the tick and disease problem somewhat. But it is feeding a large and healthier herd. In other words less ticks, more deer!

Correspondence ID: 148 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,25,2014 20:48:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Yes vote in favor of a hunt open to the general public. Thanks.

Correspondence ID: 149 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 150 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Treat animals in a humane manner. We are all part of the same ecosystem.

Correspondence ID: 151 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please support this environmental management plan that protects deer.

Correspondence ID: 152 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful.

The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 153 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am on Fire Island several times every summer. The deer are beautiful and an integral part of the magnificent environment. PLEASE implement a fertility control study to help the NPS manage deer populations on Fire Island National Seashore. DO NOT kill these magnificent and peaceful animals!

Correspondence ID: 154 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Use non lethal reproductive limitation techniques on Fire Island deer.

I've learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 155 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 156 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a resident of Brooklyn, NY who visits Fire Island every summer and absolutely loves seeing the beautiful deer, I am writing to urge the National Park Service not to use lethal methods to control the deer population. I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. I was just in Fire Island about 2 weeks about, and saw a mother deer with her baby, it was such a privilege to observe. Please don't destroy them.

Correspondence ID: 157 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do the right thing - Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 158 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore.

The plan to kill semi-tame deer is both cruel and unnecessary, which makes it doubly cruel.

There is a proven humane way to do this.

For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population.

The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing the gentle deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I do not wish to demonize the National Park Service. I only hope that the National Park Service would make sure not to demonize itself.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 159 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: save the deer

Correspondence ID: 160 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 09:15:06

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful.

The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer.

Correspondence ID: 161 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: LEAVE THOSE DARLING DEERS ALONE. THEY NEVER HURT ANYONE. JUST BRING BEAUTY

TO THE ISLAND.

Correspondence ID: 162 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Respect all life.

Correspondence ID: 163 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like the HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 164 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. I strongly support the use of non-lethal fertility control methods, and oppose the use of anything that would harm the deer in any way.

Correspondence ID: 165 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island»

Correspondence ID: 166 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Let us act reasonably regarding all wild animals. If there is a way to avoid killing animals who live peacefully near human populations, then that should be the only way. I support the birth control methods to

reduce deer populations. I do not support slaughter of animals who have a right to their lives.

Correspondence ID: 167 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: PLEASE - I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

THE DEER ON FIRE ISLAND HAVE NO REASONABLE FEAR OF HUMANS - OBVIOUSLY UNFORTUNATELY - AND WITH THE FERTILITY CONTROL PROGRAM THERE IS NO NEED TO KILL THEM TO REDUCE THEIR NUMBERS. FOR ONCE IN THE NPS's LIFE - STOP TAKING THE EASY AND CRUEL WAY OUT.

Correspondence ID: 168 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Animals are a gift from God to us. save them all

Correspondence ID: 169 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I think it is time that humans start acting responsibly toward the wildlife around us. Trap neuter release programs have proven to be effective, and this program will be the humane way to manage the deer population.

Correspondence ID: 170 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 171 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the idea of giving birth control to the deer in the park.

Correspondence ID: 172 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Don't do what the Brain Trusts did in Prospect Park with the Canada Geese

Don't Kill the DEER!

Correspondence ID: 173 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: These deer are so tame that they are often less than 5' from us. Unless there are humanitarian reasons for shooting them, these seems ridiculously cruel to betray their trust and shoot them.

Correspondence ID: 174 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 175 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Hello -

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore.

For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful.

The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Please let the deer continue to co-exist - as a visitor myself to the island, they are a joy to see.

Thank you so much!

Correspondence ID: 176 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am against this injustice killing toward these domicile animals.

Correspondence ID: 177 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 178 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 179 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 180 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 181 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Please consider this humane option.

Correspondence ID: 182 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 183 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:31:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I don't agree with the plan to kill hundreds of deer on Fire Island. It seems to me that there must be a better way to control the population!

Correspondence ID: 184 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 185 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: i love animals, please save them,,, they are sweet and innocent creatures,

Correspondence ID: 186 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:32:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please use only non-lethal methods to control the deer population on Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 187 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:34:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please choose the decent and humane way to deal with deer.

Correspondence ID: 188 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:34:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Killing semi-tame deer is not a solution. Use our tax dollars to continue to implement birth-control to manage these animals who are an integral part of the island.

Correspondence ID: 189 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: '

Correspondence ID: 190 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:35:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please change deer population control policy for Fire Island to anti-fertility strategies. Hunting deer in that location is both inhumane and dangerous to the human inhabitants of the island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 191 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

If not, then the NPS is a cruel and evil organization that needs to be stopped and an investigation should be done as to WHY their harming innocent deer by no longer using the humane method the HSUS assisted them with!

Please help STOP this cruel killing!

Correspondence ID: 192 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island.

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 193 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Ms/Sir:

It has come to my attention that the National Park Service recently released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore.

You surely are aware that, for more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The program has proven successful and is widely supported.

It is clear that the NPS should continue to work with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I thank you for your time.

Correspondence ID: 194 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 195 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Good morning,

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer

population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I look forward to reading about a change in your strategy to manage the deer population in Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 196 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you

Correspondence ID: 197 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 198 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:38:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: A healthy deer population on Fire Island is important, and managed size is very important toward that goal. However, permitting hunting of a largely domesticated population is simply cruel and it excises the "sport" out of hunting. A better method is to use managed birth control which has improved in efficacy over time and has proven quite successful. As a native South Shore Long Islander who continues to spend summers on Fire Island, I think it is important for the Parks Department to stay strongly committed to their mandate to protect the flora and fauna, from over-development, human encroachment on habitat, and the impacts of humans having killed off all native predators. Protecting the fauna must be done in a humane way that puts the animals first, not the people. There's no lack of short-sighted human needs being put ahead of the environment on the Great South Bay.

Correspondence ID: 199 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful.

The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Why would you resort to impermanent and inhumane methods when far better and more humane alternatives are

available?

Correspondence ID: 200 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Fire Island is a beautiful natural resource that needs to be protected

Correspondence ID: 201 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: DONT KILL THE DEER

Correspondence ID: 202 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Why would you rather cull the population, rather than control it? This is really no-brainer...

Correspondence ID: 203 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island instead of killing them.

Correspondence ID: 204 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. PLEASE DO NOT KILL THE DEER!!!

Correspondence ID: 205 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 206 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:42:20

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Seems like a more humane and reasonable alternative to killing them.

Correspondence ID: 207 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 208 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 209 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 09:43:54

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Treat the deer humanely.

Correspondence ID: 210 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Not sure why people need to resort to inhumane ways of killing defenseless animals. It certainly speaks volumes of the type of people you are; which obviously is a level in which you should not be proud of in any way, shape or form.

Correspondence ID: 211 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: start off your letter:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 212 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:44:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use humane plans to control the animal population.

Correspondence ID: 213 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island

Correspondence ID: 214 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Rather than eliminating this management plan, it should be implemented in other parts of the state!

Correspondence ID: 215 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Protect our wildlife!

Correspondence ID: 216 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 217 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To Whom It May Concern:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, the Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing any deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I appreciate your consideration of such options in advance. I truly hope non-lethal methods will be chosen.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 218 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 219 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 220 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 221 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 09:46:03

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: please expand birth control for the deer population instead of killing them

Correspondence ID: 222 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 09:46:04

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Time to be a KINDER World and stop the horrid killing of so many peaceful beautiful animals that deserve to live as you or I do. Feeling & Intelligent and emotional as well...all animals posses what we do ...except the ability to defend themselves.

Correspondence ID: 223 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 09:46:15

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not commit this act of senseless killing of the defenseless deer.

Correspondence ID: 224 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 09:46:22

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Why do we have to kill everything???? Let's use fertility control and keep the numbers down so that we can all live in this world. Thanks.

Correspondence ID: 225 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: all life is sacred respect and protect it

Correspondence ID: 226 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: agree with the idea here

Correspondence ID: 227 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect all wildlife in your care. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 228 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 229 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:48:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use humane and non lethal means to control population of the deer.

Correspondence ID: 230 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 231 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:48:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I just learned of a planned lethal "control" of the deer population on Fire Island. These deer are semi tame animals that are beautiful and harmless creatures and have co-existed for many years with the residents on Fire Island. There are effective, non-lethal methods for controlling the deer population that I am imploring you to use instead of senseless killing of these animals.
Please show your humanity and concern for other living beings and do not kill these animals. When a non-lethal means is available why would the choice be to condone senseless killing?
We are supposed to be a civilized country. This is not being civilized to promote needless death of beautiful and peaceful creatures. Please rethink this and do not proceed with this horrible plan!
I would like to add that it will give Fire Island a terrible reputation and that I personally will never visit the Island again if this happens. Do you really want Fire Island to be known as the deer killing place in New York?

Correspondence ID: 232 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental

Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Enough is enough, we have done enough killing and if it is being managed humanly already then please leave the deer be. Everyone's poor solution is to just kill & be rid of. Enough is enough already... Come on.

Correspondence ID: 233 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 234 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 235 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 09:48:58

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please implement a successful fertility control study to help the NPS manage deer populations on Fire Island National Seashore.

Don't kill them and make them suffer, they can't tell us how they hurt.

Correspondence ID: 236 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a Long Island, NY resident and advocate of animal rights and environmentally-sound policy, I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for the deer population issue on Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 237 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

As a Wildlife rehabilitator for 20 years, my family and I were very disturbed over this killing. We were planning on going to our local papers regarding this unless more humane treatment is considered such as a fertility control methods which we are very familiar with.

Correspondence ID: 238 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 239 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:49:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Do not kill the deer on Fire Island that have co-existed with the human population for years.

Correspondence ID: 240 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:49:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Instead of having deer slaughtered every year, lets be proactive and lets put fertility control in place!

Correspondence ID: 241 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:50:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support fertility control for deer, not killing.

Correspondence ID: 242 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:50:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: there has to be a solution that doesn't involve killing innocent animals

Correspondence ID: 243 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I think that killing the deer is an abominable practice. We keep taking away their land. They were here first!

Correspondence ID: 244 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear NPS,
I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island.
I do NOT support killing deer.
Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 245 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 09:51:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Deer management for Fire Island is important for the health of the deer; however, killing hundreds of semi-tame animals is inappropriate given the existence of fertility management procedures.

Implement a program that controls the deer population, but, please, use a non-lethal approach.

Correspondence ID: 246 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 247 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Humans need to act more responsibly for the care of our world. Selfish interest in our own needs only is inexcusable.

Correspondence ID: 248 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 249 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Let's move towards a more humane way of handling wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 250 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We must find humane ways of dealing with the animal problems that we have caused by over population.

Correspondence ID: 251 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: STOP THE CRUELTY! STOP THE ABUSE! PLEASE HELP!

Correspondence ID: 252 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Stop the killing!

Correspondence ID: 253 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 254 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 255 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 256 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Deer must live in freedom and happiness.

Correspondence ID: 257 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:53:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: LEAVE the damned deer alone, concentrate on fertility control AND the FOUR POSTER anti-tick program.

Correspondence ID: 258 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:54:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please don't make Like God we as humans have no right to kill other animals just because we can't handle them living around us if you don't like move to the desert. How absurd some people are.

D. Cont

Correspondence ID: 259 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:54:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Sir or Madam,

I am very disappointed to hear you want to kill off Deer. After all, what are parks if not a collection of animals and flora.

Killing is never a solution. Violence is morally unacceptable, especially given the wide range of non-lethal options.

Below I enclose a link to a tolerant, moral, kind, compassionate town in Japan. You all can be that way too.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSxzTNcVezU>

I certainly won't donate if you decide to slaughter deer for the sake of convenience, or for the sake of a privileged few.

Correspondence ID: 260 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 261 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Regards.

Correspondence ID: 262 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 263 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I vacation on Fire Island every year with my family and I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I will reconsider next summers family vacation if this inhumane plan goes through.

Correspondence ID: 264 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:55:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Why kill them when you can use non-lethal fertility control methods on the deer on Fire Island? I strongly support life especially when the deer have coexisted with the Residents for many, many years and what is needed is to keep their population from growing.

Correspondence ID: 265 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:55:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support this campaign because I'm against i humane treatment against animals. I understand the population of deer needs control but do it the right way. We have already damaged their habitat there is no reason to keep on hurting them.

Correspondence ID: 266 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: This is a no-brainer!

Correspondence ID: 267 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 268 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:56:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use fertility control for the deer - not a cull! We as a society should seek to treat our fellow creatures humanely.

Correspondence ID: 269 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have vacationed on Cherry Grove, Fire Island. First went to FI, 1968....The deer are harmless. They add a certain beauty, to the natural landscape of the Island. The deer have been there for centuries. Leave them be.

Correspondence ID: 270 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 271 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 09:56:36

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to say that as an individual who cares for animals that I am very disappointed to learn of your plan to destroy white tailed deer. Don't you think that in our many years of sharing this planet with all other forms of life that we have destroyed and taken enough from this planet. Where is it our right to destroy anything. Just because we have the ability to take lives doesn't mean that we should or that we have the right to do it. We are suppose to be a civil humane society yet some of us tend to act like barbarians or better yet think we are god. I for one do not want to see any animals destroyed especially because they don't quite fit into our grand scheme of things. If population of any species becomes an issue why can't they be relocated, why can't some form of population control be initiated that doesn't consist of destroying life. We can walk on the moon and we can't control mating in animals. I am ashamed to call myself human at times. I think the animals are less like animals then most humans.

Correspondence ID: 272 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 273 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island. There is no way that these deer should face harm just because they are doing what nature intended them to do in order to survive: procreate. After all, we have historically encroached upon their territory, not the other way around.

Correspondence ID: 274 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 09:57:42

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please stop the killing of gods creatures. These deer are NOT harmful or dangerous to ANYONE, they are well tamed and mannered. They live WITH US, FOR US!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Stop the endless killing of our animals (gods animals)

Correspondence ID: 275 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Deer should be left alone. They are peaceful and gentle.

Correspondence ID: 276 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 09:57:51

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We have an obligation to cause the least harm to other animals with whom we share the planet. We are responsible for destroying much of the habitat, as well as most of the natural predators, of the deer, thereby creating the overpopulation problem which is now inconveniencing us and putting them in jeopardy from our automobiles, as well as potential starvation. Given the untenable situation for these animals that we have created, it is appropriate that we take steps to curb their population growth. However, these steps should be nonviolent and cause the least possible further harm or disruption to them. Thus, I strongly favor nonlethal means for reducing fertility. Further, I am adamantly opposed to any lethal means, especially those involving hunts that

turn the process into a pleasurable sporting event.

Correspondence ID: 277 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: PLEASE FOLLOW A HUMANE TREATMENT PROGRAM WHICH HAS PROVEN TO WORK. DOING OTHERWISE IS CRUEL. THESE DEER ARE INNOCENT AND IT IS OUR ROLE TO PROTECT THEM. IF THEY ARE OVERPOPULATED SOME WILL STARVE.
THANK YOU.

Correspondence ID: 278 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 279 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:58:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Kindly stop the slaughter of these beautiful animals....life is hard enough for animals in what is left of our wild.

Correspondence ID: 280 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:58:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear to the human whom this concerns,

Please have a heart. Please think about deer as you would about a human baby. Animals are helpless, you know that, if not you then who will protect the few good, natural beings on the planet. Please support non lethal fertility control methods to save the deer of Fire Island. And smile twice today!

Thanks for your time,

Correspondence ID: 281 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I've been to Fire Island many times and the deer are no problem to anyone They should be left alone and to prevent overpopulation use the non lethal method above.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 282 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please know that I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island. Killing these almost tame animals is an unforgivable crime against nature.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 283 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Why would you not continue to use these human methods?

Correspondence ID: 284 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:59:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Don't kill any wildlife or damage the environment - we are here to share the world with animals not kill them.

Correspondence ID: 285 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 286 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:59:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please use non-lethal fertility control methods to curb the deer population of Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 287 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 09:59:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The deer of Fire Island add to the general ambiance and the overall charm of this beautiful island community. I myself was raised in New Hampshire prior to moving to NYC and am not against hunting and as a young man took down a buck or two myself, however, given these conditions it's absurd to think one could hunt and I ask, why not have these gorgeous creatures walk freely? If we can regulate their population by means of birth control it seems to me, given the setting, to be the perfect answer. What child has not grabbed his mother's arm in awe upon seeing a beautiful deer gently grazing on a field.

Correspondence ID: 288 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: be kind

Correspondence ID: 289 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:00:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: These deer should not be killed for the benefit of humans, who have gradually taken over their living space.

Correspondence ID: 290 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: .

Correspondence ID: 291 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 292 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: There are fewer Deer every year, this must stop. i see many Deer killed on the road as they are running from hunters. This is a terrible way to die.

Correspondence ID: 293 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:01:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: yes. please use non lethal methods of birth control for these gorgeous creatures. humane methods are the way to go.
thank you

Correspondence ID: 294 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:01:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Murder of hundreds of peaceful citizens, humans, animals (deer) etc whether its in New York or any other state or country is always a very very sad thing and not necessary

Correspondence ID: 295 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:01:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Greetings-

The Deer on Fire Island are not a new addition to beautiful Fire Island. My guess is that they were there long before we two leggeds decided that it was Our Island!

We as Human Beings must finally grasp the concept of non violence- just because WE cannot seem to learn how to coexist with the other species in our backyards does NOT mean that we have the right to kill them as a solution.

I support the non lethal form of control in the ises of birth control . This method not only saves lives, it prevents a population explosion. When snimals are minitored in this way, there is a lower incidence of health issues aming the species being given the birth control substance.

Please support this movement, STOP THD ORDER TO KILL OUR FIRE ISLAND DEER.

Keep Yourself Well & Present in Love, Light, & Gratitude...

Correspondence ID: 296 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:01:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Use non-lethal methods to deal with deer population - it's cheaper, more effective and humane.

Correspondence ID: 297 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. When I visited last, seeing the deer was the high point of the trip. Killing a deer that has learned to trust humans seems more like you are killing cherished pets.

There are alternate means. Don't make this more political than it needs to be. Listen to your conscience every once in a while, it's there for a reason.

Correspondence ID: 298 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Do the right thing

Correspondence ID: 299 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:02:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have encountered deer more than once during my time in Fire Island. They are not only shy, but also completely harmless. Rather, they are a beautiful reminder of why we go to Fire Island in the summer- - to be close to nature. Please reevaluate your measures to contain their numbers as killing is not justified.

Correspondence ID: 300 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 301 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am asking that you would please he's non meatballs methods of fertility control on the deer

that reside on Fire Island. there are many effective ways to do this. Thank You Very Much!!!

Correspondence ID: 302 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 303 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:03:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Why does the National Park Service, like the BLM and all the other government agencies that have anything to do with wildlife, only think if KILLING?

That is only a temporary solution anyway, because when a vacuum exists, a population will increase to fill it.

Use your brains. There are nonlethal ways to manage the deer on Fire Island. The Park Service's salaries are paid for by us taxpayers, and we expect better of you.

Correspondence ID: 304 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Correspondence ID: 305 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:04:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: White tail deer management on Fire Island

As people who frequently vacation on Fire Island, we have supported the contraceptive program & are highly critical of the proposal to hunt the now nearly tame deer there. Please abandon this & continue the contraceptive program.

Correspondence ID: 306 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 307 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:04:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please don't kill deer on Fire Island - extend the fertility control program instead.

Correspondence ID: 308 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Please, please, please save the deer. There is no need to kill them, just control the population humanely.

Correspondence ID: 309 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:04:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am a scientist , and I am against culling deer. I agree that a fertility management system is the more humane choice.

Correspondence ID: 310 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please explore alternatives to killing these deer, who are beloved by the people who live and visit Fire Island. There must be some other way for you to control the population.

These deer are like pets to some people. They have just as much a right to live there as any other being. If they truly are bothering people, then maybe the people should leave.

You are smart people. Find another way. You have no right to kill these deer.

Correspondence ID: 311 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. FYI I am a renter at Fire Island Pines and fell especially close to these creatures.

Correspondence ID: 312 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: please use effective, non-lethal means of managing deer population on Fire Island (and in other locations)

Correspondence ID: 313 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: SHAME ON YOU. Find another alternative.

Correspondence ID: 314 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

How typical of the human race to want to revert to inhumane methods of control. Of course, it will be so much easier now that these innocent creatures are semi-tame. That will make the slaughter all the more easy!

Now that we are in the 21st century, one had hoped that we had moved on from treating animals as disposable commodities but it seems as if nothing has changed. Why can't the human race learn to live side by side with the animal kingdom, respecting their right to have a carefree life and treating them with respect and humanity.? It has worked in the past so why not continue to act humanely?

Do not let your blood-lust overtake human decency. If people were to be treated like this there would be an absolute public outcry with clever lawyers twittering on about 'human rights' What about the rights of these poor, innocent and defenceless animals?. They bring a lot of pleasure to many people and as such deserve better treatment.

Correspondence ID: 315 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 316 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a strong supporter in non lethal and humane methods which can and should be used. Im strongly against killing these animals that have co existed here all this time.... Please don't kill these animal's, it's not right...

Correspondence ID: 317 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Fire Island National Seashore Draft White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Correspondence ID: 318 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: PLEASE use non-lethal birth control to control deer populations in Long Island, and the rest of New York State, for that matter. Thank you!

Correspondence ID: 319 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished

part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. As a regular visitor to Robert Moses State Park and Fire Island, it breaks my heart to think the NPS would want to kill these magnificent animals. Please reconsider your strategy to control these beautiful creatures.

Correspondence ID: 320 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I agree!

Correspondence ID: 321 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: This is not the way. Please consider implementing a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Thank you for your time.

Correspondence ID: 322 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The deer should not be killed since there is a way to control the population. I strongly support his measure.

Correspondence ID: 323 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: There is a more humane way to control the deer population instead of killing - please use birth control rather than bullets. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 324 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Tot the National Park Service-

I have heard that you are planning on supporting a program on Fire Island that would involve killing the rather tame deer there that have no idea of self protection against human hunters.

Not only is this cruel to the deer, it shows no sport for the hunters involved. For what is the skill involved with shooting an animal that does not even know it should run away from the hunter?

Please end support in this avenue and use non-lethal fertility control methods to control the deer population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Correspondence ID: 325 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 326 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Save the deer. I own large areas of land and will not let people hunt there.

Correspondence ID: 327 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please choose non-killing means such as fertility control to control deer populations on Fire Island. Killing is not always the best solution, especially when humane methods are available.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 328 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: There has been a disregard for wildlife in our country. Animals in the wild are a big part of our heritage. Its become time to preserve the wild life before we become a totally indifferent society.

Correspondence ID: 329 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 330 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: There are humane ways to achieve a reduced population. Why must you use cruelty? Is it necessary when there is an alternative?
Be humane. These animals are innocent. they don't deserve to be killed. Use fertility methods.

Correspondence ID: 331 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Killing wildlife is never the way to deal with the population. Not only is it cruel it sends out a bad message to the public. Every living thing deserves a place to live on this planet and needs to be respected. It's wrong on so many levels to approach it this way.

Correspondence ID: 332 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To Whom it May Concern:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I live locally to this park and while we are all aware of the over-population of deer in the area, we also know that they are tame and friendly. A humane solution is the answer even if it costs more money. I am also a active donor to the National Parks Conservation Association and I would hate for these two organizations to start having opposing agendas. I feel very strongly about this and will pass the information to as many people as possible.

Please continue your good work with the Humane Society. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 333 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 334 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The comments I have, you wouldn't like

Correspondence ID: 335 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: From an e-mail from The Humane Society of the US, I learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 336 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It is not fair to kill deer just because they are thriving. Other methods should be used to control their population size.

Correspondence ID: 337 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 338 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:11:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 339 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Help

Correspondence ID: 340 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Save these beautiful animals

Correspondence ID: 341 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:11:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 342 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: When there is an overpopulation problem the easy solution is to kill. But it is the wrong solution. There is no reason not to be humane. The deer have inhabited all areas of Long Island before humans settled here. Please protect them and find other solutions. In our community we are solving th problem through spaying and have been considering birth control methods. Please respect their right to exist.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 343 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

The current plan is just lunacy. There are alternatives to think about than just going for the inhumane kill.

Correspondence ID: 344 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:13:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental

Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 345 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Great Plan

Correspondence ID: 346 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please manage deer populations with fertility control instead of gun hunting. Sport with bow, if persons use venison perhaps .

Correspondence ID: 347 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please consider humane population control methods rather than killing animals.

Correspondence ID: 348 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:13:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 349 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:14:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 350 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use non-lethal methods of deer control.

Correspondence ID: 351 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Kindly allow the deer population to taper down through contraception rather than slaughtering them.

Correspondence ID: 352 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am against lethal methods to control deer population. I feelyou should find more humane (birth control) methods.

Correspondence ID: 353 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Deer are beautiful animals. It's bad enough so many of them are brutally hunted for venison or mowed down by aggressive drivers. Let them live.

Correspondence ID: 354 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:17:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island

Correspondence ID: 355 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island...
Please do the right thing .. Work with the fertility and stop the killings ..
The whole world now a days is a mess, it's so easy for many to just kill - clean the problem with killings- really How wrong and disgusting are these thoughts .no innocents should die at the hands of others..these deers deserve to live they were here before us .
Now there is a way to help them and it's being ignored so the human can kill..
Do the right thing.. Appreciate the beauty of life, don't kill it .

Correspondence ID: 356 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: please do not kill them prevent future over population.

Correspondence ID: 357 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Deer have every right to live just as humans do. It's inhumane to kill these innocent creatures. We keep taking over the land, where else are they going to go?

Correspondence ID: 358 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather

than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Having spent many glorious summers in Fire Island, I am pleading with you to please leave the deer alone. They lend grace and beauty to the Island.

The fertility control study is a humane method to control deer population. Why stop a program that is working??

Be humane! Let them be and work with the HSUS.

Thank you from me and the innocent deer.

Correspondence ID: 359 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use non-lethal fertility methods to prevent the over population of deers in Fire Island! They are an important part of the Fire Island community and should be treated with respect!!!!

Correspondence ID: 360 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I own a home and live in Cherry Grove. We love the deer. I am completely against barbaric slaughter of these semi-tame animals who peacefully coexist with US the residents of Fire Island. My neighbors and I have nightly visits from the deer, we can hand feed, pet and remove ticks from them.

Please expand your effort of deer management instead of allowing and encouraging heartless hunting and killing of these beautiful creatures.

Correspondence ID: 361 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. I am part of a tremendous community of New York State voters who are hugely disappointed to learn of the NPS plan, it shows poor science, and a dereliction of duty as stewards of the environment. I hope you consider the content of the comments you receive closely. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 362 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please seek alternatives for controlling the deer population. Killing should never be an option.

Correspondence ID: 363 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please look for a way to let people and deer coexist peacefully

Correspondence ID: 364 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods

to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

For many years I lived alongside a park that was deemed to be overpopulated by deer. Bow hunting was allowed during a preset length of time. Inevitably, deer would be wounded, then run away. After bowhunting came shooting. This barbaric practice defines Irondequoit, New York. Shame on them for always disregarding the suggestion of fertility control. I applaud efforts to control populations of beautiful, gentle creatures who deserve to live on their land which humans invaded.

Correspondence ID: 365 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:21:19

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 366 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please help! Thank you!

Correspondence ID: 367 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:21:29

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 368 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: If there are other non-lethal ways of controlling the deer population, why not utilize them? Humans need to learn to use less heinous ways of cohabitating with innocent wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 369 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please don't kill dear!! Rather go for sterilisation program's!! Thank you!!

Correspondence ID: 370 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:24:50

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 371 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: please stop this barbaric practice. it reflects very poorly on the nps. i have spent time on fire island and have seen these sweet peaceable animals who brought enjoyment to my visit .in these advanced times herds should be decreased by scientific means .

Correspondence ID: 372 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:25:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: PLEASE DON'T KILL THE DEER!!!

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

PLEASE DON'T KILL THE DEER!!!

Correspondence ID: 373 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:25:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 374 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:26:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Sir or Madam,

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 375 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please consider all options for protecting wildlife and sea life before making any decisions impacting same.
Thank you

Correspondence ID: 376 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:27:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 377 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: There's no need to start killing the deer who are there on the island peacefully. That's just a wicked thing to do.

Correspondence ID: 378 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:28:28

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 379 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:28:31

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 380 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:29:37

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Please save the deer!!!!

Correspondence ID: 381 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: What is happening to the world and this country? If you have the opportunity to control the population of innocent creatures in a humane way, why the hell would you consider any other solution. What is wrong with you? Is it about money? Is greed your driving force? Well all I have to say about this is you may not get justice in this world but you will in the next. Interpret that as you want.

Correspondence ID: 382 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I approve of NON-LETHAL methods of birth control for white tail population, and a more

considered approach to dealing with wild life in general. Maybe we need to take a good look at human sprawl and encroachment in to wild habitat.

Correspondence ID: 383 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It is inconceivable that you would use lethal means to control the deer population on Fire Island, especially since other means have been used successfully.

In this day and age we should be mindful of all creatures on this earth - this is our duty!

Correspondence ID: 384 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:32:32

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 385 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:32:41

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 386 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

PLEASE, PLEASE BE HUMANE

Correspondence ID: 387 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:33:30

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer. With time, the population will shrink to appropriate levels.

Correspondence ID: 388 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:33:32

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 389 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:33:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 390 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Do the right thing

Correspondence ID: 391 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:34:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 392 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:34:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island. Just makes sense !

Correspondence ID: 393 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Lets not kill something that does not need to be slaughtered. Birth control!!!

Correspondence ID: 394 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I adore Deer and feed them during the winter.

Correspondence ID: 395 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:36:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 396 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:36:27

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 397 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:37:16

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 398 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: There are alternatives to killing which should be fully explored first.

Correspondence ID: 399 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not kill deer on Fire Island. This is not the optimal or humane method of control. The idea is extremely, emotionally upsetting. This method was not supported in the Hamptons and will not be supported in FI. We are smarter than this. Don't just pull out a gun or worse have coward sharp shooters come in for the kill...like fish in a barrel.

Correspondence ID: 400 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please use non-lethal force in the management of these fine "indigenous/native" animals, whom have inalienable rights to this land.

Correspondence ID: 401 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am completely against the killing of hundreds of semi-tame animals who have peacefully coexisted with residents for decades.
and I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island

Correspondence ID: 402 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:39:49

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 403 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Why kill animals if non-lethal means are available to curb populations?

Correspondence ID: 404 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please

Correspondence ID: 405 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Lets help the animals and the environment.

Correspondence ID: 406 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It seems that greedy developers infringe more and more on animal territories, then open hunting season to alleviate the problem. How about a humane solution for a change?

Correspondence ID: 407 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:43:19

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 408 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: DONT KILL THE DEER!!!

Correspondence ID: 409 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have often visited Fire Island and have seen the sad state of so many, many deer scrounging for food. Please pass this initiative to help control the population in an humane way.

Correspondence ID: 410 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:44:16

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 411 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: There is no reason to bate and kill these poor animals, They have done nothing wrong, We humans are the ones that over develop every morsel of free land, leaving these beautiful animals created by God homeless.

Correspondence ID: 412 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:44:20

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 413 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Having personally experienced and enjoyed seeing these deer every summer, I cannot even imagine you would consider killing one of them, let alone dozens or hundreds. There is a better solution- -please use it! Last summer while visiting Fire Island, a friend and I rescued a baby deer that was trapped on the other side of a fence from its mother. While we were trying to do so, several tourists and residents stopped, concerned, to help as well. This should tell you how much we all value and respect the deer!

Correspondence ID: 414 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:44:40

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 415 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I think fertility control in deer is a wise idea!

Correspondence ID: 416 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:45:19

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank You,

Correspondence ID: 417 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:46:05

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental

Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 418 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:46:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.
Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 419 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:47:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 420 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: PLEASE, CAN'T WE BE "HUMANE" AS A COUNTRY AND A SPECIES??? We CANNOT continue to use guns, its just UNSAFE and UNNECESSARY. PLEASE??

Correspondence ID: 421 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:48:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 422 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:48:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 423 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

It has recently occurred to me that only humans try to control non-human species. If this population of animals were humans, we would never think of killing them en masse. Why do we not afford the same respect for other animal populations, who by comparison, are not largely over-populating the world and destroying it at the same time? In order to live on a balanced, healthy planet, we must make sure that every species is not only present, but NOT present at too great a number. That is what the breeding program will do. If it were humans instead of deer, would we even think for a second killing them was morally alright?

Correspondence ID: 424 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:48:43

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 425 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: PLEASE consider the humane way of controlling the deer population, and not teach our future generations that the way to solve a problem such as this through murder.

Correspondence ID: 426 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 10:50:32

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 427 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I have no doubt that killing these deer will be detrimental to the tourism industry on Fire Island. Few people get to experience the closeness of being near tame deer. It is such a wonderful experience that I've had the privilege of having just once, and I've never forgotten it. It was a wonderful. Please do not harm these animals. You will regret it later when people stop visiting. Cruelty cannot be rewarded.

Correspondence ID: 428 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:51:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 429 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:51:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 430 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Killing the semi-tame deer of Fire Island would be both inhumane and unfeeling to the human residents who have lived with them for generations. Please end this plan and continue adopting nonviolent fertility control.

Correspondence ID: 431 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:52:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 432 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Having heard that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore, I'd like to remind you that the Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population for over 15 years. The study has been widely supported and successful. I urge you to continue working with organizations like the HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are cherished on Fire Island. Many thanks for taking the time to read this.

Correspondence ID: 433 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please utilize non-lethal methods of population control regarding deer.

Correspondence ID: 434 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:53:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 435 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Killing wildlife shouldn't be the first option and this procedure hasn't eliminated the problem.

Correspondence ID: 436 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:54:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 437 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:56:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. I have spent over 20 summers on Fire Island and do NOT WANT TO SEE THE DEER KILLED.
Thank you

Correspondence ID: 438 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The killing is not necessary.

Correspondence ID: 439 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: IF there are effect birth control methods that can be used to lower deer populations, our family feels that these methods should be used first. We don't need to resort to killing animals that have become used to people. People go to parks to see these creatures and it is part of the enjoyment. Thank you for doing the right thing.

Correspondence ID: 440 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 10:57:37

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: This is an extremely important issue to me and I am a tax payer that funds the NPS. I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 441 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing because i have recently heard that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For over 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I strongly urge you to reconsider fertility control as a humane way to manage the beloved deer population on Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 442 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 11:01:49

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 443 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 11:02:37

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 444 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Unacceptable to kill tame deer. implement a successful fertility control study to help the NPS manage deer populations on Fire Island National Seashore.

Correspondence ID: 445 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore.

For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility

control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Please take into consideration and implement fertility control using humane methods of deer population management rather than killing the deer.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 446 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

WHY IS IT THAT EVERY SOLUTION THAT AMERICANS WANT TO APPLY TO "PROBLEMS" IS SLAUGHTER????????!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 447 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please implement humane non-lethal fertility control methods for the deer on Fire Island. The semi-tame deer are a cherished part of our summer visits to Fire Island. Humane non-lethal birth control for deer is effective, why chose to kill innocent deer when there are humane proven methods to fertility control?

Correspondence ID: 448 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:07:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 449 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: THE PROPOSED PLAN IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE !

Correspondence ID: 450 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: If there is a non-lethal way to manage this problem then WHY wouldn't you utilize that

?!?!?!?!?

Correspondence ID: 451 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please control the deer population by using humane forms of birth control. Please, do not use guns or poison to kill these gentle animals. They bring much joy to the visitors and give Fire Island the boost of nature that has been destroyed by human populations.

Correspondence ID: 452 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island.

Thank you for listening,

Correspondence ID: 453 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Use fertility drugs instead of shooting the deer.

Correspondence ID: 454 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I just can't believe what I've read today - please tell me it's a mistake - tell me that you're not considering killing any deer !!
I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.
Why waste all that hard work ?? What possible reason could you have for taking a step BACKWARDS ?? The study and the plan for reducing reproduction rates is the best solution for EVERYONE concerned and is the only intelligent SOLUTION. As an animal lover (and an avid tourist) I visit countries mainly for their animals. Sad to say I've had to delete several countries from my list of places to visit - will the U.S.A. be next ?? Why must killing be a "solution" there ?

Correspondence ID: 455 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:11:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control .

Correspondence ID: 456 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: A healthy manageable amount of deer is welcome on fire island. Humane ways to control disease and overpopulation seems like a win win solution.

Correspondence ID: 457 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:12:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane

Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 458 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: "Animals are more than ever a test of our character, of mankind's capacity for empathy and for decent, honorable conduct and faithful stewardship. We are called to treat them with kindness, not because they have rights, power or a claim to equality, but in a sense, because they don't. They all stand unequal and powerless before us."

Matthew Scully, author of Dominion

And we are their voice.

Correspondence ID: 459 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 11:12:38

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 460 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

To the National Park Service, I support one hundred percent the use of non-lethal fertility control methods. The Fire Island deer population is domesticated, and cannot be culled. Resist the brutish simplistic way mentality in dealing with them and their environment.

Best,

Correspondence ID: 461 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 11:14:13

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 462 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: co

Correspondence ID: 463 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Deer are lovely animals. Cut back through birth control not by killing. I wish somebody could

come up with an idea like this for cats as well!

Correspondence ID: 464 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I believe there is a more human logic way to control deer issues in the future

Correspondence ID: 465 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:20:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 466 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The basic fact that they have lived there without conflict with local residents and the opportunity for visitors to the Island to see them in the wild should be enough reason to allow them to survive.

Correspondence ID: 467 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore.

For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study, using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful.

The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

It's time that government agencies thought of humane methods of controlling animals. Up 'til now, it has always been "SHOOT FIRST and THINK LATER!!!"

Correspondence ID: 468 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:21:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 469 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:21:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods

to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 470 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 11:21:21

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 471 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 11:21:28

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 472 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am so glad to hear they have come up with something for deer control other than killing them. We have deer in our area and I love seeing them. Please follow the HSUS and Fire Island to learn more. STOP THE KILLING...

Correspondence ID: 473 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. As the National Park Service your job is to protect the wildlife within your parks and this action is doing the opposite. An act like this should make you ashamed. I hope you take these letters into consideration and fix this statement.

Correspondence ID: 474 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Protect our deer

Correspondence ID: 475 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 11:24:18

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working

with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 476 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please provide only humane non-lethal deer population controls. I've been to Fire Island many times (I grew up on Long Island), and the deer are a treasure to be preserved. They are such magnificent beings. Please don't hurt them. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 477 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've heard that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Wildlife management should not equate killing a species with "managing" it.

I appreciate your reconsideration of the management plan you've proposed, and seek others means short of lethal methods to deal with this deer population.

With regards-

Correspondence ID: 478 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. As the National Park Service your job is to protect the wildlife within your parks and this action is doing the opposite. An act like this should make you ashamed. I hope you take these letters into consideration and fix this statement.

Correspondence ID: 479 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:26:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Thank you!

Correspondence ID: 480 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

We all want non lethal control & birth control for our beautiful creatures.

Correspondence ID: 481 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear sirs/ mms
Please do not kill the deer.. Please use a non lethal method to cull the herds.
God would want you to to that and you will be able to sleep better for it.
Kind regards

Correspondence ID: 482 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Who or what gives you the right to kill innocent animals? Humans are a dangerous threat to the other species we share this planet with

Correspondence ID: 483 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Save the deers, they are beings who deserve the right to their lives

Correspondence ID: 484 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:30:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 485 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:30:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 486 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: animals are a gift from God

Correspondence ID: 487 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I think it would be best to handle this issue with non-lethal methods.

Correspondence ID: 488 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:32:03

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 489 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 11:32:23

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I beg of you to not let this happen.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 490 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 11:32:44

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 491 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: To Whom it May Concern,

I write to express my concern with the lethal means by which you intend to control the white tail deer population in Fire Island.

As someone who cares about animals, I've been notified by the Humane Society that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. I understand that this type of population control had been widely supported and successful. I truly feel that the NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a valued part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 492 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 11:34:03

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a valued part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 493 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:34:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 494 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Save the deer!!! Please...

Correspondence ID: 495 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: please stop this senseless killing. these poor animals don't know better and they are not to blame

Correspondence ID: 496 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: please sign and share, thanks!!

Correspondence ID: 497 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Please reconsider this terrible inhumane way of handling the population of deer.

How unfair and extremely unkind it would be for a deer to have no fear of someone and this person goes right up to it and end it's life.

Just because we are taking away their land doesn't give us the right to take away their lives too. Please don't take the easy way out and kill these innocent sentient creatures who have families of their own.

How would you feel if some higher power came and took away your family. Don't do it to the Fire Island Deer.

Correspondence ID: 498 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly support the use of humane methods to control deer population on Fire Island. The use of fertility control has been successful and widely supported. Humane methods of deer population control should continue to be implemented, and the plan to kill semi-tame deer who have peacefully co-existed with residents for decades should be abandoned.

Seeing deer in their natural habitat on the Island has been a positive experience for visitors and residents alike.

Removing peaceful wildlife by killing them off would be a tragic mistake.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 499 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a lifetime Long Island resident and have always been a frequent visitor to Fire Island. I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. I was very upset to learn that NPS is planning to kill large numbers of deer on Fire Island rather than use more humane methods of population control! I told many of my friends and colleagues (who also frequent Fire Island) about this, and they, too, are disappointed and upset that this killing is being planned, even though there are successfully proven humane population control alternatives!! For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 500 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:40:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 501 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:40:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 502 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:42:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 503 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Why would you choose brutality when you could choose another venue. Animals that a partially trained to not be afraid of man. It's disgusting. Please do not do this. It sends a wrong message.

Correspondence ID: 504 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:42:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement HUMANE deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and you immediate attention to this matter.

Correspondence ID: 505 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It's safer and more merciful to control the deer population with animal birth control than by killing individuals. If you did that, the ones left would just breed again, and then what? More killing?

Correspondence ID: 506 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:43:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 507 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:44:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 508 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The state of Virginia has implemented a non-lethal way of keeping deer at a healthy number. Please please stop the slaughter of these beautiful animals. There is a better way.

Correspondence ID: 509 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please use non-leathal methods to control deer population on Fire Island!

Correspondence ID: 510 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: To hear this is happening is tragic.

Correspondence ID: 511 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Let's try to be humane

Correspondence ID: 512 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support non-lethol fertility control for the control of deer population.

Correspondence ID: 513 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Protect deer !!

Correspondence ID: 514 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: PLEASE USE ONLY HUMANE METHODS TO HANDLE THE DEER POPULATION! NO BOW AND ARROW, NO GUNS! ONLY CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT AND HUMANE METHODS PLEASE. THANK YOU! CHRYSTLE FIEDLER

Correspondence ID: 515 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. As a N.Y resident and frequent visitor to Fire Island, I am very concerned about how the beautiful deer of this location are treated. No management strategy should ever include killing or harassing semi-tame deer, and if this is ever implemented I would seriously reconsider ever visiting Fire Island again.

Correspondence ID: 516 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I believe and strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island this is a wonderful idea and could help control the deer population in a safe and humane way. I feel that killing them is not and should not be an option.
Thank you very much,

Correspondence ID: 517 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It is disgusting and an outrage that the NPS wants to use an inhumane, cruel and backwards

way of dealing with the deer population. Please use non-lethal fertility control methods instead. Protect the animals living in these beautiful places, not just the places themselves.

Correspondence ID: 518 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Agencies keeping an account of dear Mustangs etc have been systematically flawed. And have brought many to alarming lows. Killing is not the answer.

Correspondence ID: 519 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:53:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 520 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
We are on this Earth to learn to interact with other beings in a safe and loving manner. There is no reason to destroy innocent creatures for our convenience. It is about time that we learned that we are NOT the only creatures who have a right to live here, and that to deny others the right to exist upsets a very fragile balance. Please DO NO HARM!

Correspondence ID: 521 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 11:53:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 522 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Please strongly consider the above solution to humanely control the deer population on Fire Island rather than the brutal killing of innocent animals.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 523 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Humane alternatives for animal control should always be considered over and above other alternatives.

Correspondence ID: 524 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 11:54:33

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It's come to my attention that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 525 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have watched these peaceful creatures roam on fire island for decades....
Fertility management is the only humane and decent choice!
I speak for them because they can not speak for themselves

Correspondence ID: 526 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 11:55:39

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 527 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 11:57:14

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 528 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: In the 1980's great herds of deer came up out of the seashore land between Cherry Grove and Point O'Woods. The well racked males would climb the backside of the dunes and keep watch on their large expanding families. At times there were about 30 deer grazing in the grasses which now have competition from brush on the landward side of the dunes. They would then enter town in small groups and forage among various properties for garbage or edible plants. In the 70's and 80's there were not so many fully fenced properties as there are now truly spoiling the charm of this community one of the oldest on Fire Island. Then came the hunters with bow and arrow. A terrifying sight as you approached your house late fall. They had no respect for personal property and came on to your grounds even though, as I understood it, they were supposed to contain them themselves in the seashore properties. One year I watched from my house at the west end of Cherry Grove as a helicopter As any wild which I learned was circling around the western grasses and woods to count deer. Of course the deer all ran for cover from the rotor noise (which is still a local annoyance and should be over the ocean, not the beach) I degress!

The darting program begun a few years ago has been extremely effective. There are no longer herds, just small family groups which could easily be darted for birth control.

In the early years there were dead deer in my yard. Dead of starvation because with the town flooded with them, people fed them all summer and they therefore lost their ability or internal change to forage in winter. I have seen them digging in the snow in desperation for something to eat.

Dart them. Remove some to the far Eastern parts of Fire Island where they can live in small family groups until they die out from lack of reproduction.

It will not rid us of all deer but will be a kindness to the many who wander the island seeking food.

Correspondence ID: 529 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: What I am about to say is so self-evident that it should not need to be said.

Please, with all due respect, do not EVER use killing as a means of birth control.

Correspondence ID: 530 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 11:58:34

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 531 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please use humane means to control the deer population.

Correspondence ID: 532 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 11:59:43

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 533 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 12:02:20

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 534 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 12:03:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 535 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 12:03:18

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Ladies and Gentlemen:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 536 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the humane use of non-lethal fertility control and am against the slaughter of the these docile animals.

Correspondence ID: 537 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The deer have lived in this area long before any residents of the human kind lived here. They deserve to live, and there should not be wholesale killing of lovely animals who are God's creatures, like any of the residents- they want to be happy. There are means of reining in the deer population through birth control that is humane.

Correspondence ID: 538 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 12:07:48

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please find a humane alternative to killing deer on Fire Island. I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 539 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 12:08:59

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working

with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.
Please do not kill the deer on Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 540 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I ask the Park service to refrain from using lethal population control measures on the White Tailed Deer population at FINS. Surely, in an environment that is as controlled as FINS, the Parks Service can implement humane, noninjurious, and nonlethal population control measures.

The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 541 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Why is it that we, human beings are always killing others like ourselves or other animals for sport or just for fun. People can live off the Land, but we are just shooting four legged animals cause we are the one's that are screwing up Our Planet! Just Stop Killing NOW!

Correspondence ID: 542 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I understand the need to manage herd size. No one wants deer dying of starvation, and we can't let their population get to real nuisance levels. But fertility control is a better option. And, in the long run, I think it would be more effective.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 543 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 12:10:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 544 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: please protect and save the deer

Correspondence ID: 545 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: For years the animals & residents of Fire Island have always had a unique, wonderful, trusting relationship. It seems so wrong to on so many levels to change the environment by instituting lethal population control of these wonderful animals that people have enjoyed for so many year. Please, rather institute a non-lethal fertility control method to control the deer population on Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 546 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 12:12:25

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 547 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 12:12:49

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 548 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Why would you forego methods that have been effective for so many years in favor of lethal one? Why give the nps a bad name?

Correspondence ID: 549 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please and animals can co-exist in a well-envisioned plan which this is not. Fertility control is the only option that should be considered. Please rethink your plan which while expeditious is neither well intentioned nor humane. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 550 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please help.

Correspondence ID: 551 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 12:15:55

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 552 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please reconsider your position and tactics for controlling the deer population on Fire Island. There are far more humane ways to do so.

Correspondence ID: 553 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. I live near and visit Fire Island. Everyone I know loves the deer. I know what reasons you give for doing this-but whole heartedly disagree and so does everyone I know!!!!

Correspondence ID: 554 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 12:19:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I opt for no control. I would rather see Fire Island be left to the critters with humans as visitors only. I have spent a lot of time on Fire Island over the past 30 years and have never witnessed a "negative" reaction between humans and deer or dogs and deer. In any case, it is the deer's natural habitat, not humans or dogs. As far as vegetation goes, I would rather see the money spent to add more vegetation which would help stabilize the dunes and feed the deer (if anyone is truly worrying about them starving). One of the big attractions of Fire Island is the ability to interact closely with wildlife without them being afraid of humans. If hunting is allowed, this will surely change. There is no issue with closeness between deer and humans as long as the human does not approach too closely or feed the deer. Deer are one of the most docile creatures on this planet - leave them be. Just educate people as they do at all other National Parks to NOT APPROACH and NOT FEED wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 555 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 12:20:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore.

For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population.

The study has been widely supported and successful.

The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 556 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: There is no excuse for An inhumane policy to control the deer population on Fire Island when a perfectly humane one exists and has proved effective the past.

Correspondence ID: 557 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 12:23:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working

with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 558 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 12:24:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 559 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please don't kill the deer.

Correspondence ID: 560 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 12:25:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.
Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 561 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am disgusted with your IN-HUMANE plan to rid yourselves of the over abundance of deer that you have... If the world consists of too many people...are you gonna kill THEM? You DONT KILL to fix a problem that's inconvenient to you! There are more humane methods in resolving this issue!

Correspondence ID: 562 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 12:26:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To Whom it May Concern,

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore.

For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. I urge you to take action.

Correspondence ID: 563 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 12:27:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 564 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The Fire Island deer are a wonderful species that people who have homes feed and take care of. They should be humanely treated and not "disposed" of in an inhumane manner.

Correspondence ID: 565 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Deer are such beautiful gentle and trusting animals. Leave them alone. The animals were here first.

Correspondence ID: 566 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've spent countless summers on Fire Island, as have a lot of my friends. I am saddened and horrified that these beautiful,gentle creatures that are so much a part of the Island experience are in jeopardy. If there were no alternatives this would be upsetting enough. The fact that modern and humane options exist, but are not being considered is disgusting and from a conservation point of view, absolutely unacceptable. Find another solution. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 567 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 12:35:14

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Thank you for reading my email.

Correspondence ID: 568 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned about the National Park Service release of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for the Fire Island National Seashore - that calls for the killing of hundreds of semi-tame deer and other semi-tame animals. We have had deer throughout Suffolk County and have coexisted with them for decades.

The Humane Society of the US has worked with the National Park Service to implement a fertility control study to humanely manage deer population. I totally support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island and throughout Suffolk County, rather than killing semi-tame deer. Fire Island residents cherish the experience of coexisting with nature's creatures. Please continue the Humane Society and National Park Service fertility control as a method of managing the deer population.

Thanks so much!

Correspondence ID: 569 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: What do you expect from an organization run by men, because all men know how to do is kill!
THAT IS THEIR SOLUTION!

Correspondence ID: 570 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: HORRORS OF INHUMAN ACTS BRING HORRORS INTO THE WORLD OF HUMANS

Correspondence ID: 571 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 12:38:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 572 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: These animals are a iconic part of our state, we must treat all living beings with kindness and respect. save our deers!

Correspondence ID: 573 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please don't kill the deer

Correspondence ID: 574 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 12:40:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 575 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: please treat our animal relations with respect and humanely address the issue in fire island please. thank you in advance.

Correspondence ID: 576 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: if birth control can be used effectivly this is a more humane way of dealing with the problem

Correspondence ID: 577 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I object to the deer management plan for Fire Island. The National Park Service should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer.

Correspondence ID: 578 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 12:43:25

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 579 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Why would you choose to kill these deer when there is a humane alternative? I know them and since they've not been hunted they have very little fear of people What a thoughtless and/or cruel plan !

Correspondence ID: 580 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I hope to leave a better world for my descendants.

Correspondence ID: 581 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: PLEASE PUT A STOP TO THIS

Correspondence ID: 582 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I don't understand the compulsion some have in killing semi-tame deer. Really? Fertility control is certainly the way to go.

Correspondence ID: 583 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I SUPPORT THE USE OF EFFECTIVE, NON LETHAL FERTILITY CONTROL METHODS FOR THE DEER ON FIRE ISLAND.

Correspondence ID: 584 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 12:48:50

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Correspondence ID: 585 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 12:49:27

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 586 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 12:50:13

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 587 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 12:51:05

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 588 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 12:51:22

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 589 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 12:52:13

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: THIS IS NOT NECESSARY, NOR IS IT HUMANE!

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 590 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Comments:

Correspondence ID: 591 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

This is abuse of power. Residents of Fire Island has asked that the non-lethal methods be put in place immediately, but to no avail.

I do hope that this method will be considered.

Correspondence ID: 592 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: If you can control them by birth control. why kill them?

Correspondence ID: 593 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect part of our planet

Correspondence ID: 594 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It is understandable that the abundance of these deer can and do cause stress on the environment in which they live. However, changing the method of controlling them from a non harmful births control method to a deadly method of killing these innocent animals does not make sense and is not understandable. These animals were here before we were and we took their land and continue to take their land forcing them to coexist with us. These animals are tame and pose no dangerous threat to us. Therefor, why can't we follow their lead and coexist with them? I don't understand why in the year 2014 almost 2015 we still take the inhumane route to deal with animals. Isn't it time to start respecting animals and treating them with a little more dignity? A life is a life even if it belongs to animal!

Correspondence ID: 595 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support non lethal population control methods in reference to deer on fire island

Correspondence ID: 596 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 13:03:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 597 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 13:04:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 598 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As The National Park Service, please keep in mind that wildlife has less space to call home due to our own overpopulation issues. It's important that we maintain our outdoor spaces in a way that does not over-feed and over-breed wildlife. There are ways to control population with fertility methods rather than killing off nature and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 599 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I hear that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. As a resident of Staten Island - - where there is a significant deer population, many of whom are semi-tame - - this issue is important to me. Why is killing the first choice? This idea is being floated around NYC too. A humane alternative is available!

For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 600 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather

than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

What is going on at the National Park Service? Not everyone supports a meat-head cowboy mentality. There are many who actually love animals and want to protect them.

Correspondence ID: 601 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tamed deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Lethal measures may initially work quickly, but the effects are temporary. It is a short-term fix, and a cruel one. I urge you to continue use of effective, non-lethal means.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 602 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 13:14:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 603 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please do not kill the deer on fire island!!

Correspondence ID: 604 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I am shocked to learn about the use of lethal control for deer on Fire Island instead of support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods.

Correspondence ID: 605 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

You are invading the deer's home, it's not the other way around. Please remember that before you decide to kill them.

Correspondence ID: 606 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

There's never a reason to kill animals when there's an option. Save these animals lives and

please use a nonlethal use of fertility control. It's available, use it!

Correspondence ID: 607 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please don't shoot the deer! Use fertility control instead.

Correspondence ID: 608 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use non-lethal methods to control deer populations wherever possible.

Correspondence ID: 609 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have been aware for quite some time of the successful program on Fire Island and have provided information to others who are seeking humane ways to manage deer/human conflicts. Why would you stop funding a successful program and turn to lethal methods of management? Please continue the successful sterilization program!

Correspondence ID: 610 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: help the deer

Correspondence ID: 611 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please do the right and humane process to control the deer population on Fire Island. Thank you

Correspondence ID: 612 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: For years, we have worked with the

I am dismayed that the NPS recently released a deer management plan for Fire Island that calls for the killing of hundreds of semi-tame animals who have peacefully coexisted with residents for decades. NPS and local residents should implement non-lethal fertility control methods to manage deer populations on Fire Island National Seashore. The NPS needs to expand this effective and widely supported program.

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 613 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Poison is not the answer!

Correspondence ID: 614 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The ONLY safe and humane way to keep control of the deer population is by use of fertility/sterility treatment. This way we can ensure that the population stays at a manageable level. The deer will be safe from "hunters" who can sometimes be cruel in their methods or get so crazed that they end up shooting people. I don't understand how you can not see that contraceptives are the best way to handle overpopulation.

Correspondence ID: 615 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not consider lethal options for deer Population control. To shoot semi-tame deer is Unforgivable in any situation and as a New York Resident I am totally, totally against this.

Correspondence ID: 616 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please tell the NPS to continue to work with the Humane Society of Fire Lsland to control the deer population like they have been doing, NOT by killing the deer!!!!

Correspondence ID: 617 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 13:33:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 618 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We should not slaughter God's creatures just for our convenience. Control them by humane means - birth control. It is the just, and right thing to do. Deer overpopulation is a pain for us, but is even worse for the deer.

And while your at it, how about coming to Niagara Falls and giving some birth control to our squirrel population. They are adorable and have every right to live, but they are also pests and there are just too many of them. Reduce the population of both deer and squirrels will help them, and us. live better lives. And we will have done the right thing. Seems like a win win to me.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 619 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: There are humane alternatives to slaughtering innocent animals. This should be a no-brainer.

Correspondence ID: 620 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please consider a no kill policy. Stop the violence against the land, the animals and the people.

Correspondence ID: 621 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: N/A

Correspondence ID: 622 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 13:35:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: To whom it may concern:
I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.
Regards,

Correspondence ID: 623 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please use humane methods such as birth control on the fire island deer population

Correspondence ID: 624 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.
Please do not kill these magnificent creatures. It is truly one of the attractions to Fire Island National Seashore..and knowing these deer were being killed in this manner would more than likely detour repeat visits from folks like me. Thank you so much for attention to this important issue.

Correspondence ID: 625 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 13:37:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 626 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 13:39:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods

to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 627 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Please do not resort to lethal means to control the deer population on Fire Island National Seashore.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 628 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: All too often the management of "surplus" is by lethal methods. Are we not smart enough to come up with others? Interrupting fertility is one proposed method of the Humane Society. Please consider it or take the time to think of others.

Correspondence ID: 629 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Contraception.

Correspondence ID: 630 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 13:45:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. FERTILITY CONTROL IS HUMANE: SHOOTING/POISONING DEER IS NOT HUMANE. ENOUGH VIOLENCE!

Correspondence ID: 631 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 13:45:22

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 632 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Save the deers

Correspondence ID: 633 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 13:48:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 634 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I often frequent Fire Island to visit friends and am just as thrilled as my friends to see the occasional deer on the island. Residents enjoy them immensely, and do not feel there are "too many" on the island. This is a closed system, so the population can neither escape or be increased from outside the area. NON-LETHAL Population control is preferred with the residents of the island - so why does the NPS prefers slaughter? Why do government agencies GO AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE POPULATION? Often in secret, government agencies perform OUT OF CONTROL SLAUGHTER, WITHOUT EVEN TELLING THE PUBLIC OF THESE DASTARDLY - OFTEN ILLEGAL - DEEDS. This is another sad example! People on the island, and myself a frequent visitor, DON'T WANT DEER SLAUGHTERED. Will NPS listen? NPS should not be killing our wildlife. NPS should instead be protecting what is left of the meager environment that is still nature. See to it that the streams and rivers are NOT POLLUTED. See to it that we have lots of tall trees for migrating species and native as well. There's no excuse for this unnecessary deer slaughter.

Correspondence ID: 635 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 13:49:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 636 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I also support the non lethal injections to be used on these creatures

Correspondence ID: 637 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 13:51:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 638 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: PLEASE USE FERTILITY RESOURCES TO MANAGE DEER POPULATION AS A HUMANE ALTERNATIVE TO SHOOTING THEM.

Correspondence ID: 639 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We need to stop killing these wonderful animals, now.

Correspondence ID: 640 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 13:57:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 641 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Prevention is better killing!

Correspondence ID: 642 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 13:58:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 643 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: in todays day and age I hope we can take a more civilized way to manage wildlife. If appears all we do is try to kill the individual creatures without investigating and implementing different avenues. We started out recently by intending to kill the snow owls and geese by airports (Israel and some other European countries have no kill alternatives) We then went to kill all Swans in America because they are destructive and vicious. Swans have been around for hundreds of years and are known for their beauty and loyalty in protecting their mates. The same go for white tail deer, they are not vicious nor do they deserve the death sentence for being a wild animal. Let's find alternatives to this wildlife destruction.

Correspondence ID: 644 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 14:02:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 645 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 14:02:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 646 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please accept my humble obeisances. I just received an email that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. Please stick with the fertility control program that works so well and not take to killing deer on your beautiful Island, which will surely make it a depressing and sad place to even hear about. People can peacefully co-exist with deer, they are by far more of a pleasure and compliment to Fire Island National Seashore controlled and cared for.

For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island

Thank you for your time and good you do. I hope this letter finds you in good health.

Correspondence ID: 647 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 14:08:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 648 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please use humane methods to control the deer population on the east end.

Correspondence ID: 649 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: There are more humane ways to deal with this explosion of overpopulation. We have already consumed most of the habitat for these creatures- let's deal with this in a intelligent and non- violent way.

Correspondence ID: 650 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: For 15 years the NPS has used a fertility-control program to manage the population of deer in

the Fire Island National Seashore. Expand this program. Do not massacre deer. Thanks for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 651 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: REMEMBER WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND!! DO THE RIGHT THING!!

Correspondence ID: 652 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: the "kinder gentler" method of giving deer birth control may be more expensive, but will accomplish the goal of lowering the deer population without blood shed.

Correspondence ID: 653 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 14:19:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 654 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It's very important that we save these beautiful creatures. They belong here more than we do and it's important that all humans protect them and their territory.

Correspondence ID: 655 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Do not kill the deer!

Correspondence ID: 656 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: What the H**I are you thinking of? SHAME ON YOU!

Correspondence ID: 657 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 14:25:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 658 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Why must they kill? Maybe they take pleasure out of this. This Is the only thing I can think of.

Correspondence ID: 659 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 14:30:32

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 660 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 14:32:01

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 661 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: No predators on the island. Neuter some so the population remains stable.

Correspondence ID: 662 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please consider a more humane way of dealing with the white-tail deer population.

Correspondence ID: 663 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

It is distressing to have a government agency consider killing as an option for these creatures.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 664 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population.

The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement HUMANE DEER MANAGEMENT strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. KILLING DEER IS JUST PLAIN WRONG IN THIS DAY AND AGE.

The National Park Service needs to follow through with humane solutions now.

Correspondence ID: 665 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 14:36:51

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 666 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 14:38:28

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 667 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Fire Island is so small it is not safe to shoot deer there. In addition, it would be far more humane to reduce the deer's numbers through birth control and fertility reduction.

Correspondence ID: 668 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Leave the wildlife Alone

Correspondence ID: 669 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 14:43:53

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 670 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It's the birth rate and the ticks you want to control.
Why kill them? They are charming and attract visitors

Correspondence ID: 671 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: i am asking that you treat all animals with kindness, and i am asking you to protect all animals from mistreatment and abuse.

Correspondence ID: 672 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Sterilize deer!

Correspondence ID: 673 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Save them!!! Let's do it!!!

Correspondence ID: 674 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 14:48:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Please find a non-lethal way to control the deer population on Fire Island.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 675 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 14:49:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 676 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It is the humane thing to do.

Correspondence ID: 677 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: please use non lethal methods for controlling the numbers of deer population of fire island ny. it is cruel and grotesque to hunt and kill these deer when their numbers can be kept in check by means of birth control. thank you.

Correspondence ID: 678 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working

with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

To hurt these vulnerable and trusting animals is unconscionable, especially when there is a proven alternative. A society is often measured by how it treats its most vulnerable among them, and in this case animals.

Please let us not become a society that thinks killing is the best way to solve a problem. Isn't that what terrorists believe? It's awful to think that the National Park Service is adopting the same attitude. Shame on the NPS.

Correspondence ID: 679 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 14:58:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 680 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dominion requires decency.
We are not authorized by creation to be the agents of death.
Do the right thing.

Correspondence ID: 681 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Prevent unnecessary killing of deer by controlling their population

Correspondence ID: 682 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 15:01:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Please do not exterminate these deer, take a more humane approach to controlling them.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 683 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Animals deserve the right to live and coexist with humans. If we aren't going to respect the right of animals, we might as well start shooting humans. In other words, killing humans is wrong too. How would you feel if some organization decided there were too many humans on Fire Island and they decided that you were going to be euthanized? Animal life needs be managed as humanely as human rights. I didn't think it was morally right to control the kangaroo population in Australia by killing them with baseball bats. That is very cruel. How would the man killing the kangaroo feel he was attacked by another man with a baseball bat because the human population is encroaching on kangaroos and other men?

Correspondence ID: 684 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 15:02:46

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 685 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 15:03:06

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 686 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not shoot these deer that have become unwittingly tamed by the residents of Fire Island. It is not their fault and they should not pay with their lives. Immunocontraception has successfully been used on Fire Island to control the deer population in the past and should be reinstated now. Why go backwards with barbaric measures if you can go forward with science and conservation ideals? Science that has already proven to work? You will also be setting an example for other communities on effective and humane ways to manage their deer population. I have a beautiful poster from the National Parks Service in about 1940. The title is "Wildlife" "The National Parks Preserve All Life" and there is an illustration of a deer drinking water from a stream at the edge of a forest. Shouldn't this be your mission?

Correspondence ID: 687 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 15:04:12

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly support the use of effective non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island

Correspondence ID: 688 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 15:06:57

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 689 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please use non-lethal means for fertility control of the white tail deer on Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 690 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 15:09:47

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental

Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 691 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

PLEASE, PLEASE work with organizations to find non-lethal ways to deal with these semi-tame, gentle deer!!!

Correspondence ID: 692 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the use of non-lethal birth control to help control the deer population on Fire Island.

Thanks you!

Correspondence ID: 693 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please used non-lethal forms of deer management.

Correspondence ID: 694 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 15:14:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hello,

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 695 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not start killing White tailed deer on Fire Island. It is a very cruel way to reduce their numbers. They are peaceful creatures who co-exist with the human population in a friendly way. Please continue the humane program of deer population control that has been so effective in past years.

Correspondence ID: 696 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: After finding out about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for

Fire Island National Seashore, I feel compelled to write to you. Being a strong supporter of the Humane Society of the United States, I have been following the implementation for fertility control which uses humane methods to manage the deer population. I believe that it is in everyone's best interest to always aim for humane methods and strategies in order to maintain the deer population. Killing rather than working with HSUS and the community that loves to experience the beautiful nature of Fire Island seems rather irrational. Instead we can work together to work on strategies that have been successful and find improved humane ways to accomplish goals.

Correspondence ID: 697 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 15:17:21

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The arguments often used against use of non-lethal population control methods (i.e. fertility inhibitors) is that there is no way to "contain" the treated population. This excuse won't fly on Fire Island, where the deer population is virtually isolated from contact with other herds. It is the PERFECT place to employ these methods, and there is absolutely no justification for slaughtering these semi-domesticated animals.

Fertility control programs should be established immediately where they do not already exist and expanded in areas where they have been used in the past.

Correspondence ID: 698 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do right by these deer. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 699 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 15:21:02

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. Please continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 700 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please consider a more humane solution to the deer population of Fire Island. Thank you!

Correspondence ID: 701 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not murder these poor deer. They deserve to live just as much as you and I. Use the birth control on the animals and let them live out their lives in the wild where they belong.

Correspondence ID: 702 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 15:31:50

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 703 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please ONLY use non lethal methods to control the deer population on Fire Island!!!
Thank you!!!!

Correspondence ID: 704 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a former Long Islander its a shame to just kill these poor animals. They are very tame and it would be sad to just shoot them.

Correspondence ID: 705 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I hope the management of deer on Fire Island in New York is implemented with fertility control rather than with the killing (euphemistically called culling) of these graceful animals. Science in the interest of civilized behavior should be called upon at every turn. Death is a last resort.

Correspondence ID: 706 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 15:34:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 707 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: What a wonderful, humane way to control the deer population when it conflicts with humans.

Most animal control is cruel, but if there is a way to keep the deer from multiplying in a safe manner, that serves both the deer population and humans!

Correspondence ID: 708 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: no one should be able to harm precious deer. They have the right to live. There are so many non lethal methods to trim deer numbers. It's cruelty to kill them in any way. It is also animal abuse.

Correspondence ID: 709 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please stick with the humane program you have successfully used. No need to slaughter more if god's creatures

Correspondence ID: 710 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 15:38:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental

Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 711 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 15:38:53

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It has come to my attention that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 712 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 15:40:27

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I bow hunt I'm against using drugs to stop deer from breeding, let nature take it's course and let hunters be fortunate enough to have the oppertunties for meat thank you..

Correspondence ID: 713 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please implement humane solutions to the deer issue on Fire Island, rather than killing these noble animals. Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.

Correspondence ID: 714 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 15:43:18

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 715 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: culling is cold blooded killing...and no amount of euphemistic spin can change that!!!!

leave the deer alone!!!

thank you.

Correspondence ID: 716 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I agree with the non lethal to stop deer population from increasing.

Correspondence ID: 717 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Fertility control is the answer.

Far more effective in the short and long term.

Correspondence ID: 718 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 15:45:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 719 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Keep the population down without killing the deer!

Correspondence ID: 720 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 15:48:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 721 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 15:49:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 722 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: For years, we have worked with the National Park Service (NPS) and local residents to implement a successful fertility control study to help the NPS I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 723 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Respect nature - deers do not have to be killed - there are other methods to control the deer population as noted by sterllization.

Correspondence ID: 724 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please only use the non-lethal and effective fertility control for the management of deer population on Fire Island that have been successfully used for decades. The killing of the semi-tame deer is completely unnecessary and cruel. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 725 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Seeing white tail deer is the highlight of every trip I take to fire island. I strongly believe only humane and non lethal action should be taken to manage the deer population.

Correspondence ID: 726 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Parks should be parks, not hunting grounds. Wildlife should be controlled using non-lethal fertility control. There seems to be a study and effective trials in place, let's stick with the program. We don't always need to look for the easy way out.

Correspondence ID: 727 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 15:56:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I grew up in Sayville and visit family on LI 4-5 weeks a year, and I feel I must encourage the NPS to work with the Humane Society to implement a fertility control study and use humane methods of dealing with the deer on Fire Island, whom I love. There's no reason to kill these deer; affordable non-kill alternatives are available and are a much better idea for everyone involved. I also lived in Cayuga Heights, where a similar deer-killing plan has created a rift in the community and angrily divided neighbors who used to be friends. Don't put Fire Island through that kind of bitter battle of angry community meetings and bitter resentment. It's not worth it when the issue can be solved non-lethally.

Correspondence ID: 728 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 15:58:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 729 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The most humane way to control the the deer population is to control breeding by introducing birth control methods to limit the number of pregnancies.

Open hunting seasons and other approaches that result in these animals being killed has largely been unsuccessful in Rochester, NY, and surrounding communities. There are just as many deer as ever.

Correspondence ID: 730 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 16:03:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 731 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 16:04:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 732 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Killing off these animals is not the answer. Please take the time to seriously reevaluate and reconsider your deer management plan for Fire Island that would kill hundreds of semi-tame animals who have peacefully coexisted with residents for decades, and try working with The HSUS again. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 733 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Stop killing deer!

Correspondence ID: 734 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 16:07:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather

than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 735 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: :(

Correspondence ID: 736 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 16:08:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 737 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It is cruel to even think of killing these gentle creatures who are trusting of humans

Correspondence ID: 738 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: none

Correspondence ID: 739 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Humane methods for controlling the deer population! I'm disgusted and disappointed to have read that you are looking to murder these innocent creatures!

Correspondence ID: 740 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 16:16:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 741 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My family and I are adamantly opposed to the slaughter of deer on Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 742 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please reconsider killing these animals and continue to work on alternate forms of control. It is better for the environment

Correspondence ID: 743 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful.

I would like to know why the NPS now wants to resort to killing deer. Our country is far too obsessed with guns and killing as a solution to everything. Killing wildlife is violent, traumatic for the animals, and unnecessary. Not only that, but most ammunition contains lead which poisons and kills countless raptors, including our national icon, the bald eagle. Lead poisoning is a slow and horrible death for raptors and other wildlife that eat carrion containing lead shot.

Therefore the NPS should continue working with organizations like the HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 744 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 16:21:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 745 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 16:23:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 746 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 16:24:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 747 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: LEAVE THE CREATURES BE THEY BELONG TO GOD DO NOT KILL ANYMORE ANIMALS

Correspondence ID: 748 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 16:30:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please don't kill the Fire Island deer!

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 749 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Let nature take care of itself here

Correspondence ID: 750 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 16:33:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 751 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Haven't there been enough animal deaths! I can't except healthy animals being destroyed for any reason, and most of those reasons are pretty lame!

Correspondence ID: 752 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: This sounds like the best solution to the problem.

Correspondence ID: 753 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have spent many summer's visiting Fire Island and have always loved the deer. We have always discussed the fact that some form of birth control would be the most efficient and humane way to handle the fact that there are no longer any predators to control the population. That is the only solution that I would find acceptable.

Correspondence ID: 754 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather

than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

As a nearby resident of FINS and someone who visits often I urge you to use the most humane way to manage our deer population.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 755 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: please use humane methods to control the deer population.

Correspondence ID: 756 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 16:49:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you

Correspondence ID: 757 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: There are humane ways of handling fertility/population control. Please do the ethical and responsible thing for the white-tail deer. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 758 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Why mess with success?? Especially when the alternative involves unnecessary violence. Killing our fellow creatures should be a last resort only.

Correspondence ID: 759 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Prefer you control deer fertility in ways other than killing deer

Correspondence ID: 760 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: There is always a humane solution.

Correspondence ID: 761 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: These deer are very tame it would be like shooting your dog. Try using birth control.

Correspondence ID: 762 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 17:06:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 763 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Keep the deer safe!

Correspondence ID: 764 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.
Lets stop going down the easy and lazy road and do something that will work for all involved in the future.

Correspondence ID: 765 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use the fertility method, do not kill these peaceful creatures who deserve to live!

Correspondence ID: 766 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.
It's worth the extra effort to find a non-violent solution to deer population. It is the mark of a civilized Society.

New York Resident

Correspondence ID: 767 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The most wonderful thing about my trip to Fire Island last summer was seeing a beautiful stag near the path. Please use the birth-control fertility method of population control. I will not visit Fire Island again if you kill deer. They deserve their home there.

Correspondence ID: 768 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 17:18:58

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 769 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: please save the deers and other animals in the national park of New York. they have a right of living too

Correspondence ID: 770 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Please use the humane and publicly supported method of reducing the herd population over time, by using fertility control measures.

Thank you for hearing the public's voice on this issue.

Correspondence ID: 771 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: In other words, action speaks louder than words as the expression goes; something MUST be done and protect the wildlife!

Correspondence ID: 772 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the use of non-lethal fertility control to manage deer populations. We have this effective solution - why resort to killing ?
Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 773 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 17:27:20

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 774 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 17:27:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use the most humane methods possible to control the deer population on fire island.

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 775 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: These animals deserve an option where they can be preserved and controlled through non violent means; neuter / spay.
They are gentle and don't bother the population. you should find a way to control their ticks as well.

Correspondence ID: 776 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please treat these creatures humanely. This is the least they deserve. We supposedly live in a civilized world, so it would be terrific if every now and then, all humans could remember this and act accordingly.

Correspondence ID: 777 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 17:31:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 778 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 17:38:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 779 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Just so wrong

Correspondence ID: 780 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 17:43:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental

Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 781 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE USE OF EFFECTIVE, NON-LETHAL FERTILITY CONTROL METHODS FOR DEER ON FIRE ISLAND.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION IN THIS MATTER.

RESPECTFULLY,

Correspondence ID: 782 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please use non lethal and humane methods of animal control. Respect innocent animals and their right to live and use the land. Us humans have taken almost everything. This earth and all our resources are to be shared and used in harmony.

Thank you for your time and I hope the decision makers make the right decision by respecting all life.

Correspondence ID: 783 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Why kill animals when there is another way. They do not deserve to just be killed.

Correspondence ID: 784 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As someone who enjoys seeing these deer forage for their food and do what deer normally do ,not only here on Fire Island , but also at Heckscher State Park . I think there must be a better way than shooting them . These animals have been accustomed to man and are not like other deer in the wild that will run away when hearing humans approach .

Correspondence ID: 785 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 17:51:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 786 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It is the most humane thing to do, get the deer sterilized.

Correspondence ID: 787 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: not necessary and cruel

Correspondence ID: 788 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 17:58:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 789 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Do not kill living beings. This cruelty is unacceptable .

Correspondence ID: 790 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We have to stop killing everything, lets try a new idea like prevention.

Correspondence ID: 791 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: why is it that the only solution to too many animals in any one place is to KILL them all????? why can you not find a more peaceful solution to this problem and why is it that when presented with said peaceful solution you fail to use it and resort to violence to fix the "problem"? these are beautiful sweet animals, friendly to the public...so you are using their valuable state to kill them! how low is this? you all make me sick!

Correspondence ID: 792 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None

Correspondence ID: 793 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect the deer!

Correspondence ID: 794 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: we all should try to make this a less violent world, everywhere and towards any living being. There are alternatives to death and reproduction!!

Correspondence ID: 795 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: USE ONLY NON LETHAL METHODS OF FERTILITY CONTROL!!!! ALL LIVING THINGS HAVE A RIGHT TO THE LIFE THAT GOD GAVE THEM!!!! YOU DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE THAT FROM THEM!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Correspondence ID: 796 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 18:19:53

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 797 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 18:23:25

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 798 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 18:25:38

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 799 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 18:25:59

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Please do not kill the deer.

Correspondence ID: 800 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 18:26:55

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 801 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 18:29:59

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 802 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It's not right to kill the deer. How about less development.

Correspondence ID: 803 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 18:31:10

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 804 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 18:31:57

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 805 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 18:31:59

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 806 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: BECAUSE YOU HAVE IT ALL -YOU DO NOT THINK OR CARE ABOUT THE AVERAGE CITIZEN !

Correspondence ID: 807 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I believe non-lethal methods should be used to control deer populations on Fire Island. Perhaps fertility control could be used. People object to the culling of deer. We must learn to be sensitive to animals in an effort to be sensitive to all living things. Hunting or culling breaks up families. Although it may cost more money, non-lethal methods should be used.

Correspondence ID: 808 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: PLEASE use non-lethal, humane, fertility-control methods for deer control on Fire Island. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 809 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It's so unnecessary and barbaric to end the lives of these beautiful and tame creatures all for the sake of a thrill. There are so many other methods to control the herd population. Don't allow this cruel and inhumane practice to take the place of effective herd population control. Don't take the easy way out!

Correspondence ID: 810 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As compassionate American people please consider the most humane solution. Thank you very much.

Correspondence ID: 811 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 18:40:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The bait and kill program is inhumane. You need to use sterilization programs to control the deer population.

Correspondence ID: 812 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It's been long overdue to control wildlife in a humane way instead of just killing them off.

Correspondence ID: 813 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I go to fire island every summer and the deer are peaceful there is no reason to shoot them if there's alternative methods

Correspondence ID: 814 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 18:51:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental

Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 815 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Why kill the deer when there is a simple solution

Correspondence ID: 816 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 18:53:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Please do not kill these innocent beautiful animals.

thank you,

Correspondence ID: 817 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 18:55:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, the Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like the HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 818 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 18:55:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 819 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: What a ludicrous idea. Please get a conscience.

Correspondence ID: 820 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:01:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane

Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 821 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Could America try 2 keep up with HUMANE pop growth control, as practised in most educated & humane countries & states?

I am SICKENED by primitive SLAUGHTER answer to everything to do with animals

Correspondence ID: 822 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: There's got to be a better way

Correspondence ID: 823 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Use birth control for the deer. Really, this is so simple I can't understand why it isn't being used everywhere. No killing!! Enough!!

Correspondence ID: 824 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please do not harm these beautiful animals. I've seen them up close on Fire Island. They harm no one and nothing. If you must use non-toxic birth control methods, I would support such measures.

Correspondence ID: 825 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Please consider expanding this effective and widely supported humane methods to manage deer population, and help prevent the unnecessary lethal control/killing of those wonderful semi-tame animals who have peacefully coexisted with residents for decades.

Thanks and God bless.

Correspondence ID: 826 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please save the deer!

Correspondence ID: 827 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would prefer to have a humane approach to deer population on Fire Island, rather than a lethal

one.

Correspondence ID: 828 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:14:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island

Correspondence ID: 829 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:14:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Please spare these beautiful and sweet creatures. Their existence delights and gives joy to our lives.

Correspondence ID: 830 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:17:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 831 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please leave all deer alone. They deserve to Live just as much as we do.

Correspondence ID: 832 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:20:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Sir or Madam:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 833 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Why is it always the first answer we humans come up with when faced with a situation...destroy & then think later?!? Why should these animals die when there is an excellent & human alternative??
Set a GOOD example for others to follow... Do the right thing, please.

Correspondence ID: 834 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect these beautiful creatures.

Correspondence ID: 835 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:23:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 836 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:23:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 837 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a former Long Islander, I support the fertility-control program that has long been proven effective in controlling the deer population on Fire Island. Killing the deer, will not only be ineffective in the long run, as well as being a waste of meat and other resources, but could endanger humans who happen into the hunting area unexpectedly. Please re-think this change. Why tamper with a program that already works. As the saying goes: if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Correspondence ID: 838 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Concerning the white-tailed deer management plan, sterilization for over population has proved to be effective in controlling populations and is more humane than killing the deer.

Correspondence ID: 839 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please continue sterilization of deer on fire island and do not engage in hunting to thin herds.

Correspondence ID: 840 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: SAVE OUR DEER. HOW COULD YOU KILL "BAMBI?" A DEER IS THE MOST

SWEETEST ANIMAL ON EARTH.

Correspondence ID: 841 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please consider using non-lethal fertility control for Fire Island's deep population.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 842 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

As a former resident of Long Island and frequent visitor to Robert Moses State Park and the Fire Island National Seashore, I have had many opportunities to admire the deer on Fire Island and to appreciate how their way of life in a highly developed human community has made them remarkably tame. Killing these poor creatures as a method of birth control seems unnecessarily cruel to me, given that humane management strategies can be successful. I urge you to choose humane management over killing.

Correspondence ID: 843 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: these deer have been pets and humanely treated for generations by the local people, why not try the alternative stop the breeding approach to dwindle the herd down for a generation? God wants you to care for his own not destroy them.....Thank you

Correspondence ID: 844 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use non-lethal fertility control methods for deer who reside on Fire Island.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Correspondence ID: 845 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:42:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 846 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:43:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please do not kill the deer. There are humane methods. I have to say I am getting sock of seeing our beautiful wildlife killed all over this country. It's wrong. We should live in harmony with them. The only reason we are experiencing these problems is because people interfere and upset the balance of nature.

Correspondence ID: 847 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Are we now going to cater to hunters' thirst for new grounds to hound? Not while I live on Long Island will I support the unnecessary killing of wildlife, from pigeons to deer.

Correspondence ID: 848 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:45:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you

Correspondence ID: 849 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:48:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 850 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:48:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

These lovely creatures deserve our stewardship with kindness and mercy not murder.

Correspondence ID: 851 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:49:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working

with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 852 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:50:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 853 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The NPS recently released a deer management plan for Fire Island that calls for the killing of hundreds of semi-tame animals who have peacefully coexisted with residents for decades. Please change this new approach.

Correspondence ID: 854 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:52:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 855 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:52:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please let the deer continue to live their lives....fertility control is a way to manage a peaceful coexistence. I strongly support this method to be expanded - Fire Island can be an example for other communities, showing how to manage the deer population in suburban areas. As humans occupy more and more of the land, we have an obligation to make sure we help other species to have a way to survive as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 856 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:53:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Killing deer is just not the solution!

Correspondence ID: 857 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:54:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: There have to be humane answers to this problem.

Correspondence ID: 858 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 19:58:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It seems that in this case, where the deer have become so tame, that birth control makes more sense, and honors the wishes of the residents.

If the cost becomes too prohibitive, then resorting to shooting may be the only solution.

Correspondence ID: 859 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 20:01:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 860 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 20:03:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 861 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: This is just terrible, beastly planning!

Correspondence ID: 862 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 20:11:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use fertility control instead of killing these animals. It is cheaper and more humane. If you can prevent deer from being born, why would you choose to kill deer that have already been born and that may leave orphans behind?

Correspondence ID: 863 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 20:18:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 864 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 20:18:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather

than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 865 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Save the der on Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 866 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. I frequent the Fire Island sea shore year round and I am opposed to the horrfic killing of these beautiful docile animals. Please continue with the fertility control. It is working.

Correspondence ID: 867 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 20:19:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 868 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 20:22:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 869 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please prevent this unnecessary lethal control of harmless, semi-tame animals. I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island as suggested by the Humane Society.

Correspondence ID: 870 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To Whom It May Concer,
For more than 15 years The Humane Society has worked with the National Park Service (NPS) and local residents of Fire Island to implement a successful fertility control study to help the NPS manage deer populations on Fire Island National Seashore. This study was widely supported and successful.

However, I've recently learned though that despite this effort, instead of expanding this effective and widely supported program, the National Park Service recently released a deer management plan for Fire Island that calls for

the killing of hundreds of semi-tame animals who have peacefully coexisted with residents for decades.

This sickens me beyond words to know that in this day and age and despite viable alternatives, there still exist heartless, cruel individuals that would rather resort to the savage and barbaric slaughter of peaceful, innocent creatures than employ a humane alternative. How would these same individuals feel if it were their families or loved ones that were targeted for extermination? These innocent deer have as much a right to life as do these humans that wrongly believe they can determine who lives and who doesn't.

It is imperative that the NPS continue working with organizations like HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 871 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 20:29:58

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 872 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 20:30:32

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: please use only non-violent, non-lethal, fertility-control methods.
thank you.

Correspondence ID: 873 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 20:30:43

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: please don't kill these beautiful semi tame deer there wonderful friendly deer.they deserve better.

Correspondence ID: 874 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 20:30:55

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It is inhumane& unethical to kill animals that have become trusting of humans. Plse use antifertility methods to control the deer population.

Correspondence ID: 875 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 20:31:16

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 876 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 20:33:08

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 877 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 20:35:01

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 878 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 20:38:27

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: There are always humane options to handling wildlife. It is never necessary to just slaughter animals.

Correspondence ID: 879 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Find alternative ways of population control

Correspondence ID: 880 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 20:41:47

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly disagree with your decision to attempt to kill many of these peaceful deers. These animals are part of nature the outcome of this will not be good or benefit anyone in the longrun

Correspondence ID: 881 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing you in the hopes that kinder hearts prevail in regard to our Fire Island deer population. Please protect them and honor them with the respect they deserve...do not eradicate them Manage them properly....these beautiful animals deserve to live as they have for decades.... One of the most amazing parts of this island is the local deer whom live and reside with people like a family dog or cat would....please don't alter this way of life....the deer deserve their home and to live without humans eliminating them....they deserve to liveas a mother I hope to bring my children there to witness their beauty in a natural landscape...please don't take that gift away from my children....

Correspondence ID: 882 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 20:45:16

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 883 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 20:48:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please find another humane way

Correspondence ID: 884 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Deer are such a sweet animal and they should be treated with respect.

Correspondence ID: 885 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 20:52:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you

Correspondence ID: 886 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 20:52:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Killing them is the most barbaric of solutions. TNR programs (trap neuter return) off feral cats has proven to be an effective means of handling overpopulation and, humanely! At some point in time, individuals and organizations need to start EVOLVING out of caveman mentality in the face of proven alternatives. ENOUGH!

Correspondence ID: 887 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:02:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Deer feel pain, loss, and sorrow just like humans do. Please do not take their family members away! Please do not make them suffer!

Correspondence ID: 888 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:04:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use non-lethal methods of population control. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 889 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:05:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please leave the deer alone. Let nature take care of nature. the more we interfere with nature the worse it gets. everything takes care of everything out there when we interupt any of nature it disrupts something else.

Correspondence ID: 890 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:13:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather

than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 891 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:14:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 892 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: YOU CANNOT KILL THESE DEER THAT HAVE PEACEFULLY CO-EXISTED WITH HUMANS FOR MANY YEAR. INSTEAD, PLEASE USE NON-FERTILITY METHODS TO HELP CONTROL THE NUMBER OF DEER IN THE AREA. LET THE DEER LIVE.

Correspondence ID: 893 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:16:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear NPS Representative,
I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer~ a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Do the RIGHT thing~ do the HUMANE thing,
Regards,

Correspondence ID: 894 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please save the beautiful white- tailed deer. They are so elegant and graceful....one of God's most glorious creatures.

Correspondence ID: 895 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:19:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear NPS,

Please don't cull semi-tame animals like deer, in Fire Island. Expand non-lethal fertility control methods instead. This is a more positive solution, it makes sense, and it's more humane. All of which are important reasons for fertility control.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 896 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:20:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please use NON LETHAL fertility measures in controlling deer populations on Fire Island..I believe such beautiful gentle animals ought to be protected in all and any circumstances

Correspondence ID: 897 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:26:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 898 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:30:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Sir or Madam,
PLEASE RECONSIDER...

WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HUMANE...for We are HUMAN.

THINK WITH YOUR HEARTS...

Please don't hurt the innocent deer on Fire Island.

There is a BETTER WAY!!

PLEASE don't act like Monsters.

Thank you for reconsidering your ways and actions,

Correspondence ID: 899 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:34:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: all men know how to do is KILL ANIMALS . if you wouldn't have slaughtered the wolves and other predators, there would be NO overpopulation of any species . It would all be balanced,the way it was until stupid ,greedy humans interfered.

STOP SLAUGHTERING WILDLIFE STOP the interference

KILLING deer actually leads to overpopulation. If you bothered to educate yourselves, you would know that

Correspondence ID: 900 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:36:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Please don't use lethal methods to deal with the deer population.

Correspondence ID: 901 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:37:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Sterilize, don't kill.

Correspondence ID: 902 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:41:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you!

Correspondence ID: 903 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:41:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 904 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:42:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 905 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:43:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Don't we humans have a responsibility to care for these creatures we have domesticated to the point that the deer are tame?

We neuter our cats and dogs, instead of shooting them. I think the deer deserve the same consideration.

Thank you

Correspondence ID: 906 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:44:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods

to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 907 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support non lethal fertility methods for deer control

Correspondence ID: 908 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island!!!

Correspondence ID: 909 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:49:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: There are other proven ways to control deer population beside extermination. The white tail deer have co existed with people for many years without any harm to man. Why not continue with the present effective measures used today?

Correspondence ID: 910 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

The deer on Fire Island is an indispensable part of the beachfront experience there and must be protected at all costs. Every time I have had the opportunity to visit Fire Island I have enjoyed seeing them and their presence has been a favorite part of my experience.

Correspondence ID: 911 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island. »
Take care of these animals

Correspondence ID: 912 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Protect Deers in New York!

Correspondence ID: 913 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 21:58:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Killing these beautiful creatures or any other for that matter is outrageous and Unacceptable behaviour. I don't believe in feeding them drugs to become less fertile-what a horrible manipulation of nature!! How about relocating some of them?? Now there is a novel and peaceful possibility! There is so much land on this planet,

that proper spacious land/homes could be found for the deer population that "authorities" consider in "excess". And it shouldn't take but a bit of effort!

Correspondence ID: 914 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 22:02:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

PLEASE..IMPLEMENT HUMANE DEER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES!! PLEASE DO NOT KILL SEMI-TAME DEER!!!!!!!

Correspondence ID: 915 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 22:04:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We had a house on Fire Island where I spent my summers growing up so I am familiar with the deer issue but I was shocked to learn that you have decided to abandon the non-lethal methods of population control that you had successfully employed and instead shoot the deer to reduce the population. Personally I am opposed to such a solution and I would ask you to reconsider. It is my understanding that you have worked with the Humane Society to develop a non-lethal approach to deer management and I wonder why that plan cannot continue. In today's world, it seems inhumane and unacceptable to settle for anything less than a non lethal plan for the management of animals who have been an integral part of the local landscape. It might be expedient to shoot them, but it hardly seems necessary or even fair. It is certainly not the right way to do things and when there is a choice, you should opt for the solution that would be the most humane. We can afford that.

Correspondence ID: 916 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 22:06:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please consider non lethal control of deer population. Thank you!

Correspondence ID: 917 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 22:16:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please consider a fertility management plan of action for controlling the deer population. It is not necessary to kill these docile, beautiful creatures. I live in the country in Alden, NY and I so wish that areas that allow hunting would use fertility management. When hunting season starts around my house it is such a sad and dangerous time for the deer, there are terrified deer running from sunup to sundown. The worst part is I would estimate approximately 70% of the deer are wounded and not killed, so they get to die slowly and painfully through out the winter. I have found many of these deer with deer slugs in their legs, buttocks, face, etc...my only choice is to call someone to put them out of their misery. I am an RN, I save lives but I can't help these poor injured creatures, please let's get it together and shut down "sport hunting" and use fertility management, which definitely works.

Correspondence ID: 918 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 22:20:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I implore you to not kill these beautiful animals. They have been part of the Fire Island community for a long time. I beg you!!!

Correspondence ID: 919 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,26,2014 22:26:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a hunter; however, I don't believe in the mass killing of animals. In this day and age, we have many options to keep the population of DEER or any bread of animals in check. I hope that you have investigated other options and this 'kill' option is the true 'last resort'. I am sure some can be relocated to other regions of New York. Fertility control measures are another approach; however, this will not solve any immediate problem. If the deer population has and is not causing problems I.E. a safety concern for citizens or the deer themselves, then I do not see the need for this 'kill' approach. Thank you...

Correspondence ID: 920 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Deer are one of my favorite animals. I think they are beautiful creatures and I'm sure there are other feasible options for controlling the population.

I know my voice is small, but I hope it's one of many. and while I alone may not be able to persuade change, I can hope for the best, and I really hope these lovely animals don't have to die for whatever reason.

thank you for your time.

Correspondence ID: 921 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 22:27:44

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please control the deer population on Fire Island humanely.

Correspondence ID: 922 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 22:29:53

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island

Correspondence ID: 923 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 22:33:53

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: If you want the population reduced, try birth control methods which are available. People on Fire Island will be very angry if you destroy a part of their natural environment. Needlessly!

Correspondence ID: 924 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 22:51:35

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not kill these beautiful creatures. There so many non violent ways to control the population. Such as birth control in their food.

Correspondence ID: 925 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 22:51:48

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I spent about 8 very happy summers having shares in Fire Island houses and walking 3 or 4 miles along the ocean.

I wandered down paths to find a deer wandering towards me in the other direction, I saw baby deer hidden by their mother in the underbrush. They were gentle and to me a wonderful part of Fire Island summers. I don't see any reason at all to kill hundreds of them. It's there home too. Unless the population has incredibly increased, which I doubt, I ask you not to destroy this living gentle part of the island.

Correspondence ID: 926 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: i am in favor of control through fertility program. not killing. it can be done and has been done. thanks

Correspondence ID: 927 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 928 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: There is a better way to control the deer population rather than utilize hunting!

Correspondence ID: 929 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 23:26:23

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 930 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It would be a tragedy to kill these deer when there are other humane methods to reduce the deer population.

Correspondence ID: 931 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 23:52:04

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 932 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,26,2014 23:53:40

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 933 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: These tame deer have existed for many years on Fire Island. There is no reason for the state to start killing them off.

I totally object to you doing this. Having spent many summers on Fire Island I feel this is a very wrong decision, which I hope is reversed.

Correspondence ID: 934 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I hope that the NPS will continue working with the Humane Society and concerned Fire Island residents to use the proven-successful humane methods of deer population control.

Correspondence ID: 935 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: humane methods only please.

Correspondence ID: 936 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: please end the horror, find the kind in mankind.

Correspondence ID: 937 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 01:54:16

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 938 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, the NPS has implemented a fertility control to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful and has been a model for other communities. To now use lethal management to human-habituated deer is an affront to decency. In addition, the perpetuation of the myth that Lyme disease is due to deer overpopulation and its use in the justification of this killing program is nothing more than a propaganda campaign to frighten the public. It is startling that this researcher is not referenced anywhere. Lyme Disease: The Ecology of a Complex System by Richard

Ostfeld .

Correspondence ID: 939 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: birth control

Correspondence ID: 940 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 02:47:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 941 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 02:50:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 942 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the use of nonlethal methods of fertility control.

Correspondence ID: 943 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: LEAVE THE DEER IN PEACE- -THEY BELONG THERE AND WERE LONG BEFORE WE TOOK OVER THEIR TERRITORY

Correspondence ID: 944 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 03:13:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 945 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 03:22:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 946 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 03:29:36

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you!

Correspondence ID: 947 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 03:32:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 948 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 03:40:10

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 949 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please preserve nature for the animals and discourage corporations or other entities in making any claim to nature for the purpose of money or business.

Correspondence ID: 950 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: This stuff drives me crazy. When will we learn to coexist with all species on this planet and not treat living, breathing, intelligent animals as if they are inanimate objects.

Correspondence ID: 951 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: This is cruel and totally unnecessary

Correspondence ID: 952 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 04:48:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the use of non-lethal methods to control the deer population on Fire Island.

Thank you

Correspondence ID: 953 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 04:50:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 954 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 04:50:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: This land also belongs to the animals that inhabit it and have done so for thousands (if not millions) of years. They have the right to life as much as we do and must be treated with kindness and respect. Must every acre of land and every animal be destroyed by greed and stupidity? When does this murderous behavior end-when the whole planet is paved over with asphalt?

Correspondence ID: 955 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 04:53:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I do not support National Park Service's plan to kill deer on Fire Island. These tame deer have coexisted with residents of Fire Island for years. I support that you continue to work with The Humane Society to use NON-LETHAL methods to control deer populations.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 956 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 05:11:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 957 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 05:22:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 958 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 05:27:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: These beautiful animals should not be destroyed

Correspondence ID: 959 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 05:43:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island

Correspondence ID: 960 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 05:44:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: While I understand that there is a need to control the deer population, there is a humane way to go about doing this. I support the use of non-lethal fertility control methods.

Correspondence ID: 961 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 05:46:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 962 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: THIS IS INHUMANE! PLEASE STOP KILLING INNOCENT DEER AND TRY TO CONTROL THE POPULATION!

Correspondence ID: 963 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 06:01:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 964 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Save the world! Protect animals!

Correspondence ID: 965 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 06:13:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: There is no reason to use lethal methods to control the deer population. You can otherwise

limit or contain the population without such methods.

Correspondence ID: 966 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 06:17:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I don't understand, if the current strategy is working, why resort to killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island? If the issue is to allow hunting - probably not since Fire Island has too many people to do this safely, and there are a multitude of wild deer throughout the state that need to be culled since we have removed all natural predators, save humans. Put out birth-control-laced feed. They will die out naturally soon enough.

Correspondence ID: 967 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 06:20:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 968 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 06:24:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I want to have a plan in place that humanely controls deer population by using birth control methods.

Correspondence ID: 969 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island.

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 970 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 06:31:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I fully support of using fertility treatment for the White-tailed Deer Management Plan.

Correspondence ID: 971 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 06:48:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: On fire island we have controlled or deer population in humane ways. I do not support the killing of deer or any other living thing.

Correspondence ID: 972 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 06:49:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support all non-lethal efforts to control the deer population

Correspondence ID: 973 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 06:51:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 974 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 06:53:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been on Fire Island for fifty years and the deer have never been a bother. Having been born and raised in Bay Shore, coming to Fire Island and seeing the deer was a novelty. Seeing them today in my own back yard is present reminder that the whole world is not all strip malls. Please don't have a deer shoot!

Correspondence ID: 975 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 07:00:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 976 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 07:00:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 977 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 07:09:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am extremely upset about the plan to curb deer population by culling. Please look in to more humane, non-lethal forms of sterilization before allowing this.

Correspondence ID: 978 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 07:16:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 979 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 07:18:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Killing innocent animals just because they exist is never the answer.

Correspondence ID: 980 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 07:28:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Unless you plan on humane control of these deer (as suggested by PETA or the Humane Society), leave them alone.

Correspondence ID: 981 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 07:36:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 982 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

AS a citizen and taxpayer, I urge you to choose an option that does not involve the senseless slaughter of animals.

Correspondence ID: 983 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 07:40:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Reducing the herds should be done by 'contraception' not killing. This is just an excuse for bloodthirsty hunters to torture and eventually kill other sentient beings.

Correspondence ID: 984 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 07:43:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.
Truly yours,

Correspondence ID: 985 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: This Must end NOW!

Correspondence ID: 986 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 07:43:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am totally opposed to killing these wonderful animals! Contraception is a much better way of controlling the size of the herds. Please do the right thing!

Correspondence ID: 987 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 08:01:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 988 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 08:03:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 989 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 08:03:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Why change this policy now to an inhumane method? It makes no sense, and I am not in favor of it all. I sincerely hope you will reconsider.

Correspondence ID: 990 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 08:12:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island

Correspondence ID: 991 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 08:17:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The Fire Island National Seashore Draft White-tailed Deer Management Plan should implement a successful fertility control study to help the NPS manage deer populations on Fire Island National Seashore. I support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island. It may very well set a precedent, among other things, prevents deer fatalities in addition to motor vehicle accidents. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 992 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 08:21:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane

Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 993 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 08:38:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: EVOLVE. SHOW COMPASSION FOR ALL ANIMALS. DO NOT KILL TH DEER.

Correspondence ID: 994 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

As a resident of the Fire Island, I am appalled at the prospect of our deer population being culled by killing them. These deer have become part of our lives here, and they are almost like part of the family. I have no problem with birth control or other humane ways to reduce the population, but please DO NOT KILL THEM!

Correspondence ID: 995 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 08:54:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use non-lethal forms to manage the deer population! Killing them is brutal!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Correspondence ID: 996 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 08:54:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please do not kill these deer! The use of non-lethal fertility control is a humane way to control the deer population. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 997 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 08:57:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am hope you can come up with a humane way to handle the deer population. We need to remember that this was their inhabitance way before we started taking over an building. Hopefully something can be done like tranquilizing them and moving them to another area like upstate. Thank you for your Time.

Correspondence ID: 998 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 09:00:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 999 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 09:00:34

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1000 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 09:11:32

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please use non-lethal birth control methods on the deer on Long Island to the extent possible. I visit Long Island often to we family and enjoy the deer. Hunting taking out a balance of does instead if just bucks would result in less kills to the extent hunting us needed. Please do your best.

Correspondence ID: 1001 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 09:14:42

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1002 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 09:15:54

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Killing is the easy route and it is inhumane. We can do better. Please continue the program of nonlethal population control of the deer on Fire Island. I can't imagine contaminating this beautiful place with the blood of hundreds of gentle and fairly tame deer.

Correspondence ID: 1003 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Stop!!!animal cruelty!!!

Correspondence ID: 1004 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 09:18:49

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
Dear Superintendant,

We are Saltaire homeowners commenting on your draft deer management plan.

We agree with the strategies common to All Action Alternatives.

We agree with Alternative B in the communities where it is appropriate. Our home is located on Clam Pond, the deer browse in the area and we DO NOT believe that the costly alternative of deer relocation in our community is required.

We do understand that the lack of natural predators can and has, in the past, resulted in overpopulation which in turn resulted in many deer becoming sickly.

We do believe that the establishment of feeding stations where tick and fertility control would be practiced will result in reduced and healthier deer populations. This pro-active program together with the education and other

proposals in the Common Strategies outline will be the most effective approach to deer management. Publishing lists of deer resistant plantings and suggesting fencing of gardens would also help.

Capturing, shooting, euthanizing deer is not only cost ineffective, it is inhumane and an inappropriate strategy.

Respectfully submitted,

Correspondence ID: 1005 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 09:19:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Stop the carnage. I visit Fire Island often and love to walk among the tame deer who co-inhabit this beautiful place. Birth control works in a closed habitat like an island. Killing is not the answer.

Correspondence ID: 1006 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear NPS:

I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island. Please help!

Thank you

Correspondence ID: 1007 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 09:37:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I was appalled to learn of the plan to manage deer population on Fire Island by killing them. This is the easy way out. Use some common sense and use available solutions that do not include killing these beautiful animals.

Correspondence ID: 1008 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 09:40:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: A non-lethal method of sterilization seems to be the best possible way to control the population of the deer on Fire Island and I am all for that being used! It seems to be horribly unfair to kill these beautiful animals just for being there! To simply stop more from arriving, until you see fit to accept them, would appear to be a cleaner and more logical way to solve the problem. This way you would also have complete control over the situation for the foreseeable future! I pray that you will choose this solution over any fatal ones. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1009 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 09:40:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1010 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Recently I have learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods

to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Killing animals to control population is a plan to fail as it has been proven to be an ineffective method as I am sure you are aware. What is the real reason be that you want killing these deer?

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1011 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 09:51:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please let's control the deer with humane - not barbaric means! When I think of the wild creatures we have on this planet - they ALL have feelings and personalities - and we don't want to cause any wild animal horrible physical pain!

Correspondence ID: 1012 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 09:55:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1013 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

In the over 30 years that I have been enjoying fire island the deer population & the incidence of ticks & Lyme disease has lessened.

These are beautiful tame animals that we enjoy co-existing with.

What could possibly be the reason for killing them?

Correspondence ID: 1014 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: "The greatness of a country and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals Are treated." (Mahatma Ghandi)

Correspondence ID: 1015 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 10:17:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane

Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1016 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 10:18:12

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1017 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 10:21:22

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1018 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 10:21:50

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1019 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 10:21:55

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.
Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1020 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly support the use of effective non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on fire island

Correspondence ID: 1021 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 10:38:57

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not allow the destruction of these beautiful gentle creatures

Find another way...

Regards,

Correspondence ID: 1022 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 10:42:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The NPS should continue to work with organizations as the J Humane Society to manage safely the deer population. I urge you to consider humane and peaceful resolution of this issue. Thank you

Correspondence ID: 1023 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 10:42:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1024 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 10:51:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: If the deer management methods used in conjunction with the HSUS have been working, why change now?

Correspondence ID: 1025 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. I support any measure to humanely control any wildlife population, rather than just killing off the "problem". These animals deserve someone who is willing to fight for them. Thank You.

Correspondence ID: 1026 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 11:00:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support the use of non-lethal, non-violent means of fertility control -

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1027 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 11:01:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please do keep all our wildlife safe from the hands of crazy men

Correspondence ID: 1028 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: There is simply no need for the senseless killing of semi-tame deer on Fire Island in the name of a "deer management plan." Such an approach is short-sighted and inhumane. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1029 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 11:22:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Well!! at this point in our development , killing beautiful animals for sport , which is pretty much like saying I can't think of anything better to do with my leisure time than killing defenseless creatures, is a pretty sad state of affairs for supposedly evolved beings and should be left behind where it belongs. I have seen the glee and light in hunters eyes when , Deer season or other barbaric methods of supposedly thinning the ranks for their own good,well! for their own good certainly does not fully explain the glee and light in the hunters ayes at the chance to kill, now does it!!

Correspondence ID: 1030 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 11:28:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1031 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

With humane methods to manage the deer population available, why choose otherwise? Please implement humane methods!

Correspondence ID: 1032 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 11:36:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Don't kill the Deer of Fire Is. Please use non lethal fertility control methods

Correspondence ID: 1033 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 11:38:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Use darting for birth control do not kill in any fashion !!!!!

Correspondence ID: 1034 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

As a visitor to the island I found the native deer to be one of the most charming and unexpected parts and these beautiful and harmless creatures deserve our protection.

Thank you

Correspondence ID: 1035 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I love wildlife and I will fight for the deers and be their voice.

Correspondence ID: 1036 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 12:20:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1037 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

We visit Fire Island several times a year, and so enjoy the deer...please keep treating them in a humane way! WE are on THEIR land!

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1038 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 12:38:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1039 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 13:03:15

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Reducing and controlling population size by using birth control is a rational procedure and should be used more often.

Correspondence ID: 1040 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Of course thinning the over populated herds of Deer are an essential fact of life,

Correspondence ID: 1041 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Lets do it.

Correspondence ID: 1042 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 13:16:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

We must learn to live in harmony with all creatures.

Correspondence ID: 1043 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 13:35:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Since a humane sterilization program has been effective, there is no need to begin a killing program.

Correspondence ID: 1044 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 13:38:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1045 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 13:41:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to control the deer population by other means than lethal. This is cruel and inhumane
Stoo playing god.

Correspondence ID: 1046 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 13:45:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support non-lethal fertility control for deer on Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1047 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 13:46:13

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you for your time...

Correspondence ID: 1048 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer.

As a summer resident of Fire Island, these deer are treasured and part of the experience here on the Island. I have never felt over the last 10-15 yrs that the deer were a problem and look forward to seeing them galloping along the shore or grazing in lawn just a few feet in front of us. I cannot understand why a can huge in the current management of these gentle animals would be changed from humane sterilization to killing them.

I ask that you please continue the fertility control program and not kill these innocent animals whose area humans have invaded.

Correspondence ID: 1049 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 13:59:56

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Using non-lethal birth control seems to me to be the safest and most effective form of controlling the deer population

Correspondence ID: 1050 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 14:07:35

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1051 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: no kill deer

Correspondence ID: 1052 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: please use a humane method for the deer!

Correspondence ID: 1053 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 14:24:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It would be unnecessarily cruel to kill a number of deer on Fire Island. Please use non lethal methods to control the populations.

Correspondence ID: 1054 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 14:35:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1055 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please keep up the good work and persist to the end for animal rights and for a clean environment.

Correspondence ID: 1056 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Save the deer!

Correspondence ID: 1057 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please dont let our beautiful deer live and use non lethal chemicals Thank you save our beautiful animals

Correspondence ID: 1058 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 15:08:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use humane methods of birth control to control the deer population!

Correspondence ID: 1059 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: ...

Correspondence ID: 1060 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 15:51:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1061 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 15:55:31

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/De Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United State worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control system using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. They should continue working with organizations like The Humane Society and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1062 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore.

I'm completely concerned over it & I just don't understand what led you there.

For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. Why change ?

Why turn your back on this humane way to manage deer populations ?

The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1063 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 16:19:57

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Please consider humane options first. Thank you for your time.

Correspondence ID: 1064 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 16:24:04

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1065 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 16:41:46

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental

Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1066 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 16:59:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge to you adopt non-lethal fertility control methods for the deer on Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1067 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Just put a few wolves on the island and everything will straighten out in a few years.

Correspondence ID: 1068 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 17:15:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1069 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 17:20:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hello,

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1070 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Manage the white tailed deer humanely.

Correspondence ID: 1071 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 17:38:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1072 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 18:10:34

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Birth control, not control by death!!!

Correspondence ID: 1073 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 18:26:23

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1074 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 18:27:48

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1075 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: For the love of God, save the life of these beautiful creatures!
Killing them is cruel and unethical!

Correspondence ID: 1076 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 18:30:21

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please find a humane way of reducing the deer population without killing them. There are humane ways that The Humane Society of the United States can assist with. It would be very sad to have unnecessary killing. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1077 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 18:32:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1078 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 18:33:09

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1079 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 18:41:10

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1080 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 18:49:42

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1081 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 18:57:29

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1082 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. Instead of expanding this effective and widely supported program, your recently released deer management plan for Fire Island calls for the killing of hundreds of semi-tame animals who have peacefully coexisted with residents for decades.

NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Please reconsider and prevent this unnecessary lethal control. I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1083 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 19:04:24

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1084 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 19:16:19

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1085 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 19:19:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thanks for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1086 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,27,2014 19:29:03

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Why take a violent way if there is a humane way of reducing the population of such gentle creatures.

Correspondence ID: 1087 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 19:58:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please sterilize deer instead of killing them.

Correspondence ID: 1088 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect them.

Correspondence ID: 1089 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 21:18:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1090 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 21:22:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Populations need to be controlled in responsible, non-lethal ways because all the animals are part of the ecosystem.

Correspondence ID: 1091 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 21:37:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The fertility program you are using now is effective. What possible reason could you have for a hunt? What, hunters don't have enough of an open season? This is just shameful on your part.

Correspondence ID: 1092 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Why don't you people stop trying to kill all the wildlife on Long Island. Everyone that moves out to L.I. because of the country living and wildlife once they move here don't want the wildlife. If you don't like it out here move back to the CITY and all the murders. Stop already and enjoy the beauty.

Correspondence ID: 1093 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 23:15:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support non-lethal fertility methods for deer on Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1094 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,27,2014 23:31:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1095 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Hello,

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. These animals are a crucial aspect to the environment; thus, I urge you to help protect these beautiful creatures rather than kill them.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1096 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 03:30:41

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1097 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Save our deers please. Be humane.

Correspondence ID: 1098 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 05:15:48

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Please return to you past practice of darting the does to prevent pregnancy. It was working so well!

Correspondence ID: 1099 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 05:19:46

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been a home improvement contractor on Fire Island for 30 years and am an avid deer hunter. Shooting deer on Fire Island would not be hunting in any sense of the word. I witnessed a short bow hunting season over twenty years ago that did nothing to reduce the herd. The deer on the west end of the Island where I am familiar, reside in Robert Moses State park or in the towns of Kismet, Saltaire, Fair Harbor, Dunewood, Lonlville and Atlantique. These areas would not be in the allowed hunting zones. The best approach I feel would be a non lethal steralization approach. These deer are semi-tame and it is not a sport to cull the herd by shooting. I have witnessed the reduction of deer ticks and chiggers by whatever method is being used at the deer feeding stations. This project should be continued also.

Correspondence ID: 1100 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 05:27:42

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental

Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1101 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I d like to see the deer thrive in a peaceful area. As humans , we ve destroyed and decimated so many animals. I think we can co exist with a species as peaceful as deer...

Correspondence ID: 1102 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 05:40:32

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: oppose killing deer when easier means of controlling population are available.

Correspondence ID: 1103 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 05:46:51

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We need to protect the wildlife..and use non-lethal fertility methods.

Correspondence ID: 1104 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 05:55:55

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1105 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 05:57:01

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1106 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 06:16:58

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please implement the recommended non-lethal population control method for the deer of Fire Island. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1107 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do the humane thing for these creatures

Correspondence ID: 1108 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using HUMANE methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. And for those of us who visit the island every year, we love and treasure the deer and could not imagine them suffering the cruelty of this plan. Please do not kill our deer.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1109 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 07:22:58

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1110 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 08:09:07

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am against culling the herd by shooting or any other way of euthanizing the deer. First of all, there is a veterinarian who is willing to castrate the deer to stop reproduction. He has offered his services for free. There is no reason to kill them. Next, the deer on Fire Island are not "wild deer." They have been in contact with people in so many ways that you could say they have been domesticated. To shoot them would be like shooting gold fish in a gold fish pond. Hardly fair to the fish or deer in this case. Another reason why shooting the deer is a bad idea is that Fire Island is inhabited by people who walk everywhere from everywhere. There would be no way to make sure people were not in the line of fire. It would not be safe for people to hold a hunt. It is also important to consider the fact that Storm Sandy killed numerous deer. We may not have the over population of deer that you recorded pre-Sandy when this study began. While it is true that the deer have no natural enemy on Fire Island like they do in the wild elsewhere, they only have a life span of about 7 years. If we were to castrate the males, the population of deer would decline rapidly, solving the "supposed problem" the deer present to Fire Island. I am a permanent resident of Fire Island for the past two years and have been coming to Fire Island for 30 years to enjoy the beach and wild life. The deer have always been a wonderful part of the experience. Please use a humane way to reduce the herd. Thank you for your time and efforts in this matter.

Correspondence ID: 1111 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Humans are responsible for the imbalance of wildlife populations. Therefore, we have a responsibility to deal with the consequences in a thoughtful and humane way. I strongly support non-lethal methods of control of deer populations and urge you not to just take the easy and cruel step of killing.

Correspondence ID: 1112 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,28,2014 08:23:40

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I summer on Fire Island and have always enjoyed the semi-tame deer that share the island with me. While I recognize the need for population control, I strongly object to lethal methods when safe, humane, non-lethal methods are not only available, but proven effective. Please continue the sterilization program - not not move forward with a cull.

Correspondence ID: 1113 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 08:27:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please use non-lethal methods to control the deer population. I visit Fire Island frequently and don't wish to think of it as a killing field

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1114 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 08:28:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1115 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I live in an area of New York State with a large deer population as well. They are beautiful and gentle animals and deserve to be treated kindly, and with respect. Please do not kill them when there are humane alternatives available.

Correspondence ID: 1116 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 08:51:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please protect the deer population on Fire Island by adopting a non-lethal method of population control. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1117 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 09:11:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1118 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 09:50:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1119 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 09:55:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Why kill deer when you've been given viable alternative of fertility answer? Of course it is easier just to kill isn't it.

Correspondence ID: 1120 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1121 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: There are no many of them,and there inspire peace!

Correspondence ID: 1122 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 10:13:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I SUPPORT FERTILITY CONTROL METHODS. I DO NOT WANT ANY KILLING OF THE DEER TO CONTROL THE POPULATION.

Correspondence ID: 1123 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: No Comment, just protect the deer.

Correspondence ID: 1124 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 10:41:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use fertility methods rather than killing the deer.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1125 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please turn your attention to the care of the deer on Fire Island and Staten Island as well. The deer have a right to exist but they need our help to control the population from over-reproducing, getting hit by cars and spreading lime disease.

Correspondence ID: 1126 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please do not slaughter the deer on Fire Island. I strongly support effective nonlethal fertility control methods.

Correspondence ID: 1127 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: none at this time.

Correspondence ID: 1128 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 12:02:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the use of non-lethal fertility control methods for the deer population of Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1129 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 12:14:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: If it is the intention to eradicate the incidence of Lyme Disease and other related tick-bourne illnesses, it will not. To do so, every mouse, bird and warm-blooded creature would have to be eradicated from the terrain.
Rather, the intention should be to limit and control exposure through education and humane ways of deer and mouse depopulation.

Correspondence ID: 1130 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: ?

Correspondence ID: 1131 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 14:24:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: A controlled hunt was carried out in Southampton, and many less deer were harvested than anticipated. I actually heard the shots at my location in Shinnecock hills, between, always after nine p.m. on at least four or five occasions.. It was supposed to happen only on farmland, with the owners' permission. There is no farmland nearby to that location. The sharpshooters brought in were not as effective as anticipated. It should be apparent at this point that birth control should effectively manage it.

Correspondence ID: 1132 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 15:39:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1133 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 16:02:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1134 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather

than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I live upstate, and i wish they would implement something like that or allow the reintroduction of NATURAL predators like wolf & cougar. Hunting season, whether i condone it or not, helps in the respect of this particular aspect of deer population, but will never replace natural predation and/or selection. in fact it sometimes hinders the natural order.

Correspondence ID: 1135 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Lethal seldom necessary
Would you like it if you were considered a nuisance and the same treatment were used?

Correspondence ID: 1136 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 16:14:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1137 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 16:28:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please implement a sensible birth control program for these beautiful animals and reject any plan that calls for culling.

Correspondence ID: 1138 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've grown up going to Fire Island every summer and all my favorite memories center around the adorable deer on the island. They are as much a part of FI as the little red wagons we all drag around. I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Please do not kill any FI deer!

Correspondence ID: 1139 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 16:56:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island.

I am OPPOSED to killing the deer to control population.

Correspondence ID: 1140 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 18:07:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I learned recently that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society

of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1141 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 18:12:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: A friend of mine, who owns a home on Fire Island, has informed me that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1142 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 18:34:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1143 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please use humane non lethal birth control for deer on Fire Island NY.

Correspondence ID: 1144 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 18:39:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly urge FINS to come up with a viable plan, including thinning the herd by shooting, to control the exploding deer population on Fire Island

Correspondence ID: 1145 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly support the use of non-lethal fertility control for the deer on Fire Island. Please make sure that you are not only protecting the wildlife and natural vegetation there, but also protecting the deer population in a non-lethal, ethically responsible way.

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1146 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 18:45:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental

Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1147 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 18:46:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear NPS:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1148 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 18:51:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use non-lethal when it comes to deer and all sentient beings that can feel and are members of families, and our members of this earth and our parks to. Thank you. Please use your power with real thought for others they depend on you to act nice and decent.

Correspondence ID: 1149 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 18:51:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Last spring, the Town of Southold was the only town on the East End of Long Island, NY to participate in a deer cull, utilizing federal sharpshooters from the USDA Wildlife Services. Without a proper environmental study and against the warnings from local hunters and wildlife conservationists that culling does not work, Southold went ahead with the cull. One hundred thirty two deer were slaughtered - nowhere near the 3,000 initially targeted.
Just last August, the Town Supervisor and members of every group who promoted this cull came forward and admitted that it was a failure. Now Southold is promising to work with local hunters and conservationists to utilize other methods besides culling - namely immuno-contraception (PZP), sterilization, use of four poster devices to control the spread of Lyme Disease and get the herd under control.
The Fire Island deer can be handled in the same way. There is no need to eradicate them in the most barbaric way - culling. The deer there are a draw for many of the campers who visit the area. Our granddaughter recently camped there, experiencing close contact with deer for the first time and came away awed and with a new respect for wildlife. Isn't this what we should be instilling in our young people rather than the bloody murder of what some might call "nuisances"?
Laura Simon, Wildlife Biologist with The HSUS, has written extensively on this topic of why culls never work. The Fire Island National Seashore area is contained enough to enable trained personnel to sterilize and immunize deer with PZP to prevent further expansion of the herd. The HSUS also put out a recent issue of their monthly magazine ALL ANIMALS to detail the alternatives to culling. I would strongly urge that it be read.

Correspondence ID: 1150 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Parks People,

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer

population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Hunting is one thing; slaughter is another. Please implement protections. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1151 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The deer need to live, simple as that.

Correspondence ID: 1152 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I was driving on Palisades Parkway in the early hours of an autumn dawn with the Sun inching up. Suddenly out of nowhere there were those startled eyes in the headlights. There was this sudden thump louder than thunder. I braked as hard as I could very startled myself. The car started stalling and finally came to a stop by the side of the road. Fumes had started billowing from the hood. I frantically tried to get out the door on the driver's side. But it was totally jammed. So was the front passenger door. I had the presence of mind to take my identification, wallet and insurance cards, jumped to the back of the car and escaped (luckily those doors were not jammed). I ventured to take a look at the front of the car. The front was folded on itself and there was blood everywhere along with the smoke. But the most gruesome sight were those hanging headlights still on with dripping blood. The sight was eerie. Those were the days when the cell phones had just come out. Luckily, I had one. So I called 911 and then my husband. I was shaking all over- from fear and the cold. Fearfully I took a look at what I had hit unwittingly because I was not speeding, DUI nor sleep-deprived. And lo and behold! there was this majestic stag, huge, resplendent with his beautiful antlers. At that moment of guilt I could curl up just like him looking peaceful in his repose. When the cops came in they just wanted to see that I was o.k. My car had been totaled but I did not care about that. My thoughts were with that handsome stag who would just be hauled away like other road-kill.

Correspondence ID: 1153 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 19:47:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1154 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 19:47:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Non lethal methods of controlling deer on Fire Island. Please.

Correspondence ID: 1155 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 19:56:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1156 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 20:02:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support controlling the deer population by means of birth control medication and am strongly against a hunt. It seems obvious to me that if there is a humane way to achieve population control, there is no excuse for not using it.

Unless , of course, it's an excuse to have what amounts to a canned hunt.

Correspondence ID: 1157 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: save them do not destroy them. we have taken too much

Correspondence ID: 1158 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. I visit Fire Island often and enjoy seeing the deer. It is unacceptable to kill the deer when humane methods have been successful. There isn't any justification for killing semi-tame deer.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1159 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 21:08:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Having grown up in New England, and having worked in Westchester for many years, I certainly know how destructive deer can be! But I also know they were here before we were. If non lethal measures can control the deer population on Fire Island, that should be tried first. Thanks very much!

Correspondence ID: 1160 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 21:14:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I favor non-lethal treatment of deer on Fire Island. I am opposed to killing deer as an option.

Correspondence ID: 1161 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 21:17:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The method of birth control should be non lethal. DON'T kill the deer.

Correspondence ID: 1162 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: "Comments' must be entered to submit the form." Really!!! Bureaucrats!

Correspondence ID: 1163 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 21:37:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental

Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1164 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,28,2014 22:00:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island

Correspondence ID: 1165 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 01:05:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1166 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island. I strongly oppose your deer management plan for Fire Island that calls for the killing of hundreds of semi-tame animals who have peacefully coexisted with residents for decades.

Correspondence ID: 1167 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 01:25:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1168 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 02:19:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1169 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 04:46:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not slaughter the tame deer. Go forward with the planned birth control for the deer. It is inhumane to kill deer who have lived in peace with humans and have learned to trust them. It is wrong both morally and physically to do this to the deer of Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1170 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 05:30:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
We absolutely support NON-LETHAL HUMANE animal control - We love the gentle deer and enjoy seeing them always on Fire Island. We understand the need for control and support the most humane methods possible. Absolutely NO HUNTING!!!

Thank you!

Correspondence ID: 1171 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support the use non-lethal methods of fertility.

Correspondence ID: 1172 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I understand the NPS is considering killing deer on Fire Island as a means of control. As an animal supporter I disagree entirely with this idea, especially as the inhabitants and visitors have received immense pleasure from having deer as an attraction. Instead of culling please institute an efficient fertility method that not only allows you to regulate the amount of sustainable births required but saves money in the long run.

Correspondence ID: 1173 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 06:04:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1174 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 06:26:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a Fire Island resident, I am deeply concerned by proposals to euthanize and/or sharpshoot deer in our community. Such proposals are cruel, inhumane and largely unnecessary. I strongly disagree with Options C-D. In addition, efforts to curb the deer population through fertility control are equally troubling and therefore I strongly urge you to abandon such plans as contemplated by Option B.

I strongly support Option A, which would involve no action.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1175 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 06:30:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please control the Fire Island deer population with birth control, not by killing deer.

Correspondence ID: 1176 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 06:36:21

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1177 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The cruelty of man never ceases, it is time for a more humane world.

Correspondence ID: 1178 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Deers are meant to be free and live peacefully let them be as nature intended.sign and share please

Correspondence ID: 1179 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 06:46:36

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1180 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I do understand the tremendous responsibility the National Park Services has to safeguard Fire Island National Seashore, and the huge problem the overpopulation of deer pose. But I urge you to continue working with the Humane Society of the United States on fertility control. For more than 15 years, The HSUS has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1181 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 07:17:48

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1182 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 07:18:05

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1183 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 07:36:24

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1184 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Hello. I'm a believer in treating all people and animals with respect. And I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Most people's faces light up when they see a deer due to their natural beauty, and we should treat them like delicate living things, the same way we would our pets. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1185 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 08:10:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Please find a humane way to deal with this issue.

Correspondence ID: 1186 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 08:10:51

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than fifteen years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1187 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island. These deer are semi-tame and have coexisted with humans for years.

Please use fertility control instead of killing them.

Correspondence ID: 1188 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 08:23:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Ladies & Gentlemen:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like the HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1189 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 08:45:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: i strongly strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island

Correspondence ID: 1190 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 08:46:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Sterilization, not killing.

Correspondence ID: 1191 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 08:49:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1192 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. As a former resident of Fire-Island, it further upsets me to think that the NPS would consider doing this.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1193 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 09:02:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use non-lethal methods to control the deer population. It is cruel, inhumane and unnecessary not to. Why kill all those deer?

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1194 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 09:03:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please consider humanely managing the deer population with fertility management control rather than slaughtering tame deer.

Correspondence ID: 1195 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 09:20:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Fertility management, not mass killings.

Correspondence ID: 1196 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please help these animals.

Correspondence ID: 1197 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 09:30:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1198 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: animals in our country need protection from corporate profiteers and government associations.

Correspondence ID: 1199 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 09:47:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1200 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 10:22:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to find other means instead of killing. We've taken over to much of the land the deer once had access to - they have nowhere to go. Killing is not the answer.

Correspondence ID: 1201 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 10:46:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support alternative B.

Correspondence ID: 1202 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island»

Correspondence ID: 1203 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 11:30:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It is time for us as a society to behave civilly, and treat our wildlife and all of it's inhabitants in kind. To promote hunting and murder of our wildlife in the name of "population control" is the mindset of an uncivilized society. There are a multitude of means to implement a successful fertility control which would help the NPS manage deer populations on Fire Island National Seashore, and yet the idea of killing is still being considered. As a native Long Islander I've grown tired of this argument, and am pleading with NPS to continue to with with HSUS and/or other organizations to implement a HUMANE deer management strategy if we are to be considered a humane and compassionate people. It would not be good for tourism if the general public were to learn of such atrocities as murdering our wildlife, and it certainly wouldnt set a good example of humane behavior for the rest of the world.

Correspondence ID: 1204 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We need to protect and respect animals especially wildlife

Correspondence ID: 1205 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 12:07:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1206 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 13:11:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1207 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. We need to stop all inhumane treatment of animals

Correspondence ID: 1208 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 13:21:12

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please implement a successful fertility control study to help the NPS manage deer populations on Fire Island National Seashore instead of killing of hundreds of semi-tame deer who have peacefully coexisted with residents for decades.

Fertility control has been proven effective and is a widely supported program, not unnecessary lethal control.

Correspondence ID: 1209 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 13:37:44

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1210 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 14:32:20

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We do not support the slaughter or inhumane treatment of docile deer. It sickens me to think that killing is the only way to manage the deer population. There are other ways and I encourage you to use them. Why must we turn to killing as the only answer? If we kill all of nature around us we are next. Please do not slaughter these gentle creatures, find another way.

Correspondence ID: 1211 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Hi, I love animals and wish to help save them.

Correspondence ID: 1212 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 14:58:36

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1213 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 16:03:25

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1214 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 16:25:14

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1215 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 16:34:04

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: i've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1216 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 16:45:03

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not introduce lethal control, it is unnecessary and inhumane. Please continue to work with the humane society for humane solutions.

Correspondence ID: 1217 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 16:55:44

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Robert Moses State Park is one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. The deer, who live there first, are semi-tame. Shooting them is not like shooting animals in the "wild." So much time and money has been invested in sterilization that that project should be seen through to the end. Surely there is a better way to control the deer population than to shoot them.

Correspondence ID: 1218 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Consider also that from a historical perspective, fertility control has been found to be more effective, less expensive, and much more humane than extermination. And, it is safer to humans and other animals because there is no chance

for stray bullets to cause damage as will inevitably occur during sharp shooting and hunting.

Correspondence ID: 1219 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 17:20:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1220 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: PLEASE STOP BEING CRUEL TO THESE ANIMALS... WE ALL JUST WANT TO SURVIVE AND BE HAPPY AND CONTENT...RIGHT? THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, LINDA

Correspondence ID: 1221 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 18:55:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I agree that sterilization is the best way for compassionate birth control

Correspondence ID: 1222 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 18:56:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Killing these innocent animals is senseless. They have a right to land as much as we do.

Correspondence ID: 1223 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 19:15:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: No hunting on FI...stay with birth control or neuter the bucks when they are young and clip their ear.

Correspondence ID: 1224 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please stop killing! I think that is all I want to say. We need the animals. What we need less of is US. Leave the animals alone and start encouraging people to stop procreating. That is what I have to say.

Correspondence ID: 1225 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 20:26:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1226 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: More needs to be done

Correspondence ID: 1227 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,29,2014 23:14:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have stayed at Fire Island over the past 25 years, and the deer are an integral part of the island's allure. These deer are tame, and they are beloved by everyone on Fire Island. They should be cherished, not killed. An effective fertility program would prevent a gruesome and cruel death for these beautiful and majestic creatures and veritable miracles of nature.

Correspondence ID: 1228 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,30,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Cruelty to any living thing is unacceptable. The company selling the chickens suggests you do not open the pagage of baby chicks, in front of your children, so they are not traumatized by the dead and dying chicks," that don't make it". Shopping day old chicks, with no food, water or provioions for care is cruelty, and should not be allowed.

Correspondence ID: 1229 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,30,2014 03:20:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It may be time to relocate the deer...

Correspondence ID: 1230 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,30,2014 05:58:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1231 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,30,2014 06:12:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Killing of the deer in NY is getting out of control. There are other ways to cut back on the population that is not cruel.

Correspondence ID: 1232 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,30,2014 06:24:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As an avid visitor to NY's Fire Island, and as an outdoor enthusiast, I ask that you use only humane methods to manage wildlife populations.

Correspondence ID: 1233 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,30,2014 06:52:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1234 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,30,2014 07:01:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1235 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,30,2014 07:08:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1236 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,30,2014 07:17:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island

Correspondence ID: 1237 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,30,2014 08:17:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Human overpopulation, resource overconsumption and intrusion and encroachment into wildlands and waters are lead causes of our environmental depletion and destruction. Protecting and respecting other species and their habitat is crucial in the preservation of Earth's biodiversity and to maintain healthy ecosystems.

There are alternate, humane solutions to species management/over-population:

A.) Birth Control; &

B.) Species (or herd) Relocation

Volunteers & Wildlife Rehabilitators could assist with these.

Humans are supposedly evolved; therefore, should be good stewards and respectful of other living creatures and our environment. It is our responsibility and is mere common sense.

ALL animals have a right and deserve to live in peace and freedom and enjoy their lives as do humans.

Correspondence ID: 1238 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,30,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: They are such beautiful creatures - leave them alone.

Correspondence ID: 1239 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,30,2014 09:00:49

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1240 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 10:27:29

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please don't end the life of any animals!!!!!!!

There has to be ways to control populations without the finality of death!!!!

Correspondence ID: 1241 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 10:31:43

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I beg you to find another way. Don't kill god's beautiful creations.

Correspondence ID: 1242 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please help the humane way of controlling the deer population on fire island there are too many deer being hunted and killed by coyotes etc thank you

Correspondence ID: 1243 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 10:51:57

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1244 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 11:06:18

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: THIS IS HORRIBLE!! WHY KILL ANIMALS WHEN HUMANE WAYS HAVE BEEN WORKING???

Correspondence ID: 1245 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 11:40:21

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Using birth control will limit the number of deer born humanely and eliminate the need to kill them.

Correspondence ID: 1246 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 11:51:42

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working

with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1247 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 13:00:59

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1248 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 14:08:37

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I prefer Alternative "D".

Correspondence ID: 1249 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 14:14:54

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1250 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Highly in favor of this action. Too beautiful to kill for numbers sake. I understand starvation is the problem and implementing this action is a humane way to treat what God has put in our care.

Correspondence ID: 1251 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. I am less inclined to visit Fire Island if I will have in my mind that it's responsible for killing animals. I'll associate animal-killing with Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1252 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 14:51:05

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: If a non-lethal method works, then it should be used. In any case, shooting semi-tame deer is nothing resembling sport.

Correspondence ID: 1253 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 15:05:43

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: These animals are beautiful. They need to live freely. When I drive on the LIE parkway & I see a family of deer or siblings looking out for each other I get a very good feeling inside. They are living as GOD has intended. They are intelligent & always look out for each other, more so than some people do with their families. There are too many animals being destroyed in our country in such terrible ways, it has to be stopped. We should stop sending money to countries that hate us & want to murder us in our beds. These are the animals that should be put down not our beautiful animals.

Thank you for the opportunity of speaking my mind,

Correspondence ID: 1254 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 16:08:40

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

It is inhumane to kill semi-tame deer!. Thank you

Correspondence ID: 1255 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Killing is never the solution. Animal populations, whether domestic or wild, are caused by human involvement. In the case of wild animals, habitat encroachment and the over killing of predator species are just a couple of the reasons for population imbalance in nature. Humans negative effect on wildlife populations has to stop. A violent and inhumane action on innocent creatures should be unthinkable. However, humans continue to perpetuate violence wherever we go. Please stop this arrogant attempt to manipulate nature to somehow fit some misconceived idea of how we want nature to be. The only "nature" we should be controlling is our own. Stop and take a look at yourselves. We are only one species on this planet and we cannot live without the others. Just let them be and put your own actions and environmental impact on the Earth in check.

Correspondence ID: 1256 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 17:00:58

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1257 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 17:42:03

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1258 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please, it's 2014. There are effective ways to manage deer population that are both humane and successful. Leave your guns at home, or better yet melt them down and make something useful.

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1259 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 18:49:59

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1260 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 19:28:41

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: No innocent animals should ever be killed unless they are an imminent danger to someone. These Deer do not represent any threat. They have the right to live in peace.

If you must re-locate them, alright, but DO NOT KILL THEM!

Correspondence ID: 1261 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: LEAVE NATURE AND LIFE WITHIN ALONE - LIVE AND LET LIVE!!!! BLESSINGS TO ALL THE CREATURES ON EARTH!!!!

Correspondence ID: 1262 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. For the last 40 years, I have been going to Fire Island. My family and I all grew up in the Pines. Deer were never an issue like they are today. I am not sure if it is a population explosion, or due to the fact that we have demolished their habitat and replaced it with homes and bamboo. It saddens me to think that we humans take matters into our own hands and just dismiss their lives. I think we owe it to them and our conscience to find a humane way to all co-exist together.

Correspondence ID: 1263 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Sep,30,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Now why do you want to kill the deer? Whos bright idea is that? Are you people in Government positions really that stupid you cant put your peabrains together and come up with better solutions than killing animals? I got an idea...why cant we eliminate the morons in government that have dumb ideas. Maybe that would force you people to work together and come up with real solutions.

Correspondence ID: 1264 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,01,2014 03:21:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1265 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,01,2014 06:54:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support the use of fertility control for the deer population on Fire Island. Please stop lethal methods to control overpopulation. It is inhumane and unnecessary. Thank you

Correspondence ID: 1266 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,01,2014 07:35:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I was born and raised here on Long Island. I live 1 block from Connetquot State Park and Fire Island and its beaches are a hop skip and jump away. These inhumane practices of murdering our wildlife must end!!! These animals have had much right to be here as its humans. This is there home. Humans are the ones taking away its land just to give more breeding humans home, shopping centers, schools etc... And what kind of example are we setting out to the rest of the world...it's okay to be inhumane!!! With the money it costs to hire sharp shooters and the drugs used to kill these animals can be spent more wisely!! Let's get a neuter & spay program started for our wild life friends or how bout relocating these animals...the United States is vast with more than enough roaming space and good habitat for these animals!! I didn't know that it is more important to have vacation homes on fire Island for a 3 month season to destroy our barrier island is more important than preserving Fire Islands natural habitat and its year round residents of animals!!! Enough is enough....there is a better way...the selfishness and inhumanity must end!!

Correspondence ID: 1267 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,01,2014 07:54:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1268 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,01,2014 08:18:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: please work with the Humane Society to implement humane deer management policies

Correspondence ID: 1269 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Sep,24,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: Hi Chris,

I'm a nature photographer, one of a handful of people living year-round in Cherry Grove, which I've been doing for the last twenty-five years. (You might be aware of my work through the racks of note cards and postcards of my photographs which are presently sold in every town on Fire Island that has a store.)

I'm taking this time to write you because I'm deeply troubled by the two premises underlying the deer management plan proposed by the Seashore.

The first premise, which seems to be the prime motivation behind the formation of a deer management program, is that the deer, by their browsing, are destroying the local vegetation.

As a nature photographer, I've been walking from my home in Cherry Grove to the Sunken Forest several times each week, year-round, for the last twenty-five years, and, from May to September, for an additional five years preceding that, passing each time, on my way to and back from the Forest, through the half-mile long undeveloped area of the swale that lies between Cherry Grove and Sailors Haven.

When I first started walking through the swale it was notable that the amount of exposed sand throughout this stretch far outweighed the amount of greenery. I would say, as a necessarily rough guess, 85% sand to 15% greenery. The deer seem to inhabit this stretch of land as much, perhaps more so than they are in the Sunken Forest. Yet over the year, I've seen a gradual and steady increase, not decrease, in the amount of vegetation in this area, to the point where I would now, thirty years later, guess it to be ninety to ninety-five per cent greenery, and five to, at most, ten per cent exposed sand.

This raises a troubling question: If the deer, which roam freely and fully throughout both swale and Forest, are destroying the local vegetation, then how could be that the vegetation throughout this large tract of undeveloped land of the swale could have increased; not only increased, but increased dramatically.

It's hard not to come to the conclusion that the present green and thriving condition of the entire swale, even post-Sandy, implies that the premise that the deer are destroying vegetation is a lie.

Premise #2: The deer population has been "growing exponentially" (and consequently needs to be reduced). This is simply not what I've observed in thirty years of walking through the swale and through the woods of the Sunken Forest. Many years ago, partly to amuse myself, I began counting the number of deer that I was seeing on each of my walks. The first few years, these numbers seemed to increase; by the early 1990s it was not unusual for me to count up to twenty-five deer during the course of a walk. But in the 1990s, after a few years of the immuno-contraceptive program began in effect, I saw these numbers significantly decline. By 2005, I was seeing between four, and as many as eight deer on each of my walks. And this number has remained stable for the last decade.

While it's possible that a different situation exists on different parts of Fire Island, the deer population on this part of Fire Island, peaking in the early 1990s, and declining rapidly in the years thereafter, had remained low and stable, while the vegetation has continued to steadily increase and thrive.

I would appreciate a response to this conflict between these premises underlying the proposed deer management plan and the completely contradictory evidence as stated above.

Thank you for your attention to this; I appreciate that it's a difficult and thorny issue.

Correspondence ID: 1270 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,01,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Re: Deer Population

Dear Ms. Reis:

I have been a resident of Kismet, Fire Island for 26 years. Twenty or so years ago, Drs. Jay Kirkpatrick, John Turner, wildlife biologists, and the Humane Society of the United States initiated an immo conception program for

deer darting in September.

As a result the deer population decreased as only 1 or maybe 2 fawns were born annually.

For some reason FINS undertook this task for approximately 2 years and then ceased the operation. Whether this was due to the inability of the darters to hit their target or just plain uncaring - I do not know.

I would like to see FINS bring in responsible people who can set up the baiting stations and properly dart the deer.

Respectfully,

Cc: Mr. Phil Boyle, State Senator

Correspondence ID: 1271 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,01,2014 10:15:58

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1272 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,01,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: STOP THE KILLING

Correspondence ID: 1273 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,01,2014 11:27:21

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a home-owner on Fire Island and I oppose any deer management plan which uses lethal methods to cull the deer population of the island. I understand that the Humane Society has effectively used non-lethal population control methods and I endorse using this approach to reduce the deer count on the island.

Correspondence ID: 1274 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,01,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Don't kill Deer!!

Correspondence ID: 1275 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,01,2014 12:40:44

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a huge animal lover and disgusted at the idea of slaughtering so many peaceful deer on Fire Island, it's part

Of my home and it's also the animals home, what's next killing birds for flying overhead too much?

Please listen to our voices since these gentle creatures can not speak for themselves!

Correspondence ID: 1276 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,01,2014 13:13:13

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working

with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1277 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,01,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I am sure those deer have done nothing to deserve being hurt by anyone, especially not by human beings who should know better. Just because they are not important to some people does not mean they are not important. Please let them live their lives to the fullest. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1278 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,01,2014 15:23:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Deer are very beautiful and usually peaceful animals. It is cruel to kill them. They can be sterilized or relocated to another area of the country if there are too many of them on Fire Island. Please do not destroy them, let them live!

Correspondence ID: 1279 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,01,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Deer are not predators and are necessary for keeping OUR world environment in balance. In addition, children and adults enjoy and learn everyday about the importance of all animals in our environment.

Correspondence ID: 1280 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,01,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Therefore, I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for the deer on Fire Island.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1281 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,01,2014 19:05:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1282 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,01,2014 19:42:46

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Upon looking at a beautiful creature such as the deer, the fact that immediate death crosses the mind of some is very disheartening. These wondrous animals should be tended to and cared for, not killed simply by trying to live. I am a firm believer that if an animal is not to be needed for meat, then there is no point in killing. They are not a bother to us so we should not be a bother to them. There is no point in killing God's creations.

Correspondence ID: 1283 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,01,2014 19:45:27

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The days of just shooting the heck out of everything to control overpopulation in deer, or any other forms of wildlife are over. There are bright people who have invented means to control animal populations without the blood and guts. I hope you will consider them.

Correspondence ID: 1284 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,01,2014 21:17:03

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I prefer to manage the deer population with contraception, and not to kill any animals.

Correspondence ID: 1285 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,01,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore which, for the first time in over 15 years, calls for killing off much of the deer population as NPS' "management" plan.

Why is NPS going for the kill? For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful.

The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1286 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,01,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I do not support any plan that includes hunting or killing to control the deer population. The F.I. deer population at this time is the lowest in memory because countless deer were killed during hurricane Sandy. For many years the N.P.S., Humane Society, and F.I. residents ran a very effective immunocontraception program that successfully held deer births in check. If a rise in the deer population of F.I. occurs again, an immunocontraception program should be reinstated. Interacting peacefully with wildlife is part of the magical experience of F.I. for visitors, tourists, and residents. There should absolutely be no hunting or killing on the island. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1287 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,01,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please take care of our wildlife. They have every right to live here in harmony with us.

Correspondence ID: 1288 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,02,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I do not support any plan that includes hunting or killing to control the deer population. The F.I. deer population at this time is the lowest in memory because countless deer were killed during hurricane Sandy. For many years the N.P.S., Humane Society, and F.I. residents ran a very effective immunocontraception program that successfully held deer births in check. If a rise in the deer population of F.I. occurs again, an

immunocontraception program should be reinstated. Interacting peacefully with wildlife is part of the magical experience of F.I. for visitors, tourists, and residents. There should absolutely be no hunting or killing on the island. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1289 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,02,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have lived in Smithtown for over 20 years and have never seen deer until the past 2 years. There is no where safe for them to go in my neighborhood.

These poor creatures are running out of room and it is not safe for them anymore.

Correspondence ID: 1290 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,02,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: please help

Correspondence ID: 1291 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,02,2014 09:26:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1292 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,02,2014 10:36:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: No reason to kill deer. Look at European manicured forests. Use deer to eat underbrush thereby lowering the risk of forest fires. They are in many ways a great plus for the environment, just use them right and, to the greatest possible extent, keep them away from heavily populated areas.
Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1293 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,02,2014 11:22:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.
Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1294 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,02,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: These are beautiful and gentle animals. Why do this? There are better ways.

Correspondence ID: 1295 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,02,2014 12:44:21

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1296 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,02,2014 13:35:30

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1297 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,02,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: Lindsay Ries, Wildlife Biologist

Fire Island National Seashore

120 Laurel Street

Patchogue, NY 11772

Dear Ms. Ries,

With respect to the NPS's call for comments regarding the management of White-tailed Deer at Fire Island National Seashore, we write to support Alternatives C and/or D, though with two suggested modifications. Our proposed modifications are that the goal for the deer population be further reduced to an average of 2/sq. mile, citing historical levels, and further that upon meeting DEC criteria and in close consultation with NPS, the community of Point O' Woods be permitted to manage its deer population in parallel with other management actions on the island at the time.

In support of the suggested modification on proposed deer density, we would note that the first attempt to gauge historical figures for a naturally balanced deer population was undertaken by the renowned mammalogist, Ernest Thompson Seton. He estimated that in 'primitive times', the density of white-tailed deer in an eastern deciduous forest was approximately 4/km², or roughly 2/sq. mile. More recently, an extensive quantitative analysis independently supported this estimate, and McCabe and McCabe surmised that there were 3.1 to 4.2 deer/km² (or 1.5 - 2/sq. mile) in pre-colonial America. Recent long-term studies in the Allegheny National Forest in western Pennsylvania have shown that when density rose above 8 or 12 deer/km² (5/sq. mile) there was a significant impact on the forest. Indeed, the State of Virginia has identified 9.7 deer/km² (5/sq. mile) as a generalized carrying capacity and Pennsylvania has set a deer density goal of 4.6 to 8.1 deer/km² (2-4/sq. mile).

We would note that since white-tailed deer first arrived in the community of Point O' Woods (contiguous with Sunken Forest) around 1972, they have brought a series of unintended consequences. The deer have decimated the vegetation in the area, particularly the shrub species that once predominated in the forests and swale on Fire Island (i.e. inkberry, swamp rhododendron, winged sumac, and beach plum). These shrubs are now rare or entirely extirpated. Additionally, the great array of herbaceous species that used to carpet the forest floor are entirely gone (i.e. pink lady slippers, cinnamon fern, wild sarsaparilla). Another impact has been one on human health, and during the past several decades as deer have increased their abundance there has been a commensurate increase in the tick population on Fire Island, and this in turn mirrors the increased occurrence of Lyme Tick Disease among

our residents. Lastly, in recent years the deer have become so habituated to humans on Fire Island that they routinely raid garbage cans, chase people, and certainly no longer behave as a wild animal ought.

In this light, the community of Point O' Woods urges the NPS to pursue Alternative C and/or D, wherein the deer population is culled and reduced to a more reasonable level (i.e. 2/sq. mile) where it could ultimately be managed through non-lethal actions and Sunken Forest is fenced and protected as it was meant to be. Should a cost-effective and efficacious non-lethal fertility drug be shortly developed then Alternative D might then be pursued, if not, then Alternative C would prevail. Finally, for the record, we would remind the NPS to re-examine the deed with respect to Sunken Forest; of note a fence is called for as part of the original gift deed's parameters.

At the same time, we strongly request NPS to reject Alternative A, the current path, as we believe an overwhelming body of evidence (NPS's report included) and observations demonstrate that the current approach to manage deer at FINS is a failure, and the deer are destroying the ecological community of Sunken Forest as well as all the other vegetative ecotypes on Fire Island. In turn this de-vegetation has dramatically impacted the island's value in providing forage (autumn berries and fruit) to migratory birds, another significant value underlying FINS establishment. To us it would seem that Alternative A fails to meet NEPA criteria, for under the current policy the national park is degrading with the loss of its biodiversity, the island is less pleasing for those who visit it, and NPS is failing to achieve the type of balances generally called for. Finally, it is also clear the deer have clearly had a deleterious impact on human health in the region.

Similarly, we also urge the NPS to reject Alternative B, which simply 'kicks the can down the road'. Fencing now, and then awaiting the development of an appropriate fertility control drug would push off the much needed response for at least another ten years. We believe such a delay would inevitably cause the complete extinction of even more plant species on Fire Island, and set in motion an even greater number of Lyme Disease cases among its human residents. Again, we note that it would seem that Alternative B fails to meet NEPA criteria. Under the delayed implementation of a new policy, FINS is still degraded with the loss of its biodiversity, the island is less pleasing for those who visit it, and NPS is failing to achieve the type of balances generally called for. It also remains clear that the deer would have a major deleterious impact on human health in the region for at least another ten years.

Notes -

Seton, E. T. 1909. *Life Histories of Northern Animals*. Vol. 1. Charles Scribner's Sons. New York, N.Y.

McCabe, T.R., and R.E. McCabe. 1997. *Recounting Whitetails Past*. In *The Science of Overabundance: deer ecology and population management*. W.J. McShea, H.B. Underwood, and J.H. Rappole, Eds. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington D.C.

DeCalesta, D.S. 1997. *Deer and Ecosystem Management*. In *The Science of Overabundance: deer ecology and population management*. W.J. McShea, H.B. Underwood, and J.H. Rappole, Eds. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington D.C.

Knox, W.M. 1997. *Historical changes in the abundance and distribution of deer in Virginia*. In *The Science of Overabundance: deer ecology and population management*. W.J. McShea, H.B. Underwood, and J.H. Rappole, Eds. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington D.C.

Palmer, W. L., G.L. Storm, R. Quinn, W.M. Tzilkowski, and M.J. Lovallo. 1997. *Profiles of deer under different management and habitat conditions in Pennsylvania*. In *The Science of Overabundance: deer ecology and population management*. W.J. McShea, H.B. Underwood, and J.H. Rappole, Eds. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington D.C.

Received: Oct,02,2014 14:12:44

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1299 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,02,2014 14:40:31

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1300 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,02,2014 16:14:39

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Hunters for Deer would be interested in talking to anyone about this issue our representative Christian Killoran phone number is 631-664-5363. At the present time we are helping the town of Remsenberg N.Y. with their overpopulation of whitetail deer. All of the deer harvested are either donated to a food pantry here on Long Island or consumed by the hunters family. All hunters are certified in proficiency with their weapon and are seasoned hunters. There is no charge for this service. For more information on this subject please contact our before mentioned representative. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Correspondence ID: 1301 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,02,2014 17:24:31

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly support a program to cull the deer herd of fire island. Preferably a hunting season during the months of oct-dec. All year round I fish those waters and in the summer I frequently visit F.I for leisure. A fall hunting season would bring my love for the barrier island to a whole other level. It would benefit many people.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1302 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,02,2014 18:24:10

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do everything you can to avoid any killing of any animals.

Correspondence ID: 1303 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,02,2014 19:21:17

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I know several residents is Fire Island. They have in the past been very helpful and understanding with the deer population. Let them do what they have been doing in the past work with the Park service and find a humane way to control the deer population. You do not need guns and other means all you need is a hammer and apple. This is to a non-humane way to control the population.

Correspondence ID: 1304 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,02,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: please find an effective, non lethal control method!!!!

Correspondence ID: 1305 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,03,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It is amazing that an evolved society such as ours cannot use the Fire Island technique of humanely controlling the animal population throughout our land. Instead, I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1306 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,03,2014 08:28:55

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: For many, many years I spent summers on Fire Island. I have wonderful memories of that time. It would be painful to think that the deer on the island, somewhat tame I might add, would be eliminated, when there are humane methods available to control the population. As a supporter of the Humane Society of the U.S., I would join with them, or other qualified organizations to work to control the population of these friendly deer. I cannot understand action in any other direction. Every effort should be taken to approach this situation in a non-lethal manner. To do otherwise would cast shame upon, and sorely disappoint those of us who put our trust in the NPS.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1307 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,03,2014 08:48:27

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear National Park Service,

I live on Fire Island in Corneille Estates, full-time weekends, all seasons. I've been part of the Fire Island community since 1976. I've also lived in Fair Harbor, Seaview, and Ocean Beach.

I think we all know that the deer-culling vs. birth-control debate will continue to continue. There are obviously good arguments on both sides. However, even though I have not polled the entire F.I. community, my hypothesis would be that Fire Island is not a large-mammal-hunting-oriented culture, and that the vast majority of us have never fired a hunting rifle, nor would we want to.

My suggestion would be to slow down this process until all the necessary lobbying is done in order to persuade the FDA in a timely fashion to approve of the birth control drug NPS advocated at the recent public meeting at Woodhull School. The thought of killing deer for the sake of our vegetation, ornamental or indigenous, makes no sense to me. Fire Island homeowners bring in invasive/ornamental vegetation species every summer, which also harms our indigenous vegetation, but NPS puts no precautions into place that could mitigate this activity. If I were part of the NPS, I would take all the precautions necessary to maintain Fire Island as the protected National Seashore it is, and to restrict those human activities that destroy our indigenous vegetation, and of course our animals.

In my opinion, if we're still of the mind set that a situation can only be remedied by picking up a gun, that would be not only lazy thinking, but also highly impractical. Outside sharpshooters would be needed and brought in, and we remember what happened last time this was attempted.

Lastly, I think the public might have already spoken due to the large outcry concerning East Hampton's deer culling

plan, which was swiftly quashed. Fire Island, like Eastern Long Island, is not the right culture for shooting animals, and I certainly don't want to create a culture that tolerates this kind of viscerally offensive activity.
http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/19/nyregion/outcry-in-eastern-long-island-over-a-plan-to-cull-deer.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

I'm sure you're aware of this article, but I'm placing it here just in case some of you may want to re-read it:
<http://www.humanesociety.org/news/magazines/2014/05-06/out-of-season-alternatives-to-deer-culls.html>

It's not just the white-tailed deer that needs our help in order to evolve this animal, "not as a pest but as a fellow creature, a rare encounter, a wild and once more beautiful friend." Wild horses and African elephants also need our care, for us to be responsible stewards of Nature, and to manage our wildlife populations in ways that, as human beings, we can be proud of.

Correspondence ID: 1308 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,03,2014 10:05:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful.

The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

On the deers' behalf, thank you for your consideration!!!

Correspondence ID: 1309 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,03,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Also keep in mind that this would control the population over time verses having to keep eradicating deer when they become a nuisance. Think long term. Save man power, stop wasting time- Please be compassionate and do the right thing that that will keep this from happening again and again.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1310 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,03,2014 11:12:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support option D

Correspondence ID: 1311 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,03,2014 11:20:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please do not kill the deer it is best to trap and relocate to other areas thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1312 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,03,2014 11:39:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: PLEASE NO SHOOTING OR HUNTING OF THE DEERE,

Correspondence ID: 1313 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,03,2014 14:13:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.
Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1314 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,03,2014 15:19:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have been a homeowner in Fire Island for over 50 years. I feel that it is criminal to consider controlling the deer population by euthanasia. These deer are like pets to us. I strongly suggest that you find more humane ways to control the deer population. The idea of euthanasia for even one deer is an example of the complete inefficiency of your board.

Correspondence ID: 1315 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,03,2014 15:55:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Deer are peaceful animals who don't deserve to be killed. Please use non-lethal fertility control instead. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1316 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,03,2014 16:16:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Killing wildlife is not a humane solution to an overpopulation problem. Other solutions in the past have proven effective in the long run. Please, no hunting deer on Fire Island. They are part of our ecological system.

Correspondence ID: 1317 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,03,2014 17:59:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.
Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1318 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,03,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We need to be a voice for the voiceless. Please take this into consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1319 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,03,2014 20:54:43

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am against the KILLING(EUTHANASIA) of our DEER in Fire Island!! They pose no Harm, to the Fire Island Environment, & there are Facts to Support this, that are also being submitted by Professional Documentation Data being submitted!! We were very Successful in Past Programs in Contraception Management of the Female Deer, There are less Deer since then and also after Sandy!! They are also in Healthy Condition!! They are part & always have been of the Beautiful Wild Life that represents the Unique Charm & Wonderful Lifestyle that makes up Fire Island!! I Vote for Alternative Deer Management!! Protect our Deer (BAMBI) Wildlife!!!

Correspondence ID: 1320 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,03,2014 21:57:05

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1321 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,03,2014 22:42:32

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Let's not kill animals just because.

Correspondence ID: 1322 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,04,2014 06:44:37

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear National Park Service,

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Thank you in advance for your time.

Correspondence ID: 1323 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,04,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working

with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I am so tired of hearing of lack of compassion for animals, especially by groups one would expect to care. Why are governmental groups always wanting to do the easy thing (shoot and kill)? Have a heart.

Correspondence ID: 1324 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,04,2014 09:03:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1325 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,04,2014 09:11:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am VIOLENTLY AND IRREVOCABLY OPPOSED to Plans "C" and "D".

Correspondence ID: 1326 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,04,2014 12:22:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am completely against killing the deer in any manner!!! I do understand the need for protecting natural vegetation and controlling the population but killing and worse, hunting, is an absurd approach. I am a year round resident and have seen a large decline in deer since Sandy and the ones that remained are healthier than previously. To use pre-Sandy statistics is unrealistic.

I took part in a survey conducted within the past 8 years regarding deer population, how is it that now we just jump to killing? Perhaps another survey is necessary. Bamboo and other non-native plants are doing more destruction to natural vegetation than the deer. There are numerous new species of plants since Sandy and ironically the deer do not eat these. Even the grass like ground covering we now have does not get eaten as one would expect. FEMA came out after the hurricane to look at the new vegetation, has anyone checked into that data?? The immunocontraception seemed to help the population during the time it was being used, the reasoning for the discontinuance seems vague at best. I am sure there are other more humane ways of controlling the deer. What's next we kill the large population of feral cats? The fox, the raccoons, the piping plovers? oh right we have to protect the birds but not the deer. I must be honest and say that unless I am bodily removed from my property and chained on the mainland there is NO WAY I will allow hunters of any kind to roam around and shoot anything. How insane is it to allow hunters in a populated area? I am pro hunting but not in area where people live so closely. I'm truly saddened by the fact that I only found out about this by finding a flyer on the ground in the rain, certainly NPS could have done a better job getting the word out, or perhaps that was the point so officials involved in these types of decisions could appease their NRA lobbists. Either way my feelings are not politically motivated, they are simply human feelings which are to allow all animals to live as nature has intended and beside killing when there are other options is just wrong! I expect that now that my name and email is on file I will no longer have to find out NPS news in a puddle. DO NOT KILL THE DEER!!!!

Correspondence ID: 1327 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,04,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear NPS:

I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island. They are gentle creatures that deserve to live. Killing them is not the answer. I am proud to live on Long Island and our beautiful wildlife is a wonderful, natural part of why I bought my house 36 years ago and why I continue to live here.

Correspondence ID: 1328 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,04,2014 14:26:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have summered on Fire Island for forty year. I own a house in the Village of Saltaire and does my daughter; i have developed and maintain gardens at both residences.

My avocation is gardening. Over the years, my monetary loss in the cost of trees killed by deer foraging on their bark as well as plants and flowers eaten is enormous. Even more hurtful to me personally and to the community is the ecological loss in native species as well the loss of natural beauty.

The deer have forced me and my family to live within a fortress mentality. We are always fearful that we and/or service people have not locked the gates or that our fences will be breached. This summer, a young deer managed to dig under our fence and eat up our vegetable garden several days after we planted it. The cost in plants and further shoring up our fencing was not negligible. Over the years, deer get inside the fences on the average of once a summer.

It is obvious that there are more deer than Fire Island's ecology can support. Deer are not native to Fire Island: they are an invasive species and should be treated as such.

For many years, I have been anticipating a severe winter that combined with overpopulation will result in a mass kill-off of the deer population. If that should happen, the cost of removal will be significant. More significant will be the potential of disease from the decaying carcasses. An economic impact will follow because the consequences of a kill-off will render Fire Island temporarily less attractive to homeowners, renters, and day tourists.

I support the Fourth Option, the one that the NPS supports, and urge that it be approved in time to take effect before 2014 is over.

Correspondence ID: 1329 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,04,2014 14:52:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The only humane option is Alternative A.

I am completely opposed to Alternative D!!!

Deer are and have essentially been a part of the indigenous population or ecosystem on Fire Island. They are docile. The use of the word euthanasia that means merciful killing to relieve suffering only makes the alternatives in which it is suggested extremely offensive and perverse. What is being proposed is the capture and slaughter of deer.

Owning a house on Fire Island for over 35 years, and a year-round resident now, I have not noticed any decrease in the vegetation in our community regardless of an increase or decrease in the deer population. This increase or decrease was directly related to the use of contraceptives such as darting, that was quite effective!!! As was the use of tick repellent at feeding stations. The reinstatement of contraceptive practices either by darting, treated food or buck sterilization is the best solution. Most people love the deer. They are beautiful and gentle animals.

I repeat, Alternative A is the only humane option.

Correspondence ID: 1330 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,04,2014 17:31:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1331 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,04,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please think of the animals

Correspondence ID: 1332 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,04,2014 20:35:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support Plans C and D to cull the deer population considerably to restore and protect native vegetation to Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1333 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,05,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island.

In addition, I am strongly against the following plans:

Plan B: Fencing the William Floyd Estate, relocation of deer approaching humans, and fertility control for female deer

Plan C: Deer population reduction and maintenance through a combination of sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia of individual deer (where necessary), and public hunting (within the Fire Island Wilderness only). Deer observed approaching humans would be captured and euthanized to prevent other deer from learning this behavior through observation.

Plan D: Plan C plus public hunting and, once reduced, the deer population could be maintained through fertility control or a continuation of actions used for direct reduction.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1334 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,05,2014 04:38:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1335 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,05,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: That's time for action!!!

Correspondence ID: 1336 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,05,2014 12:07:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Soller,

I am a year-round resident going on 20 years, and cherish my life on Fire Island. As a published writer who has two Fire Island history books that sell in your visitor centers, and have worked with FINS staff closely on many

journalism assignments over the years, I very much value my relationship with Fire Island National Seashore. You are a partner worthy of my respect.

With this said, I believe this report's proposed policy to hunt, sharp shoot, euthanize, or otherwise translocate the resident white-tailed deer population is not the right solution for Fire Island. Therefore I respectfully submit that Alternative A, is the only way to go as it is the only one of the four proposed alternatives that does not contain such elements.

To call Alternative A, the "no action" alternative is really quite deceiving as there is so much that can be achieved within these parameters: Continue to monitor the deer heard health, behavior patterns, and island's vegetation. Public education must also be ongoing. Fire Island National Seashore has managed the resident white-tailed deer very well for many years in these respects. Even employ the common action of fencing to protect sensitive areas of the Sunken Forrest, William Floyd Estate and special status species as needed. In addition please locate a suitable long term contraceptive / fertility control. When you do, maintain the delivery of it consistently and with diligence for optimum program effectiveness.

If Fire Island National Seashore starts dabbling in the deer hunting and euthanasia business, a public relations disaster may result of which you might not easily recover. The risk losing the respect of local residency and public confidence in general could be significant. The report itself also raises some troubling questions:

â€œ POPULATION: Why does Table ES-1 include deer population counts taken prior the die-off that resulted from Hurricane Sandy? These numbers are obsolete and no longer apply.

â€œ VEGETATION: The report cites adverse impact to native vegetation from heavy deer browsing with the consequence of damaging habitat of smaller animals including birds. However real estate development practices including but not limited to clear-cutting of trees and other land growth in order to build over-sized structures has done far more collective damage to the habitat and natural infrastructure of Fire Island. Why has so little has been done to address this fact?

â€œ INTERACTION: The "negative human-deer interaction" term is repeatedly used in this report to justify the actions of capture, euthanizing, and sharpshooting / hunting discussed as means to contain it in Alternatives B, C and D. Who going to be the judge of this said behavior and what level resources will be required to execute these procedures?

â€œ FINANCES: In the end it all comes down to money. FINS has cited lack of funding for everything from why the booths at east and west end vehicle checkpoints are no longer manned, to questioning the feasibility of a deer contraception program. If Fire Island National Seashore does not have the resources to maintain such dedicated tasks, how will it ever administer the price tag of sharpshooters, a capturing team, or personnel to maintain a safe hunt? Such costs would surly be considerable and adopted policy should never include what your agency cannot realistically afford to do.

â€œ SAFETY: Human life, safety and property on Fire Island could be in peril if sharpshooting, hunting, or euthanasia / translocation capture activities are not handled properly on Fire Island - especially near residential communities, but elsewhere as well. Is Fire Island National Seashore fully prepared to take on such risk?

Through revisiting contraceptive / fertility control measures, FINS has the opportunity to engage in an ongoing supportive partnership with the island's residents that could reinforce positive relations on many other fronts. In addition more venues can and should be explored to address the legitimate concerns of preserving Fire Island's fragile ecosystem. Consider the implementation and enforcement of effective controls to curtail of the destructive practices of mankind on Fire Island. Like the quote says that so many National Seashore staff seems to favor: "Leave your footprints, take only a picture." Hunting, sharpshooting, and capture are the wrong wildlife management tools for Fire Island. Please don't make this mistake.

Thank You,

Correspondence ID: 1337 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,05,2014 12:45:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1338 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,05,2014 14:49:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a part time resident of Fair Harbor, Fire Island,I support the non-lethal control of the deer in our area. The idea of allowing hunting of these trusting and harmless animals is horrific.

Correspondence ID: 1339 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,05,2014 18:24:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hello,
I have read the summary. I am opposed to the harming and/or killing of the Fire Island deer population, whether it be through euthenasia ir hunting, etc. I love seeing them so much at the beach. They are magical and we are lucky to have them. its part of what makes the island so special.

Correspondence ID: 1340 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,05,2014 20:23:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1341 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,05,2014 20:23:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1342 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,05,2014 20:24:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1343 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,05,2014 20:24:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1344 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 06:52:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Plan A preferred. I am not in favor at all of euthanasia, fertility control, sharpshooting or fencing off any areas. Increased education is a good idea but education has to be done effectively. You cannot wait for people to visit the Lighthouse or other FINS locations in order to get information. You should make education available to each community during the summer months. That's when the deer are learning bad habits and interacting with people. Year-round residents are not the ones feeding the deer!

Correspondence ID: 1345 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 08:49:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please use fertilization methods on the herd.....it has worked in the past and needs to be used again. We have about 5 deer in Dunewood and there is no need for shooting down the herd.

Correspondence ID: 1346 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 09:16:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please leave these beautiful animals live! Pro birth control to control population.

Correspondence ID: 1347 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 09:40:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1348 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the use of non-lethal, fertility control methods for the deer in Fire Island. No babies and no guns, please.

Correspondence ID: 1349 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 10:09:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1350 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 10:10:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have learned that the National Park service has released its Drat Environmental Impact Statement/ Deer Management Plan for the Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years The Humane Society of the US has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to many our deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island resident s to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1351 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 10:38:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Regarding Deer Population control on Fire Island National Seashore:

I support Alternative C as outlined in the Draft White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Correspondence ID: 1352 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 10:39:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I'm writing to ask that you use your power to prevent harm and pain, to do the right thing.

Recently I learned the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1353 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 10:57:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Best,

Correspondence ID: 1354 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 10:57:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have been a regular visitor to Fire Island since 1999. I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1355 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 11:23:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1356 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 11:34:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The deer have never been an issue in Fair Harbor and shooting them could not only disturb the peace but be dangerous for those who live there.

Correspondence ID: 1357 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 11:46:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1358 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 11:53:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: You are undoubtedly receiving a form letter from many concerning your decision to kill deer on Fire Island, so I am writing this short note with my personal feelings. I am strongly opposed to this plan and ask that you reconsider. The use of fertility control is a far better solution.

Correspondence ID: 1359 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 12:49:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1360 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 13:02:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please consider alternative D as a management of the deer population. By using the sharpshooters or hunters, the deer will learn that humans are dangerous, so the the more benign interventions to deal with alternative B and C when a deer approaches a human will not be necessary. If sharpshooters are to be used, then the venison should be sold or auctioned to the highest bidder.

Correspondence ID: 1361 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 13:14:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
Don't kill the deer. They are nice animals.

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1362 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 13:25:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Killing semi-tame deer in mass numbers instead of continuing to control their fertility seems inhumane and unnecessary.

Correspondence ID: 1363 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 14:04:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1364 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 14:19:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Unless there is a HUGH economic reason not to I urge that the deer not be killed but that the birth control mechanism which has been used effectively that is safe, effective, humane be continued to control the deer population on Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1365 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 14:23:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1366 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 14:42:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1367 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 15:28:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support the deer management plan called alternative D. I feel it is the most humane approach, in that it gives the greatest kindness to the greatest number by protecting an eco-system that supports the greatest variety of creatures.
I have a few comments on the opposition this plan will face from the so-called deer lovers. I say "so-called" because I don't believe they truly love the deer. They treat them as semi-pets. They do not take the responsibility of true pet

ownership, or give the care and shelter a true pet deserves. They feed the deer when it suits them. If they love deer, it is the way a child-molester "loves" children. They may think they are doing good, as child-molesters may think they give pleasure to children, but they act solely for their own pleasure, with no consideration for the natural needs, the innocence, if you will, of the creature which serves their pleasure.

Deer are wild animals, as you know better than anyone, not pets or semi-pets. I feel alternative D best preserves their wildness, and protects them from those who would destroy that wildness for their own personal pleasure.

You will face stiff opposition from these people. I wish you the best of luck. And thanks for all you do for our environment.

Correspondence ID: 1368 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,06,2014 17:24:41

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Regarding the most frequent excuses for government killing of deer are that they eat decorative yard plantings, they cause collisions with cars and they cause Lyme disease.

1) People who value their plantings can install deer fences and deer can have their lives.

2) The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Report for 2008 stated that 70 percent of "critical pre-crash events" concerned then manner in which the vehicle itself was operating (over the line, too fast, etc.). Another 20 percent involved the encroachment of another vehicle. Only 1.4 percent were attributed to an "object or animal". So automobile accidents caused by a deer is less than 1.4 percent, ie, miniscule. If you are really concerned about the deer / car collisions you should lower the speed limits, particularly at dawn and dusk!

3) Two experts on Lyme disease, Dr Richard Ostfeld and Tamara Awervuch, Ph.D., refute the notion that killing deer will reduce Lyme disease rates.

Killing the deer is totally unacceptable! Their lives are as important to them as ours are to us. Their lives are also important to me. There are several forms of birth control that are effective, including spaying the females. Stop giving in, placating hunters, who enjoy killing.

Correspondence ID: 1369 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,06,2014 17:50:05

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have lived in lonelyville fire island for 22 years. I think we should continue with the birth control program. I am strongly against shooting the deer.

Correspondence ID: 1370 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,06,2014 17:55:21

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I currently live in fire island. I think we should continue with the birth control program. I don't think it's right to shoot and kill the deer.

Correspondence ID: 1371 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,06,2014 18:01:41

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1372 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,06,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

The deer are a magical part of Fire Island and to kill them is beyond cruel. They are more like pets than wild animals at this point.

Please reconsider your course of action.

Correspondence ID: 1373 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 18:42:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1374 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

As a long time resident of Fire Island, I implore you to works towards renewing proven and humane ways of living peacefully among the deer and allowing us all to co-exist together as we have for generations.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1375 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 20:56:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: No deer hunting! Please use birth control option!

Correspondence ID: 1376 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for the deer on Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1377 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 21:26:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As conscientious managers of our beautiful seashore, I can't imagine that our rangers would actually prefer to kill deer rather than working to make these living creatures' lives better, while at the same time preserving the natural vegetation of Fire Island. Since I was a child there were always deer on Fire Island, and due to drought, vegetation shortages, and deer fences, deer have been forced to move to any place that would help their survival. That is obviously a natural goal for all living creatures. I think we are quite blessed in that we have these beautiful creatures on Fire Island. It is certainly sad that the Hurricane Sandy destroyed so many. There are many tourists who love to come to the "communities" just to see the deer walking around. Obviously, it would be better for the deer to be in areas where there are less people, but many, if not most of the deer around now, were actually born in the communities. It is their home, and as such, are in need of protection as do the turtles and piping plovers. Having attended your deer management meetings, it seems that your main concern is protecting the vegetation, especially in Sunken Forest. The reps of the National Seashore told us that they were considering killing the friendly deer, but not in the communities. I am a bit confused about this because the deer in the more natural areas are still very skittish around people. So why would they be considered to be killed? And I remember hearing that there has been no real deer tally since Sandy....therefore, the numbers might be so low that there is no real threat from these animals. And, if saving vegetation in Sunken Forest is a major concern, why can't a little human intervention be allowed- -in other words, would you accept help from those of us willing to raise money to replenish the vegetation?

Correspondence ID: 1378 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,06,2014 22:11:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1379 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,07,2014 04:43:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have spent all or parts of Summers at Lonelyville F.I. every summer for 82 years. The thought that bureaucrats can't figure a humane way to deal with the deer population is a cop out. Shooting an animal that would eat out of your hand is cowardly. If the NPS can't figure a better way, they should not have the job.

Correspondence ID: 1380 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,07,2014 05:48:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am the Veterinarian on Fire Island and was present at the meeting you held this past summer. I tried speaking individually with you regarding the deer situation and alternative options to a flat out culling of the herd. Obviously doing nothing is not an option and you have basically ruled out contraception, so other than relocation and/or a hunt, you have nothing else on the table. I offer another option. Using your number of approximately 300 deer on the island, my observation is that about 20% are males making somewhere between 50-75 males in the population. If we surgically neuter 80-90% of them and relocate the intact males to a controlled environment like the William Floyd estate, YOU can control the population. Each breeding season, you can select the females from each area, transport them to the males, have them mated and then bring them back home to repopulate their region of the island. If you feel that presently there are too many deer for the ecosystem to sustain, let some die off naturally, age, disease, accidents etc. When you get to that magic number, then start the repopulation. I know there will be arguments regarding the capture and effects of surgery on the males, as a Veterinarian I feel that I can put these issues in a proper perspective. First, you have tranquilized the females in the

past when you did your contraceptive study, so capturing deer is not something your are unfamiliar with. Selecting a smaller population of males, reduces the amount of work and the cost. There are many newer drugs used in Veterinary Medicine for the restraint of larger animals including deer, that are relatively safe. There are certainly risks involved in this procedure, and it is likely that some of the animals may die from either the anesthesia or the procedure, but on the practical side, you were going to shoot them anyway. Secondly, the effects on the behavior can only be described as an improvement. It was brought up at the meeting that some residents felt that the deer were aggressive. It would be most likely that the males were acting like males, territorial or aggressive. Neutering them would stop this behavior, the animal wouldn't be adversely affected in any other way. Medically,even if you were able to use an injectable contraceptive, you still have to capture 4 times as many animals, subject them to the risks of tranquilization and repeat the procedure on a regular basis. If you neuter the majority of the males, it is a one time capture and procedure. Newborn males can easily be identified and either be neutered before sexual maturity or relocated to the male area to be used for stud in the future. We have a closed population that is unique. People are not dropping off their stray deer on Fire Island, an although it has been said that deer can come to the island by bridge or swim across the bay, the likelihood is not that great. This proposal puts control of the entire population in your hands, it certainly will be cost effective and could serve as a model for population control, so please give it some consideration. You can reach me by phone or e-mail if you wish to discuss this further. Thanks for your time.

Correspondence ID: 1381 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,07,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the use of non-lethal fertility control methods.

The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1382 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,07,2014 07:34:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please let the tame dear endure and use the humane fertility measures that have been set up

Correspondence ID: 1383 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,07,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: i have owned a house for18 years at kismet fire island, and i wish to vote for alternative A. thanks you

Correspondence ID: 1384 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,07,2014 10:40:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1385 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,07,2014 11:05:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working

with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1386 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,07,2014 11:22:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.
Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1387 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,07,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
For many years, local residents, together with The Humane Society of the United States, have worked with the National Park Service to study, develop and implement humane and science-based fertility control to manage deer populations on Fire Island National Seashore - - which has been widely supported and successful.

Rather than expanding this effective and widely-supported program, the NPS recently released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore that calls for the killing of hundreds of semi-tame animals who have peacefully coexisted with residents for decades.

This is outrageous and deeply offensive, not to mention highly disappointing.

The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to further implement humane deer management strategies, rather than killing these much-beloved semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1388 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,07,2014 13:30:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support humane deer population control, It's worth a try.

Correspondence ID: 1389 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,07,2014 13:34:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: In 1989, FINS held a deer hunt on Fire Island that was terribly mismanaged. It was strongly opposed and stopped with the help of Fire Islanders who were determined to find a humane alternative to manage our mostly tame deer. Three years later, after having demonstrated the organizational skill and especially the "passion" to succeed, Fire Island was chosen as the first site on earth where free-roaming deer would be remotely darted with PZP vaccine.

The scientific community recognizes Fire Island as "the most successful urban deer fertility control project in history". And yet, after five gloriously successful years during which a burgeoning deer population was drastically reduced, the project was handed over to FINS who abandoned it without giving any rational explanation.

Fire Islanders did not condone FINS 1989 DEER HUNT and, after having gone to great lengths to provide a

humane, efficacious and cost-effective alternative, are unlikely to condone lethal management today. Fire Islanders know how to make an immunocontraceptive project work. Why will FINS not consider working with The Humane Society of the United States and the local residents to pick up where they left off over a decade ago?

Correspondence ID: 1390 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,07,2014 13:38:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

American Indians and Alaska Native people have lived as part of nature for thousands of years. We respect all life and what each species contributes to the hoop of life.

The kill without need (for food to survive or to protect ones family) is a crime against our Mother the earth and the Creator. We humans have change the world so much that the wild creatures no longer seen to have a place. Your treatment of these deer is so similar to how this country has treated us as Native peoples.

We ask that you not murder these deer but find a more humane way to address the size of the herds. Killing should never be the first option.

Birth control does work - allow life to be the goal not suffering and death.

Correspondence ID: 1391 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,07,2014 13:57:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: To the Park Service.

I am writing in reference to the white tailed deer on Fire Island New York. I am totally opposed to any hunting or culling on this barrier Island. The deer bring many of us joy when we visit Fire Island. The only acceptable option would be some birth control. East Hampton is following this model. There should be some breeding allowed as they are a native species to our area, and have a right to exist in our landscape Long Island is becoming too overpopulated , we have lost so much of our wildlife and habitat, and we must create areas for native wildlife to thrive in. Please do not kill these beautiful and gentle animals. Sincerely

Correspondence ID: 1392 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,07,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I believe that the proposal to shoot the deer is barbaric, and extremely unnecessary. If population control is the objective, then fertility control is the answer. Slaughter should not be the solution.

Correspondence ID: 1393 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,07,2014 16:00:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: In our community on Fire Island we have lived peacefully side by side with the deer with only a little annoyance from foraging and garbage can opening. Long ago we solved this problem with fences and garbage enclosures. Unlike deer in other areas, ours are tame, friendly to us, and often individually recognizable to us due to their peaceful, fearless proximity.

I strongly object to any plan that involves killing them. The tamest and friendliest would be killed as they have no

fear of people, the height of inhumane, cruel treatment for these trusting creatures who harm no one. The only acceptable management is a contraceptive plan that reduces populations in a humane, benign manner that doesn't harm the deer.

We've had such a program here on western Fire Island and it has been somewhat effective. It should be expanded to male deer. Damaged wild lands could also be protected from deer foraging.

Any plan that involves killing deer will be met with forceful objection from me and countless others and I hope such plans will be abandoned.

Correspondence ID: 1394 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,07,2014 16:27:01

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As you are well aware, my husband, and I attended your "meeting" where we offered to be a part of a possible sterilization program for the deer of Fire Island. We formed the 501 3c program after spaying an neutering 99% ohe feral cat population over a 2 year span. We trapped,neuter,vaccinated, and attended to any other health need (teeth,wounds,etc), while under anesthesia . This was done in October 2010, where 67 cats were done over a span of less than 32 hours. This included the trapping. This decreased stress in the animals, then were allowed to recover for 2 days before release. In October 2011, the same procedure was followed, in which another 56 cats were TNR'd (trap-neuter-release, a program followed by animal rescue groups all over the US, and other countries). We did this with our own resources as a contribution to the town we love. The reason we became residents of Fire Island, was primarily based on our love of Wildlife, and a more rustic way of life, away from the hustle and bustle of the mainland which is a hub for traffic and industry. One of our favorite interests, was the cohabitation with the White tailed deer. It is a unique experience to see them by the beach, or occasionally in the community. I certainly feel as though your presentation was a'dog and pony show' to pretend that we had any input in your decision to hunt the deer. It was absolutely transparent that your minds were made up, especially since I left a message for Chris, your head ranger. It was in reference to 1.) Gonacon program which is available to state organizations who can apply, (New Jersey is using this contraceptive, that is still being considered an investigational drug,until a manufacturer signs on for production. They are even using it in feral cats in other areas.). I am a Registered Pharmacist who contacted the GONACON study program. Apparently the information that you gave us was FALSE, a 10 yr wait is NOT the truth. With the info being at the touch of our fingers, I cannot believe that you would or could give us info that was incorrect?! Also, the attitude that was displayed at the meeting in OUR town, by the head of FINS, Chris, was shocking and a real turn-off for we the people that pay your salary! You work for US, please don't forget that when you act like a dictator. I suggest that you try to connect with these people who have lived there the majorities of their lives. You should work WITH the people, NOT against ! You did not make a good impression on the people of the town, who also chose FI for the same reasons. We also feel that your PRE-STORM numbers of deer, foliage, and shoreline is antiquated and NOT a fair snapshot of true data to base such a controversial project of Hunting. We are still dealing with the damage and restoration of Fire Island after the storms Irene and Sandy.

To have you even try to promote a project as such,at this point, will and has infuriated the communities of the barrier island. We have a plethora of professional, well-know residents, including MANY high profile attorneys, who file suits against FINS as well as personal suits against the officers,as well. We lost ALOT of deer in the past storms,and the vegetation was literally burnt immediately when the sea met the bay in these storms. I suggest that you should have better data, before acting on anything. It will be under a microscope by our people.

2.) I mentioned on my voice mail message to Chris, that the village of East Hampton opted out of the 'sniper cull hunt ' of the deer in their town,and opted for yes, a STERILIZATION PROGRAM in their town. They are targeting a\$130,000 fund, raised by the residents,and plan to use \$1000/per deer. DON'T YOU THINK THAT FINS COULD GET ON THE FEDERAL MAP WITH A PROGRAM AS SUCH?? MAYBE YOU CAN BE A MODEL FOR OTHER STATE ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS YOURSELF??

You certainly have access to funds, and capacity of doing such a program with the help of the residents willing to participate. All the

Resources are available. The HUNT IS NOT THE ONLY OPTION,BUT THE EASIEST SOLUTION FOR YOU! This is hardly the time that this should even be an issue, just another headache for we the residents! We do not even have a ferry dock or boat house as of right now! We are certainly NOT at the point where we should have to deal with more aggravation and disdain. You certainly did NOT score any 'LIKES' on your score board in our town! I suggest that you rethink your intentions, re-evaluate , and spend some time updating your data, for now. You have

put another thorn in our sides, as we try to regain the island that WAS. Please , for All our sakes, try to create a symbiotic relationship with the residents. You are trying to 'bully' a very opinionated, protective, and powerful bunch whom I suggest that you don't take on. You will NOT win. I promise you, if you value your paychecks, and your status quo,

You need to review your intentions. The following is just one article on the East Hampton project , you can find many,many more online . PLEASE respect our wishes,portray the TRUTH, and base any choice on fresh and accurate data.

Thank you

<http://www.newsday.com/long-island/towns/donors-raise-more-than-100g-for-east-hampton-village-deer-sterilization-1.9229206>

Correspondence ID: 1395 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,07,2014 18:55:19

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I love the deer in fire island. Killing them would be an atrocity!

Correspondence ID: 1396 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,07,2014 21:08:49

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The Humane Society of New York has successfully teamed with Fire Islanders in the past for a totally effective contraceptive program for deer management. The brutal, cruel, inhumane, and terrible plan to reduce the deer population that FINS and the Park Service have proposed does not take into consideration the contraceptive program that was so successful for several years. Is it just laziness on the part of our National Park Service? It makes much more sense to consider more appropriate alternatives to managing the tame population of deer that inhabit Fire Island. Or is this just a very macho approach, like shooting fish in a barrel? There is no reason to not utilize a highly effective, available method of contraceptive use!!!

PLEASE, DO NOT PROCEED WITH YOUR TERRIBLE PLAN OF SHOOTING TO REDUCE THE DEER POPULATION.

Correspondence ID: 1397 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,07,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I live on Fire Island in the summer, I try to feed the deer in my community. Please let me know if there is anything I can do

Correspondence ID: 1398 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,08,2014 05:07:36

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: there is no need to kill what are almost domesticated animals. Continue decreasing the numbers by darting and other methods.

Correspondence ID: 1399 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,08,2014 05:36:15

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Please find a solution that does not include killing the deer. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1400 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,08,2014 06:01:15

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I oppose any deer cull and hope we can find a more humane approach - They've been forced out of their homes with over populated areas. We need to do better for our wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 1401 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,08,2014 06:06:51

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island

Correspondence ID: 1402 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,08,2014 06:32:35

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please use all means possible before killing them.

Correspondence ID: 1403 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,07,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: E-mail

Correspondence: Your plan is very flawed.

The Deer on Fire Island cannot be killed and consumed since deer on Fire Island have died from rat poison which they have consumed. Bucks travel throughout the island and therefore should not be hunted because they probably consumed rat poison from people placing it on the ground in the communities near the hunted areas.

As you pointed out deer cannot be given birth control since it can get into the food chain. Our female deer throughout the island have received PZP over many years and therefore should not be killed and consumed.

As a result of the above hunting and the consumption of deer meat should be prohibited because of the danger to the person consuming the meat.

A concerned Fire Islander

Correspondence ID: 1404 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,07,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: E-mail

Correspondence: Your plan to Euthanize deer in the communities because they have been conditioned by people who feed them to approach humans. Euthanizing deer is not only inhumane it is counterproductive because the deer have done nothing wrong. They have harmed no one as demonstrated by the many years of deer monitors interacting with countless deer over many years. How do we explain to the children in our communities, the animal lovers, normal human beings etc we are euthanizing deer because they don't run from us given the fact they were born and live in Fire Island Communities and not in an uninhabited area?

It is both inappropriate and unnecessary to euthanize deer given the significantly reduce deer population in our communities due to the birth control programs success and Hurricane Sandy.

Your population studies are flawed and are significantly overstating the deer population.

A concerned citizen.

Correspondence ID: 1405 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,07,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: E-mail

Correspondence: Your Deer Management Plan is flawed in many ways.

You plan to hunt in the Sunken Forest even though it is banned.

Your plan justified hunting based on the impact caused by deer. Your reports do not scientifically establish the cause and effect. Hurricane Sandy caused significant damage to the vegetation on Fire Island which your report doesn't mention. Your studies are not conclusive and therefore doesn't justify hunting or using marksman to hunt and kill the deer on Fire Island.

Please terminate your plans to kill the deer on Fire Island since your studies do not justify this action but quite the

contrary.

Correspondence ID: 1406 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 07:07:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a long time Fire Island homeowner, I attended the NPS meeting in Ocean Beach, FI, this past August. There the NPS presented it Environmental Impact Statement for it white tailed deer Management Plan. I left the 90 minutes meeting upset and frustrated. It was clear to me that the NPS had already decided that culling the deer herd was the only effective way to control the size of the deer herd. The stated that any contraceptive techniques were at least 10 years away from becoming legal/and or effective. There many things left unexplained or "will be determined later", during the presentation. There were no clear ways to either identify "problem deer" or to effectively deal with them. The only answer was to cull the herd, potentially using sharpshooters or forced relocation.

It would be so much more effective if the NPS would return to the conch[pt of immunological contraception, which had been so effective on Fire Island in the recent past. I suggest the NPS seek to join in a program similar to the experimental project on Fripp Island in South Carolina. There are already contraceptives that last several years with little or no damage to healthy deer. These beautiful semi-tame animals, which most fire Island visitors love and enjoy, need to be protected from guns and bullets. Effective birth control means exists and should be used on Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1407 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We have lived on Fire Island for many years and peacefully co-exist with the deer year round. The Fire Island deer are gentle animals that have learned to trust humans as their territorial range overlaps with numerous communities.

I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement fertility control using humane methods to manage the deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful.

Learning that the NPS desires to cull deer in our communities is an outrageous proposal. The thought of gun fire, of deer suffering, of fawns without mothers is too much to bear. When birth control measures have been successful, why would you consider such an option?

We walk many miles throughout the winter, through federal land and communities, from the lighthouse to Sunken Forest. The fear of being hit by a stray bullet is not a fear we wish to embrace. You are threatening our communities and its residents (and our deer) with bullets and blood.

The NPS should continue to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer.

Please do not consider a cull.

Fire Island Resident,

Correspondence ID: 1408 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 08:06:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1409 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 08:14:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please do not cruelly slay the beautiful deer on Fire Island. There are other more humane solutions to control the population. After all, we are invading their space.

Correspondence ID: 1410 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 09:34:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I agree with the National Park service plan D which is combination from alternatives b and C

Correspondence ID: 1411 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 10:20:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly favor reducing the deer population on Fire Island. I not only share concern about diminished plant variety in the Sunken Forest, but also about deer-human contacts in the communities. Proponents of an immuno approach can only hope for a very long term, if any, reduction in the deer population. Artifacts such as 4-posters only produces fatter deer, raccoon and mouse populations. I have no objection to professionals shooting deer in order to reduce their population density. My real concern is that this be done with all precautions taken both for the safety of humans and for the humane treatment of the deer. In this regard, perhaps the window for deer removal should be decreased. Therefore, I favor Option D.

Correspondence ID: 1412 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 10:44:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a long time Fire Islander I have seen the changes in deer population and understand the need for a plan to manage the growth, and, probably to reduce the existing herd. I cannot, however support any alternative that includes any form of hunt. My choice would be the "alternative B" which includes fencing, fertility control, and relocation from communities to the wilderness areas.

Correspondence ID: 1413 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 11:06:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have lived at Fire Island as a summer resident for over 50 years. The deer are a part of the beauty of living on the island. They are semi-tame and present no problem or threat to the community and the environment. The only alternative I support is Alternative A, which is the no action option. As many others, I am adamantly opposed to any method of culling the herd that involves harm or euthanizing of the deer.

Correspondence ID: 1414 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear NPS and Staff,
Attention: Chris Soller

I recently learned that NPS released a draft plan for Fire Island suggesting the killing of hundreds of deer. I strongly support the use of effective non-lethal fertility control for deer on Fire Island.

I have spent over 30 years on Fire Island. I had the distinct privilege of observing the deer and seeing the marvelous work done by the residents of Fire Island and the Humane Society. I am a photographer and because of my experience I am now a wildlife photographer. I have photographed the bears in the Alaskan wilderness, the pandas in China, the lemurs in Madagascar etc.

Fire Island is unique and a national treasure. NPS should strive to keep it that way.

Correspondence ID: 1415 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: E-mail
Correspondence:

10/8/2014

I dont accept any of your alternatives as stated in the plan. In describing Alternate A, you are making a clear threat - no comprehensive plan would be enacted to preserve the&native plant populations, communities and ecosystems& Why is not possible to implement Alternative B - up to and excluding moving and/or killing the deer. Yet, elsewhere you do state that common elements to all alternatives include enhanced public education and outreach effort, fencing of the Sunken Forest, securing the boundary fence at the William Floyd Estate, tri-annual enhanced deer population monitoring, minimum requirements analysis and coordination with the NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation. I would also suggest replanting. Surely there are seed banks which must contain even the rarest holly plants.

I also question your assumptions of current deer populations and the causes of plant degradation. Your last survey of deer took place in 2012 before Sandy and before the brutally cold winter of 2013-14. Plants were surely damaged from the salt spray of the storms. Deer undoubtedly died. Extensive use of pesticides must also be a factor.

Your plan speaks of nuisance deer roaming the communities, begging for handouts or eating overturned garbage, even posing potential danger to people as well as to plants. People in my community agree that there has been a dramatic decrease in deer sightings and that a lot, if not most of the homeowners, have built corrals which do not allow garbage flipping by either deer or raccoons. In the 35 years I have spent in Fire Island, I have never had a dangerous encounter with a deer. The deer were hardly seen at all during the summer months. Now, in October, they may wander through my back yard (bordering on Seashore lands), browsing on the grass and Russian Olive berries, but they do not approach me and they do not beg.

As for the threats of ticks and Lyme disease, the 4-poster devices operating in Robert Moses and the western communities have proved extremely effective in decreasing those risks. Even landscapers who spend all day in the brush report few if any ticks on their clothes or persons. At a recent gathering, both Dr. Robert Furey, Saltaires doctor and Eileen ONeal of the Fair Harbor/Dunewood Health District reported fewer than 5-tick related visits each this past summer.

You do mention the use of fertility control in one sentence, and then brush the idea off. As Dr. Allen Rutberg stated in his response, it appears that the NPS selection criteria are flexible enough to exclude any fertility control agent&

The scientific literature supports the effectiveness of fertility control. Referring to the Fire Island, The Animal Welfare Institute in its winter 2012 issue stated Perhaps the most successful demonstration of the value of PZP in deer management has occurred at Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) in New York... deer fertility control project from 1993 to 2010. The birth of fawns on the island fell dramatically with the first few years&and in densely populated urban areas where, in time, the deer population decreased by nearly 70%. he Fire Island project successfully immunized 353 individually known deer between 1993 and 1998. (Naugle, Rutberg, Underwood, Turner Jr and Liu, 2002). Even the FINS plan acknowledges an actual reduction in the deer population from 257 per square mile in the mid-nineties to 106 in 2012.

Despite the current FINS contention that a viable immunocontraceptive is 10 years away, scientists are working on new methodology using the same vaccine, Porcine Zona Pellucida or PZP. One development that has shown promise is a long-acting form of the PZP vaccine (Turner et al., 2008). More recently, the Animal Welfare Institute refers to technologies for longer-last single-shot vaccines have emerged and both PZP and GonaCon™ have been altered. to boost the duration of effectiveness in wild horse and white-tailed deer populations. (AWI Quarterly, Fall 2011).

Much of the scientific literature also supports the contention that state and federal wildlife agencies have blocked and dismissed successful projects because of vehement political opposition. State wildlife agencies, as well as

hunters and allied organizations see deer contraception as a threat to the tradition and culture of hunting (or the revenue generated by hunting)& (AWI 2011). Rutberg, in his December 2013 publication *Managing Wildlife With Contraception: Why Is It Taking So Long*, refers to uncomfortable knowledge. A widespread public awareness that deer contraceptives are effective and can control deer populations under some circumstances would threaten one of the fundamental organization principles of North America wildlife management agencies: that wildlife management and hunting are synonymous

Many Fire Island residents I have spoken to have drawn the same conclusions, although they have not used such formal language to describe them.

I also dont trust the plan limitations on how and where lethal methods will take place. At the August 22 Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) public hearing on its proposed Deer Management Plan, when questioned about euthanasia, Park staff were at first defensive. It was pointed out that in 1988, the family that deeded the land for the Sunken Forest threatened to take the land back if hunting was allowed. A Park staff person at first denied this, maintaining that getting a permit would allow shooting anywhere. Later Superintendent Soller stated there would be no hunting in the Sunken Forest or in the communities (although options 3 and 4 specify that there may be euthanasia in the communities.

This leads to another, very important objection I have: How is FINS going to afford to anesthetize and translocate deer, to organize hunts and to pay sharp shooters. The 1988 hunt cost \$66,000 for hunters to bag 66 deer.

Correspondence ID: 1416 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 13:07:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am not affected directly by deer issues, my garden is enclosed, and I do not have elaborate mainland-style landscaping. If FINS feels that a balance is needed to prevent damage to the wilderness nature of the island, I can live with a humane and modest solution. Other than that, I would not welcome a wholesale removal (or hunt) of these relatively benign creatures. They do seem to have a place in the landscape of the Island which i value greatly. Thanks

Correspondence ID: 1417 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 13:09:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We are absolutely opposed to and appalled by the Deer Management plan. The deer population has been incredibly lessened by Sandy - your stats are from pre-storm. In any case, Fire Island is a special enviornment and for those of us who have literally lived our entire lives here, the relationship the animals and the humans have are unlike those anywhere else. We need to preserve that.

We advocate Option A - the NO ACTION plan.

Correspondence ID: 1418 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 13:11:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Gentlemen,

I am the President of WPCELI which represents over 4,000 residents of Eastern Long Island. We recently curtailed a plan to slaughter over 5,000 deer on the East End of Long Island by the Long Island Farm Bureau and the USDA Wildlife Services because of the huge outcry against this inhumane and backward plan. We are actively working with East End Towns to develop science based, humane deer management plans that include multiple solutions, including PZP Immunocontraception, sterilization and when absolutely necessary, local hunters. Our vetted hunters offer their services such as darting deer, at no charge. Southampton Town, Southampton Village and East Hampton Village are all utilizing our plans and we are approaching the other Towns as well.

It is extremely disappointing that you are choosing killing as opposed to immunocontraception which has already proven to be effective on Fire Island. In a world which is currently consumed with killing it is hard to imagine your

rationale for doing more. It's the easy answer but also the unethical answer. The negative emotional impact of such a cull on the Fire Island residents, especially children, will be extremely difficult to mitigate. You have options that are both scientific and progressive and I urge you to step up and utilize them. Set an example for other Long Island communities, of reverence for wildlife and respect for forward thinking management in keeping with your mission.

Correspondence ID: 1419 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,08,2014 13:21:24

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Sounds like you people are not thinking the deer management through particularly well . First of all the deer population is very low after Sandy. 2nd you can't hunt deer on Fire Island , there are kids living there year round and killing deer isn't going to solve the problem . You need to MANAGE the population . They used to sterilize the females but stopped doing that . Why ??? That is the best way to solve the problem . With modern technology i am sure you can find a way .
resident of Fire Island for 45 years

Correspondence ID: 1420 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,08,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please continue to help the deer co-exist in a peaceful manner on Fire Island. I saw a documentary on Fire Island and was so impressed with the humane treatment. The WORLD is watching...Do the right thing!!
Signed, A New Yorker who Votes

Correspondence ID: 1421 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,08,2014 13:32:52

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It quickly becomes apparent to any resident or visitor to Fire Island that we have an unusual abundance of deer and, more striking, how acclimated they have become to the human's sharing the habitat with them.

As is the case in any eco system that has become imbalanced, this has resulted in a number of harms; an over stocked population of deer, the destruction of great swaths of native and imported vegetation, the creation of intrusive protective barriers and too much interaction between humans and the deer.

The problem has grown more and more acute- to the point that the status quo is clearly no longer sustainable. It is clear that the Park Service needs to adopt an active management program once again. In the western communities in general and Saltaire in particular, we observed a clear and measureable reduction in the local deer herds during the period when the Park Service was diligently implementing the immuno-contraception program. With the abandonment of that program several years ago we observed a quick and dramatic rise in the deer population,

While there are several alternative's being put forth, the most important thing is that we immediately and diligently resume and sustain an active management program to control the deer population.

Correspondence ID: 1422 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,08,2014 13:44:51

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have watched the destruction of vegetation caused by the White Tailed Deer for the past half century, starting with a clear memory of the time before their arrival.

The damage has impacted native vegetation (some listed as threatened), migrant and resident bird, insect and lepodopteran species that depend on that vegetation, and dune stability both through loss of vegetation and direct impact from the deer.

Additionally, human health has been effected by the important role that deer play in the life cycle of all three tick species. I have tested positive for Lyme disease since 1978, no doubt from sharing ticks with the deer.

The National Park Service has a responsibility to get the population down to something near natural levels of 10 per Square mile or less.

I strongly favor Alternative C or D. By whatever means, the population of deer must be reduced, for the humans, animals and plants on which we all depend.

Correspondence ID: 1423 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 13:49:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The impact statement says, "Heavy browsing by white-tailed deer has resulted in adverse impacts on native vegetation across Fire Island." It also says there are "adverse interactions between deer and humans and the developed environment."

However, during the past summer I have not seen more than 1 or 2 deer during the entire summer of my travels around Fire Island. It is obvious to us that a large percentage of the deer population has already died as a result of the recent storms, including Sandy.

Are your statements based on data compiled within the last year or two? If not, I am sure you will find that the population has already been reduced to such an extent that drastic measures such as hunting, trapping, and killing are completely unnecessary. Rather, a management plan that aims at achieving a "steady state" population through birth control measures seems much more appropriate, in addition to being humane.

Correspondence ID: 1424 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 14:15:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Sirs:
The deer have eaten almost everything on the island. We are losing our bio diversity that we need for a vibrant diverse population. Please go ahead and cull the heard to a managable level

Correspondence ID: 1425 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 14:15:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I write in support of Alternative C or D to reduce the white-tail deer population at Fire Island National Seashore in New York State. Indeed, I would support the Park Service taking more drastic steps to reduce the population.

I am 55 years old and have visited Fire Island National Seashore every year of my life. I have observed that the explosion of white-tail deer has had a totally devastating effect on the native species of plants on the island. At this time of year, just for example, golden rod flowers bloomed in great swatches, attracting the migratory monarch butterflies. No more. The NPS obviously has a responsilbity to protect the full ecosystem of Fire Island, not just the deer.

The deer are also a menace to human beings. While I understand the scientific evidence as to the correlation between lyme tick disease and the size of the deer population is mixed, in my personal experience, the incidence of lyme tick disease and the increase in the deer population on Fire Island are closely connected. Lyme disease is a very serious health problem, so much so that some residents won't even visit the island during the height of spring "tick season."

Finally, I would suggest that failure to further cull this herd is not humane. With no natural predators or hunting, and insufficient forage to mainatain so many animals, many individuals are sickly and weak.

If the NPS is unwilling to take the necessary steps to reduce the deer population, I would suggest that the individual townships be granted permits to do as they see fit to limit the population to a sustainable presence.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1426 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 14:41:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing in support of the NPS preferred plan C and D in attempt to control the deer population. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1427 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support adopting Alternative C and/or D. The deer population on Fire Island, and particularly in Sunken Forest and Point O'Woods is destructive to the environment and dangerous for residents. This is not a natural development and it needs to be actively and responsibly managed. Please do not let the situation remain as it is.

Correspondence ID: 1428 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 14:58:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Killing And Hunting Deer Is Not The Answer:
I own a house in Corneille estate, Fire Island for the last 60 years with my Family!
Over the years I have watched and been a part of politically the growing then waning wild life on the island. The necessity to protect this barrier reef on Every level is of prime importance to all of us. Have we learned nothing that Destroying environments that include all animals has disastrous end result.

The deer population right now with Hurricane sandy is at an all time low.
4 years ago there was in place a very workable plan that kept the deer population under control, it was stopped for reasons I do not understand.

Fire Island is an over built Island With houses on top of each other Hunting deer
In this kind of environment is dangerous on all levels and potentially highly destructive to personal property not to mention the prime reason that deer hunting and killing will not ultimately solve the problem.
Please do not do this,

Correspondence ID: 1429 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 15:02:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

To whom it may concern:

I am a seasonal resident of Fire Island (Point O' Woods). Our family has a long (five generation) history with the island and during this time has learned to work as part of a community to live with nature and not fight it. It is with this background that I wholeheartedly endorse alternatives C and/or D (and strongly reject alternatives A and B) as proposed by the NPS for the White-tailed deer management plan. I would also support setting a enhanced goal for the deer population to be further reduced to an average of 10/sq. mile, with a provision allowing the NPS and Point O' Woods (in consultation with NPS) to manage its deer population to these levels. We al know the problems that the deer have caused as their numbers have exploded (e.g. defoliation, increased Lyme Tick Disease, and garbage scavenging).

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this note.

Correspondence ID: 1430 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 15:51:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It is horrific to even consider hunting of any kind on any part of Fire Island. This is a vacation and year round site in which residents respect and love all of the wildlife we share with the area. The disastrous storm of Sandy greatly reduced the numbers of deer on the island and we thoroughly object to any effort to further control the numbers. Professional animal organizations such as the HSUS are fully capable of controlling the animal welfare and will be financially supported by homeowners on Fire Island to stabilize the numbers of deer if necessary by the same efforts they have handled in the past. As major taxpayers to Islip and other communities, we strongly oppose any effort for hunting on the island and will respond by putting human bodies in the way of any hunting by NRA supporters or any third party efforts to kill our deer. There are a number of us prepared to initiate legal action to forestall any efforts to initiate hunting on our island.

Correspondence ID: 1431 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 16:33:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: This entire proposal is based upon outdated deer population statistics (not that they were ever even correct in the first place) and bad, bogus science.

Plans B, C, and D are totally UNacceptable.

Everyone on Fire Island knows that many, many deer were killed during Sandy. There are now nowhere near the number of deer there used to be in the areas I am most familiar with - -- i.e. Seaview, Ocean Beach, Ocean Bay Park, and Corneille. These proposals, we were told by officials, was based on PRE-SANDY figures.

Additionally, EVERYONE KNOWS THAT HUNTING JUST STIMULATES REPRODUCTION - -- the does have twins and triplets after hunting is introduced, to compensate for their losses. Fire Island should not be turned into a strategic breeding ground for deer for hunters to be able to hunt, and that's what killing/hunting would do.

Your proposals B, C, and D were obviously made to delight hunters/shooters who want to come to peaceful Fire Island and kill - -- stomping all over the dunes and showing callous disregard for the beautiful and very particular way of life on Fire Island. These are the most undesirable "tourists" to have. Fire Island already has the right kind of tourists - -- those who come to enjoy man and wildlife interacting peacefully.

The real problems on Fire Island are made by man, not deer. Suburban - -- not native - -- plants have been installed by ignorant homeowners who are over-building on fragile land, poisons are thrown all over the ground. Why aren't government agencies preventing THIS?

Immunocontraception WORKED on Fire Island for many years under the experimental program run by the National Seashore and the Humane Society of the United States. A new permit for immunocontraception needs to be given so that that type of program can resume - -- i.e. a program of immunocontraception that EXCLUDES hunting/killing. How long does the government need to "Study" immunocontraception" before declaring that it is harmless, which it so obviously is.

Correspondence ID: 1432 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 16:55:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Of the four deer management alternatives identified in the the Fire Island National Seashore White-tailed Deer Management Plan, NPS Preferred Alternative D appears to be the best; however, it should not be implemented without significant modification.

The plan recognizes the importance of "changing the behavior of ... people who intentionally or unintentionally feed deer because they perpetuate the food conditioning of the deer and create future generations of deer that approach humans." And while the National Park Service is prepared to address this problem, the plan anticipates that effective management will require a program to capture and euthanize "conditioned" deer within the Fire Island communities. Although the plan assumes that efforts to reduce undesirable human-deer interaction would "gradually" reduce the deer population in the FI National Seashore, a sensible public educational effort may actually significantly reduce the current deer population - at minimal public expense and without requirements for lengthy environmental review - within FI communities.

Although some people understand that wild deer should not be fed, on Fire Island there is unfortunately limited (if any) public outreach to advise community residents and visitors that NYS Fish & Wildlife regulations (Part 189.3.b) specifically prohibit "feeding Wild White-tailed Deer...at anytime in New York State...". National Park Service regulation may also prohibit feeding of deer; although, if federal regulations exist, they also don't appear to be well-publicized.

The deer population in FI communities appears to be already reduced from historically high levels, and current numbers could be significantly reduced further if there was greater public awareness of existing regulations and the adverse impacts of human, intentional and unintentional, feeding of deer for example, through the failure to adequately secure household waste.

The Fire Island National Seashore should work with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and local stakeholders, such as the Village of Ocean Beach Environmental Commission and the Humane Society of NY to publicize existing regulations. Stakeholders may determine that additional enforcement efforts or new regulations may be warranted, for example, regarding household and commercial waste management. Reasonable alternatives should be fully pursued to reduce the population of deer to an acceptable level before we respond to a largely man-made problem - overpopulation of deer in the communities - with a "capture and euthanasia" program.

Correspondence ID: 1433 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 17:07:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please don't slaughter these peaceful deer. There are more humane ways to deal with this situation. Let's set an example for others and show how progressive New York can be.

Correspondence ID: 1434 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 18:56:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To Whom it May Concern,

I have been visiting Fire Island for at least 38 years and even owned a house in Fair Harbor for about eight years. There are many qualities that make Fire Island a unique and especially wonderful place for someone living in New York City to experience and have an ongoing relationship with, allowing the observation of the changing tides, seasonal vegetation and the co-habitation of animal and human life.

I am a professional gardener and when I owned a house I had a lovely garden that contained plants that were not appealing to deer, or had a protective fence keeping the deer away from the plants. On occasion, a deer or some other animal may have chewed on one of the unprotected plants or the fence broke and allowed an animal to creep in and have a meal. So be it.....one can replant and adjust to living with animals in nature.

I appreciate that the deer population has expanded and that there is a desire to keep it contained. It is obvious to me that the deer tick program has been effective because the deer have smooth, healthy looking coats that are no longer covered with ticks. I was under the impression that a birth control program had also been introduced and was effective in keeping the population under control.

I have never been approached by a deer. I love that they do not run at the mere notice of a human but as I approach, they always run away. I think it's extremely valuable for a child to be able to witness these magnificent, gentle animals up close and for the lesson of respecting nature and allowing them to live in their natural environment without interference is priceless. I don't understand the necessity to capture and euthanize deer that approach people. I have never had that experience in all my years at Fire Island and if a deer does approach, what is the harm? They

certainly are not aggressive animals.

The answer to population control is not to kill the offending animals. These deer are acclimated to a human population and it is despicable to consider killing them in response. Is the lesson we want to teach our children that if an animal becomes too much trouble to control we turn to guns and killing to control them? I believe we should be considering every other option before even considering such extreme cruel measures.

Please!!! Do not resort to killing to control what I do not see as an unresolvable problem. The deer on Fire Island may be seen as part of an ecology that is out of balance but they are also part of the Fire Island experience which is magical and precious to many of us. Birth control, fencing and education is the answer.

thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1435 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 20:16:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I spend about 6-7 months of the year on Fire Island and during that time I have plenty of opportunities to observe the wildlife not only in Corneille Estates /Ocean Beach where I live, but also as far as Sailors Heaven to the east and to the FI Lighthouse to the west. My observation has been, since Hurricane 'Sandy' the deer population has been markedly reduced. I can not tell whether the change can be attributed to the 'Super Storm in 2012' or as a result of natural attrition, perhaps even of darting which was administered years ago. Very seldom does one encounter an animal wandering in the villages most likely because there so many Day Trippers and Tourists and that is to the delight of the merchants.

The deer that I have come across appeared all in good health with no visible injuries. They are harmless animals, I prefer them to roaming dogs and I like dogs too.

PLEASE DO NOT INTERFERE WITH THE DEER , THEY HAVE PLACE ON FIRE ISLAND .
HUNTING, RELOCATING, KILLING, NEUTERING, CASTRATING IS NOT AN OPTION. OF ANYTHING,
LET IT BE DARTING IN A CONTROLLED AREA THE WAY IT WAS DONE IN THE PAST.

Correspondence ID: 1436 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I spend about 6-7 months of the year on Fire Island and during that time I have plenty of opportunities to observe the wildlife not only in Corneille Estates /Ocean Beach where I live, but also as far as Sailors Heaven to the east and to the FI Lighthouse to the west. My observation has been, since Hurricane 'Sandy' the deer population has been markedly reduced. I can not tell whether the change can be attributed to the 'Super Storm in 2012' or as a result of natural attrition, perhaps even of darting which was administered years ago. Very seldom does one encounter an animal wandering in the villages most likely because there so many Day Trippers and Tourists and that is to the delight of the merchants.

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LET IT BE DARTING IN A CONTROLLED AREA THE WAY IT WAS DONE IN THE PAST.

Correspondence ID: 1437 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 21:10:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please act humanely and implement a fertility control study instead of killing deer!

Correspondence ID: 1438 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,08,2014 22:07:38

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly support Alternative D. I'm an environmental manager by profession, and I've been an Ocean Beach, Fire Island NY resident for all 66 years of my life. As a child growing up on Fire Island, I had heard stories that some of the winter residents would occasionally find and hunt deer (and an occasional seal), but I don't recall ever seeing a deer on Fire Island until sometime in the mid 60s. And since that time of first sighting, I've watched the deer population explode to the point of being a dangerous nuisance that is demonstrably causing damage to the unique flora and fauna and ecology of the Island. The damage is due to deer browsing but also indirect damage due to physical interactions and physical encounters with people and wildlife. I imagine that deer running across dunes and sand have a negative impact, say, on nesting Piping Plovers.

Deer in too great an abundance are a danger to public health, both due to the hazards of deer people interactions, but also due to deer being a vector in the spread of Lyme disease. At a minimum, FINS should select a strategy that minimizes populations and contact with deer in the habitable portions of Fire Island. And at a minimum, any selected alternative should protect the Sunken Forest since this is a unique area.

As a homeowner, I've tried to be a steward of the land, keeping and maintaining the native holly, pine, blueberry, beach plum and other vegetation native to the beach and maritime environment. I've had to exclude the deer with fencing to keep deer from browsing on the shrubbery and trees and the benefits of that fencing were immediate and apparent. The brush vegetation exploded. Parts of my property are not fenced and there, the vegetation such as blueberries are dying, in part due to deer browsing eating all of the low hanging fruit and young shoots.

I'm not a hunter, but I support hunting as an effective and tested means to control animal populations that are out of control or where the population exceeds the carrying capacity of the land. Fire Island cannot support the current deer population and the deer should be managed to appropriate densities and in a manner that is sustainable over the long term. As an environmentalist, I'm pleased that FINS is now considering adaptive deer management strategies after all these many years of study.

Of the alternatives, alternative B does not appear to be a realistic option since it relies in large part on unspecified fertility control agents for reducing and then maintaining appropriate population levels. It is therefore unclear whether Alternative B will be a successful long term strategy. Alternative C is an improvement in relying upon direct and effective methods for controlling and reducing populations such as sharpshooting in wilderness areas, capture and euthanasia, and hunting (in wilderness area to reduce, manage, and maintain reduced deer populations). Alternative D is preferred because it adds to the Alternative C compliment of direct measures, the use of fertility control methods to help maintain a reduced deer population. While I support hunting as a proven strategy, it would be preferable to utilize a more benign control strategy, such as fertility controls, as this might increase public acceptance of the alternative.

The data in the EIS indicates that garbage in the habitable parts of Fire Island are a major source of food for the deer population. I suggest that FINS add to the alternatives a more robust public education program about the importance of not feeding the deer, and perhaps hosting and leading a task force to improve solid waste management on Fire Island, to reduce the availability of garbage as a food source and attractant for deer.

Correspondence ID: 1439 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of GooseWatch NYC, a New York City with hundreds of supporters across Long Island, opposes the use of lethal management of white-tailed deer on Fire Island and instead supports a plan most similar to Alternative B in the FINS National Seashore Draft White-Tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Nonlethal methods of population control, such as immunocontraception, sterilization, fencing and education are becoming increasingly common, most recently being adopted in East Hampton and Southampton on Long Island. Culls on the other hand have proven themselves both costly and ineffective, only serving to enrage the public while still leaving an abundance of deer.

We urge the National Parks Service to implement nonlethal management techniques in cooperation with The Humane Society of the United States and local residents of Fire Island as it has in the past. Additionally, we

understand that the Wildlife Conservation Society of the East End has graciously offered a volunteer force of experienced huntsman to dart deer without killing them. Non-lethal have not been, and must be exhausted, before lethal management should even be on the table for consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1440 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support Alternative C. It seems to be the option that can be implemented while awaiting other solution not yet fully available. We need an aggressive but an environmentally solution. This plan could be easily monitored and modified with short turnaround time.

Correspondence ID: 1441 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am against this cruel practice. Please stop. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1442 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 06:45:59

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

We are totally opposed to the hunting and extermination of these gentle creatures who have lived peacefully with us on Fire Island way before people crowded them.

We are hopeful that the fertility control can be implemented or any humane method which would respect the lives of these beautiful white tailed deer we have loved since coming to Fire Island and 40 years ago.

Thank you

Correspondence ID: 1443 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 06:54:58

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am a lifelong resident of New York, an attorney, and a District Leader for the Humane Society of the United States for Congressional District 13.

I urge the rejection of any alternative that involves killing deer.

There is clearly an effective, humane alternative: Alternative B. As stewards of our state's natural resources, we must stop the ever-increasing practice of resorting to killing as a solution.

As a taxpayer, I vehemently oppose my tax dollars going toward the killing of animals as a means of "control."

Alternative B coupled with educating the public is the only responsible solution.

Correspondence ID: 1444 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support Alternative Plan D with a goal of restoring Fire Island to appropriate deer density and

maintaining that level.

Correspondence ID: 1445 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly support the use of effective, non-lethal fertility control methods for the deer on Fire Island, NY. I've recently learned that the NPS has released its Draft environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years the Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with the HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience on Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1446 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 08:22:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The wholesale killing of animals is not a solution to the problem. Several other alternatives to the deer population issue have been promulgated. It would be nice to see the National Park Service and specifically FINs at least try some of these methods before slaughtering innocent animals.

Correspondence ID: 1447 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 09:15:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please don't kill the deer on Fire Island!!! It's just wrong! Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1448 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My vote is for Alternative C.

Correspondence ID: 1449 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 10:34:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The only humane option appears to be Option B. Killing via hunting or Euthanasia is unacceptable.

Correspondence ID: 1450 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 11:13:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a homeowner in Fire Island I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor and resident experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1451 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 11:16:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support non-lethal deer management programs,

Correspondence ID: 1452 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I find the proposal to hire sharp shooters to cull a herd of docile animals cruel and totally unnecessary. The non-lethal fertility control methods were highly effective and should not have been discontinued. I personally observed no fawns during the time that this method was employed and there is no valid reason for discontinuing what had been a very extremely efficient method of controlling the deer population.

Please do not butcher the creatures we love.....

Correspondence ID: 1453 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 11:31:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The deer are part of our community; they are tame and trusting- - feed them a birth control- - but do not kill them!

Correspondence ID: 1454 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 11:51:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Bring back IMMUNOCONTRACEPTION. It works and is inexpensive, DO NOT KILL the Deer. They are a part of our communities. ewe do not want hunters on our island again. There were threats to people when there was a hunt in the 90's. Immunocontraception when managed correctly is the way to go.

Correspondence ID: 1455 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 12:09:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly object to any plan that involves moving and or euthanizing deer on fire island. This is cruel and unnecessary when the size of the herd can be controlled by a birth control program such as was done several years ago by the Humane Society and volunteers. Many residents would volunteer to work on this again. In addition, I heard that a vet offered his services to sterilize bucks at the meeting at Ocean Beach, another logical approach to birth control.

None of the options that are presented in this plan are good. Doing nothing is not good, nor is hunting and killing the deer that contribute to the uniqueness of fire island. They are not hurting us, and deserve better treatment. There will be people who will interfere with any attempt to hunt the deer - spend the time and energy working on birth control procedures.

Correspondence ID: 1456 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 12:10:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Use humane methods to control deer. the immuno-contraceptive program worked well. The deer are tame and hunting them would be cruel.

Correspondence ID: 1457 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 12:12:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a lifelong Fair Harbor summer resident, I would encourage the FINS park managers to reconsider the proposed deer management plan. Please consider the effectiveness of deer immunocontraception as a more humane solution to containing the Fire Island deer population. Killing tame deer is NOT effective management.

Thank you for your time

Correspondence ID: 1458 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 12:25:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: ve recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.
Thank you

Correspondence ID: 1459 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 12:30:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Do not euthanize the Fire Island Deer!
The contraception plan is humane and cheap!

Correspondence ID: 1460 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 12:37:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: enforce the no feeding the deer law. there people think its cute and fun to feed the deer but there not there in the winter to feed them and they starve to death!

Correspondence ID: 1461 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 12:42:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Killing the deer?? Seriously?? What happened to contraceptive darting? If this ridiculous proposal goes through, I think that all of you with kids should have them out to the beach to watch the new "deer management" process in action. If you're not willing to do that maybe you should be rethinking the whole thing, eh?

Correspondence ID: 1462 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My family and I strongly support the proposed NPS plan for deer management on Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1463 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 12:58:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Ms. Ries and the National Park Service,

While at our family home in Saltaire, I received notification of the National Park Service (NPS) plans to shoot the deer on Fire Island to reduce and control their population, for "environmental reasons". Having seen the destruction of habitat on the Galapagos Islands by goats, we understand the need to protect native vegetation & keep animal populations under control. HOWEVER, I, AND OUR ENTIRE FAMILY, STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY SHOOTING OF DEER AS PART OF THE SOLUTION.

We have spent many decades at Saltaire and remember the days of mangy, sickly deer when their population was out of control. We have witnessed the tremendous improvement in their health as well as reduction in population when the pilot program of tick and fertility control was implemented. We live on Clam Cove and enjoyed seeing them cross the marsh to one of the control stations. The moments of coming across does, their fawns and the occasional buck are special, traditional encounters intrinsic to the experience of being on the island. Residents understand that they need to either plant deer resistant plants or fence off their landscape to prevent deer eating their plantings. Otherwise residents and deer have enjoyed a peaceful coexistence, as Nature intended.

We were very shocked that the tick and fertility control program was not continued. We were even more shocked to see the plans being proposed and favored that depend on killing these creatures. THESE PLANS ARE EXTREMELY INAPPROPRIATE AND UNNECESSARY!

INSTEAD the NPS should implement the successful, effective tick and non-lethal fertility control program across Fire Island including the Fire Island National Seashore. Coupled with fencing the core and selected areas of the William Floyd Estate, this would ensure the goals of the NPS and continue the healthy and peaceful coexistence of deer and humans on Fire Island.

P.S.- If it's a question of funding, having spoken with many Saltairians, it is clear monies can be found among the many wealthy property owners on Fire Island to contribute to non-lethal control programs.

Correspondence ID: 1464 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 13:09:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1465 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 13:18:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support non lethal fertility

Correspondence ID: 1466 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I strongly support the use of effective non-lethal fertility control methods for the deer on Fire Island

I am a home owner on Fire Island and participated in previous fertility control methods, they worked. Wrong to stop them.

Correspondence ID: 1467 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 13:28:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Fire Island has no cars and other predators that naturally cull the ever-growing herds of deer trapped on Fire Island. The birth-control plan has worked in the past because of the dedicated year-round residents participation. Please continue the fine program on this National Seashore barrier beach and elsewhere.

Correspondence ID: 1468 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 13:29:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly protest any form of euthanizing the deer on fire island. It is totally inhuman. They were successfully kept under control by a form of birth control. It was inexpensive and it worked. Any killing is unexceptable and should not even be considered.

Correspondence ID: 1469 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 13:29:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Do NOT kill any deer. Keep up with the birth control. Killing nice deer is cruel and

unnecessary.

Correspondence ID: 1470 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 13:50:14

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I can't believe this plan is being considered. It has no scientific credibility as well as being inhumane. Considering the Deer Immunocontraceptive Project worked, I can't understand the reasoning behind ignoring something that works for something that has no scientific backing.

In addition, considering Fire Island's economy is based on tourism, I can't see how going forward with such an inhuman plan would do anything but negatively impact tourism as who wants to spend money at a place that would choose to do something so cruel to wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 1471 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 14:00:04

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Humane euthanasia will not help feed the hungry families of NY. The opening of a special Archery season should be considered as a deer management solution for this area.

Correspondence ID: 1472 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 14:09:35

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Why would you even consider this, when there has been so much success using contraceptive vaccines on deer? Not only is killing the deer barbaric, but ineffective. The doses of contraception are very inexpensive, and actually work. Haven't these contraceptive vaccines been used on Fire Island for years? Why would anyone choose to kill, when there is a MUCH better, humane alternative?

Correspondence ID: 1473 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 14:10:25

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Fire Island has been a shining example of how immunocontraceptive projects can work effectively to control our deer population - - without resorting to killing deer. As a homeowner on Fire Island, sixth generation Fire Island resident and member of the Fire Island New York Rising Committee, I urge the FI National Seashore, Park Service, DEC and State of NY to allow us to continue the very successful immunocontraceptive program here. There are homeowners and animal lovers who will volunteer to help fund and implement the program, so the plan will require minimal resources to the Park Service. We will work with The Humane Society of the United States and local residents - - please let us do so. What makes Fire Island so special is our relationship with wildlife. Killing our deer will destroy that relationship and destroy what makes Fire Island such a vibrant tourist attraction and economic engine for Long Island and the state of NY. We can and must find a way to extend the pilot program for immunocontraceptive. Please help us to do this - - and allow the public to directly engage the DEC and State of NY on this vital issue.

On a specific note, I am especially concerned with the FI National Seashore's plans to kill so-called "dangerous deer" in our communities. When I asked what constitutes a dangerous deer, I have been told by the FI National Seashore that there are no specific criteria, but that deer that "approach" humans could be considered dangerous. That means you can (and will?) kill all of our deer - because all of the deer in our communities are used to being in close proximity to humans because of the density of homes on the island.

All of our deer on Fire Island are mostly tame and none of them are afraid of humans, so of course they approach people. This provision - to kill deer in our communities - should be stripped immediately from any plan. No deer in our communities should be euthanized, unless they have a major health issue and are suffering. Our deer are not dangerous. They do not attack people. I have lived here my entire life and have only had safe interactions with any and all wildlife on Fire Island. If the goal of this plan is to protect marine vegetation in the parkland, then fence in the vegetation. Killing deer in our communities in no way advances that goal.

By not having criteria, and by targeting deer in our communities, you are opening the door to having ill-informed people or people who do not like deer because they eat their gardens call the Park Service and request that deer be taken away and killed - - for no valid reason. This would be a travesty and a public relations nightmare for the Fire Island National Seashore, the Park Service, the DEC and the State of New York - and it would also have a major negative impact on the economy of Fire Island. What tourist wants to come to an island - and bring their children to an island - where they might see innocent deer being taken away and slaughtered? We need to protect the deer in our communities, and the homeowners and taxpayers of Fire Island will not accept any plan that puts our deer in harm's way. It is simply not acceptable when there is a perfectly good, proven birth control option. The Park Service and Seashore should immediately halt this plan and put their time, resources and efforts into negotiating with the State of NY to extend the immunocontraceptive project. Any plan to move forward with an option to kill our deer will be inhumane, will cause a public uproar and will give a black eye to Fire Island that will affect the state of NY's economy for years to come. There is a vital ethical, environmental - and an economic - imperative to protect our deer.

Correspondence ID: 1474 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I whole heartedly support the use of effective, non- lethal fertility control methods for deer on Fire Island. Under no circumstances should there be sharpshooters or citizens going around with loaded guns shooting deer. Our community, Saltaire, has had tick control spray/roller bait stations for quite a few years and this has been extremely effective. neither my dogs or family members or guests have had or seen any ticks.

In my opinion, deer and humans should and can share this wonderful Fire Island, NY

Correspondence ID: 1475 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 14:33:16

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The suggested plan is barbaric. Though deer do need to be controlled, much more humane ways are available and should be used. As protectors of these natural areas, we should not be blaming the deer for what humans are doing. Humans are encouraging this behavior. Humans are creating this problem. Let's not punish the deer for our transgressions. The National Park Service is supposed to preserve nature for people to enjoy, not for us to force nature into as box so it doesn't interfere with our own plans. Those are zoos. Limit the deer population with birth control. Educate people. Don't kill and pretend it is for the good of the many.

Correspondence ID: 1476 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 14:33:23

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1477 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 14:33:46

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

IÁ've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with

organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Killing these animals is a canned hunt and out of the question.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1478 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 14:37:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: HSUS along with 2 wildlife biologists controlled the deer population in Kismet, Fire Island, New York using immo conception which required the darting of the deer.

Then FINS undertook this task and after 2 years abandoned it, probably due to their inability to hit the targets.

Please bring back the HSUS who can properly dart the deer and again start reducing the deer population.

Correspondence ID: 1479 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We support a deer management program that will cull the herd on fire island. They are unhealthy and have vow populated the island and could be interfering with the fragile plant growth.

Correspondence ID: 1480 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 14:41:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: IÁ've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Plan B is the only acceptable option for such beautiful animals.
Thank you

Correspondence ID: 1481 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 14:48:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: e recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1482 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 14:49:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: e recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

We want plan B.
Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 1483 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 14:55:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge the NPS to implement Plan B (or a plan of similitude) as the most suitable plan for both the white-tailed deer of Fire Island as well its human inhabitants. Culling of animal populations has been increasingly scrutinized in the past several years for causing disruption in the ecosystem of the target animal, social upheaval and lack of confidence in government wildlife agencies by the affected public, having no real long-term effect of reducing the animal's population. The very opposite effect has resulted from both hunting and culling by creating a perverted and inverse selection of individual animals who survive the slaughters who under natural predation and other limiting factors would be the first to be eliminated from the population.

American wildlife was slaughtered for almost every reason in the past 150 years- -sending scores of species to the edge of extinction. The white-tailed deer, normally a shy and extremely adaptable animal, should be managed by proven non-lethal control measures. We are tired of these animals being killed by government dictate, be they bison, beavers, bears, geese, or any other species who have as much right to live and flourish as Homo sapiens have. The problem has never been can they live with us, but can WE live with them.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Correspondence ID: 1484 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 15:02:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Opening up the lands to a special hunting session for qualified archers would best serve the people of NYS. For starters the sale of permits for a special hunting session would create revenue that could fund other portions of the project.

Additionally, the more deer that are taken as a result of hunters efforts reduces the need for state personnel/resources required to carry out the other options outlined. Not to mention that the meat harvested during a special hunt would be used to feed the many NY residents that are struggling to make ends meet in this stagnant economy.

Opening up hunting is a win for hunters, the state, and residents alike.

Correspondence ID: 1485 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 15:09:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a 30 year round resident I have witnessed the proliferation of the deer population and the danger they pose in addition to the devastation they reek on the environment and private property. In today's world they no longer have natural predators and I do support humane efforts to cull the herds. We know over the years various forms of birth control have failed. I appreciate the efforts of the Park Service in preparing this report. I recently heard of a possible alternate option that has not been considered in the past which is used both on mankind and other animals - male nurturing. I think it is worth investigating.

Correspondence ID: 1486 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 15:10:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: A fertility program is already in place. If this is not working, then please rework the fertility program.

If garbage racks could now be built without permits, more garbage would be contained, as it was before Hurricane Sandy.

I think many of the problems that the deer are thought to be causing, are actually due to changes on the part of the ocean, the building departments and the massive amount of construction that has taken place since Hurricane Sandy. Until it is definitively proven that other factors aren't causing the problems, the deer should be left to remain as they have been since they found their way to Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1487 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 15:21:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The only way that the herd of deer should be controlled is through sterilization. These deer are used to the human population and will come right up to you. Killing them is not a reasonable option for these partially tame docile animals. I agree that the herd needs to be kept small but not by killing them. Sterilization has been used before and should always be the only option.

Correspondence ID: 1488 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a person who is an avid visitor to Shelter Island , I am disgusted by what you are doing! As of today, when I was notified of what you are doing, I will NO longer spend my hard earned money or time on this 'island'! It is appalling to what you are doing to these beloved creatures. Even though two years ago, one of my numerous trips to Shelter, I found ticks on me! This is not the fault of any deer or human! I was smart enough to check myself as well as not get too close to any of the "friendly" deer! That is common sense! You are the ones lacking common sense! We, humans, are taking over their natural habitat therefore they are adapting to their surroundings. Would you kill a friendly dog? Or bird? C'mon! Your lack of compassion has turned me against paying your salary! I will no longer go to Shelter Island. Instead I will spend the large amount of money I spend there (a few times a year) somewhere else- someplace where humans are not murderers!

Correspondence ID: 1489 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My comment previously ment to say "neutering" not "nurturing" - big difference in meaning!

Correspondence ID: 1490 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 15:34:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: This plan is absurd and unnecessary. As a year-round resident I am aware that the deer population has been in control for the past 10 years. Killing deer to try and teach a lesson to the other deer is ludicrous and inhumane. The deer immunocontraceptive project was successful and there is no reason to stray away from this plan.

Correspondence ID: 1491 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 16:09:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We have been coming to Fire Island for over 40 years and cherish its unique ambiance and environment: the ocean, the bay, the narrow wood walks, the dunes, the flora and fauna. A key part of the uniqueness of this island is the presence of the deer population.

While in the past there was much concern about lime disease (a member of our family had it 20 years ago),we know of no cases in our community in the past several years. It appears that treatments the deer have been receiving at the feeding stations have drastically reduced the incidence of tick-borne diseases.

Deer pose no threat to humans and what can be more pleasurable than seeing these beautiful animals when you are out for a walk. Our children and now our grand children have learned so much by observing deer behavior. Our kids are transfixed watching the deer interact with raccoon, opossum, domestic cats and the occasional fox. The deer are a key part of what makes summers so special on Fire Island.

Our family is horrified at the idea of murdering these animals. How do we explain to our grand children that if one of these friendly animals that they have grown up with should approach them the DEC or the NPS will drag it away and kill it?

We strongly support Alternative A, possibly with more stress on long-term control by contraception. Alternatives C & D are barbaric.

Correspondence ID: 1492 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 16:55:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please follow this and save innocent wildlife.

I became aware of the successful DEER IMMUNOCONTRACEPTIVE PROJECT that was initiated by Fire Islanders in 1993. Deer numbers were dramatically reduced and still remain low today.

KILLING DEER IS NOT EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT.
DEER IMMUNOCONTRACEPTION IS EFFECTIVE and HUMANE and the cost of the vaccine is only \$24 per dose.

Correspondence ID: 1493 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 17:01:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I agree with the NPS approach to solving the over population of deer on Fire island. One issue that has not been resolved is the entry of the deer to the island-the frozen bay as what we had last winter-did this increase the population?

Thank you for making the public more aware of the problem. More education has to be done. I have been horrified to hear people [summer folks from Florida] say they give banana peels to the deer!

Correspondence ID: 1494 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 17:13:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Soller,

Very soon I'll be celebrating my 40th anniversary of a year-round resident of Fire Island. I've seen many things here over the years and can't imagine living anywhere else. I am also President of a small 501 (c) 3 organization called Fire Island Animal Rescue, Ltd. In the early 1990's I served as an imunocontraception monitor when the Seashore worked in conjunction with the Humane Society of the United States. I also worked with a special team sent by the U.S. Department of Interior to help track a doe wearing a recyclable garbage pail lid around her neck in the summer of 1999. NPS Rangers have approached me to assist them with animal emergencies in official and unofficial capacities many times over the years, and it has been my honor to be of help.

As an animal welfare activist as well as a long time Fire Island resident I cannot condone the Draft White-tailed Deer Management Report's intentions to slaughter deer through hunting, sharpshooting, euthanasia, or translocation. That said, the only proposed alternative I can in endorse good conscience is Alternative A, "no action."

My former employment with Fire Island School District as a Transportation Dispatcher before my retirement in 2008 put me on shift when Fire Island National Seashore and the DEC held an experimental deer hunt back in the 1980's. I'll never forget the incident of a school bus full of children passing several armed hunters just yards away along one of the wilderness tracts! Thank God a tragedy did not result from this error. Such a blunder should never be repeated.

Killing the deer will not achieve your goal of "restoring" Fire Island's vegetation. There have been too many reckless land development projects by greedy real estate prospectors that have included clear-cutting for any hope of that on this island. Furthermore, the repeated verbiage in this report of capture and euthanasia of "deer observed approaching humans within Fire Island communities" is disturbing. This is an extremely subjective premise. Who gets to decide what is "negative deer-human interactions?" This proposed policy is vulnerable to abuse.

I agree solutions must be found to control the deer population. Within Alternative A continue to monitor and study the deer as well as the island's vegetation. I also fully support enhanced of public education efforts, because visitors and residents repeat certain mistakes out of ignorance every summer. In addition however, research and lobby for a suitable FDA approved contraceptive agent that can be used on the deer heard. I know the AZT formula used back in the 1990's was not perfect, but we were on the right track. Locate an agent that is effective for longer periods of time, so less staff resources are expended to maintain the administration of it. Once this is achieved stick to the

schedule, whatever it is, without bureaucratic excuses or doublespeak.

Please know I am always at your service should the Seashore be in need of my assistance - so long as it doesn't involve the pointless murder of helpless creatures of course.

Correspondence ID: 1495 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 17:31:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It's terrible to kill the iconic animals of fire island

Correspondence ID: 1496 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 17:51:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a Fire Island homeowner (Point O'Woods), I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to voice my opinion on deer management, which with the exception of coastal erosion due to storm or other means, has been a top concern of mine for years. You have laid out very well the reasons why deer overpopulation does and has done so much much harm: to human health, foliage, and the deer population itself. I agree and feel that a unified and agreed upon comprehensive agreement is so long overdue.

With regard to your four recommendations, I feel that Alternative A (No Action) is an unacceptable course. This inactivity would not address the problem but rather leave the herd to continue on well past historical numbers to continue wreaking

havoc . Alternative B seems to me to be little better. Time is of the essence to us on Fire Island and I do not feel that we should plan on a course of action that may or may not be successful over a longer period of time, at perhaps greater expense. I would rather see Alternative D or even Alternative C utilized. Culling the herd to a sustainable level is a reasonable plan. It is a normal plan of action used to keep animal populations elsewhere healthy and although our environment certainly has it's own constraints, should be adopted here. Furthermore, I'd like to see us do all that we can to maintain the proper herd level for the future. The sooner this plan takes place in a reasonably thought out plan as outlined, the better.

Correspondence ID: 1497 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 17:53:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please continue the use of birth control to manage the deer population. Hunting is not an acceptable means to manage it.

Correspondence ID: 1498 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 17:55:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The deer on Fire Island should be given birth control rather than be given a death sentence. If the authorities are looking to kill a real pest, how about the raccoons? They poop on my deck nightly, chew my roof shingles, pry open my screen door, tear open my garbage can and live under houses. How many deer do that?

Correspondence ID: 1499 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 18:03:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a frequent visitor to Fire Island since the mid 1980's I closely followed the deer immunocontraception project conducted there and saw its effectiveness in the participating communities. Clearly after the first vaccination round there were fewer spring fawns and as the project went on it was obvious that the contraception effort was effective also in the long run. Moreover, the commitment of the FI residents involved in the project and assisting in its implementation was extraordinary.

Nature is Fire Island's greatest asset and deer as well as other wildlife are an essential part of it. In my opinion, inoculating does with a contraceptive is a humane way of dealing with overpopulation of deer, as opposed to hunting (which I also witnessed prior to this project) It also proved to be an effective way of managing the overall deer population and merits to be seriously considered as a viable alternative in your future plans of deer population management.

Correspondence ID: 1500 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. Please, do the right thing and be kind to the deer who have been nothing but kind to the people of Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1501 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 18:20:51

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: please use the birth control method for the white tailed deer. Thank You!

Correspondence ID: 1502 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 18:23:39

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We do not want the deer shot. The contraceptive plan works and needs to be resurrected. We in the communities expect to be included in the decision-making. The deer are not destroying the vegetation, they are pruning it. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1503 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 18:25:04

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the continued birth control effort to control the deer population and in no way support hunting of these animals!

Correspondence ID: 1504 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Why would anyone choose euthanasia over contraception?
Ignorance.
Heartless.
Selfish.

Correspondence ID: 1505 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Be humane. Don't kill. Our humanity is measured by how we care for the vulnerable. Including animals

Correspondence ID: 1506 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island. As a 20 year resident, I

have witness the ebb and flow of the deer population. The problem with a KILL plan, is that these creatures are tame, and much beloved by the members of the community.

Correspondence ID: 1507 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 18:46:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Do not kill these animals. Let the contraception method work. I love going camping on fire island withmy family...these deer are a beautiful part of this experience

Correspondence ID: 1508 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 18:55:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've lived in Charlotte NC since 1986, but spent the first 31 years of my life on LI. Been to FI many times, as recently as this past July.

I and my family frequent a place called Fripp Island, SC. Anyone who has seen Forrest Gump, has seen Fripp Island. A fair amount of the movie was filmed there.

One of the great attractions of Fripp is that there are TONS of deer on the island, all who are very tame and have been co-existing with the residents and vacationers there for years. They are tame, and will actually come up to a stopped golf cart (the preferred method of travel on the island) and eat carrots out of your hand. Everybody gets along fine. Nobody down there is doing any trapping or euthanizing of deer (if they did, there would, undoubtedly, be an uprising by the residents against the perps).

I would suggest to the powers that be at the National Park Service on FI... get in touch with officials at Fripp and find out how they handle the deer down there. Do it the same way on FI.

Correspondence ID: 1509 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 18:58:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We spent many happy days in Lonelyville .
The only sane way to deal with the deer population is to use birth control .
They are too important to do anything else with.

Correspondence ID: 1510 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 19:00:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I agree that there is a deer problem in that they are devastating our foliage and destroying species which may never come back.

I would select Alternative A but adding the following:
Use fencing in Sunken Forest and around federal areas such as between Atlantique and Robbins Rest and between Robbins Rest and Summer Club.
Also between the Grove and the Pines and were deemed appropriate.

I would approve of Fertility control to gradually reduce the population.
And never use sharpshooting and euthanasia. Perhaps a program could be implemented to capture and release deer in upstate NY federal areas that can stand a little deforestation.

Correspondence ID: 1511 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 19:09:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please come up with an alternate plan rather than killing the deer. Surely there must be a better

way to deal with the issues. God gave us intelligence to solve problems like these without resorting to lazy, barbaric behavior.

Correspondence ID: 1512 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 19:12:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a lifelong resident of Long Island I'm very angry and disappointed that humane methods are not prioritized to control the deer population on Fire Island. Killing friendly deer is not what the residents and taxpayers (and voters) want! Humane sterilization is the way to go and should be used to prevent overpopulation. The deer on Fire Island are part of what makes Fire Island a special place. Seeing nature is the reason many people go there. I don't understand why our government continues to utilize cruel methods. When it comes to animal control, it's 2014 and time to handle things in a more compassionate way. I urge FINS to reevaluate its plan to kill the deer and to come up with a better solution other than mass destruction of these beautiful peaceful creatures!

Correspondence ID: 1513 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: This is a disgusting display of humanity. Whomever thought up this plan should be fired! These creatures aren't doing anyone harm. This was their land before the greed of people took over, not appreciating the beauty of what's around them only what'll make their bottom line/pockets bigger. Dismiss this plan once and for all! Have a heart. This is a sad world to raise my child in.

Correspondence ID: 1514 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 19:47:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Killing deer is a deplorable act of unnecessary violence. I enjoy visits to Fire Island and one of the many amazing draws to the island is the sight of friendly gentle animals. Human beings should be held accountable for how they treat wildlife. People can be educated about how to act around the beautiful creatures.

Correspondence ID: 1515 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 19:49:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Of the four alternatives presented in the National Park Service (NPS) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Alternative D provides the greatest number of opportunities for controlling deer and for limiting the long-term environmental impact of the William Floyd Estate.

Given that educational and other outreach campaigns by the National Park Service and the various communities within Fire Island have met with limited success, the abundant food within the communities not only from planted vegetation, but also from mismanagement of garbage, and the vegetative damage that has occurred throughout Fire Island, Alternative A (the no-action alternative) should not be selected.

Alternative B does not meet the goals of protecting the natural resources of Fire Island. As noted in the EIS, use of reproductive controls have been studied for well over two decades. Although use of currently available reproductive controls have met with success, they do not meet the NPS criteria due to the need for continued treatment of the deer population and work best under a smaller targeted population. Although the EIS states an approved agent meeting possibly could be available upon implementation, the likelihood of a reproductive agent that meets federal requirements, receives approval for use by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and meets NPS criteria, in the near-term is not realistic. Additionally, as with the other agents that have been used, it is likely that pilot tests normally would be completed long-term use is approved. These tests, which have often lasted over two to three years, would further delay use of reproductive control as a means for controlling the deer population.

Although Alternative C is considered the environmentally preferable method, this option does not provide robust mitigation to the William Floyd Estate; thus leaving only Alternative D. Since Alternative D provides the greatest number of opportunities for controlling deer and for limiting both the short- and long-term environmental impact of Fire Island and the William Floyd Estate, this alternative should be selected.

However, it isn't clear why a fifth alternative was evaluated. This alternative would use the translocation component found in Alternative B to replace the capture and euthanize component. The EIS states that "translocation is not considered a long-term solution although it may have applicability in the short term while human behaviors that cause and perpetuate undesirable human-deer interactions are being reduced in the Fire Island communities to the extent possible." The EIS further states that "deer movements or behavioral patterns are difficult to modify once they have been established". Unfortunately, the same statement is applicable to human behavior as well - human behaviors are difficult to modify once they have been established. The educational outreach campaigns by the National Seashore, the NPS, and the various Fire Island communities have had limited success in changing human behaviors. The individuals who feed deer within the Fire Island communities have not changed their habits, and are not likely to no matter how much enhancement of the current educational programs campaigns occur. Additionally, unless the communities improve their solid waste management practices, deer will be present in the communities due to the presence of garage on the streets. Thus, human-deer interactions will still continue in the future in the same manner as the deer will continue to be encouraged to stay within the communities.

Given that Alternative C and D include sharpshooting and public deer hunting in the Fire Island Wilderness area, translocated deer could be managed through these two forms of control. And with Alternative D, translocated deer also could be managed through the use of a reproductive control method in the future.

Correspondence ID: 1516 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 19:53:35

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: These deer are so used to people, that trying to lower the population by hunting is un-fathomable. They would be offering themselves on a platter, they have lost their born right to know how to defend themselves. The only humane thing to do is sterilization or some form of birth control.

Correspondence ID: 1517 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 20:08:21

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1518 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 20:20:13

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am grateful that FINS is addressing this chronic and difficult problem. I DO NOT favor option A - something needs to be done about the deer population.

I DO support option D - culling the herd, protecting vulnerable territories, and maintaining an optimal herd size by a combination of culling and contraception.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Lifelong (summer) resident of Fair Harbor

Correspondence ID: 1519 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have spent summers in Kismet since the early 1960's. My parents lived there year round for many years. My brother is currently a year rounder. What the hell are you folks thinking? There must be/are far more humane ways of achieving the goal you seek.

Correspondence ID: 1520 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 20:41:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am a Saltaire, Fire Island resident as well as a Brightwaters, Suffolk County, NY mainland resident.
I am opposed to the proposed plan's unnecessary lethal approaches to deer control management on Fire Island. Humane deer management is possible with options such as the remote vaccine darting utilized in the past for deer fertility control.

Correspondence ID: 1521 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Deer numbers must be greatly reduced on Fire Island. They have become a bold pest over the 60 years I've been going there.

Correspondence ID: 1522 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 21:06:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please avoid the knee jerk reaction of killing whatever is inconvenient. I've heard the deer contraception plan is working well and has kept the population from growing. Be creative, think outside of the killing box and come up with something humane.

Correspondence ID: 1523 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 21:09:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Absolutely outraged at the shortsighted and inhumane deer management plan! The white tailed deer are beloved by residents and tourists alike. Any plan that includes hunting or killing will be met with a fierce wall of angry protesters (myself included)especially since there are more humane options available .
Please reconsider this plan! For safety sake alone! Not to mention what is sure to be a bitter and costly fight if this plan is implemented.
As a 30yr resident of Fire Island and a business owner I cannot over emphasize how much I oppose this plan!
VERY VERY VERY BAD IDEA !!! Please go back to the drawing board.

Correspondence ID: 1524 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 21:19:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As long as there are non lethal methods of reducing animal populations, there's no real excuse for any other (lethal) METHODS BEING USED.

Correspondence ID: 1525 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 21:24:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1526 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,09,2014 21:25:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods

to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1527 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Please speak for the voiceless and help those who cannot help themselves. Humans must share this world with animals.

Correspondence ID: 1528 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 21:53:39

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support controlling the FI deer population with humane birth control methods. Please consider continuation of non threatening measures to ensure the sweet population does not continue to swell. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1529 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please protect these precious deer!

Correspondence ID: 1530 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: absolutely not.

Correspondence ID: 1531 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 23:04:31

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Don't kill the white tail deer!!!!!!
They don't harm anybody!!!!

Correspondence ID: 1532 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,09,2014 23:59:22

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Note: I have been coming to Fire Island, and staying in our second home, since 1952. I am a member of the Ocean Beach Environmental Commission but speak only for myself here.

I. THE GOALS OF THE DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. To promote, as much as feasible, natural environmental processes, including the re-establishment and flourishing of indigenous plants and animal life on land, and in the water/land interface.

2. Protect both the deer population and the human population from adverse interactive effects

3. Avoid dangerous or troubling situations from arising in the process of better deer management

II. AN ALTERED PLAN B

My preference, would be a more aggressive version of Plan B, which excludes deer from human-populated areas,

and excludes the euthanization of individual deer.

I base my approach on a judgment that a sharp delineation should be made regarding the areas where the deer herd belongs, and does not belong.

In accord with this guiding principle, the deer would be moved to the Wilderness Area en mass, with any stragglers moved upon discovery, and re-united with their herd.

Such a policy would minimize to the greatest extent any deer-human interaction. It would clarify the reason, the means, and the timetable of moving the deer herd to the Wilderness Area..

Once, we make that sharp delineation, and adopt a set of policies in accord with that delineation we can expect to eliminate many negative effects of the current approach:

- --on indigenous plants,;
- --on human beings: re a higher chance of infection from tick-borne pathogens,
- --re the nuisance of garbage strewn around when deer knock over garbage cans,
- --which also provides food for rodents:
- --re the effect that reliance on human garbage as food has had on the deer herd, addicting them to an unnatural and uncertain means of sustenance.

The plan would be accomplished in three steps:

1. Begin with the construction of an effective and beautiful fence at either end of the Otis Pike Wilderness Area, going north into the bay, and south into the ocean. The fence would extend far enough into the bay and ocean to prevent deer from swimming around the fence, and high enough so that they would not even try to leap over it, (which could result in severe injuries to them, if they tried to return to their previous home-areas).
2. The purpose of this fencing would be to provide a destination where all deer presently living in the populated half of Fire Island (to the west of the Wilderness area) would be trans-located, either in one big effort, or over (perhaps) five years, through an intensive springtime process of herding , capture and re-location. This process would be based on known information regarding reduction of deer mortality under such circumstances.
3. Any or all culling of the deer herd would take place ONLY in the Wilderness area through hunting or other means, as needed to bring the population into accord with the rest of the environment in the Wilderness area. (The deer herd at the William Floyd Estate would be managed as described in Plan B.)

DISCUSSION

Before the building of the two bridges, deer were rarely if ever seen on Fire Island. Since they arrived, numerous indigenous plants have been severely challenged, or have gone completely from Fire Island, due to consumption by the deer herd.

Deer have been accommodating their feeding habits towards consumption of human garbage, resulting in a way of life inappropriate to a National Park, and creating both a nuisance and health risks to humans. Conversely, humans have been feeding deer, which puts more deer at risk for starvation or malnutrition in lean years of the growth of their natural food supply, due to cold or drought, etc.

In short, the deer herd in its present circumstances does not belong, (or humans do not belong), in the midst of human communities, including: Robert Moses State Park, the Coast Guard Station and Lighthouse areas, all the villages from Kismet eastward to the Otis Pike Fire Island Wilderness Area, and eastward through Lookout Point State Park.

What makes the most sense is to act boldly, based on that vision, by separating the herd from human communities. The suggestion of finding deer that are interacting with humans, capturing them and euthanizing them on an ad hoc basis, in populated areas, entails an unclear, and potentially unruly or dangerous approach, (to the deer, and to humans in densely populated areas, particularly during the summer when tens of thousands of people will be present).

Finally, the plan is vague about how and when this identification of deer that are too interactive with humans will occur., and it would be subject to waves of intense campaigns or full neglect, based on political or budgetary changes we cannot predict; as it sends a mixed message about where the deer herd ought to be and ought not to be. A clear understanding that the deer herd belongs in the Wilderness Area (if it belongs at all on Fire Island - as they were not present before the advent of the bridges at either end of the Island in the 1960s) would be underlined by the movement of the herd, as a whole, and ASAP.

Correspondence ID: 1533 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 04:16:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I would like to advocate for the humane control of the deer on Fire Island. They are wonderful animals but with no known predator they are over running the island. They will begin to suffer greatly during the winter when there is not enough food for them to eat.
I would vote to re-enact the non lethal fertility control. This has worked in the past.
Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1534 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 04:22:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am in favor of non- lethal fertility control.

Correspondence ID: 1535 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The plan to kill deer that interact with people is absurd. Leave us alone. Can you imagine children watching as Bambi is carted off to be murdered by Big Brither? Every time a government agency interacts with FI it makes things worse. Leave us alone.

Correspondence ID: 1536 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 05:37:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would like to ask the legislators in charge of decision making on this matter to please consider modern, humane, methods of controlling the deer population. There are many new approaches developed to control fertility and naturally thin the deer population. I think it's time to step into the modern world and solve the problem once and for all instead of resorting to old methods that are a temporary fix. After all, it is we humans who are encroaching on the natural habitat. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1537 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 05:52:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I spend summer time at Fire Island and trmendously enjoy the beautiful deer who are so friendly. Euthanizing such wonderful animals is a disgrace. If someone does not want to interact with the deer they can turn and walk away. Are we to teach our children that when something is not to our liking we kill it even if it poses no threat to us? Maybe that explains the violence that is spreading across the USA like wildfire. Whoever thought of this plan should reconsider or leave the job to others who are more compassionate.
Sincerely

Correspondence ID: 1538 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 06:24:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I prefer plan D as the appropriate respnse to what is currently an unmanageable situation. In the town of Fair Harbor deer are seen on most every walkk and they have become totally fearless walking sise by side with people. It's a rampant problem that has been getting worse each season.

Correspondence ID: 1539 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 07:16:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please consider the use of immunocontraceptive to control the deer population. It has been very effective to date and it is a humane intervention.

Correspondence ID: 1540 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 07:23:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1541 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I'm a nature photographer, one of a handful of people living year-round in Cherry Grove, which I've been doing for the last twenty-five years. (You might be aware of my work through the racks of note cards and postcards of my photographs which are presently sold in every town on Fire Island that has a store.) I'm taking this time to write you because I'm deeply troubled by the two premises underlying the deer management plan proposed by the Seashore.

The first premise, which seems to be the prime motivation behind the formation of a deer management program, is that the deer, by their browsing, are destroying the local vegetation.

As a nature photographer, I've been walking from my home in Cherry Grove to the Sunken Forest several times each week, year-round, for the last twenty-five years, and, from May to September, for an additional five years preceding that, passing each time, on my way to and back from the Forest, through the half-mile long undeveloped area of the swale that lies between Cherry Grove and Sailors Haven.

When I first started walking through the swale it was notable that the amount of exposed sand throughout this stretch far outweighed the amount of greenery. I would say, as a necessarily rough guess, 85% sand to 15% greenery. The deer seem to inhabit this stretch of land as much, perhaps more so than they are in the Sunken Forest. Yet over the years, I've seen a gradual and steady increase, not decrease, in the amount of vegetation in this area, to the point where I would now, thirty years later, guess it to be ninety to ninety-five per cent greenery, and five to, at most, ten per cent exposed sand.

This raises a troubling question: If the deer, which roam freely and fully throughout both swale and Forest, are destroying the local vegetation, then how could it be that the vegetation throughout this large tract of undeveloped land of the swale could have increased; not only increased, but increased dramatically.

It's hard not to come to the conclusion that the present green and thriving condition of the entire swale, even post-Sandy, implies that the premise that the deer are destroying the vegetation is a lie.

Premise #2: The deer population has been growing exponentially (and consequently needs to be reduced). This is simply not what I've observed in thirty years of walking through the swale and through the woods of the Sunken Forest. Many years ago, partly to amuse myself, I began counting the number of deer that I was seeing on each of my walks. The first few years, these numbers seemed to increase; by the early 1990s it was not unusual for me to count up to twenty-five deer during the course of a walk. But in the 1990s, after a few years of the immuno-contraceptive program being in effect, I saw these numbers significantly decline. By 2005, I was seeing between four, and as many as eight deer on each of my walks. And this number has remained stable for the last decade. While it's possible that a different situation exists on different parts of Fire Island, the deer population on this part of Fire Island, peaking in the early 1990s, and declining rapidly in the years thereafter, has remained low and stable, while the vegetation has continued to steadily increase and thrive.

Thank you for your attention to this; I appreciate that it's a difficult and thorny issue.

Correspondence ID: 1542 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 07:32:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I totally support non-lethal methods for controlling the deer population. Killing these innocent creatures is unfair and cruel. There are other options. They are a beautiful part of Fire Island!!

Correspondence ID: 1543 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 08:04:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Do not hunt and kill the deer! It's that simple. So when they innocently walk right up to you, your going to just shoot them in the head because your all big bad hunters - and that's what you consider "sport". It's murder and slaughter! no matter what you tell yourselves. I walk pass the deer every day. Watch your karma, it can be cruel too.

Correspondence ID: 1544 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 08:27:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Any plan that involves slaughtering the deer population on Fire Island is unnecessary and cruel. As a summer resident for over thirty years, I have seen no evidence of any significant damage or danger caused by deer. This is one of the few safe havens in the area for them, where they are free from risk of death by hunting or car accidents. I have seen them frolic in the ocean and respect the encroachment of humans. I will do whatever I can to prevent the slaughter of deer on Fire Island, including acts of civil disobedience if necessary.

Correspondence ID: 1545 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, the Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like the HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

I've been coming to Fire Island for 10 years and have seen how effective the current strategy is for reducing the deer population without culling. I see no reason to change that strategy, which I believe benefits the deer population at large and the human communities there.

Correspondence ID: 1546 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 09:51:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Continue using birth control and not hunting to control the deer population. Animals deserve respect and dignity.

Correspondence ID: 1547 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island

Correspondence ID: 1548 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 11:27:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am opposed to any of the plans that involve euthanizing or hunting the deer. At the meeting in Ocean Beach, there was a veterinarian who volunteered to neuter the bucks. Since the plans were going to involve tranquilizing the deer to move them or kill them, use the tranquilizing the bucks (both mature and smaller immature fawns) as an opportunity to neuter them. This would solve the delay that would occur to get a full force birth control

plan in place for the does too. I am sure there could be funding raised through a crowd funding account and there would be many volunteers since the opposition to hunting and euthanizing the deer seems to be very strong. Frankly the neutering of the bucks seems like a better way to go, but both approaches to birth control may need to be used.

Correspondence ID: 1549 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 12:16:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The following comments are my own personal response to the open public comment period. I have been a year round resident of Fire Island since August 1988. My husband worked for the National Park Service as a permanent employee and we transferred from Liberty Island in NYC to Sailor's Haven, an area located in the West District of Fire Island National Seashore. We lived in park housing until 1997 when we moved into the community of Kismet, which is the western most community on Fire Island within the park's boundary. He has since retired, however we still make Fire Island our primary home.

When we arrived at FINS the deer management plan was in the process of being written. Deer research and data gathering has been ongoing. In my many years here I have definitely seen that there is a problem with the abundance of deer. I have seen damage to vegetation in the Sunken Forest area as well as overpopulation and the presence of nuisance deer in the communities. I do feel that since there are no predators on Fire Island a management plan is essential. After reviewing the various alternatives I believe that Alternative D would give the most comprehensive approach to balancing the deer and other environmental concerns. If at some time in the future they could begin to be managed chemically(fertility control)that would be favored however culling the herd is perfectly acceptable to me. All actions should be implemented.

Correspondence ID: 1550 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 13:00:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Leave the deer alone, fund birth control, no deer hunting in the town of Islip!

Correspondence ID: 1551 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: Dear Ms. Ries,

On behalf of Friends of Animals¹ (FoA) and its members, the Environmental Law Clinic at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law is writing to provide comments regarding the Draft White-Tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Fire Island National Seashore.

The EIS was issued in July, 2014 by the National Park Service (NPS) with cooperation from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS-DEC) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

FoA has several concerns with the EIS and the management plan it analyzes. As it stands today, the proposed plan is legally unsound, morally misguided, and generally unfit for the perceived problem on Fire Island.

I. Introduction and Executive Summary

The proposed management plan for white-tailed deer within Fire Island National Seashore is another example of NPS defaulting to invasive, lethal means in an attempt to resolve a perceived problem with the deer population. NPS is taking a recycled, overused plan and attempting to apply it in a one-size-fits-all fashion as opposed to critically

¹ FoA is a non-profit international animal advocacy organization, established in New York in 1957.

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contemplating how to best address deer population at a specific, unique site. This comment letter expresses some concerns NPS must address in re-evaluating this EIS.

a. The EIS fails to consider a reasonable range of alternatives and fails to follow the recommendations of NPSs own expert

NPS violated NEPA by failing to rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives. 40 C.F.R. 1502.14(a). Instead, the EIS was framed in a way that had the discussion of alternatives lead to only one option: lethal methods. Immunocontraception (birth control) is currently unavailable and speculative. This both eliminates Alternative B as a viable option, and makes Alternatives C and D identical. Both rely primarily on lethal methods of population control, with Alternative D leaving the door open for potential use of birth control down the road. This does not provide the clear basis for choice among options required by NEPA. Id. at 1502.14(b).

The EIS also fails to follow the recommendations of NPSs own expert, H. Brian Underwood, who suggested direct

NPS involvement focusing on curtailing human activity and educating communities and visitors about interacting with white-tailed deer on Fire Island. While FoA agrees with NPS including some of these efforts, the education and outreach recommendations specifically laid out by Underwood were either absent from the EIS, or substantially marginalized. NPS should follow their experts recommendations, and make curtailing human activity and educating the public the focus of a non-lethal management plan.

b. Disparities between eastern and western deer populations warrant separate approaches to management

NPS claims high deer density and habituation to humans is causing over-browsing of vegetation and undesired human-deer conflicts. These issues are characteristic of white-tailed deer in the western areas of Fire Island. Yet the EIS, while acknowledging differences between eastern and western subpopulations, purports to apply the management plan universally throughout Fire Island.

In reality, the lethal methods proposed in the EIS would be primarily carried out in areas that are not the source of the problems NPS wishes to address. The communities to the west prevent much of the lethal methods from being conducted there. This means lethal means would be carried out primarily or exclusively in the less developed eastern areas of Fire Island, when the western deer are causing the undesired human-deer interactions.

This dichotomy between eastern and western subpopulations is a relevant factor with environmental consequences that was not given the hard look NEPA requires.

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Courts have held that an EIS is arbitrary when the agency fails to consider site-specific characteristics and instead applies universal approaches to different, unique areas.

c. Lethal methods to deer management are excessive and unsustainable

NPS endorses achieving the plan objectives of reaching the target deer density through a combination of sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia of individual deer, and public hunting. This is a problem because lethal methods of managing the deer population are both excessive and only temporary fixes, not sustainable solutions. The draft EIS fails to address the ethical considerations of killing massive numbers of animals to solve a perceived problem. With as much as we know about animal cognition and psychology, failure to include a discussion of ethics in how humans manage animal populations is irresponsible and prevents a reader of the draft EIS from fully considering what is truly the most reasonable alternative. Lethal means of managing the deer population is excessive and previous litigation demonstrates a history of disapproval from Fire Island residents on the topic. Moreover, implementing sharpshooting and hunting as a primary means of deer population management is not a sustainable solution to managing the deer population because shooting the deer down to the target population, as prescribed by the NPS preferred alternative, will likely turn into an ongoing process with no definitive end date. Statistics at other national sites where an attempt to manage the deer population via lethal methods demonstrate the ineffective nature of trying to sharp shoot the deer down to the target density over a period of time. The fact that NPS relies on lethal management to be used in conjunction with a non-existent birth control agent is doubly problematic and speculative. The underlying problem as to why there is a dense deer population and human-deer conflicts on Fire Island in the first place will not be solved by shooting the deer- a different solution like addressing human influences on the deer population would prove more sustainable and get to the root of the perceived problem.

d. Birth control is uncertain, inefficient, and unnatural

The draft EIS prescribes birth control as a cornerstone of deer population management. NPSs reliance on an acceptable chemical birth control agent sometime in the future is highly speculative and its placement under Adaptive Management is not appropriate. The NPS preferred Alternative D calls for birth control via a chemical agent as the means for population maintenance once the population is reduced down to the target number via lethal culling. A great uncertainty lies in NPSs betting on an acceptable and effective chemical reproductive control agent becoming available in the next 10 years. In the draft EIS, NPS describes what constitutes an acceptable birth control agent and concedes that none of the agents currently on the market satisfy these criteria. Without

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providing conclusive evidence that technology is supportive of the release of acceptable agent in the near future, NPS merely assumes that such an agent will conveniently become available in a manner supportive of their proposed plan. Using adaptive management to defer the use of an assumed birth control agent is inappropriate because it does not mitigate the environmental effects of the plan and dodges NPSs responsibility to provide information about the agent they will use before making a decision. In addition, the actual process of administering the hypothetical birth control leaves much room for errors and inefficiencies. Because a high percentage of the female deer population would need to be treated on multiple occasions for the birth control method to work, the slightest of error in identification of females could lead to great inefficiencies. Adding to the list of shortcomings surrounding population control via birth control is the unnatural and harmful nature of administering these chemical agents to the deer. Potential physiological and behavioral implications are documented side effects of birth control

on deer.

e. Recommendations

FoA respectfully recommends NPS re-evaluate this management plan with the important differences between the eastern and western deer populations in mind. Specifically, white-tailed deer populations in the eastern areas of Fire Island need to be either excluded from management, or managed in a way that does not require birth control or lethal culling. The differences between these subpopulations need to be thoroughly analyzed in developing a final EIS. FoA also recommends NPS consider and adopt a separate alternative that focuses on curtailing human activity as the primary means of addressing the issues associated with white-tailed deer on Fire Island. Instead of using uncertain, unnatural birth control or excessive lethal methods, the alternative should address the perceived issues with deer population by increasing education and outreach to the communities and visitors about interacting with deer. This approach was recommended by NPS's own expert on white-tailed deer ecology and management. Additionally, NPS should encourage residential codes about securing garbage, fencing gardens, using non-palatable ornamental plants, and refraining from feeding the deer. Such an alternative would be more in line with the recommendations of NPS's expert, policies of NPS, and would be a much better fit in addressing the concerns with white-tailed deer on Fire Island.

II. Legal Background

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 is our nation's basic charter for environmental protection. It was enacted by Congress for two central purposes. *Baltimore Gas & Elec. Co. v. Natural Res. Def. Council*, 462 U.S. 87, 97 (1993). First, to ensure that all federal agencies examine the environmental impacts of their actions before acting. *Id.*

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(citing *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. Natural Res. Def. Council*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978)); 42 U.S.C. 4331. Second, to provide the public with a statutory means for being informed about and commenting on the environmental impacts of proposed agency action. *Id.*; see also *Marsh v. Oregon Natural Res. Council*, 490 U.S. 360, 371 (1989). To fulfill these purposes, NEPA requires that an acting agency prepare a detailed EIS for federal action that significantly affects the quality of the human environment. 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C).

The EIS is meant to provide meaningful analysis, thorough review, and adequate consideration of reasonable alternatives. *Baltimore Gas & Elec. Co.*, 462 U.S. at 97. The discussion of reasonable alternatives is considered the heart of the environmental impact statement. 40 C.F.R. 1502.14. The agency must [r]igorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives. *Id.* at 1502.14(a). The agency must also [d]evote substantial treatment to each alternative considered in detail. *Id.* at 1502.14(b). The alternatives should define the issues sharply, and provide a clear basis for choice among options by the decision maker and the public. *Id.* The alternatives of an EIS should inform federal decision makers by objectively listing alternatives to be judged on their merits, rather than cater to tendentious, pre-favored decisions. *I-291 Why? Assn v. Burns*, 372 F.Supp. 223, 252 (D. Conn. 1974) *affd*, 517 F.2d 1077 (2d. Cir 1975).

In developing an EIS, an agency must take a hard look at all the relevant factors and environmental consequences of the proposed actions. *National Audubon Soc. v. Hoffman*, 132 F.3d 7, 14 (2d Cir. 1997). Courts have held that failure to consider site-specific characteristics that differ within the impacted area equates to a failure to take a hard look at the environmental consequences of an action. *Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc. v. U.S. Army Corps of Eng.*, 457 F.Supp.2d 198, 229 (S.D.N.Y. 2006). It is also inappropriate to disregard alternatives merely because they do not offer a complete solution to the perceived problem. *Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc. v. Morton*, 458 F.2d 827, 836 (D.C. Cir. 1972). Agencies may use adaptive management to mitigate adverse environmental impact, but may not use adaptive management as a method for deferring decision making about how a resource will be used. *Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Pship v. Salazar*, 616 F.3d 497, 505-06 (D.C. Cir. 2010). NEPA requires no substantive outcome, but without meaningful and thorough review of all reasonable alternatives and their impacts, the process falls short of its obligation.

In analyzing environmental impacts of a proposed action, an agency may rely on their own experts studies. *Hughes River Watershed Conservancy v. Johnson*, 165 F.3d 283 (4th Cir. 1999). The EIS must, however, also reflect reasonable scientific views which are not those of the responsible agency. *Sierra Club v. U.S. Army Corps of Engrs*, 701 F.2d 1011, 1030 (2d Cir. 1983). Where an agency ignores the recommendations of its own experts, courts have found such an action to be arbitrary and required a new or supplemental EIS. *Idaho Sporting Congress, Inc. v. Rittenhouse*, 305 F.3d 957, 973 (9th Cir. 2002).

NPS management policy section 4.4.2.1 designates that [w]here the need to reduce animal populations may be due to persistent human/animal conflicts, the Service will

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determine whether or not it can eliminate or mitigate the conflicts by modifying or curtailing the conflicting visitor

use or other human activities. NPS Management Policy 2006. While direct population management such as lethal methods is permitted in order to protect natural or cultural resources, this action follows [w]here visitor or other human activities cannot be modified or curtailed. Id.

III. The EIS Fails to Consider a Reasonable Range of Alternatives

The EIS fails to satisfy the requirements of NEPA for two reasons: 1) Only one option, lethal methods, was given adequate consideration in the EIS; and 2) NPS failed to follow the recommendations of its own expert on white-tailed deer ecology and management.

a. The Alternatives considered in the EIS essentially left NPS with only one feasible management option: lethal methods

As it stands, the EIS violates NEPA because NPS failed to rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives. 40 C.F.R. 1502.14(a). The consideration of all reasonable alternatives is supposed to provide a clear basis for choice among options by the decision maker and the public. Id. at 1502.14(b). The alternatives of an EIS should inform federal decision makers by objectively listing alternatives to be judged on their merits, rather than cater to tendentious, pre-favored decisions. I-291 Why? Assn, 372 F.Supp at 253. In I-291 Why?, the court issued a preliminary injunction against the Connecticut Commissioner of Transportation from further developing the highway I-291 for failing to consider an adequate range of alternatives. Id. at 223. The court reasoned that rather than inform federal decision makers by objectively listing the alternatives facing them regarding I-291 and supplying facts sufficient for them to judge the merits of each alternative, the EIS usurped the decision making role by framing its discussion of alternatives so that, based on the EIS alone, only one decision was possible- to proceed with I-291 as planned. Id. at 253. Thus, the court said, the EIS catered to just the sort of tendentious, pre-determined decision making that NEPA seeks to avoid. Id. Similarly, here, even if NPS met its burden to devote substantial treatment to each alternative considered in detail, it was inevitably left with only one choice, lethal methods, as a feasible option.

Alternative B, which relies primarily on the use of currently unavailable birth control, is not a viable option. It has been established that NEPA does not require consideration of alternatives of speculative feasibility. Natural Res. Def. Council, 524 F.2d at 93. Under Alternative B, fencing areas of the park to protect particular vegetation was not deemed sufficient on its own to achieve the objectives of the EIS, citing concerns over impacts on vegetation outside the fenced areas. EIS at 131. So, birth control was included as a major part of Alternative B. However, the EIS acknowledges that there is no acceptable

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form of birth control currently available. Id. at 40. NPS listed five criteria which must be met for a chemical birth control to be implemented as a management tool: 1) federally approved and state registered for use on free-ranging white-tailed deer populations; 2) multiple-year (three or more) efficacy (80-100%); can be administered remotely to avoid need for re-capture; 4) no harmful residual in the meat (safe for human or animal consumption); and 5) minimal impact on deer behavior. Id. at 41. Of the several potential chemical agents that have been tested, none currently meet more than three of the criteria. Id. at D-10. The EIS acknowledges the uncertainties of cost and efficiency (70-90% of females must be treated) with potential birth control, and rely on an assumption that an acceptable birth control will be available within ten years. Id. at 40-41; 61. These uncertainties make consideration of birth control as an acceptable management option, at this point, speculation. Therefore, Alternative B was never really a viable alternative.

Considering the unavailability of Alternative B, Alternatives C and D are virtually the same. Both alternatives rely on lethal methods of population management, with Alternative D leaving the door open for potential birth control down the road. Until an acceptable form of birth control becomes available, if ever, Alternative D would rely on the exact same lethal techniques (primarily sharp shooting) for population reduction.

With Alternative B being unavailable and speculative, and Alternatives C and D in effect identical, NPS was essentially left with lethal methods as the only viable option given adequate consideration. The decision was either to do nothing, or shoot the deer. This discussion of alternatives in the EIS clearly does not provide the clear basis for choice among options intended by NEPA. The EIS, like that in I-291 Why?, is framed so that the discussion of alternatives, based on the EIS alone, leaves only one decision possible- to implement lethal methods of population control.

b. NPS failed to follow the recommendations of its own expert on white-tailed deer ecology and management

What NPS failed to consider is a separate, non-lethal action alternative that focuses on curtailing human activity as a way to address the concerns with deer on Fire Island. NPS's own expert, H. Brian Underwood, recommended an approach that used direct NPS involvement focused on curtailing human activity and expanding community/visitor education. He did not recommend lethal methods.

Where an agency ignores the recommendations of its own experts, courts have found such an action to be arbitrary

and required a new or supplemental EIS. Idaho Sporting Congress, 305 F.3d at 973. In Idaho Sporting Goods, the Forest Service ignored its own experts recommendations to analyze wildlife impact at a landscape level rather than a local home range level. Id. The court concluded the proposed action was arbitrary as it went against the findings and suggestions of the agencies experts. Likewise, here, the consultant trusted by NPS to prepare a scientific synthesis on white-tailed deer ecology and

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management stated in his report, [t]he acknowledgment of a well- documented human influence on deer numbers in western [Fire Island] and the recent success in altering that human influence, underscore the importance of a more direct involvement of the NPS in community planning and visitor experience efforts. See White-tailed Deer Ecology and Management on Fire Island National Seashore: Fire Island National Seashore Science Synthesis Paper. H. Brian Underwood, 2005. As currently proposed, these efforts are hardly more than a side note in the EIS meant to supplement the preferred alternative that relies on lethal methods and potential birth control. Underwood pointed to the significant progress toward the elimination of deer feeding by residents and visitors, stating these efforts address the spirit if not the intent of current NPS policy. He suggested these efforts should not only be continued, but also expanded to include other areas of community development and planning. Id. Underwoods recommendations focused solely on an approach that elevates the awareness of residents and visitors as to the consequences of living in a natural environment and the responsibilities that go along with that privilege. Id.

The expert that NPS relied upon to synthesize white-tailed deer ecology and management recommended an approach that focuses on curtailing human activity and educating the public. While FoA agrees with NPSs inclusion of education and outreach efforts in the action alternatives, these should play a more central, expanded role in a separate alternative. Nowhere in Underwoods recommendations does he endorse lethal methods as an appropriate way to manage Fire Islands deer population. Instead he recommends an approach that focuses on curtailing human activity and expanding community/visitor education using direct NPS involvement. Specifically excluded from the EIS are Underwoods recommendation to:

- 1) [c]reate a permanent, dedicated liaison between [Fire Island National Seashore] and the island communities for dealing with natural resource issues related to wildlife and vegetation. Id. This person(s), working closely among park divisions, would provide direct assistance to Fire Island communities in the areas of policy interpretation, planning, and coordination of activities designed to reduce human impacts to native wildlife populations. Id.
- 2) Revive and reinvigorate the community and visitor relations plan crafted and implemented during the recent Natural Resources Preservation Program (NRPP) project.
- 3) Establish a science and management advisory team that includes representation from Fire Island National Seashore, Robert Moses State Park and Smith Point County Park. Law enforcement entities from all jurisdictions should also be represented.

Instead, the EIS uses broad language such as [d]edicate interpretive effort where feasible to conduct outreach and [i]mplement a citizen-science project engaging Fire

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Island community residents& in deer and vegetation research and monitoring. EIS at 35-36. These are not the recommendations for direct involvement suggested by Underwood, which included specific advisory teams with representation from multiple organizations and the revival of the formerly successful community and visitor relations plan crafted and implemented during the NRPP. This is the direct involvement Underwood recommends, but NPS failed to follow, as a primary approach to deer management.

NPS ignored, or at least substantially marginalized, its experts recommendations and proposed the excessive alternatives listed in the EIS. NPS should take its experts advice, and develop an action alternative that focuses first and foremost on curtailing human activity and educating the public about how to avoid or eliminate undesired human-deer conflicts.

IV. The EIS ignores the fact that eastern and western populations of deer on Fire Island necessitate different, individual approaches to management

NPS claims high deer density and habituation to humans is causing over-browsing of vegetation and undesired human-deer conflicts. These issues are characteristic of white-tailed deer in the western areas of Fire Island. Yet the EIS, while acknowledging differences between eastern and western subpopulations, purports to apply the management plan universally throughout Fire Island. In reality, the lethal methods proposed in the EIS could only be carried out efficiently in areas where there is a much lesser need. This dichotomy between eastern and western subpopulations is a relevant factor with environmental consequences that was not given the hard look NEPA requires.

a. Eastern and Western deer differ physiologically and behaviorally

The deer that inhabit the western areas of Fire Island are the source of the issues NPS seeks to address with the

proposed management plan. The western half of Fire Island is dominated by various residential communities. This suburban setting provides a perfect environment for white-tailed deer to feed and repopulate, as they feed on various artificial food sources (garbage, gardens, ornamental plants, intentional feeding). See EIS at 12. As a result, the western population of deer is characterized by higher weight, habituated behavior toward humans, and significantly higher density. *Id.* Thus, these western deer are the cause of the undesired human-deer conflicts.

The deer that inhabit the eastern side of Fire Island, however, do not pose the same concerns. As opposed to the recent boom in population to the west, the eastern population is stable, and has been for decades. Underwood, *supra* note 2, at 17; EIS at 95-96. While deer density in most western communities is well over one hundred per square mile, deer density in the Fire Island Wilderness (which covers the majority of the eastern half of the

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island) is just fifty-four deer per square mile. See EIS at 12. Eastern deer also typically flee from humans, as opposed to approaching them. *Id.*

In a study cited in the EIS, biologists observed that 11% of deer in Fire Island communities approached them, and Seashore biologists anecdotally noted that the deer approaching appeared to be the same individuals, suggesting that these returning deer are the cause of many human-deer interactions, likely due to food conditioning from the artificial food sources of the western communities. EIS at 31. In contrast, only 3% of the deer on federally owned lands on Fire Island were observed approaching biologists. *Id.*

b. Lethal methods would be used primarily in areas that are not the source of the problem NPS wishes to address. Most of the lethal means of management would be primarily or exclusively conducted toward the eastern half of the island, which, as discussed above, is not the primary cause of NPS's concerns. By implementing lethal methods of management primarily in areas that have a lesser need for management, these methods become increasingly inefficient and ineffective. The public hunting portion of NPS-preferred Alternative D would be conducted exclusively in the Fire Island Wilderness. See EIS at 52. Sharp shooting would also be necessarily limited in the western areas of Fire Island, as safety concerns prohibit its use within Fire Island communities or close to occupied buildings. *Id.* at 51. NPS has experienced similar difficulties in the past. In Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania, where NPS implemented a very similar deer management plan, managers could safely shoot deer only in a small area of the park due to close proximity to buildings and roads. It is believed this may be the reason it has proven difficult to reduce deer density in Gettysburg to the targeted levels. See *Estimating White-tailed Deer Abundance at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site*, David P. Stainbrook and Duane R. Diefenbach, 2012, at 55. NPS began implementing lethal methods in 1995, yet the deer density remains over one hundred deer per square mile; over four times greater than the target level of twenty-five deer per square mile. *Id.* at 48. Similarly here, lethal methods of population reduction would be limited, if not impermissible, in the western areas of Fire Island. The proposed alternative would use lethal methods of population control primarily in the eastern, less developed areas that are not the source of the alleged need for such management. While fifty-four deer per square mile is still above the desired target level, the lethal methods of population control would be used on the stable, less dense population that causes substantially less undesired human-deer interaction. NPS says it wishes to reduce the percentage of deer that approach people to 3%- rate observed in the less developed areas of Fire Island. *Id.* This shows the focus of the problem is not with deer in the eastern, less developed areas of Fire Island, as NPS chose the behavior of these deer as the benchmark for human-deer interactions. How, then, is this problem best addressed by focusing lethal methods of management in areas that already meet the standard of human-deer interaction?

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c. The East/West dichotomy is a relevant factor that was not given a hard look

The differences between eastern and western deer populations, and the need for separate analysis and management, were not given a hard look in the EIS. In preparing an EIS, an agency must take a hard look at all the relevant factors and environmental consequences of the proposed actions. *National Audubon Soc. v. Hoffman*, 132 F.3d 7, 14 (2d. Cir. 1997). Courts have held that failure to consider site-specific characteristics that differ within the impacted area equates to a failure to take a hard look at the environmental consequences of an action. *Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 457 F.Supp.2d at 229. In *NRDC v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, the court held that the Corps failed to meet the hard look standard when it failed to separately analyze the toxin re-suspension levels at different geomorphic areas of the proposed project to deepen a harbor. *Id.* Instead of analyzing geomorphic areas (navigable channels, sub-tidal flats, transitional areas) separately, it applied average re-suspension levels expected throughout the project area. *Id.* The court reasoned that because the Corps failed to separately analyze the impacts of the different geomorphic areas, and failed to explain why it did so, it failed to effectively analyze or take a hard look at toxin suspension rates for the entire plan. *Id.* This prevented informed public comment on the subject. *Id.* Similarly, here, NPS did not separately analyze the differences between subpopulations of deer in developing management

methods or target levels between eastern and western populations. Instead, NPS proposed uniform target levels using the same methods (where feasible) throughout the project area. Thus, NPS failed to take a hard look at how the differences between eastern and western deer necessitate more site-specific analysis and management, and prevented informed public comment on the matter.

The clear disparities between deer populations to the east versus west areas of Fire Island, acknowledged by NPS, show a need to treat these populations separately when considering a management plan. The white-tailed deer that inhabit the eastern half of Fire Island, particularly those in the Fire Island Wilderness, do not need to be managed at all. At the very least they do not require invasive, unnatural means of management such as birth control or lethal culling.

V. Lethal Methods for Deer Management are Excessive and Unsustainable

Lethal methods for managing the deer population are an overly invasive and unsustainable solution. This is a problem because a temporary fix like shooting deer to reach a desired population does not solve the underlying problem, nor does it address the issue of why the population boomed in the first place. In addition, the EIS fails to address the ethical issues that are inherent to lethal means of managing animal populations. These

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ethical concerns speak to the invasiveness and excessiveness of using lethal culling to manage the deer population on Fire Island.

a. NPS's lethal plans generally

The only way NPS endorses reducing the deer density is via lethal means. The lethal combination that NPS recommends is as follows: under the NPS-preferred alternative, using bait, sharpshooters would lure deer to designated areas of the seashore and kill the deer at close range using high-power, small-caliber rifles. EIS, at 49. The deer with tendencies for approaching and befriending humans would be killed via capture and euthanasia. Id. at vii. Finally, subject to NYS-DEC regulation, hunting would be extended to the public to contribute to the lethal efforts of reducing deer. Id. at 52.

b. Ethical considerations surrounding lethal methods of deer management

NPS fails to include a discussion of ethical concerns surrounding deer population management in the EIS. It is time for NPS to recognize that the individual animals that are subject to violent deaths and invasive treatments have intrinsic value and this in turn demands that NPS incorporate ethics into its consideration of wildlife management activities in their parks. There is a growing recognition among conservationists and biologists that ethics must play a greater role in wildlife policy. See, e.g., Fox & Bekoff, *Integrating Values and Ethics into Wildlife Policy and Management-Lessons from North America*, *Animals* 2011, 1, 126-143. But as Fox and Bekoff point out: [w]hile many agree that ethics must play a central role in any project involving [animals], it is often interesting to note that in many books on human-animal interactions . . . there is often no mention of ethics. This needs to change. Id. at 129. The same must be said for the regulation of animals.

Undoubtedly, discussions in the context of policy development about ethics and animals can make some people uncomfortable. But, of course, just a generation ago it was also unheard of for an agency like NPS to incorporate the humane treatment of animals into its decision-making process. This has changed dramatically. Inclusion of the issue of humaneness and animal welfare concerns in the EIS would allow federal, state, and local decision-makers, as well as the public, to better understand the impact of lethal action on animal welfare, and allows for better decisions to be made on the ground.

Our generation needs to adopt the same approach to educating the decision-makers and the public as to the role of ethics in making animal management decisions. FoA believes it is our jobs as conservationists, animal advocates and scientists to work toward public education and information dissemination to address real and perceived fears held by others. Id. at 128. What is missing in NPS current regulations and this EIS is the viewpoint of the animals. Again, from Fox and Bekoff:

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The growing body of literature on animal cognition and emotions demonstrates undeniably that animals have interests and points of view. Like us, they avoid pain and suffering and seek pleasure. They form close social relationships, cooperate with other individuals, and likely miss their friends when they are apart. Emotions have evolved, serving as social glue, and playing major roles in the formation and maintenance of social relationships among individuals. Emotions also serve as social catalysts, regulating behaviours that guide the course of social encounters when individuals follow different courses of action, depending on their situations. If we carefully study animal behaviour, we can better understand what animals are experiencing and feeling and how this factors into how we treat them. Id. at 131.

Sadly, the EIS does just the opposite. Overall, the EIS focuses the attention of the public and the decision-maker on the human perspective of the wildlife-human relationship. The absence of a legitimate discussion of ethics, and the

rights of wildlife, prevents the reader from fully considering the best alternative to choose to help manage wildlife-human interactions. This is inconsistent with the purposes of NEPA. An EIS should provide full and fair discussion of the issues and inform decision makers and the public of the reasonable alternatives that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment. See 40 C.F.R. 1502.1.

c. Management via lethal means deviates from NPS policy language

Jumping the gun, quite literally, and resorting to lethal methods for population management instead of analyzing ways that human activities may be altered to achieve the same goal is excessive and also deviates from NPS policy. Choosing to use lethal means as the most reasonable alternative is in conflict with NPS policy management section 4.4.2.1, which indicates that where NPS takes actions that remove native plants or animals, the agency will focus on curtailing human activities in order to remedy animal population problems caused by human and animal interactions. NPS Policy Management 2006. The policy language also dictates that for NPS to intervene in influencing animal populations in a way that does not rely on natural processes [w]here visitor or other human activities cannot be modified or curtailed. *Id.* at 42 (NPS Policy Management 4.4.2.1). In the case of Fire Island National Seashore, mitigating the effects of human influences is not impossible. In fact, for reasons previously discussed in these comments, curtailing human activity is a very available and practical possibility for mitigating human effects on the deer population.

Resident and visitor opinion on lethal means of deer population management is also a relevant consideration for NPS to examine. In 1988, NPS planned to allow controlled deer hunts on Fire Island for limited periods of time for the purpose of conducting scientific research. See *Allen v. Hodel*, 1989 WL 8143 (E.D.N.Y., 1989.) Fire Island residents, angered

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by the prospect of the deer hunting, resisted the hunting plan and litigation ensued. *Id.* The previous litigation is indicative of Fire Island residents' position on lethal action against deer for the purpose of a scientific study at the time. The lethal action as proposed by NPS today is not for the purpose of achieving even a scientific study- -NPS proposes killing the deer for the sole purpose of getting rid of them. This rationale is not likely to sit well with Fire Island residents. A 2008 Survey of Fire Island Seashore visitors, shares in this sentiment. EIS, at. 108. The EIS concedes that of those visitors surveyed, 50% felt the close contact with deer or other wildlife enhanced their Fire Island Seashore experience and visit. *Id.* Meanwhile, only 2% said that the presence of deer or other wildlife detracted from their experience in some way. Another survey conducted in a different part of the state with an urban deer population showed while 64.5% of respondents supported deer management, significant proportions considered lethal techniques "not at all acceptable." See *Managing Urban Deer*, Rondeau and Conrad, 2003, 274. Although the New York survey was not conducted on Fire Island specifically, the results allude to general attitudes surrounding lethal means to manage deer populations from residents who co-exist with them. NPS themselves cite a non-local study in the EIS, gathering support from a Cuyahoga Valley National Park study (park is just south of Cleveland, Ohio.) EIS, at. 187.

Aside from the haste and disapproval surrounding lethal methods of managing the deer population is the fact that lethal means to population management are an unsustainable solution. NPS's implementing sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia and public hunting as the backbone of their management plan will merely provide a temporary fix. NPS prescribing lethal action would be like trying to get rid of garden weeds by cutting them down at the surface using scissors. The weeds would temporarily cede only to reappear until properly treated, by getting them at their roots. Likewise, shooting a large number of deer once or twice will not solve the issue. The deer will not stop reproducing in between shooting sprees. Instead, unless the problem is addressed at its roots, ongoing lethal culling with no definitive end date would be necessary to impact the population to the NPS targeted numbers. This is because NPS has set the frequency with which shootings will take place based on their targeted deer density figure. EIS at. 48. Another problem is that lethal management is only limited by the release of a suitable birth control for the deer. With no suitable agent on the market currently nor guaranteed to be in the future, lethal culling would be prolonged even further. NPS concedes that several factors could influence the number of years that would pass before the Service could reach their initial deer density goal. *Id.* The numbers presented in the EIS are "estimates based on 2012 deer density and estimates of annual growth, as well as what experienced staff believe is reasonable." *Id.* These numbers, NPS is sure to mention, could change over time after the lethal-based plan is implemented. *Id.* Data from other sites where lethal methods of managing deer population were implemented show just how inefficient it can be. White-tailed deer management via lethal culling at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site in Pennsylvania began in 1995. See *Estimating White-*

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tailed Deer Abundance at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site, David. P Stainbrook and Duane R. Diefenbach, 2012, at. xiii. To date, deer are still being shot and killed as a management

method. The Gettysburg target was set at 25 deer per square mile. Nearly twenty years of shooting later, the population is estimated at 112 deer per square mile. Id. at. 48. At Gettysburg, communities and residential areas limited where the shooting could be done, proving difficult for managers to reduce deer density to the set target. Id. Similarly, on Fire Island, the residential areas are the ones with the densest population of deer and will pose a limitation on culling in those areas, thus affecting the overall efficiency of adopting lethal means of management. EIS at. v.

VI. Birth control is speculative, inefficient, and unnatural

Incorporating reproductive control of female deer via a chemical agent is a cornerstone of the NPS preferred alternative. EIS at. vii. This is a problem because use of birth control is speculative, inefficient, and unnatural.

a. Speculative nature of relying on birth control agent

Currently, no suitable chemical birth control agent exists. Id. at 40. NPS calls for reproductive control of female deer through use of a chemical reproductive control agent to be implemented when an acceptable chemical agent becomes available. Id. at 54. Reproductive control would be used in conjunction with lethal culling and "[i]deally, implementation would begin simultaneously with direct reduction." Id. NPS, however, estimates that the use of reproductive control could begin during the third year of lethal culling, if an acceptable agent is available at that time. Id. If an acceptable agent is not available, deer would continue to be killed via shooting and euthanasia. Id. It is no help that NPS describes in charted detail all of the available chemical reproductive control agents currently on the market. None of those described are acceptable for use in the NPS preferred alternative. In a shallow attempt to ameliorate the hole in their birth control-dependent plan, NPS includes the current statuses of agents available on the market and states that "[s]everal chemical reproductive control agents (immunological and nonimmunological) are being developed and tested for use in deer population control." Id. at 40.

b. Including birth control under Adaptive Management is a misuse of Adaptive Management in an attempt to resolve the speculative nature of birth control

NPS's deferring to "Adaptive Management" on the issue of reproduction control is NPS's attempt at reserving the discretion to "see how it goes" and make changes to the

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management plan as they go along. NPS's use of Adaptive Management in this way violates NEPA's requirement to evaluate environmental impacts before actions are carried out. See 40 C.F.R. 1500.1(b). One of the main purposes of NEPA's procedures is to make information available before decisions can be made. Id. Taking an adaptively managed approach to implementing birth control dodges NPS's responsibility of providing information about the birth control agent they intend to use and also punts on the issue of evaluating the environmental impacts that this hypothetical birth control will have on Fire Island.

Agencies may use adaptive management to mitigate adverse environmental impact, but may not use adaptive management as a method for deferring decision making about how a resource will be used. See *Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Pship v. Salazar*, 616 F.3d 497, 505-06 (D.C. Cir. 2010). With respect to birth control, this is precisely what NPS has done in their management plan: they have treated birth control under adaptive management not to mitigate adverse environmental impact of deer management, but to defer decision making about how, when, and what birth control agent will be used. Thus, NPS has created a plan for a plan at best. Covering their bases, NPS's adaptive management approach also attempts to reserve the right to adjust their plans for the use of lethal culling or any of the other elements included in the plan/EIS as they gain knowledge and experience. Id. at 58.

Specifically, by deferring the birth control use to Adaptive Management, NPS buys themselves time to continue shooting the deer if and until an acceptable agent becomes available. EIS at 42. An acceptable agent will not be just any new agent that comes to market. As the EIS explains, a birth control agent will only be found acceptable once it passes all stringent criteria listed in the EIS, gets state approval, is the right price, and is sufficiently useful and safe. Id. The uncertainty around when, if and how an acceptable chemical birth control agent will become available is highlighted by NPS's inconsistent time estimates. Conflictingly, the EIS predicts an estimated three years until release of an acceptable agent after earlier quoting a wait-date of ten years. Id. at vi, 54.

c. Birth control is both inefficient and unnatural for the species

In addition to the very conjectural nature of relying on an available chemical agent, birth control is also inefficient and unnatural. Efficacy of reproductive control using a chemical contraceptive agent is highly dependent on the Service's techniques and skill to capture female deer for administering the agent. Id. at 58. The EIS even concedes that "modifications in capturing techniques would be needed to increase success" (of managing the population with birth control.) Id. Because a treated female deer would most likely require a series of treatments over a period of years, even modest error in identification of the individual females is likely to lead to serious inefficiencies in the management process.

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See Movement Behavior, Dispersal, and the Potential for Localized Management of Deer in a Suburban Environment, William F. Porter, H. Brian Underwood, and Jennifer L. Woodard, 2004. Once the deer population is shot down to the desired NPS level, 90% of females would require treatment. EIS at. 54. NPS acknowledges that it will become more difficult to treat individual females after lethal culling is practiced due to fewer individuals and increased flight response. Id. Furthermore, birth control is unnatural with the potential of affecting the deer both physiologically and behaviorally. See Efficacy of GnRH Immunocontraception of Wild White-Tailed Deer in New Jersey, James P. Gionfriddo, et. al., 201; Gary J. Killian and Lowell A. Miller, Behavioral Observations and Physiological Implications for White-Tailed Deer Treated with Two Different Immunocontraceptives, 2001, 289. Weight loss and changes in reproductive and social behaviors are among the recorded symptoms associated with current birth control on deer. Id. Birth Control has been shown, for example, to also affect length of the breeding season as well as male secondary sex characteristics. Id. The benefits to be gained from limiting deer reproduction needs to be weighed against other effects on the treated animals. Id.

VII. FoA Recommends that NPS Implement a Separate Non-Lethal Alternative, Focusing on Human Activity Toward Deer and Their Habitat

FoA emphasizes for all of the reasons discussed above, the importance of adopting a reasonable non-lethal alternative that is more in sync with the purpose and needs statement of the EIS and that focuses on curtailing human activity to remedy the problems caused by the expansive deer population on Fire Island.

The first recommendation is that NPS consider the disparities between the eastern and western populations of deer and that they tailor management plans specific to each subpopulation and community accordingly. The EIS acknowledges the very disparate conditions between east and west however fails to incorporate the data into any of the alternative management plans. Furthermore, there is evidence that white-tailed deer can be more effectively managed as small scale, subdivided populations. See Porter et al, 2004. The study found that the movement behaviors of white-tailed deer supports the possibility of a localized management approach. Id. at 255. Also supportive of the recommendation for separate management plans for the east and west is the fact that the white-tailed deer of Fire Island have small home ranges of about 1.5 miles. EIS at 12. The small home ranges make separate management plans viable as the deer treated with one approach in the east are not expected to emigrate to the west, where another management strategy is practiced, nor visa-versa. Fencing in both east and west (and the Sunken Forest) in order to protect specific vegetation would be acceptable and one element common to both management plans.

In addition, curtailing human activity should be a focus for managing the deer population. Residential coding and zoning initiatives are one way that human activity could be curtailed to solve the problems of deer to human interaction and control population while staying true to NPS management policies. Garbage, landscape and vegetation in

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residential areas can be controlled to affect deer access to artificial, attractive food sources. See Examining the Potential of Community Design to Limit Human Conflict with White-Tailed Deer, Dawn A. Gorham, et al. 2011. Such human influence essentially allow the deer to sit, eat, plump up and reproduce. The deer are more habituated toward humans and lose their natural ranging and scavenging instincts when these artificial food sources are so readily available to them. Controlling the way humans contribute to these problems could positively affect the deer population as well as stay true to NPS policy that stresses the importance of a more direct involvement of NPS in community planning. NPS Policy Management 2006. A stated purpose of the management plan and EIS is to promote public understanding of the complex relationship between deer and humans. EIS at. i. NPSs haste in favoring a plan that uses lethal methods to address the perceived problem on Fire Island sends a message to the public that shooting deer is the answer to the complex relationship between wildlife and people. It does not in any ways promote public understanding of the true complexities that exist in the relationship. Curtailing human activity and educating residents and the public on the impacts humans can have on the deer population and ways humans can prevent overpopulation are positive ways to affect change and promote public understanding of the complex deer-human relationship.

Furthermore, the importance of community education should be expanded in the EIS. While FoA agrees with NPSs inclusion of expanded education and outreach efforts, these should play a central role in a separate alternative; one that does not rely on birth control or lethal means of population control. This approach is the recommendation of NPSs own expert on white-tailed deer ecology and management. Underwoods recommendations focused solely on an approach that elevates the awareness of residents and visitors as to the consequences of living in a natural environment and the responsibilities that go along with that privilege. Underwood, supra note 2, at 17. Underwood does not include lethal methods in his recommendations. Instead he endorses direct NPS involvement in community and visitor activity such as a permanent, dedicated liaison between Fire Island National Seashore and the island

communities for dealing with natural resource issues related to deer and vegetation; reviving and reinvigorating the community and visitor relations plan crafted and implemented during the recent NRPP project; and establishing a science and management advisory team with representation from multiple sources including Fire Island National Seashore, adjacent state/county parks, and local law enforcement. These specific, direct recommendations were not included in the EIS. FoA recommends a separate, non-lethal alternative that also follows the recommendations of NPSs expert.

Even if NPS determined such an alternative would not be a complete solution to the perceived problem with white-tailed deer on Fire Island, it would still be inappropriate to not consider it as an option. NRDC v. Morton, 458 F.2d at 836. In Morton, the court stated that even if the option of energy conservation would result in supplying only part of the energy that the proposed energy lease would yield, it still must be considered. Id. The court

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reasoned that, as a partial solution, energy conservation might reduce the scope of the project and alleviate a significant portion of the environmental harm, and therefore it was inappropriate to disregard that alternative. Id. Similarly here, even if NPS determined this recommended alternative, suggested by NPSs expert, would not be a complete solution to the perceived problem, it is inappropriate to fail to consider it as an alternative. Such an alternative would also be more in line with NPS Management Policy. NPS management policy section 4.4.2.1 designates that in NPS actions which remove native animals (where the necessity to reduce animal population is due to problems caused by human/animal interaction), remedying the problems by curtailing human activities will be a prioritized solution. NPS Policy Management 2006. As it stands, New York state law prohibits the feeding of deer. (sect. 189, CRR SNY). Educating the public and putting them on notice via signs, pamphlets and the like of the legal penalties as well as environmental impacts of feeding the deer would affect population management in a non-lethal, productive way. This FoA recommended alternative would prove more in harmony with NPSs own experts recommendations, NPS policy, and the purpose and need of the EIS.

Dated: October 10, 2014

Correspondence ID: 1552 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 13:26:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Do not murder the deer.

Correspondence ID: 1553 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I oppose Alternatives C and D of the Draft Management Plan and supporting a modified Alternative B, which would include immunocontraception, fencing, and education. We are asking that dangerous and unnecessary relocation be removed from this alternative.

Nonlethal strategies worked immensely on Fire Island before their abandonment.

Correspondence ID: 1554 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 13:35:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Kindly stop the slaughter of these beautiful animals.

Correspondence ID: 1555 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 13:37:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The only reason the deer population has expanded so much is because people have driven out their natural predators and provided plenty of food for them. Rather than blaming the deer for being present in what was originally their territory that people have taken over, take steps to address the problem in a humane, long-lasting way. Killing deer will only reduce their numbers for this generation; once they reproduce the numbers will be as high as ever. Sterilizing deer will have a longer lasting impact, as well as be more humane.

Correspondence ID: 1556 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I oppose Alternatives C and D of the Draft Management Plan and support a modified Alternative B, which would include immunocontraception, fencing, and education. I am asking that dangerous and unnecessary relocation be removed from this alternative. Nonlethal strategies worked immensely on Fire Island before their abandonment. Please help us get Fire Island back on the right track!

I am fighting for a more humane Long Island!

Correspondence ID: 1557 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 13:53:06

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Fire Island is the deer's home too! Let us all not forget that. Who are we to drive them away from their home or, God forbid, kill them? Please let us all use our heads and realize that the deer contribute to what makes Fire island so very special and beautiful in the first place. What next, "Ban the butterflies" too? STOP this KILLING OF THESE BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS. WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO TREAT THEM BADLY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Correspondence ID: 1558 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support LION, which opposing Alternatives C and D of the Draft Management Plan and supporting a modified Alternative B, which would include immunocontraception, fencing, and education. We are asking that dangerous and unnecessary relocation be removed from this alternative.

Nonlethal strategies worked immensely on Fire Island before their abandonment. Please help us get Fire Island back on the right track!

Correspondence ID: 1559 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 13:59:18

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not kill the deer. There are non-lethal methods for curtailing populations. Killing should not be the reflexive answer to what you perceive as a wildlife problem. Consider why it is a "problem" in the first place. Suburban sprawl, invading their natural habitat.

Do NOT kill them, we are better than that. Do not be cold, calculating, heartless, and cruel and show no mercy for their lives. They love their lives and families and friends as much as you do. Keep that in mind when making your decision.

Correspondence ID: 1560 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 14:31:13

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: No hunting or shooting! Please continue with the birth control! I go every year since we have a cottage there and the birth control is doing a wonderful job!

Correspondence ID: 1561 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 14:41:22

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The Humane Society of New York urges the National Park Service not to implement a lethal deer management plan on Fire Island and instead to expand fertility control programs and other non-lethal methods to control the deer population. Killing deer does not provide a long term solution to overpopulation. Only continued dedicated use of non-lethal management methods, such as fertility control and public education programs, will work.

Correspondence ID: 1562 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 14:44:25

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: New York state has been managing the deer population on Fire Island quite well without resorting to shooting the deer. The last time bows and arrows were used residents and visitors were treated to the horror of deer running with arrows stuck in their sides.

There is no reason to use hunting on Fire Island. Use the Humane Society contraceptive program, which was started and proven on Fire Island.

What right does the Parks Service have to define "negative human-deer interactions." Many people enjoy seeing deer from the boardwalks. It is part of Fire Island culture- far more so than stunted holly plants. Far more Americans like watching wildlife than do hunting it.

<http://animaltourism.com/news/2014/10/06/parks-service-wants-to-hunt-fire-island-deer-again>

Correspondence ID: 1563 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly oppose Alternatives C and D of the Draft Management Plan and support a modified Alternative B, which would include immunocontraception, fencing, and education.

I am also asking that the dangerous and unnecessary relocation be removed from this alternative.

Nonlethal strategies worked immensely on Fire Island before their abandonment.

Correspondence ID: 1564 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

I am opposed to Alternatives C and D of the Draft Management Plan and supporting a modified Alternative B, which would include immunocontraception, fencing, and education, for Fire Island, NY. I am asking that dangerous and unnecessary relocation be removed from this alternative.

Nonlethal strategies worked immensely on Fire Island before their abandonment. Please help us get Fire Island back on the right track!

Correspondence ID: 1565 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I oppose alternative C and D of the Draft Management Plan. I oppose the alternative of relocation. I Support a modified Alternative B which included immunocontraception, fencing and education, (humane) alternatives. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1566 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 15:20:29

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Culling the tame deer and shooting them is not a hunt but is an execution. It is inhumane and uncivilized. It is not what the people of Fire Island want and should be reconsidered. Birth control and male neutering are viable alternatives and should be a part of the solution.

Correspondence ID: 1567 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 15:21:46

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please seek alternatives to deer slaughter. They are helpless animals who need our help not for us to slaughter them. Its 2014 we have alternatives.

Correspondence ID: 1568 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 15:28:07

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: October 10, 2014

Superintendent Chris Soller
National Park Service
Fire Island National Seashore
120 Laurel Street
Patchogue, NY 11772

Re: Deer Management Plan

Dear Chris:

This letter is in response to the Draft White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that the Fire Island National Seashore recently posted for comment. Although 2 months was allotted for review and comment of the Plan and EIS, the documents are obviously quite extensive and technical in nature, and I feel more time should be given for participation and comment.

From the less technical side however, it quickly becomes apparent to any resident or visitor to Fire Island that we have an unusual abundance of deer and, more striking, how acclimated they have become to humans sharing the habitat with them.

As is the case in any eco system that has become imbalanced, this has resulted in a number of undesirable impacts: an over stocked population of deer, the destruction of great swaths of native and imported vegetation, disease transmission, the creation of intrusive protective barriers, and too much interaction between humans and the deer. The problem has grown more and more acute- to the point that the status quo is clearly no longer sustainable. It is clear that the Park Service needs to adopt and implement an active management program once again. In the western communities in general and Saltaire in particular, we observed a clear and measureable reduction in the local deer herds during the period when the Park Service was diligently implementing the immuno-contraception program. With the abandonment of that program several years ago we observed a quick and dramatic rise in the deer population. Although some may not have been enthusiastic about that program, and it may have been cumbersome to implement, it is clear that some program, even if flawed, is better than no program.

While there are several alternative's being put forth in the Plan, the most important thing is that we expeditiously and diligently resume and sustain an active management program to control the deer population. An active plan which does not necessarily have to be exclusionary to one program, but could rather use a number of the methods in combination, while remaining flexible to incorporating new technologies and methods that become available (we note that the Town of Southampton is drafting its own Deer Management Plan and that the Village of Easthampton is undertaking its own sterilization program) to achieve the desired population levels and habitat across Fire Island. The Village of Saltaire has great interest in, and look forward to, working with FINS on such a comprehensive program.

Correspondence ID: 1569 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 15:29:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I've recently learned that the National Park Service has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Deer Management Plan for Fire Island National Seashore. For more than 15 years, The Humane Society of the United States has worked with the NPS to implement a fertility control study using humane methods to manage deer population. The study has been widely supported and successful. The NPS should continue working with organizations like The HSUS and Fire Island residents to implement humane deer management strategies rather than killing semi-tame deer, who are a cherished part of the visitor experience at Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1570 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 15:37:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
October 10, 2014

Fire Island National Seashore
Attn: Lindsay Ries
Deer Management Plan
120 Laurel Street
Patchogue, NY 11772-3596

Re: Draft White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Fire Island National Seashore

Dear Park Personnel:

Safari Club International (Safari Club) submits these comments in response to the Draft White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Fire Island National Seashore (Deer Plan). Although Safari Club supports the lethal removal component of the National Park Service's (NPS) preferred Alternative D, we find the plan lacking in its consideration of the use of hunters and skilled volunteers for deer management. In addition, we question the NPS's approach to hunting on the Fire Island National Seashore (Fire Island) generally.

Safari Club International

Safari Club International, a nonprofit IRC § 501(c)(4) corporation, has approximately 50,000 members worldwide, including many who live and/or recreate in New York and particularly within and in areas surrounding Fire Island. Many of these members will participate in the hunt that Alternative D of the Deer Plan will implement for the purpose of reducing Fire Island's deer overpopulation. Others would likely volunteer to participate as sharpshooters to further help reduce the deer numbers, if given the opportunity.

Safari Club's missions include the conservation of wildlife, protection of the hunter, and education of the public concerning hunting and its use as a conservation tool. Safari Club has been a longstanding and aggressive advocate for the NPS's use of hunters and volunteers as agents in the reduction of wildlife on National Park Service lands. Safari Club participated in litigation to defend the NPS's use of qualified volunteers for elk population reduction in Rocky Mountain National Park and helped the NPS persuade the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals to uphold the legality of the volunteers as agents program.

Safari Club has reviewed and commented on wildlife management plans for National Park Service units throughout the country. We have consistently recommended that the NPS improve its efforts to utilize and include members of the hunting community in wildlife management on National Parks.

The NPS Should Use Hunters to Avoid Creating Situations That Make Aggressive Wildlife Management Necessary

The NPS is faced with reducing a severe deer overpopulation problem on Fire Island because over the years it has not adequately managed its deer population through regulated hunting. Deer hunting on the National Seashore property should not have been postponed until the population reached the point where it had become harmful to vegetation, humans and the deer themselves.

According to the Deer Plan, it appears that Fire Island has not even considered deer hunting since 1988-1989 when the NPS introduced a public research hunt in cooperation with the State of New York. The entire research study included an archery hunt lasting seven days and a firearms hunt lasting nine days. On the basis of that limited test, the NPS decided, despite the removal of 60 deer, that the hunt was unsuccessful due to logistical problems and the apparent unwillingness of hunters to disregard sex and size in harvesting deer. Even more troubling is the fact that the NPS failed to conduct further research or offer additional deer hunting opportunities because "the program quickly became unpopular with Fire Island residents." Deer Plan at 14, 94. As a result of its failure to conduct more extensive research and to allow more public hunting opportunities (due to a decision to follow the whims of anti-hunting constituencies), the NPS is now faced with a deer population crisis.

The NPS allowed this management problem to develop because it has misinterpreted the role that hunting is to play on Fire Island National Seashore. The Deer Plan inaccurately describes the Fire Island National Seashore as a place "in which public hunting is allowed through its enabling legislation." Deer Plan at 108 (emphasis added). Fire

Island's enabling language does not allow hunting - it mandates the activity:

The Secretary shall permit hunting, fishing, and shellfishing on lands and waters under his administrative jurisdiction within the Fire Island National Seashore in accordance with the laws of New York and the United States of America, except that the Secretary may designate zones where, and establish periods when, no hunting shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment.

16 U.S.C.A. Â§ 459e-4 (emphasis added). Congress directed the NPS to permit hunting on the National Seashore property to the extent authorized by the State of New York and to restrict or close areas to hunting only under extraordinary circumstances relating to public safety, administration, and public use and enjoyment. Instead of opening the National Seashore to hunting and only closing it in limited areas and times for these specific purposes, for the last several years the NPS has opened only limited areas of the property to waterfowl hunting and has not permitted any deer hunting. This approach has not only jeopardized the health of the unit's wildlife and plant populations as well as the safety of the park's visitors, but it has also violated Congress' mandate.

The Preferred Alternative Needs to Provide More Extensive Opportunities and to Better Utilize the Hunting Community

Although Safari Club supports the NPS's choice of Alternative D in its utilization of hunting as one of the means of deer population reduction, the preferred alternative does not take full advantage of the hunting community's potential contribution or offer sufficiently extensive hunting opportunities. Contrary to the plan offered by the preferred alternative, hunting should not be used for deer management only until an immunocontraceptive agent becomes available that will effectively maintain population numbers. Hunting should continue to be part of the NPS's management approach to deer, regardless of the availability of effective deer immunocontraceptives. Continued use of hunting for deer management will result in enhanced recreational opportunities as well as better managed wildlife.

In addition, if the NPS decides to utilize sharpshooters to more expeditiously reduce the deer population, it should work with volunteer marksmen from the hunting community, rather than hire contractors or paid sharpshooters to perform the same task. Many if not most hunters are excellent marksmen and many paid sharpshooters are members of their local hunting communities. The NPS needs to look to the hunting community as a tool in wildlife management, rather than just as a user group that needs to be managed and restricted within the park unit.

Finally, Alternative D includes a hunt limited to the Wilderness Area within the park unit. However, the Deer Plan indicates that in the 1988-89 hunting research study, archery hunts took place in the natural areas on the western side of Fire Island. Safari Club recommends that the NPS similarly expand the planned hunt to areas outside the Wilderness Area. In this way, the NPS can increase the effectiveness of the deer management and can also provide hunting opportunities to those who will be hindered if not excluded by the walk-in access limits applied to hunting in the Wilderness Area. Even in the Wilderness Area, the NPS should make appropriate exceptions to motorized vehicle restrictions to ensure that disabled hunters can take advantage of the hunting opportunities.

Safari Club appreciates the opportunity to comment. We strongly recommend that the NPS take full advantage of hunting and of the hunting community in its effort to reduce Fire Island's deer population. We further recommend that the NPS learn from Fire Island's experience (and the experiences of other park units with similar wildlife management problems) and engage the hunting community long before overpopulation situations are reached.

Correspondence ID: 1571 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft EIS (DEIS). Here are my comments

Conclusions

This DEIS needs additional input to avoid arbitrary bias for the selected alternatives. The NPS should not proceed without obtaining both of these:

1. The FIIS needs to conduct a survey of visitors and residents to determine how the lethal alternatives proposed will

affect visitors and residents experience of the Island.

2. NPS needs to seek independent scientific review from a reputable scientific body such as the National Academy of Sciences to deal with the biases and arbitrary assumptions that underlie this analysis.

Justification for killing deer for approaching humans

There is no justification for killing these tame and unsuspecting deer for merely approaching humans. The NPS has provided no evidence of danger and no reasonable argument that people might be in danger. . There is some speculation, but it is the kind of speculation that can suggest that walking on a sidewalk is hazardous. Even in cases where there is demonstrated danger, the NPS Fauna Policy prescribes using other approaches to mitigating the danger when it is at all practicable. That problems of injury to the persons of visitors or to their property or to the special interests of man in the park, shall be solved by methods other than those involving the killing of the animals or interfering with their normal relationships, where this is at all practicable. Even if there were any danger, the NPS clearly can do a lot more to change the interactions between deer and residents or visitors by working with the human part of the equation. (http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/fauna1/fauna.htm)

As for the effect on health, this aspect is not explained and seems beyond explanation. The NPS acknowledges that deer do not carry Lyme disease. They are only one of many mammals and birds that provide food for one phase of the ticks lifespan. Is FIIS going to kill all the mammals that approach humans? Also it is difficult to see what approaching humans has to do with providing human exposure to ticks. Surely NPS does not imagine that the ticks are spread by hopping off one host to another that is approached?

However there is plenty of reason to believe that this practice would have very traumatic results for both the deer and the humans who have come to know them and become attached to them as individuals. This proposal is arbitrary and unjustified.

Biased analysis of adverse impacts of the proposed actions.

The EIS analysis of impacts is arbitrary and biased. It fails to include important impacts of proposed actions, especially as they affect visitors and residents. In general, the impact discussions assume that the preferred options will have the intended effect and no unintended effects. In particular, it fails to include the immediate and possibly long term effects the lethal options on the residents and visitors experience. How will visitors and residents feel about the lethal methods employed? Will they still enjoy the beauties of the Island knowing that it is a killing field for tame and unsuspecting deer?

The NPS apparently has no measure of how the lethal methods would affect visitor and resident experience, and has not attempted to anticipate what effects they may have. In particular, it is incredible that the impact analysis contained no mention of how the visitors and residents would react if the deer they have befriended and know as individuals are trapped and killed, possibly in painful ways, just for approaching humans. This surely would be a traumatic experience and change forever the Fire Island experience of these residents and visitors. The NPS needs to conduct a survey of visitors and residents to evaluate the impact on visitors and residents before employing this or any of the lethal methods.

Also, what are the consequences if the Agencys rather arbitrary assumptions prove wrong and it takes much longer to reach the target density or, on the other hand there is overkill in the first year and the population of deer is virtually wiped out? There are other areas too where consequences other than the planned and assumed effect on deer population are completely ignored.

There is also a bias in the extent to which adverse impacts on the deer of non-lethal vs. lethal methods are mentioned when they employ the same techniques.. For example, the risk of injury during capture is mentioned for Option B. But capture is also required for Options C and D and is not mentioned there. Similarly, the unwanted effects of bait stations is discussed for reproductive approaches but not for sharpshooting, which also employs them.

Another bias is revealed in NPSs insistence that reducing human/ deer interactions is beneficial to the deer. It is mentioned frequently, but it is not at all obvious that such is the case. In fact, the deer seem to be thriving from human interaction and NPS has reported no documented harm to the deer over the years this interaction has been

going on. It is clear that NPS would prefer the deer not approach people but not that it would improve the deers health or quality of life.

Additionally, the impact analysis has quite a detailed discussion of possible effects on deer behavior of using a reproductive technique but appears to assume that killing the deer will have no effect except that there will be fewer deer. The analysis should evaluate the effect of killing deer on the genetic diversity, social structure, and other aspects of deer population well being (quite aside from the catastrophic effect it has on the individual deer). The demography of killing deer over bait stations is not the same as for natural mortality, including predation. What is the effect on the genetic pool? On the demography of the population? Also, what is the effect of killing females in their prime who are the leaders of the families? The NPS shows concern for the possibility that fawns may be born late due to the speculated effects of contraceptive vaccines, but none for those deprived of leadership and guidance for finding food and shelter as they face the winter without the female head of family. The NPS has shown considerable skill in speculating on possible effects of reproductive approaches. It needs to apply that same skill to lethal approaches. If it needs help, there is a start in some experts articles available in the literature, for example *The Science of Deer Management* by Alan Rutberg in *The Science of Overabundance*, McShea, Underwood, Rappole, Smithsonian Books, 1997.

The DEIS needs independent science review from a reputable science organization such as the National Academy of Science in order to rid it of these and other biases.

Bowhunting

Bowhunting is notoriously ineffective and inhumane. This has been acknowledged by experienced wildlife managers. For example, Texas Park and Wildlife biologist Horace Gore has stated: "You cannot call bow hunting a population control measure, it is a recreational pursuit." In fact, he adds: "We do not advocate bow hunting when the objective is controlling population." (Texas has greater numbers of deer than any other state).

There are many incidents of deer showing up with embedded arrows days after bowhunting. These can easily be found on a google search. There are also well conducted studies showing a high wounding rate by bowhunters. See, for example: http://www.researchgate.net/publication/237609363_Wounding_Rates_of_White-tailed_Deer_with_Traditional_Archery_Equipment

Trapping and Euthenasia

Killing a healthy animal by whatever means is not euthanasia. This is a deceptive term designed to hide the truth. What is proposed is killing animals for reasons that have nothing to do with saving the animals from pain but is likely instead to inflict unnecessary pain.

Trapping can be a very cruel and traumatic experience for deer. The weak assurances that the NPS will try to be humane are not very reassuring (especially not if the notorious Wildlife Services is performing this service) There is a very great difference between various trapping methods and the NPS should committ itself to using only the least harmful methods with all of the possible measures to reduce harm. (See: Haulton et al Evaluating 4 methods to capture white-tailed deer. *Wildlife Sociaty Bulletin* 2001,29(1) 255-264 for precautions to take with specific methods) Studies of contraceptive vaccines have managed to do this and there is no reason the NPS could not do the same. The PZP studies use only chemical immobilisation except fot the study at NIST which also used box trapping and hand capture of fawns. The ongoing project at Hastings on Hudson also employs chemical immobilization. NPS should do the same specifying the methods and normal and optional precautions. Allowing independent observers who are familiar with humane capture would also be desirable, Vague promises to be as humane as possible are not sufficient.

References for capture methods in PZP studies:

1. Field testing of single-administration porcine zona pellucida contraceptive vaccines in white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) Allen T. Rutberg et al *Wildlife Research*, 2013, 40, 281-288
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/WR12117>

2. Rutberg, A. T., R. E. Naugle, L. A. Thiele, and I. K. M. Liu. 2004. Effects of immunocontraception on a suburban population of white-tailed deer *Odocoileus virginianus*. *Biological Conservation*, 116:243-250.

3. Hastings-on-Hudson Press Release about approved protocols 2014
[http://hastingsgov.org/Pages/HastingsNY_Documents/Press Release 2-21-2014.pdf](http://hastingsgov.org/Pages/HastingsNY_Documents/Press%20Release%202-21-2014.pdf)

Arbitrary assumptions

On page 116, the DEIS estimates that the target density will be reached in two years by lethal methods. This is based on a calculation that uses unjustified assumptions that seem to be contrary to the experience in the past.

The estimated rate of reaching the target density by lethal means employs overly optimistic assumptions about birth rate. Assuming that half of the surviving deer are female, the table on p51 assumes there will only be an approximately 30% birth rate among these surviving females. Yet the only data presented on the actual pregnancy rate on Fire Island reports 50% to 100%, and this was at a time of high density. (P142 DEIS). Also, as the density decreases, the birth rate would be expected to increase. The NPS should seek independent science review from a reputable scientific body such as the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate such arbitrary assumptions.

Reproductive Techniques

The FIIS has used PZP successfully in the past. Since then, the technique has only improved. Yet the DEIS concludes that PZP is not suitable for use now. What has changed that could possibly render the technique unusable now when it was usable and successful in the past? There is no explanation of this at all. It does not make scientific sense and seems to be a totally arbitrary decision on the part of the National Park Service which does not want to use any non-lethal approaches for reasons that remain unstated. The NPS needs to get an independent scientific review from a reputable scientific body like the National Academy of Sciences to deal with this arbitrary failure to justify conclusions by using the most appropriate data.

The DEIS lists the same arbitrary criteria that NPS has used to justify killing the deer in a wide variety of National Parks. These also fail to provide any convincing argument against using PZP right now.

1. Federally approved and state registered.

The NPS must know that the Experimental Use Permit provides full Federal approval for use of PZP. It previously used PZP under the very similar approval from FDA before the regulatory authority moved to EPA. Furthermore, it used PZP under Federal authority without having specific State approval. But if it has changed its opinion of Federal dominance over State authority, there is the example of Hastings on Hudson as a way of getting approval at both governmental levels. If NPS is concerned about being responsible for data collection and analysis, it can seek help from an organization like HSUS who would take responsibility as the sponsor of the vaccine. The contention that PZP does not meet this criteria is unjustified and arbitrary.

2. Has multiple-year efficacy (3)

NPS keeps putting (3) or (3 to 5 years) next to multiple as if this justified their unusual arithmetic but it clearly does not. NPS has never explained why the two years provided by PZP is not multiple. Has NPS changed the basic numerical system so that two is no longer greater than one? The Table on p 41 of the DEIS shows no for native PZP and possibly for long-term pelleted PZP, but in either case the reason is to minimize the cost and labor required. This should clearly be a point on which various management options can be compared and not an excuse for failing to allow that comparison. It is not at all clear why application (especially remote application) after two years would be a significant burden compared to three years.

NPS has failed to provide any justification for refusing to even do a straightforward comparison of PZP to the various lethal options.

3. Can be remotely injected to avoid capturing the animal on a regular basis.

The table on p. 41 reports that Native PZP has this capacity, but long-term pelleted PZP does not. In fact they both have this capacity. See, for example, this report of the use of pelleted PZP on Fripp Island: Boosters of PZP/Freunds Incomplete Adjuvant (FIA) emulsions with and without controlled release pellets delivered remotely in late summer 2.5 years after initial treatments, extended infertility for 1-2 years. http://www.hastingsgov.org/Pages/HastingsNY_Documents/01AFCACA-000F8513

So, in fact both Native and Long-term pelleted PZP meet this criterion.

4. The agent would leave no harmful residual in meat (meat would be safe for human and non-target animal consumption).

The table on page 41 says likely, but need EPA approval

In fact, NPS must know that all contraceptive vaccines meet this criterion as a matter of elementary biology. Contraceptive vaccines are substances that cause the production of antibodies against some essential element of the reproductive process, thus preventing pregnancy. The various substances differ in the way the antibodies prevent pregnancy, but they all operate by causing the production of antibodies, just like any other vaccine.

http://www.pzpinfo.org/pzp_faqs.html

USDAs fact sheet explains that there is no danger associated with humans or wildlife eating animals that have been vaccinated with any of these substances. As with other vaccines, such as those used with livestock, both the vaccine and the antibodies produced are proteins. Once eaten they are broken down by stomach acids and enzymes.

(http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/publications/factsheets/FS_FAQ_GonaCon_May_2010.pdf)

Why does NPS need EPA approval to acknowledge an elementary fact of biology? Certainly EPA does not need NPS to defend its regulatory authority this way. It is perfectly capable of responding to any lack of data or rationale by restrictions on the permitted use.

The advantage of this objection in the face of basic science seems to be that it gives NPS an excuse not to do a straightforward comparison of PZP to its favored lethal approach.

5. Have minimal impact on deer behavior.

Again, why does the NPS not depend on the previous experience of using PZP on Fire Island? Were there any significant impacts on deer behavior? The discussion of this issue on page 144 provides no evidence of any such impacts. Instead it relies on speculation about possible impacts of repeated estrous cycling (is possible, has the potential may result).

Furthermore most of these speculative impacts have been shown to be non-issues: Scientific data, shows that the following spring treated deer not producing fawns weight more and are thus in better condition than untreated females, perhaps due to the "biological costs" associated with 9-10 months of pregnancy and nursing. Furthermore evidence shows that by the second or third estrous cycle dominant males yield breeding privileges to younger males so that energy expenditures are shared and no single animal becomes exhausted.

http://www.pzpinfo.org/pzp_faqs.html and

The Effect of Immunocontraception on the Behavior and Reproduction of White-Tailed Deer

William J. McShea et al The Journal of Wildlife Management Vol. 61, No. 2 (Apr., 1997), pp. 560-569

As stated above to avoid being biased and arbitrary, the analysis should evaluate the effect of killing deer on the genetic diversity, social structure, and other aspects of deer population well being. What is the effect on the genetic pool of hunting, sharpshooting over bait, and capture and euthenasia? On the demography of the population? Also, what is the effect of killing females in their prime who are the leaders of the families? The NPS shows concern for the possibility that fawns may be born late due to the speculated effects of contraceptive vaccines, but none for those deprived of leadership and guidance for finding food and shelter as they face the winter without the female head of family.

There is no evidence or realistic argument for the impacts of PZP on deer behavior. The speculations here are an

arbitrary and biased attempt to reject PZP vaccines without having to compare the lethal options to them..

Summary

This DEIS is arbitrary and biased in favor of lethal methods. It shows no concern for the experience of residents and visitors during or as a result of these lethal operations and no awareness of the likely harmful effects of the lethal operations on deer population demography, genetics, and behavior. A comprehensive survey of visitors and residents and an independent scientific review by a reputable scientific organization like the National Academy of Sciences is needed to correct these errors.

Correspondence ID: 1572 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Deer do not have to be "culled" using Inhumane methods. There are ways to reduce the deer population by fencing, immunocontraception, fencing, and education. Why must you employ violence to accomplish what you can accomplish humanely? The wrong message is being sent to our children when we kill in order to get rid of something s

Deemed a nuisance by a particular group of people. Nuisance is subjective as many people find deer beautiful peaceful creatures who should be left alone. I am outraged by this killing policy!

Correspondence ID: 1573 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do right by these beautiful animals and put all idea and potential plans of slaughtering these deer to an end. It is an unnecessary way to eliminate the "problem" humans propose exists. Killing off a species or reducing the population by killing is an unethical and immoral way to take care of anything. There are humane ways of doing things and this so called solution is not one of them. Teaching our children, our society that any time animals interfere with human concerns by killing is the wrong way of doing things. WE need to teach respect for animals and all living things in our community and learn to coexist with them. We need to be the voice for them. They are simply living as we are and are not doing any harm to anyone. They deserve to share this earth with us as well, and if they have no where to go, whose fault is that? It is not their fault that humans are reproducing at an absurd rate and taking over the natural habitats of our fellow animals. Let's be the right, ethical and humane solution for teaching kindness and peace and respect to all living creatures, and implement nonviolent means of relocating or using barrier construction to solve the so called problem. These deer are a part of our community too. People enjoy living amongst them as well because they are beautiful, peaceful animals. They deserve to live with us and not be treated as an invasive species or pests. Do the right thing to develop a humane way of dealing with the issue at hand and not use violence, harm or death to deal with this human named problem.

Correspondence ID: 1574 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Can you use the same method of birth control for the deer that the Town of East Hampton will be using ?? instead of killing off the deer

Correspondence ID: 1575 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I grew up in Bay Shore and have many happy memories of Fire Island and the deer. I understand that the population needs to be controlled, but killing the deer will not solve the problem More deer will just breed.

I think a much more humane and less expensive solution is to use contraception on the deer. Then the numbers can be controlled. More deer - more contraception. Less deer, less contraception.

Thank you

Correspondence ID: 1576 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As long-time year-round residents of Fire Island, my husband and I wish to express our opposition to any plan that would allow the relocation and hunting of the deer. We view these creatures as much a part of Fire Island as beach strolls, wooden walkways, sunsets, red wagons, and yes, Happy Hour. As living creatures whose habitat has also been constrained by many of our human "bad habits," ie. fencing off of properties, we believe it is our responsibility to protect and treat them more humanely. Any plan that would allow for the culling, whether through sharp-shooting or so-called "gentle euthanasia" would be offensive to us as would any plan to 'trans-locate' the more tame deer to the Wilderness Area, a notion that reeks of 'death sentence' under a fancy word.

We understand the Park Service's concern for protecting native species, but are not convinced of the suggested damage or that it can all be laid at the hooves and/or mouths of these animals. Other factors, both in our control and not, may be involved here as well. Consider the impact of non-native landscaping and chemical treatments being used in the residential areas of Fire Island. Also, growth for some species may be cyclical. We recognize we are not 'experts' here, but we nonetheless recognize other answers may serve as explanation, too.

We respectfully request that the Park Service create a coalition with the Humane Society of the United States and other like-minded organizations to develop a better plan for the management of the deer population in all areas of Fire Island. Similarly, we would suggest the involvement of area veterinarians and trained professionals who could provide services to alter the reproductive aspect of these creatures. We understand that such services have already been offered by at least one area veterinarian. We would also recommend that any plan more fully support the continued use of "fertility control agents." It was our understanding that application of such "agents" was showing effectiveness in the deer population of Fire Island's western communities. It has also been pointed out to us that a certain mainland East End community has determined that this is how they will treat their area's deer population. Finally, we ask that the Park Service strenuously support the continuation of any and all research to reduce the deer numbers THROUGH BIRTH CONTROL, and NOT, as we fear implementation of any of your proposed plans suggest, THROUGH SLAUGHTER.

Thank you for your considerations.

Correspondence ID: 1577 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The deer are beautiful magnificent creatures that deserve to live! They were here before we were and they should have first dibs and we adapt to them. Anyone who kills a deer is a terrible person in my eyes. Hell, I would feed them! Don't kill the deer!

Correspondence ID: 1578 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The deer have been here before all the development. It is nature at its best. Please don't destroy these beautiful creatures. Use birth control to curb the population. Leave them alone please!

Correspondence ID: 1579 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear FINS

As a long-time owner of property in Kismet, Fire Island, I have had the pleasure of observing our wild-life thru all its progressions, ups and downs. Rabbits come and rabbits go, as do the foxes and possums. I have watched the seasonal bird migrations for decades. But this note is about our Island deer population. Your potential idea of reducing these now friendly animals thru a hunt is ridiculous. They can easily be controlled with Deer Immunization. This project, with years of documentation, has already demonstrated its efficacy thru years of testing(a hard won goal with years of effort by those of us that care for island wildlife). I can speak as an ongoing observer of the various groups and tribes of deer we have tracked thru our backyard, that this system has had success in reducing population and should be reintroduced back into usage as it is our best answer to our admitted deer problems. Please! This issue is so easy to resolve. Just reinstitute Deer darting and we can reduce the births and

therefore number of deer without any unnecessary cullings.

Correspondence ID: 1580 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: This plan is disgusting.

DO NOT DO THIS!!!

Correspondence ID: 1581 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please reconsider the inhumane plan to cull the deer population on Fire Island. As a year-round resident of Fire Island, I find it appalling that the use of sharp shooters and/or euthanizing deer who are too "friendly" is being proposed. Not only is immuno-contraception a more humane alternative, it has already proven to be an effective means of management on this island. Furthermore, killing is NOT a long-term solution, as it will have no effect on reproductive rates.

The deer population has long been a unique and wonderful part of life in our communities. Control/management by lethal methods is barbaric, cruel and completely unnecessary. It is imperative that the deer population be addressed in a humane way, via immuno contraception.

Correspondence ID: 1582 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: You all are ridiculous.killing is not management. I dont support the plan to kill deer. Humans always interfere and make things worse or cause another problem.

Correspondence ID: 1583 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: please do not kill the deer on fire island. please use another more humane solution if there is an overpopulation problem.

Long Island Orchestrating for Nature (LION) is opposing Alternatives C and D of the Draft Management Plan and supporting a modified Alternative B, which would include immunocontraception, fencing, and education. We are asking that dangerous and unnecessary relocation be removed from this alternative.

Nonlethal strategies worked immensely on Fire Island before their abandonment. Please help us get Fire Island back on the right track!

Correspondence ID: 1584 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am opposing Alternatives C and D of the Draft Management Plan and supporting a modified Alternative B, which would include immunocontraception, fencing, and education. Dangerous and unnecessary relocation should be removed from this alternative. Nonlethal strategies worked immensely on Fire Island before their abandonment. I want Fire Island to stay on the right track!

Correspondence ID: 1585 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As a Long Island resident, and more specifically, a Suffolk County resident, I oppose Alternatives C and D of the Draft Management Plan and support a modified Alternative B, which would include immunocontraception, fencing, and education. Please remove any dangerous and unnecessary relocation from this

alternative.

I fully support non-lethal strategies for Fire Island deer management. These worked immensely on Fire Island before their abandonment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1586 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It is a well-known fact that any "plan" that includes hunting/killing STIMULATES deer population growth because the animals compensate by having twins and triplets.

Therefore, the only people who would be served by Plans B, C, and D are HUNTERS. And that, very apparently, is the real intention. These proposed plans would not serve the environment, and they would not serve the people of Fire Island or the tourists/visitors who come here to enjoy the water and the wildlife, and the peace and beauty here. I am thoroughly AGAINST (and aghast at) Proposed Plans B, C, and D. The only reasonable plan to endorse is Plan A.

I live in Seaview on Fire Island and I was a monitor in the deer immunocontraception program for 15 years and it was EXTREMELY, EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE. Every informed person on Fire Island knows it was very effective. The deer population was held in check, very few births occurred, the darting every fall was did the job. Nevertheless, it was stopped with no REASONABLE explanation several years ago. The people unhappy with the success of this program, apparently, were the pro-gun pro-hunting lobbies, since the success of this contraception took away their bogus argument that hunting was needed to "control the population."

Looking at these proposed "Deer Management Plans" it is very apparent that these gun and hunting lobbies have used their influence to keep the deer immunocontraceptive serum that was used on an "experimental" basis from being passed by the FDA for continued, regular use. Even though it was used successfully for 16 years, we are told they need 10 more years to study it!!! Are you kidding me??? With all the toxic garbage the FDA allows on grocery shelves, this harmless serum that coats a doe's eggs with protein needs 26 years of testing??? We are supposed to believe this??? This is how hopelessly the NRA, etc., has tied up our government agencies so that they cannot serve the people and the environments they are supposed to serve.

There should be absolutely NO hunting, EVER, on Fire Island. There are very few deer here on Fire Island at this time, anyway, since so many were killed during Sandy. Spokesmen for the National Seashore at the meeting held in Ocean Beach in this past August even acknowledged that the statistics used to formulate the plans were from BEFORE Sandy.

We need to bring back immunocontraception - - - get the permits going again to resume that successful program and let the National Seashore administer it again together with the Humane Society of the United States, whose darters were expert. THEY are the true "sharpshooters," and the kind that are desired. The last thing Fire Island needs is to have hunters storming in and running all over the Island, throwing their cigarette butts around and trampling the dunes. We do not need or want hunting/killing of any type on Fire Island.

Correspondence ID: 1587 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please use previously successful procedures and DO NOT CULL THESE HERDS!

Correspondence ID: 1588 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please don't kill the beautiful deer that roam freely in Fire Island. There are so many humane alternatives available, so please reconsider your plans.

Correspondence ID: 1589 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I believe it is very important in this modern age to set ourselves apart from those all over the world who hold all life so cheaply. If it requires that we go a little further to step up as a civilization and demonstrate a higher set of more humane values, it will be worth the extra trouble. Therefore I support non-lethal solutions to this problemk, such as contraception, fencing, and education. Organizations such as LION have gathered evidence that such measures proved successful in the past, without the use of lethal force, or even difficult relocation plans. I believe that human beings and wildlife can coexist peacefully and harmlessly with each other, to the benefit of both.
T
Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 1590 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The response to deer is just ignorant.

Correspondence ID: 1591 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I'm opposing Alternatives C and D of the Draft Management Plan and supporting a modified Alternative B, which would include immunocontraception, fencing, and education. I'm asking that dangerous and unnecessary relocation be removed from this alternative.

Correspondence ID: 1592 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have lived and worked year round on Fire Island for more than 25 yrs and have logged many miles following the deer trails from the lighthouse to the sunken forest searching for shed antlers. It is my opinion there are less white tailed deer now than in many years especially near the sunken forest. Any plan that would include hunting or killing these animals is shortsighted not to mention dangerous. Contraception by darting or feeding stations has been used in the past and should be tried again if indeed there is a problem. This particular population of deer do not migrate far, most staying with in a mile of their birth location making them an unusual population that should be studied rather than eradicated. They may even be evolving into a subspecies due to their isolated gene pool much like the famous white tailed deer of the Florida Keys. The Keys deer are Federally protected even though they graze in an environment that is as vulnerable and delicate as Fire Island . I believe the science behind the proposed "management" plan is short sighted and strongly urge it be reconsidered. It is also inhumane as many of these animals are very tame and beloved by residents and visitors alike. National Park founder and Long Island resident Teddy Roosevelt famously refused to shoot the captured bear cub ,please follow his lead and put the guns down.

Correspondence ID: 1593 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am very much against deer hunting. These gentle beautiful creatures should be protected, like all the other animals in Fire Island NationalSeashore.

Birth control and neutering are humane methods of controlling the population and should be the only methods used.

One of the most beautiful experiences in Fire Island is to see the relationship that develops between animals and humans in a setting in which the animals feel safe and protected. Destroying this is a crime.

Has anyone considered the emotional impact that deer hunting will have on the humans who have lived in harmony with them for many years, decades even? And do you think that the children will feel safe knowing that deer are being hunted in Fire Island? And how about the guilt that these children, and adults, will feel knowing that they were responsible for the death sentence of "friendly deer" ?

Correspondence ID: 1594 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Why do you think we have to "manage" the deer population. These beautiful creatures were on Fire Island long before people inhabited the island. Nature will take its course. When people complete their "management" we then declare the species "endangered". We always think we are smarter than nature. Where has that gotten us?

Correspondence ID: 1595 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To Whom It May Concern:

As a visitor to Fire Island, one of the things we enjoy is the chance to view nature and spend time in a beautiful habitat of many wild animals. I have become aware of the Park Services plans to capture and euthenize deer there because it is percieved that they are "too friendly".

After careful research and talking to employees and residents of Fire Island, I believe that this action is not necessary. The pregnancy inoculations have been doing an excellent job of keeping the deer population within managable numbers on Fire Island, to switch to a different program would cost more taxpayer dollars and be unnecessarily cruel to the deer. Capture stresses them and handling before and during euthenization would be painful punishment for beautiful animals that have done nothing wrong.

I urge you to reconsider this action and instead continue the birth control program you have been using. This has been proven at Fire Island and elsewhere to be a much more humane method of controlling the deer population and continuing to provide enjoyment for those who visit Fire Island.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 1596 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

To Whom It May Concern:

Long Island Orchestrating for Nature (LION), Long Islands largest animal advocacy organization, is grateful for the opportunity to offer comments on the Draft White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Fire Island National Seashore on behalf of our membership in Fire Island.

As both our President and Vice President are District Leaders with The Humane Society of the United States and LION is a partner of The Wildlife Preservation Coalition of the East End, our organization has both a history of involvement in humane wildlife management and an understanding of these complex issues. Upon examination of the DEIS, we reserve the following comments in support of a modified Alternative B, striking translocation from the plan, and strictly oppose Alternatives C and D.

Lethal methods, such as culls, have proven themselves both short-sighted and often ineffective, only serving to incense the public while failing to address any underlying roots or providing for the long haul. The last time such a cull was even attempted on Fire Island it drew outrage en masse from the public and even a lawsuit. Most recently, this type of approach was also attempted in Southold, Long Island with deplorable results.

Similarly, engaging in the translocation of deer as proposed in Alternative B would cause many deer to die due to stress during transport, failure to adapt to their new environment, or suffer culling for those translocated individuals that consistently return to Fire Island communities and/or continue to approach humans, and should therefore be removed from this alternative. (DEIS, p. 46)

Using lethal methods of population control is neither ethically defensible, ecologically sound, nor deemed socially acceptable. Killing deer who are loved by the public and visitors of Fire Island would both lower quality of life to residents who enjoy knowing deer are safe on their island and also may diminish ecotourism on Fire Island as many

visitors report seeing deer as a major enjoyment on trips to Fire Island.

As the DEIS reports, according to 2008 survey, Seashore visitors found that approximately 50% of the respondents felt that close contact with deer or other wildlife added to their Seashore experience. (DEIS, 175) Many Seashore residents report the same. Rather than causing the deaths of deer people have come to recognize and care for, we recommend increased educational methods to teach the public why they should not feed deer if they care for them and involving residents in this effort so they own it and will monitor and educate visitors themselves. Again, killing or relocating deer will only provide an opportunity for more deer to replace them. Rather than removing wildlife, we must teach people of the Seashore to live with them appropriately, and focus on long-term solutions rather than short-term culls.

Rather than repeating errors of the past, LION urges the National Parks Service to repeat the success of the past, implementing nonlethal management techniques in cooperation with The Humane Society of the United States and local residents of Fire Island.

Nonlethal methods of population control, such as immunocontraception, sterilization, fencing and education are becoming increasingly common, most recently being adopted in nearby East Hampton and Southampton on Long Island.

Though currently PZP immunocontraception does not fit all the criteria laid out in the DEIS, PZP was used for years with great effectiveness on Fire Island (deer populations decreased 10-11% per year in the most closely monitored area) and with recent improvements its feasibility has only increased, not decreased. With volunteers for The Wildlife Preservation Coalition of the East End now offering to dart deer as well, expenses can also be kept at a minimum if this method is chosen. It is suggested that the stated criterion (DEIS, p. 41) should be used as guidelines rather than requirements for use of fertility control agents, like PZP, to reduce and stabilize the population of deer on Fire Island as was done in the past. The drawbacks of lethal control are much greater than any hypothesized drawbacks of PZP.

Alternatively, or in conjunction with immunocontraception, surgical sterilization is a feasible option currently planned to be carried out in nearby Town of East Hampton. Though the DEIS currently deems this option unfeasible, it has actually been substantiated and carried out with success in areas like Highland Park, IL, Cayuga Heights, NY, and San Jose, CA, with 135 deer being caught and sterilized in only 13 days in Cayuga Heights. Evidently, this method can be particularly efficient with a 100% sterilization rate and a less than 1% mortality rate. In regards to expressed concerns regarding black-legged ticks and Lyme disease, it is also worth pointing out that deer are only one of many carriers of black-legged ticks and serve as just one host of the adult stage of the tick. The issue of Lyme disease is one that is not as closely related to deer populations as many would believe with one study finding that when as many as 70% of the deer were removed from an island there was no marked reduction in the abundance of the tick. (Wilson et al 1984, p.697) That being said, Four Poster feeding stations, as those that are already found in some Fire Island communities, have had a marked effect on black-legged ticks when they are carried by deer and should be continued and perhaps expanded.

If our recommendations are put into action, Long Island Orchestrating for Nature (LION), and our partner organization the Wildlife Preservation Coalition of the East End, would be happy to volunteer our knowledge and membership to help make Fire Island a better place for deer and the community to live and thrive in harmony. Thank you again for this opportunity to comment.

Correspondence ID: 1597 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am opposing Alternatives C and D of the Draft Management Plan and supporting a modified Alternative B, which would include immunocontraception, fencing, and education. I am asking that dangerous and unnecessary relocation be removed from this alternative.

Nonlethal strategies worked immensely on Fire Island before their abandonment. Please help get Fire Island back on the right track!

Correspondence ID: 1598 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 21:05:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support Alternative D.

Personally, I have two strong but opposing thoughts about deer. I acknowledge the sacredness of life and the innate

sweetness of white tailed deer. On the other hand, there are too many of them, and, while it's not their fault, the density of the population does not bring out the best in them. I feel their number needs to be controlled while giving them access to a fenced and protected environment where they can seem like deer rather than overgrown pests.

Correspondence ID: 1599 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 21:20:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am strongly opposed to Alternatives C and D of the Draft Management Plan. Alternative B, being the only humane alternative (other than A, obviously) is my choice, though I would ask that it be modified. The relocation of the deer could be dangerous and relocation is unnecessary.

Nonlethal strategies worked immensely on Fire Island before and can again.

Thank you!

Correspondence ID: 1600 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 21:24:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (The HSUS), the nations largest animal protection organization, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Fire Island National Seashore (the Seashore).

The HSUS has a long history of involvement with issues related to the deer population on the Seashore and we understand the National Park Services (NPS) concerns over the perceived adverse impacts caused by white-tailed deer, and strongly support enhanced public education and outreach effort, fencing of the maritime holly forest within the Sunken Forest, securing the boundary fence at the William Floyd Estate, small-scale fencing to protect special-status species, increased vegetation monitoring, enhanced deer population and behavior monitoring.

However, The HSUS maintains that lethal control is neither a socially acceptable practice nor, in the long-term, the most ecologically sound approach to resolving conflicts with deer. This especially rings true in a park system like the Seashore that has a long and complex history of intense conflicts and interactions between deer and human residents and visitors. Given our past work with the NPS and Fire Island residents to study the long-term effects of using fertility control to stabilize and reduce deer populations over time, we believe the use of lethal methods is also completely unnecessary in order for the NPS to achieve its deer management objectives for the Seashore. For these reasons, we strongly oppose Alternatives C and D which both includes a combination of sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia of individual deer and deer observed approaching humans, and public hunting.

Instead, we strongly endorse Alternative B (with some modification) which would include fencing of the historic core at the William Floyd Estate and rotational fencing of selected forest areas at the William Floyd Estate lower acreage in conjunction with fertility control of white-tailed deer to gradually reduce and maintain the population at an appropriate density to achieve the plan objectives. However, we do not support the plan under Alternative B to relocate deer observed approaching humans within the Fire Island communities to the Fire Island Wilderness because many of these animals will die due to stress during transport, die if they fail to rapidly adapt to their new environment, or return to their natal territories.

I. Humaneness

The DEIS addresses the concept of humaneness only in a brief discussion of standards established by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) for techniques to provide humane death to animals. This gives insufficient attention to this issue, its relevance to the public, and the consequences of the alternatives on the welfare of wild animals.

Euthanasia

The HSUS maintains that non-lethal methods can and should be used to mitigate environmental damage attributed to deer on the Seashore. In the DEIS (at 51), the NPS cites to the 2013 AVMA's euthanasia guidelines which state

euthanasia is the act of inducing humane death in an animal and it is our responsibility as human beings to ensure that if an animal's life is to be taken, it is done with the highest degree of respect, and with an emphasis on making the death as painless and distress free as possible. (<https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Documents/euthanasia.pdf>, page 7).

In consideration of this, the NPS must remove capture-and-euthanasia from further consideration as the methods proposed by the NPS are not considered humane. The NPS proposes to capture and euthanize animals using netting, captive bolt or potassium chloride as a euthanasia agent. The AVMA calls for strict standards and direct physical control of animals euthanized under such procedures, however, these conditions will not be able to be achieved in the field when applying such euthanasia procedures.

In addition, the 2013 AVMA guidelines state: Because handling may be a stressor for animals less accustomed to human contact & When struggling during capture or restraint may cause pain, injury, or anxiety to the animal or danger to the operator, the use of tranquilizers, analgesics, and/or anesthetics may be necessary. A method of administration should be chosen that causes the least distress in the animal for which euthanasia must be performed. (<https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Documents/euthanasia.pdf>, page 13).

Darting with capture drugs, immediately followed by euthanasia, may not cause undue stress. But other methods in the capture-and-euthanize category that NPS would primarily use have the potential to substantially increase the stress, both physical and psychological, that an individual animal experiences. These methods will undeniably increase the time that an animal is held captive, which in and of itself is extremely stressful for a wild animal. Additionally, there is stress (and possible injury) associated with capturing and holding the animal as well as restraining the animal for a killing shot. The NPS has not provided evidence that these methods are necessary, and thus, the capture-and-euthanize aspect should be eliminated from the FEIS.

Unnecessary Death

Beyond the discussion of humaneness in euthanasia techniques lies a broader issue regarding the ethical and moral basis of management actions themselves. The concept of unnecessary death is a relevant and significant issue any time lethal control of wild animals is proposed. Ethical concerns regarding how we treat wild animals and the basis for such management decisions should be addressed in the FEIS.

Unnecessary death should be avoided unless compelling justification (for example, immediate threat to human health and safety) for such actions exists. Lethal control of animals without action to prevent recurrence of the baseline problem (e.g., overpopulation) is unacceptably shortsighted and inappropriate.

Time and economic concerns are irrelevant in a discussion of humaneness, unnecessary death and other welfare consequences. An action is not more or less necessary or humane because it is more or less time-consuming, technically feasible, and/or costly. If after weighing such considerations, NPS decides to implement a less humane alternative which is less time-consuming, easier, and/or less costly, it must clearly explain its decision to the public.

The FEIS must address the humaneness and unnecessary death issues and make objective declarations concerning the actions NPS proposes to undertake as these issues are important to the public. The NPS did not do an adequate job of addressing these issues in the DEIS.

II. Deer Population Management

Management Goals

According to the DEIS, based on 2012 sampling, deer densities vary across Fire Island. For example, deer density in the Light House Annex was estimated to be 10 deer per square mile, whereas at Sailors Haven (i.e. Sunken Forest), Fire Island Wilderness, and the William Floyd Estate, estimated densities were 112, 54, and 106 deer per square mile, respectively. (DEIS, at 27-28). And yet, based on a study conducted by Horsley, Stout and deCalesta (2003) on forest regeneration in Allegheny National Forest of Pennsylvania, the NPS recommends a similar population density (approximately 20-25 deer per square mile) as the initial density goal across Fire Island.

The Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania shares very few similarities with Fire Islands unique, complex and highly variable ecosystems, and therefore, any conclusions regarding impacts of deer density on forest regeneration from a study there may not be applicable to Fire Island. Also, the dramatic variability in deer densities across the myriad of Fire Island landscapes shows that some areas inherently support higher concentrations of deer than others, and as such, target deer densities should reflect these differences.

For instance, in Fire Island communities where deer densities are high, since the NPS has not proposed the continued use of fertility control to manage deer populations in these communities in any of the alternatives listed in the DEIS, the only direct management activities planned for these areas are capture and relocation or euthanasia of deer observed regularly approaching humans. (DEIS, at 29). If this is the case, it is not clear how the NPS would achieve its management objective of 20-25 deer per square mile in Fire Island communities over 8-10 years.

For these reasons, rather than establishing one target deer density across Fire Island, we strongly recommend that the FEIS establish specific deer density targets for each of the management areas listed in the DEIS. Projected target densities could be determined by modelling current deer densities in these areas (i.e. the number of deer these areas can currently sustain) with changes in deer densities that the NPS can reasonably expect to occur over 8-10 years using the population management methods adopted in the FEIS for each of these areas.

Fertility Control

The HSUS strongly believes that reproductive control is a viable option for managing deer populations and should be implemented in conjunction with exclusion techniques and public education programs as part of an integrated deer management program that addresses various impacts associated with deer on the Seashore. However, the DEIS states that instead of implementing a reproductive control program immediately as proposed under Alternative B, the NPS under its preferred alternative (Alternative D) would implement a reproductive control program following drastic lethal population reduction measures, but only when an acceptable agent becomes available that meets specific conditions (DEIS, at vii). These conditions establish an unreasonable and unnecessarily high bar to implementing reproductive control options, especially given the history of the successful use of a fertility control agent on deer populations on Fire Island, the availability of longer-acting fertility control vaccines, and recent projects demonstrating the feasibility of surgically sterilizing female deer to stabilize and reduce populations over time.

Immunocontraception

Field studies show that management of deer populations with the immunocontraception vaccine porcine zona pellucida (PZP) can be effective (Naugle et al. 2002, Rutberg and Naugle 2008). Most notably, The HSUS worked with the NPS and the residents of Fire Island for more than 15 years on a study to test the efficacy of using PZP to stabilize and reduce deer populations in Fire Island communities.

In the early 1990s, native white-tailed deer were found in abundance on Fire Island and a hunt to control population size was stopped due to public outcry and a lawsuit (Rutberg and Naugle 2008). To address concerns related to deer impacts on Fire Island, an immunocontraception study was initiated in 1993. Deer were not marked or tagged and all vaccines were delivered remotely using darts (Rutberg and Naugle 2008). The darts contained a dye to mark the deer to help avoid retreatment. In the most closely monitored portion of the island, the deer population decreased 10-11% p year during the program. These population studies were conducted by an independent entity, the Biological Resources Division of the U. S. Geological Survey within the U.S. Department of the Interior. Similar population declines were obtained in smaller areas where white-tailed deer were treated with PZP (Rutberg et al. 2004).

The rapidity of population decreases depends on vaccine effectiveness, proportion of females treated, mortality rates, reproduction rates in untreated animals, immigration, and emigration. Rates of free-ranging deer increase or decline during PZP vaccination programs are directly related to the proportion of deer that are treated each year (Rutberg et al. 2004). For most ungulates, populations decline when more than 60% of females are treated with a contraceptive (Garrott 1995, Rutberg et al. 2004), and yet, the DEIS inaccurately claims that population reduction only occurs when between 70% a 90% othe does are treated with a fertility agent (DEIS, at 43).

The PZP vaccines used at these other NPS sites require annual boosters to be effective, but significant progress has

been made since 2002 on a multi-year single shot PZP vaccine. Furthermore, new information about the efficacy of contraceptive approaches on deer populations is available (Patton et al. 2007, Rutberg and Naugle 2008). The effects of the vaccine are reversible after three years of treatment, and no adverse health effects have been apparent among treated deer or among fawns they carried at the time of treatment.

Surgical Sterilization

While the DEIS briefly discusses the option of surgical sterilization, it quickly dismisses it as unfeasible as a standalone alternative or as an option that could be used in combination with other deer management actions, but a study and several ongoing research projects have demonstrated that sterilization is a feasible and potentially efficient way to manage white-tailed deer populations, especially in closed systems like the Seashore (DEIS, at 59)

For example, from 2002-2005, the city of Highland Park, Illinois, conducted a trap - sterilize - release program on the city's deer (Matthews 2005). In that study, does were sterilized through tubal ligation so they were not susceptible to the behavioral alterations typical of methodologies that halt hormone production. This methodology is both safe and humane and resulted in very low mortality rates due to surgery. Computer models of surgical sterilization from this and other research revealed that areas can maintain their deer populations at target densities by sterilizing 32% of the does per year (Porter 2004).

Also, over past few years, several deer surgical sterilization projects have been conducted using a technique known as an ovariectomy which removes the ovaries. An ovariectomy is similar to, but less invasive than, typical spay surgeries used to sterilize domestic dogs and cats. Female deer are captured via tranquilizers administered by dart projectors and transported to a surgical bay. Preparation and surgery take approximately 20 minutes, the animal is transported back to the capture area, a reversal agent is administered and the animal is observed from a distance. Surgical sterilization is 100 % effective and mortality rates associated with the procedures are less than 1%. Once a female deer is surgically sterilized via ovariectomy, she can never fawn again. Researchers have also been able to capture and treat high proportions (>90%) existing female deer populations at study areas in New York, California and Maryland which is critical to achieving immediate population stabilization and gradual population reductions over time (DeNicola pers. comm.).

The population effects of surgical sterilization on deer are site-specific, but typically, population stabilization is rapid and population reduction is gradual (10-30% per year). In Cayuga Heights, NY, researchers sterilized 95% of the female deer population (i.e., 149 does) in two years and observed a 30% decline in the population after year one (Anon 2013a). In San Jose, CA, over 90% of the female deer (i.e., 115 does) were sterilized in two years and researchers observed a 20% decline in the population after year one (Anon 2013b).

The DEIS claims that surgical sterilization would take a substantial amount of time (DEIS at 59) but as previously stated, the surgical procedure only takes 20 minutes per animal and in Cayuga Heights, NY, researchers were able to capture and sterilize 137 deer in 13 days. Given the accessibility and approachability of the deer population on Fire Island and based upon findings from ongoing projects, the NPS should reconsider surgical sterilization as a viable option when combined with other non-lethal deer management actions, such as immunocontraception, on Fire Island. We would recommend using surgical sterilization on deer that are known to be less approachable and accessible (i.e., Wilderness Areas and in specific residential communities where deer are known to be more wary of humans), and immunocontraception in residential communities where the deer are approachable, accessible and previous efforts have been shown to be effective and widely supported by Fire Island residents.

Fertility Control versus Lethal Control

It should also be noted that while PZP, surgical sterilization and other reproductive control agents and procedures have been shown to effectively reduce deer fertility and thus, population levels, lethal control may sometimes have the opposite effect. It has been shown that the reproductive rate of white-tailed deer is greatly reduced at high population densities while deer in areas subjected to periodic lethal removal have enhanced fertility rates resulting in increased population growth to compensate for harvested animals (Swilhart et al. 1998). Further research also indicates that lethal removal of both sexes does nothing to stop fluctuations in deer populations due to forage competition and natural mortality as a result of severe winter weather (Patterson and Power 2002).

Fertility control is superior to lethal control in that it leaves animals in a population as placeholders that are reproductively dead ends yet continue to occupy consistent home ranges and exhibit natural herding behaviors. The presence of these adult placeholders ensures continuity in the social framework of the herd while limiting the number of young and more mobile animals that might disperse to adjoining properties.

Finally, the use of fertility control to treat a significant proportion of the female deer population may also reduce the level of browsing activity and negative impacts on native vegetation otherwise associated with fertile female deer populations due to the decreased caloric needs of does who no longer need to support growing fetuses and nursing fawns every year.

Fertility Control Criteria

We understand and appreciate the need for the NPS to establish certain standards for the use of fertility control agents on wildlife, but given the history and successful use of fertility control agents to control deer populations on the Seashore in residential communities, several of the criteria listed in the DEIS appear to be arbitrary. Not only does the NPS conveniently remove from consideration the use of current fertility control agents that could be used by the NPS now to manage deer populations on the Seashore, but the factors appear to have been developed to ensure that no fertility control agent will ever be acceptable for use on Fire Island (DEIS, at 41). These criteria are desirable, but should be used as guidelines rather than requirements for use of these products, and as such, should not necessarily deter the NPS from continuing to use fertility control agents, like PZP, to reduce and stabilize deer populations on Fire Island.

For instance, according to Criterion 1 and Criterion 4, any fertility control agent must be Federally approved and state registered, and for Criterion 4, the agent must also leave the Meat safe for human and non-target animal consumption. The HSUS is the license holder for Native PZP and has been using it experimentally to treat deer on the Seashore since 1993. Native PZP has been registered with the EPA under the brand name ZonaStat-H for wild horses and The HSUS is in the process of amending the existing registration to expand its use to cervids, including white-tailed deer. We expect Native PZP to be approved for deer by 2015 and registered in New York by 2016 when it could be used as a component of the Fire Island deer plan. However, due to Criterion 2 (Multiyear Efficacy (3)), the NPS will not use PZP to manage deer on Fire Island.

Needless to say, it would be desirable to have a vaccine that is effective for three or more years, but previous research on Fire Island and Fripp Island, S.C. has shown that it is not necessary for an agent to meet these criteria in order for it to be used as an effective tool to stabilize and reduce deer populations over time. According to Appendix D, Native PZP, a one-year, remotely deliverable vaccine reduced deer populations on Fire Island between Kismet and Lonelyville by 58% or a 10 year period (Rutberg et al. 2008) and on Fripp Island, a hand-injected, two-three year PZP vaccine reduced the islands deer population by 50% or just 5 years (Rutberg et al. 2013). These vaccines are clearly capable of achieving Fire Islands deer management objectives, and once they have been deemed safe by EPA and registered with the state of New York, (meeting Criteria 1 and 4), they should be used to manage deer on Fire Island, but Criteria 2 and 3 would exclude them.

Regarding Criterion 5, Minimal impact on deer behavior, while we support the need to use fertility control agents that have little, if any, impact on behavior, we strongly disagree with the exclusion of PZP based on the fact that the vaccine has been shown to cause repeated estrous cycles. The NPS failed to define minimal in the DEIS as it pertains to impacts on deer behavior, and therefore, any impacts to behavior, however minor, could be interpreted as minimal. Repeated estrous cycles have not been shown to cause any detrimental impacts on overall deer health or social behavior, and therefore, the effects should be considered minimal, but the NPS considers them unacceptable. GonaCon", another fertility control vaccine which inhibits fertility by closing down the entire reproductive hormonal system, would clearly have a greater impact on behavior than PZP, and yet, because it does not cause repeated estrous cycles, it is deemed acceptable by the NPS.

Based upon available research, the DEIS must seriously re-evaluate the usefulness of fertility control to stabilize and reduce the deer population density on Fire Island. It behooves the NPS to more closely examine these options especially in light of the social and political controversy that surrounds lethal deer management on Fire Island. Moreover, since fertility control methods have proven to be effective on the Seashore, the NPS should continue the use of such methods. The FEIS must also discuss how the NPS can justify the increased levels of reproduction that

are known to occur in white-tailed deer populations subjected to lethal harvest, and the costs and controversy associated with conducting lethal culls year after year to maintain acceptable deer population levels, when alternatives are available.

III. Lyme Disease Mitigation

Deer Reduction is Not Synonymous with Disease Reduction

The HSUS understands concerns associated with the Lyme disease, but the NPS claim that reducing deer populations will reduce the rate of Lyme disease transmission to humans is not backed up by any science or leading public health officials. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other national and state health authorities do not recommend lethal deer population reduction as a means preventing the transmission of Lyme disease to humans.

A recent report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences states that, increases in Lyme disease in the northeastern and midwestern United States over the past three decades are frequently uncorrelated with deer abundance and instead coincide with a range-wide decline of a key small-mammal predator, the red fox... (Levi et al 2012). A scientific study - and entire book on Lyme disease - - by leading Lyme disease expert Richard Ostfeld confirms that human risk of exposure to Lyme disease is correlated with the abundance of immature (rodent) hosts and their food resources, not deer numbers (Ostfeld et al 2006, 2011).

The black-legged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) is the host tick which carries a disease-causing bacterium (*Borrelia burgdorferi*) in its bloodstream. At one time, the Black-legged tick was called a deer tick. This common name was a misnomer due to the ticks multiple hosts.

The tick transforms from a larvae into a nymph and then into an adult over a 2 year span. At each stage, the tick takes a blood meal from a host and then drops off and molts into the next life stage. While taking a blood meal, infected ticks are able to inject the disease-causing bacterium into a new host.

Lyme disease has proven difficult to control largely because the tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) is carried by many hosts including many bird species, lizards and all mammals. Deer seem to be the preferred host for the adult stage of the tick. For unknown reasons, the tick seems to prefer a progressively larger host. Certain small rodent species, namely the white-footed mouse, serve as the primary host for immature ticks. In addition, birds can transport the disease to new areas (Anderson 1988, Battaly and Fish 1993).

The reason why removing deer is not efficacious in controlling Lyme disease is because hunting and other lethal methods do not significantly reduce tick populations. For example, in one study where as many as 70% of the deer were removed from an island there was no marked reduction in the abundance of the tick. (Wilson et al 1984, p.697).

Another study conducted at Cranes Beach in Ipswich, MA found that after gradually reducing the deer population from 350 to 60 deer over a seven-year period, immature tick numbers did decline - but soon increased again to pre-hunt levels, despite the vastly reduced deer density. Interestingly, adult tick numbers increased the entire time (Wilson and Deblinger 1993, Ostfeld 2011). When the deer population was reduced as much as 83%, the authors concluded that the reduction in tick numbers was insufficient to reduce the number of female ticks that reproduced. (Deblinger et al 1993, p.148)

Most lethal control programs are also poorly timed to affect tick reproduction. By the time regular hunting season occurs in November, a good portion of adult ticks have already mated and dropped off the deer to lay eggs. This issue was discussed by researchers who stated, deer reduction practices carried out when adults are relatively inactive at the end of fall will have minimal impact on the tick population (Falco and Daniels in McShea, 1997). In addition, the ticks seem to confound deer reduction efforts by taking advantage of other hosts (Duffy et al 1994) or congregating at higher densities on the remaining deer (Deblinger et al 1993). It appears that a deer population level would need to be extremely low, close to zero, to impact the transmission dynamics of Lyme disease.

One key study (Perkins et al 2006) suggests that a local absence of deer may actually increase tick feeding on rodents, which can lead to the potential for disease hot spots. In addition, researchers warn that lethal control program may actually increase the public safety risk in the short-term because any remaining ticks who are still

questing for a large host are more likely to end up on large hosts like humans after deer numbers have been reduced (Ginsberg and Zhioua 1999).

The issue of infectivity comes into play when understanding why fewer deer does not mean less human disease. Research indicates that approximately 50% of ticks are infectious for Lyme disease. If a person is bitten by 12 ticks a year and half of those ticks are infected, then the probability of that person being bitten by at least one infected tick is 99.98%. Intervention which cuts the number of tick bites by 90% will not lower the probability of transmission by the same factor (90%). This is because even if the person is bitten by only one tick, half are infected, so that person will still have a 56.5% probability of becoming infected with Lyme disease. So it is not just the number of ticks, but their infectivity rate and probability of being bitten, that comes into play when looking at disease transmission risks (Mather et al 1996).

Tools for Tick Control

Some of the best ways to control human Lyme disease involves doing a combination of the following: checking oneself and family members for ticks after being outdoors, taking precautions like wearing light-colored clothing, tucking in sleeves and socks, using tick-repelling products on your skin and insecticidal sprays on properties, altering habitat to reduce tick and tick-host habitat, and consulting a doctor immediately when signs of Lyme disease or the characteristic rash occur. These are all common-sense ways to prevent disease transmission that the NPS should incorporate into public education as part of the FEIS.

However, as the DEIS notes, there are devices on the market that target ticks exclusively and have shown promising results in terms of significantly reducing tick populations. One of them is the 4-Poster, a device that uses the deer to kill ticks (Pound 2000) and has been tested by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in a five-state, seven-year research program and has proven extremely effective in reducing tick numbers (McGraw and McBride 1991). It contains a corn bait, which attracts deer, and when they eat the corn, a chemical (10% permethrin) is applied to their necks and shoulders which kills 95%-90% of the adult ticks. A study conducted at the Goddard Flight Center found that by using the 4-Poster system, adult ticks were completely eliminated by the second year of the study; all stages were reduced 91-100% by year 3 (Solberg et al, 2003). Results of more field trials in various states were written up in the *Journal Vector Borne and Zoonotic Diseases* (Vol. 9).

In general, The HSUS does not support providing supplemental food for wildlife, but given its proven effectiveness, the real public health concerns associated with Lyme disease, and the high volume of people who visit Fire Island every year (not to mention the many year-round residents), we strongly recommend the NPS reconsider incorporating 4-Posters into the FEIS. Not only would 4-Posters devices reduce tick populations and potentially reduce the incidence of Lyme disease in humans on Fire Island, the devices could be used in concert with deer monitoring and fertility control efforts. Field cameras could be installed near the 4-Posters devices to track the number, sex and age of deer and the devices would serve as bait stations to aid in efforts to dart deer with fertility control agents. The benefits of using these devices far outweigh any negative impacts on the deer or the environment if coupled with a fertility control program to suppress and reduce the deer population over time, and for these reasons, the NPS should include the use of 4-Posters in the FEIS.

IV. Fire Island Communities and Adjacent landowners

According to the DEIS, under Alternative B, [d]eer residing within the Fire Island communities that are observed regularly approaching humans would be translocated to the Fire Island Wilderness, and under Alternatives C and D, [d]eer that are observed regularly approaching humans would be captured and euthanized. The HSUS strongly opposes both of these proposed actions under all three alternatives because the NPS has failed to demonstrate a need for such drastic measures and has failed to fully examine the consequences of these actions.

As stated previously, in general, The HSUS does not support feeding wildlife because it can cause animals to associate people with food, become dependent on these artificial food sources, and of course, approach unsuspecting people with the expectation of being fed which could lead to negative interactions. For these reasons, in the 1990s, The HSUS worked in partnership with fertility control researchers and the Biological Resource Division of the U.S. Geological Survey to significantly reduce the number of residents and visitors feeding deer on Fire Island through an aggressive public education campaign. In addition to discouraging the general public and residents from feeding

deer, deer-feeders were also recruited to assist with fertility control efforts, and as a result, we were able to control the amount, timing and locations of food used to bait deer for the purposes of administering fertility control vaccines. The program was successful, and as stated previously, if coupled with 4-Posters devices, could continue to help reduce artificial feeding, community deer populations and tick populations. Such an approach would generate widespread public support from residents within the Fire Island communities and we strongly encourage the NPS to incorporate this concept into the FEIS.

The NPS is well aware of the fact that deer living in Fire Island communities are extremely tame because people feed them and many of the Fire Island residents and visitors who do view these animals as wild neighbors. The NPS knows this, and yet, if the NPS adopts either Alternatives B or D as written, for all intents and purposes, the NPS would be targeting almost every deer living in the Fire Island communities for capture and translocation and/or euthanasia. Such a policy will undoubtedly cause widespread public opposition, will create intense polarization between the NPS and the Fire Island communities, and will do nothing to help advance and promote the educational messaging about the negative impacts of feeding deer.

Finally, the NPS has failed to explore the humaneness, mortality and efficacy associated with translocating deer to Wilderness Areas. Studies have demonstrated high mortality rates associated with transporting deer and translocating wildlife in general as well as high rates of animals returning to their natal territories (Beringer et al 2002, Craven et al 1998, Jones and Witham 1990). Since there is a high probability that these animals will either die during transport, starve to death after being abandoned in an unfamiliar area of the Seashore, or return to the area of capture, we strongly oppose the translocation of deer from the Fire Island communities to Wilderness Areas.

V. Visitor Experience and Use

According to the DEIS, a 2008 survey of Seashore visitors found that approximately 50% of the respondents felt that close contact with deer or other wildlife added to their Seashore experience (DEIS, at 175). And yet, with respect to visitor use and experience under Alternatives C and D, the DEIS asserts that the effect of combined lethal actions would result in beneficial impacts on the visitor use. (DEIS, at 181). Given the results of the NPS 2008 survey, the long history that Fire Island has with respect to deer-human interactions, the controversial nature of lethal deer control options in both Alternatives C and D, and the growth in demand for non-lethal wildlife damage management methods, it is clear the NEPA planning process suffers from a lack of better information on attitudes and interests of visitors and the general public in important ways. Why would the NPS presume that visitors would be more positive about seeing a regenerating forest with a dense understory than an open forest floor with extended sight lines where they might see and enjoy deer as well? The FEIS must account for the lack of a substantive understanding of what public opinion is on this issue, remove speculative assumptions about what visitors would or would not like to see (especially in light of the history of deer-human interactions on Fire Island), and provide a more thorough and deliberative discussion concerning this highly relevant issue.

VI. Public Hunting in Wilderness Areas

The HSUS strongly opposes public hunting of deer in the Wilderness Areas as such an activity would run counter to the character and history of the Seashore and would be unlikely to cause a reduction in deer numbers or shift deer distributions sufficient to result in a noticeable benefit to native vegetation. For white-tailed deer, hunting pressure sometimes (but not always) results in a shift in home ranges; when such an effect does occur, it appears to be temporary at best (Root et al. 1988). Since hunters will not be allowed to use vehicles when hunting in the Wilderness Areas (which would severely restrict accessibility to the majority of the deer populations in these areas), we are doubtful that public hunting would assist the NPS in achieving its management objectives. In addition, public hunting would discourage and restrict non-consumptive uses of the Park and would impact the welfare of the individual animals hunted, particularly through wounding.

I. Conclusions

The NPS should adopt a revised version of Alternative B as the Preferred Alternative that omits the deer capture-and-removal action. Also, in the spirit of Adaptive Management, the FEIS should refer to the fertility control criteria as guidelines rather than requirements, which would permit the NPS to immediately incorporate the use of reproductive control agents and methodologies to manage the deer population (some of which have been used

successfully on the Seashore for years) until a reproductive control agent that meets the desirable criteria is found. The implementation of a revised Alternative B in the FEIS has the potential to revolutionize the standard approach to deer conflict resolution from one that is top-down, antiquated and controversial to one that is inclusive, technologically advanced, and generates widespread public support. Such an endeavor would be of great benefit not only to our national parks, but also to the residents and visitors to the Seashore and the American taxpayer.

Respectfully,

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Anon 2013b San Jose: Deer at the Villages to be sterilized. Mercury News. January 22, 2013.
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Correspondence ID: 1601 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,10,2014 21:25:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am greatly saddened by the thought of the beautiful, sentient White-tailed Deer being at risk on Fire Island. As a frequent visitor to the Island I would not enjoy the beauty if I knew there was a war on the wildlife there. If I knew the exotic deer I so enjoy seeing were being threatened. Please save the White-tailed Deer.

They deserve a life as all beings. Please let them live.

Correspondence ID: 1602 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 21:51:09

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: We are commenting on one matter mentioned in Chapter 3, Page 101-the potential designation of one acre of Potential Wilderness Additions (PWA) as wilderness.

The entry appropriately refers to the cessation of incompatible uses within wilderness as a result of hurricane Sandy-the facilities at Old Inlet, and the boardwalk at Smith Point. However, since part of the Smith Point boardwalk has now been restored, this language is obsolete. Any such designation would therefore seriously inconsistent with both the Wilderness Act, which calls for the preservation of the character of individual wilderness areas, and with the legislation creating the Fire Island wilderness area- PL 96-585- which referred to the existence of several PWAs in the area, and specifically identified them on the legislative map.

Consistent with this legislation, in 1999, PWA areas consisting of 17 acres were designated as wilderness after the non-conforming uses on them had ceased. One of these was the boardwalk from Watch Hill to Long Cove, which was pro-actively removed as a non-conforming use- an important defining one aspect of the character of the area as one without boardwalks.

In light of the above, the Smith Point boardwalk cannot be considered eligible for full wilderness designation, and at this time must remain as a potential wilderness addition.

At the same time, the entire subject, including the valid re-designation of the Old Inlet area needs to be addressed in the forthcoming revision of the Wilderness Management Plan, before any action at all is taken.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Correspondence ID: 1603 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct,10,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for considering my comments on the Fire Island National Seashore deer management plan and EIS. Due to the length of my comments, I cannot send the entire comments in this one submission. Instead, I will separate the letter into blocks of text that will fit into this space and submit the blocks of text separately.

October 10, 2014

Fire Island National Seashore
120 Laurel Street
Patchogue
NY 11772-3596

To Whom it May Concern:

I submit the following comments on the Fire Island National Seashore Draft White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (hereafter Fire Island DEIS). I submit these comments on my own behalf and not on behalf of any organization.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed action, which would allow the lethal control of deer on Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) (including the William Floyd Estate and adjacent community properties) via sharpshooting, capture, euthanasia, and public hunting. Lethal control of native deer is entirely unnecessary in this case because it is inconsistent with legal standards governing wildlife management on national parks (and, specifically, on FINS) and

there are reasonable and feasible alternatives that will achieve the desired reduction in the deer population without resorting to the use of lethal strategies. Furthermore, as discussed in more detail throughout this comment letter, it appears that the National Park Service (NPS) is using deer as a scapegoat for other management issues that are affecting the integrity of FINS, including the effects of invasive species, climate change (including sea level rise), and inappropriate human behaviors.

This DEIS is the latest in a litany of similar plans that demonstrate how far the NPS has strayed from its original mission, as dictated by the NPS Organic Act (16 USC Â§1 et seq.). Congress did not intend for national parks to be killing fields for native wildlife species, regardless of the alleged justification for such extreme management actions. Conversely, Congress intended for national parks to be distinct from national wildlife refuges, national forests, and other lands under federal ownership; they were, in fact, intended to be de facto sanctuaries, where native wildlife and natural ecosystem processes were to be protected and public use permitted only if it is consistent with conservation objectives.

Here, the NPS has proposed a management plan that is entirely antithetical to the NPS mission because it permits lethal control of a native species in order to address alleged adverse impacts to native plants. According to the NPS, forest regeneration, vegetation diversity, and vegetation productivity are being adversely impacted by deer, resulting in cascading impacts to cultural resources, other wildlife species, and public use and enjoyment of FINS. Despite these allegations, the NPS provides virtually no credible data to support such assertions. With the exception of the Sunken Forest (a unique maritime forest on the FINS), the NPS has only begun to monitor deer impacts to other park forests in the past few years - - hardly sufficient time to fully understand how or if deer are impacting the forest ecosystems and whether such impacts are beyond the bounds of natural variability.

The NPS wrongly relies on forest productivity measures from forests in Pennsylvania as the basis for assessing forest impacts on FINS, despite the substantial environmental differences between woodlands in Pennsylvania and FINS, which is a barrier island. Furthermore, the NPS has failed to provide any direct evidence that any species on FINS has been adversely impacted by deer preferring to rely on mere supposition to make its case. And, finally, far from adversely impacting visitor use and enjoyment of FINS as the NPS claims, its own data indicates that only 2 percent of visitors report concerns about deer, while approximately 50 percent indicate that the deer enhance their visit to FINS.

I do not question whether deer can impact the ecosystems that they inhabit but rather, whether such impacts are unnatural (if indeed the evidence presented by the NPS substantiates the alleged impacts) and, if they are, whether lethal control is an appropriate response. In this particular case, the NPS proposal to allow sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia, and public hunting, is particularly egregious because the NPS previously engaged in a 16-year experimental immunocontraception program for deer on FINS which was demonstrably successful and inexplicably terminated in 2009. In this case, there should be little doubt that Alternative B (which combines fencing and immunocontraception to address alleged deer impacts to FINS) should be selected as the preferred alternative if the NPS believes the deer population on FINS must be reduced.

The selection of Alternative B is the preferred alternative. It is strongly supported by scientific evidence, clearly the most compassionate option, and will achieve the desired reduction in the deer population over time. Admittedly, it won't achieve the desired reduction as quickly as either Alternatives C or D, however, considering that the deer "overpopulation" has supposedly taken decades to become a "problem," the NPS should not simply seek the quickest way to reduce the population immediately. Indeed, when immunocontraception is combined with the proposed fencing plan, it can facilitate NPS achieving management objectives for both deer and vegetation without the need to kill deer as long as the NPS demonstrates a commitment to make this non-lethal approach work.

Moreover, unlike lethal control, which will stimulate a compensatory reproductive response among surviving deer and potentially increased deer immigration (particularly on the William Floyd Estate), the gradual reduction in the deer population using immunocontraception reduces the likelihood of compensatory reproduction in FINS deer. Given the relatively small size of the deer population on FINS and the William Floyd Estate (an estimated 370 deer) at present, the use of bait to attract deer to feeding stations to be captured and vaccinated or directly darted with the vaccine can achieve the desired level of vaccination of female deer to ensure program success. Furthermore, recognizing that deer hunting will continue to occur on state lands adjacent to FINS, an immunocontraception program would also fulfill NPS' objective of collaborating with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in the regional management of deer.

Undoubtedly, the NPS will claim that there is no current immunocontraceptive vaccine that will meet its criteria for an effective vaccine. As discussed in more detail below, those criteria were not developed with any public input (including input from immunocontraception experts) and arguably formulated to be near impossible to meet so that lethal control is the preferred option. I assert that there are vaccines that can and should be used, and have been used on FINS (and other national parks) successfully. These vaccines could be reemployed tomorrow to resume efforts to

non-lethally control the FINS deer population.

The tragedy here is that the NPS wrongly terminated the Fire Island deer immunocontraception program in 2009 without sufficient cause, thereby losing five years of potential non-lethal deer control. The NPS should not allow its desire to use the "perfect" vaccine to prevent its use of a "good" vaccine to start achieving its deer management objectives. Indeed, while FINS has already played a significant role in advancing the science of immunocontraception by allowing the vaccine to be used on deer from 1993 to 2009, it now has an opportunity to further advance the technology and help create that "perfect" vaccine that it desires to use in other parks that currently resort to lethal control. The NPS should aspire to become part of the development of humane technologies instead of favoring the "quick fix" of lethal control.

The NPS has not sufficiently explored the potential for the use of non-lethal strategies in the Fire Island DEIS. It failed to provide any explanation as to why it terminated the deer immunocontraception program in 2009 and elected to dismiss from serious consideration the potential use of surgical sterilizations of deer as a non-lethal management tool and supplement to immunocontraceptive vaccines. This decision was entirely without justification. Permanent sterilization of female deer should be included by the NPS in the toolbox of non-lethal strategies to address the alleged deer overpopulation on FINS.

The NPS has also failed to disclose all relevant information to the public and to subject that information to the level of scientific analysis that is legally required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Despite the girth of the DEIS, it is woefully inadequate in many respects.

Fundamentally, despite being originally described as a deer and vegetation management plan, the current plan is solely a deer management plan where the actions taken to manage deer are directly tied to concerns over vegetation diversity, production and forest regeneration on FINS. If the intent was, in fact, to create a deer and vegetation management plan, the NPS has failed to include any "plan" that would qualify as a vegetation management plan. Yet, considering the primary justification for the proposal to kill deer - which is to address deer impacts to vegetation - the NPS is legally obligated to provide a combined deer and vegetation management plan. Similarly, given the alleged impacts of deer on the cultural resources of the William Floyd Estate and the role of invasive species within FINS, legally the NPS should have produced a management plan that encompassed all of these elements in a single document. Separating these issues into individual management plans, when the issues are inextricably intertwined, is not legal under NEPA.

In addition, the NPS is proceeding with the development of a deer management plan without first updating its General Management Plan (GMP). NPS policies create a mandatory hierarchy of planning which has been violated in this instance. This planning hierarchy demands that the agency start with a Foundation Statement and follow it with a GMP. The GMP then provides for Implementation Plans that include plans for deer, vegetation, cultural resources, and invasive species management.

Here, NPS apparently intends to incorporate the deer management plan into the GMP for FINS, however, NPS policies do not permit the use of such a backwards planning process. .

The Fire Island DEIS is also inadequate in that it fails to:

- A) Substantiate the purpose and need for the proposed action;
- B) Include a full range of reasonable and feasible alternatives;
- C) Include measurable and objective criteria in regard to the alternatives included in the analysis;
- D) Disclose relevant information related to, and provides a biased and inaccurate analysis of, the environmental consequences of the proposed action and other alternatives;
- E) Provide any evidence to substantiate many of its alleged impacts of deer;
- F) Consider other factors, beyond deer, that may be affecting vegetation diversity, productivity, and forest regeneration on FINS, and;
- G) Engage in an analysis of cumulative impacts that is wholly inadequate.

In regard to the NPS failure to disclose all information relevant to the analysis in the Fire Island DEIS, I note that in July 2011 scoping comments to the NPS by the Animal Welfare Institute, it suggested that the NPS establish a website where it could provide the public with access to all relevant documents, data, and records used by the NPS in preparing the Fire Island DEIS. The NPS failed to do so and, consequently, its failure to disclose information to substantiate its allegations or claims made in the Fire Island DEIS violates NEPA and may violate other federal laws.

Finally, I note that the NPS has failed to include any analysis of whether the actions identified in the Fire Island DEIS will result in impairments or unacceptable impacts to natural resources or other natural attributes on FINS.

The 2006 NPS Management Policies make clear that this analysis is required and, in similar management plans and environmental impact statements prepared for other parks, the NPS incorporated such an analysis. This deficiency cannot be remedied in a Final EIS unless the NPS explicitly solicits public comment on the FEIS before completing

the decision-making process.

Instead, the NPS, at a minimum, should prepare a supplemental DEIS to correct this and other deficiencies in its analysis and make the supplemental document available for a separate round of public comments. In this supplemental DEIS, the NPS should also include its Minimum Requirements Analysis (MRA) to permit actions in the Congressionally designated wilderness area on FINS and a more detailed vegetation monitoring plan as identified in Appendix B of the Fire Island DEIS, both of which were not incorporated into the present DEIS but should be subject to public review and comment.

The remainder of this comment letter will provide evidence to substantiate the assertions contained above.

1. The NPS cannot proceed with the DEIS absent an updated FINS GMP:

The 2006 NPS Management Policies (hereafter Policies) provide detailed information regarding NPS planning processes. It identifies several types of "planning elements (that) are part of an interrelated framework that will inform NPS decision-making." Policies at 2.2. These elements include, in order, a Foundation Statement, GMP, Program Management Plans, Strategic Plans, Implementation Plans, Annual Performance Plans, and Annual Performance Reports. Id.

A Foundation Statement (FS) is based on the individual park's "enabling legislation or presidential proclamation and ... documents the park purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, and primary interpretive themes." Id. The FS is generally developed in concert with the GMP since the GMP process provides an opportunity for the public to participate in the development of the FS. I am unaware of whether FINS has developed an FS.

A GMP is intended to be a "broad umbrella document that sets the long-term goals for the park based on the foundation statement." Id. A GMP defines "the desired natural and cultural resource conditions to be achieved and maintained over time ... the necessary conditions for visitors to understand, enjoy, and appreciate the park's significant resourcesâ€ the kinds and levels of management activities, visitor use and development that are appropriate for maintaining the desired conditionsâ€and identified indicators and standards for maintaining the desired conditions." Id. Throughout the NPS planning process, there are typically two opportunities for public participation. The first is at the GMP stage whereby the draft GMP is subject to NEPA analysis and then it and the relevant NEPA document are available for public review. Policies at 2.3 and 2.3.1.5. A GMP for FINS was published in 1977. That document provides broad direction for the management of FINS and includes management objectives, including for vegetation and wildlife, for the park. It contains no reference to deer, any problems with deer, and provides no management direction specific to deer or for any particular floral or faunal species.

Program Management Plans (PMPs) "follow the general management plan and provide program-specific information on strategies to achieve and maintain the desired resource conditions and visitor experience, including identification of appropriate visitor use where applicable." Policies at 2.2. PMPs are intended to provide "a bridge between the broad direction provided in the general management plan and specific actions taken to achieve goals." Id. at 2.3.2. Examples of PMPs identified in the Policies include a resource stewardship strategy, comprehensive interpretation plans, land protection plans, visitor use plan, fire management plan, asset management plan, or a management stewardship plan. Id. at 2.2 and 2.3.2. I am unaware as to whether FINS has any existing PMPs.

Strategic Plans (SPs) provide "1 to 5-year direction and objective, measurable, long-term goals" for the park. The long-term goals "define the resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved in the near future." Id. The superintendent of each park is accountable to implement these plans and to reach these long-term goals. The goals themselves are "based on the park's foundation statement; an assessment of the park's natural and cultural resources, park visitors' experiences and the park's performance capability given available personnel, funding, and external factors." Id. FINS has prepared SPs for 2004-2006 and 2007-2011. I am unaware of a more recent strategic plan has been prepared by FINS. The former plan contains no reference to deer, deer management, and does not include any specific goals related to deer. The latter plan, references deer management in the context of the immunocontraceptive research program that was in place on FINS between 1993 and 2009. None of the information included in that section of that strategic plan referenced any particular or acute concerns or problems with the deer population; it only references the immunocontraceptive program. Interestingly, according to the description in that strategic plan, the deer management program included efforts to reduce deer feeding opportunities in Fire Island communities which the NPS did not reference in the Fire Island DEIS nor did it report on the results of that portion of the deer management program in the DEIS.

Implementation Plans (IPs) "provide project-specific details needed to implement an action in an area of a park and explain how the action(s) helps achieved long-term goals." Policies at 2.2. More specifically, IPs "will focus on how to implement activities and projects needed to achieve the desired conditions identified in the general management plan, strategic plan, and program management planning documents (id. at 2.3.3.1); hence such plans logically must follow the development of a GMP, PMPs, and SPs. The current draft deer management plan represents an IP. IPs provide the second opportunity during the overall park planning process when the public have an opportunity to

participate in the decision-making process.

Annual Performance Plans (APPs) and Annual Performance Reports (APRs) are the final elements of the NPS planning process. APPs identify the annual goals and set forth an annual work plan to guide park efforts for a fiscal year. Id. While APRs provide an accounting of the annual results achieved by the park in relation to annual goals. Id.

As indicated in the Fire Island DEIS, FINS does not have an up-to-date GMP. The revised GMP is apparently in preparation. According to information obtained from the FINS website, the GMP planning process began in 2006 but the last GMP newsletter update was published in September 2012. According to that newsletter, the NPS has already solicited and received public comment on preliminary management alternatives for both the FINS proper and for the William Floyd Estate. None of this information, including any summary of the preliminary GMP alternatives, was disclosed in the Fire Island DEIS.

In addition, in that September 2012 GMP newsletter, the NPS references the "deer and vegetation management plan" and claims that that planning process can go forward independent of completion of the revised GMP because it is being subject to analysis in an environmental impact statement.

This claim is entirely erroneous considering, as the Policies make clear, that an IP (like the deer management plan) is intended to implement activities and projects to achieve the desired conditions identified in the GMP, PMPs, and SPs. Completing this decision-making process on deer management and then preparing a draft GMP and associated NEPA document and subjecting those documents to public review is entirely antithetical to the NPS planning process as detailed in the Policies. The Policies set forth a step-wise and hierarchical planning process in order to achieve the overall objective of park service decision-making which is to:

"use planning to bring logic, analysis, public involvement, and accountability into the decision-making process. Park planning and decision-making will be conducted as a continuous, dynamic cycle, from broad visions shared with the public to individual, annual work assignments and evaluations. Each park will be able to demonstrate to decision-makers, staff, and the public how decisions related to one another in terms of comprehensive, logical, and trackable rationale.

NEPA prohibits an agency from taking any major federal actions that are covered by a separate programmatic environmental impact statement and may significantly affect the quality of the human environment unless the action is "justified independently of the (programmatic EIS)," "is itself accompanied by an adequate environmental impact statement," and "will not prejudice the ultimate decision on the program." 40 CFR 1506.1(c)(1)(2) and (3).

However, none of those criteria are applicable in this case. In particular, the NEPA analysis to be prepared on the GMPs not a programmatic document and, even if it were, given NPS Policies, the deer management plan is not justified independently of the GMP but, rather, must logically follow the GMP as part of the NPS planning process. Furthermore, as articulated in this letter, the present EIS is not adequate and, as the NPS concedes in the Fire Island DEIS, the decision to be made on deer management will prejudice the decision to be made on the GMP.

The NPS cannot remedy this deficiency in its Final EIS. Instead, the NPS must shelve the current document pending completion of the GMP process and then revisit the Fire Island DEIS to ensure it is consistent with the updated GMP. At that time, the Fire Island DEIS should be subject to a second round of public comment so that the public can also assess the content of the DEIS in comparison to the updated GMP and then, and only then, can the NPS render a final decision on the Fire Island DEIS. Please note that I do not raise this concern in order to delay the implementation of deer management actions and, indeed, I strongly support the NPS resuming the deer immunocontraception program and continuing with current deer/vegetation management efforts (education/fencing of sensitive species) on FINS immediately, pending completion of these other planning processes.

2. The NPS has failed to articulate the legal basis for its proposed action or to provide any detailed analysis of the legal basis for its proposal to use lethal measures to control deer on FINS.

The NPS indicates in the Fire Island DEIS that its legal authority to kill deer on FINS either comes from 16 USC 1 or 16 USC 3 which are both provisions within the NPS Organic Act. Instead of clearly identifying the specific legal authority that it believes to justify the use of sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia, or public hunting to remove deer from the FINS ecosystem, the NPS simply cites to these two statutes without any explanation. The reality is that 16 USC 1 cannot be used to legally justify the lethal control of native wildlife on national parks for engaging in entirely natural behaviors (i.e., eating). The second provision, 16 USC 3, does provide the NPS with limited authority to remove native wildlife but only if it is determined that the wildlife is "detrimental to use of the park." That standard has not been met in this case.

The NPS cites to 16 USC 1 as one of the laws that it claims may authorize the lethal control of deer within FINS. Specifically, the language relied on by the NPS provides the fundamental purpose of the NPS which is that the agency:

"shall promote and regulate the use of Federal areas known as national parks by such means and measures as conform with the fundamental purpose of the parks to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The NPS has consistently relied on this language and, specifically, the so-called impairment standard, to justify the slaughter of elk and deer in other national parks. I, on behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute, have consistently argued, and will do so again in this case, that the impairment standard cannot be used to justify the lethal control of deer or any other native species in a national park. An analysis of the quoted statutory language (as well as historical records, and NPS Policies) makes it crystal clear that the impairment standard only applies to activities or uses permitted or authorized in the parks, including public and NPS activities and uses, and was never intended and cannot be used to justify the massive slaughter of hundreds of native deer because they are eating park vegetation. The Organic Act makes clear that the fundamental purpose of the NPS is to conserve park scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life. A secondary purpose is to permit the enjoyment of the national parks by the public. Such enjoyment is not open-ended or without limitations. Indeed, the Organic Act makes clear that such enjoyment is only permitted when it can be done in "such a manner and by such means as will leave (the parks) unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." The "such a manner and by such means" language is applicable to the enjoyment of the parks, not to the conservation of park scenery or wildlife. The "and" between "therein" and "to provide" sets apart the final clause of the statutory language that deals with park enjoyment from the conservation mandate. Had Congress intended for the impairment standard to apply to the conservation mandate, it would have structured the statutory language as follows:

"shall promote and regulate the use of Federal areas known as national parks by such means and measures as conform with the fundamental purpose of the parks to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same while ensuring that the parks remain unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Though many have claimed that the NPS has dual mandates that are conflicting (conservation versus promoting public use), such interpretations are in direct conflict with the plain language of the statute. Moreover, as exhaustively researched by Winks (1997), the legislative and historical records demonstrate that not only does the Organic Act not represent a conflicting mandate to the NPS but that the impairment standard was applicable only to the enjoyment of the parks and not to other issues.

The plain and indisputable meaning or applicability of the impairment standard as reflected in the Organic Act was not altered by the General Authorities Act of 1979 or by the 1978

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amendment to that Act (the "Redwood amendment"). Indeed, if anything that Act, as amended, further affirms that the impairment standard is applicable to activities conducted in the parks and not to the impacts of native species on park vegetation or other resources. The relevant language of the General Authorities Act, as amended, is:

"Congress further reaffirms, declares, and directs that the promotion and regulation of the various areas of the National Park System ... shall be consistent with and founded in the purposes established by section 1 of this title to the common benefit of all the people of the United States. The authorization of activities shall be construed and the protection, management, and administration of these areas shall be conducted in light of the high public value and integrity of the National Park System and shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established, except as may have been or shall be directly and specifically provided by Congress" (emphasis added).

The NPS attempts to substantiate the use of the impairment standard to justify its lethal deer control plan by citing to *New Mexico State Game Commission v. Udall* (410 F.2d 1197, 1201 (10th Cir. 1969)) and to *United States v. Moore* (640 F. Supp. 164, 166 (S.D. W.Va. 1986)). A review of both cited cases demonstrates that neither provide the support that the NPS alleges for its use of the impairment standard to justify the wide-scale slaughter of deer.

In *New Mexico State Game Commission* the NPS was sued for its failure to obtain permits from the state to remove up to 50 deer as part of a scientific research project. As an initial matter, there is a significant and substantive difference between lethally removing a limited number of park wildlife as part of a research project and the proposed action which, if implemented, will remove hundreds of deer from FINS. Moreover, the New Mexico State

Game Commission case is 40 years old and, since then, the NPS has promulgated several versions of its management policies that provide additional guidance for wildlife management in national parks. Thus, while the NPS may continue to permit the lethal removal of wildlife for the purpose of research conducted in the parks, the intent of its current policies are to dissuade the use of lethal strategies to study park wildlife.

Independent of the plain differences between the scenario in New Mexico State Game Commission and the present proposal for FINS, the critical finding in the case was as follows:

Clearly the Secretary has broad statutory authority to promote and regulate the national parks to conserve the scenery and wildlife therein 'in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.' 16 U.S.C. Â§ 1. Anything detrimental to this purpose is detrimental to the park. In addition to this broad authority, the Secretary is specifically authorized 'in his discretion' to destroy such animals 'as may be detrimental' to the use of any park. 16 U.S.C. Â§ 3. The obvious purpose of this language is to require the Secretary to determine when it is necessary to destroy animals which, for any reason, may be detrimental to the use of the park. He need not wait until the damage through overbrowsing has taken its toll on the park plant life and deer herd before taking preventive action no less than he would be required to delay the destruction of a vicious animal until after an attack upon a person. In the management of the deer population within a national park the Secretary can make reasonable investigations and studies to ascertain the number which the area will support without detriment to the general use of the park. He may use reasonable methods to obtain the desired information to the end that damage to the park lands and the wildlife thereon may be averted.

This language supports the interpretation of the Organic Act language that links the impairment standard to the "enjoyment" of the parks. Activities that are detrimental to such "enjoyment" are detrimental to the parks and are impermissible. Moreover, the court identified an entirely different legal standard, 16 USC 3, when determining the authority for the NPS to remove wildlife from the parks when it can be demonstrated that wildlife use is "detrimental to the use of the park." In this context, "use" clearly refers to public use of the park. The applicability of this provision to lethal deer control in FINS is addressed below but, suffice it to say, the NPS has failed to provide any credible evidence that deer are detrimental to the public use of FINS.

Moore involves the spraying of a pesticide in the New River Gorge National River. The Governor of West Virginia and the state's Director of its Department of Natural Resources desired to spray a pesticide in the national park to "reduce and remove the gnat or black fly from the southern counties of West Virginia." The NPS refused to permit such spraying arguing that black flies, no matter how pesky or annoying, are "wildlife" and are therefore protected by NPS statutes and regulations and that, even if such spraying were allowed, the state would be required to obtain a permit before applying the pesticide. In Moore, the court cites to NPS regulations that prohibit the "possessing, destroying, injuring, defacing, removing, digging, or disturbing from its natural state living or dead wildlife" 36 CFR 2.1(a). In addition, the court cites to New Mexico State Game Commission and the authority of 16 USC 3 to demonstrate that the NPS has the authority to publish rules and regulations for the proper use and management of the parks and to permit the "destruction of such animals and of such plant life as may be detrimental to the use of any of said parks." Thus, again, Moore provides no legal support for the NPS use of the impairment standard to justify its wide-scale slaughter of deer.

If any additional proof is necessary that the impairment standard is applicable only to the enjoyment and uses of the parks, the NPS Management Policies provide even more evidence supporting this indisputable intent.

The most recent iteration of the NPS Management Policies (hereafter Policies) was published in 2006. In regard to the issue and applicability of the impairment standard, the Policies make clear that said standards are directly tied to activities or uses authorized by the NPS. The foraging behavior of deer cannot possibly be considered an action or activity within a park. Actions or activities are clearly intended to apply primarily to public uses of the parks such as hiking, bicycling, snowmobiling, and rock climbing. They also encompass actions or activities undertaken by the NPS such as facility development, scientific research, and wildlife management practices including the lethal control of wildlife. The distinction here is that the role of deer in a park, whether beneficial or adverse to a park, is not an action or activity subject to the impairment standard but any decision by the NPS to manage those deer, through lethal or non-lethal means, would trigger the impairment standard. To suggest that deer consuming plants qualifies as an impairment would mean that, despite the absurdity, a mountain lion killing an elk would also qualify as an impairment.

As an underlying matter, the Policies specify that a mandate to conserve park resources and values is the fundamental purpose of the national park system, Policies at 1.4.3, and that when there is a "conflict between conserving resources and values and providing for the enjoyment of them, conservation is to be predominant." Id. Since the fundamental mission of the NPS is conservation, it is entirely logical and sensible that the impairment standard would apply to those uses and activities authorized by the NPS to facilitate and promote public enjoyment of the parks. Not only is this interpretation consistent with the Organic Act but it is referenced throughout the

Policies. For example:

"In the administration of mandated uses, park managers must allow the use; however, they do have the authority to and must manage and regulated the use to ensure, to the extent possible, that impacts on park resources from that use are acceptable. In the administration of authorized uses, park managers have the discretionary authority to allow and manage the use, provided that the use will not cause impairment or unacceptable impacts." Policies at 1.4.3.1.

"The impairment of park resources and values may not be allowed by the Service unless directly and specifically provided for by legislation or by the proclamation establishing the park. The relevant legislation or proclamation must provide explicitly (not by implication or inference) for the activity, in terms that keep the Service from having the authority to manage the activity so as to avoid the impairment." Policies at 1.4.4.

"An impact that may, but would not necessarily, lead to impairment may result from visitor activities, NPS administrative activities ; or activities undertaken by concessioners, contractors, and others operating in the park." Policies at 1.4.5.

"Before approving a proposed action that could lead to an impairment of park resources and values, an NPS decision-maker must consider the impacts of the proposed action and determine, in writing, that the activity will not lead to an impairment of park resources and values." Policies at 1.4.7.

"When an NPS decision-maker becomes aware that an ongoing activity might have led or might be leading to an impairment of park resources or values, he or she must investigate and determine if there is or will be an impairment." Policies at 1.4.7.

"The Service will do this (avoid impairment) by avoiding impacts that it determines to be unacceptable. These are impacts that fall short of impairment, but are still not acceptable within a particular park's environment. Park managers must not allow uses that would cause unacceptable impacts; they must evaluate existing or proposed uses and determine whether the associated impacts on park resources and values are acceptable." Policies at 1.4.7.1.

"The Service cannot conduct or allow activities in parks that would impact park resources and values to a level that would constitute impairment. To comply with this mandate, park managers must determine in writing whether proposed activities in parks would impair natural resources. Park managers must also take action to ensure that ongoing NPS activities do not cause the impairment of park natural resources." Policies at 4.1.

"Although studies involving physical impacts to park resources or the removal of objects or specimens may be permitted, studies and collecting activities that will lead to the impairment of park resources and values are prohibited." Policies at 4.2.

"The 1970 National Park System General Authorities Act, as amended in 1978, prohibits the Service from allowing any activities that would cause derogation of the values and purposes for which the parks have been established (except as directly and specifically provided by Congress). Taken together, these two laws establish for NPS managers (1) a strict mandate to protect park resources and values; (2) a responsibility to actively manage all park uses; and (3) when necessary, an obligation to regulate their amount, kind, time, and place in such a way that future generations can enjoy, learn, and be inspired by park resources and values and appreciate their national significance in as good or better condition than the generation that preceded them." Policies at 8.1.

"In exercising its discretionary authority, the Service will allow only uses that are (1) appropriate to the purpose for which the park was established, and (2) can be sustained without causing unacceptable impacts. Recreational activities and other uses that would impair a park's resources, values, or purposes cannot be allowed." Policies at 8.1.1.

"Superintendents must continually monitor and examine all park uses to ensure that unanticipated and unacceptable impacts do not occur." Policies at 8.1.2.

"Superintendents will develop and implement visitor use management plans and take action, as appropriate, to ensure that recreational uses and activities in the park are consistent with its authorizing legislation or proclamation and do not cause unacceptable impacts on park resources or values." Policies at 8.2.2.1.

When the statutory language is combined with these policies, it is indisputable that the impairment standard cannot be used to legally justify the proposed action.

The only other legal authority that the NPS can consider to justify the proposed action is that contained in 16 USC 3. The specific language in that provision is:

"The Secretary of the Interior shall make and publish such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary or proper for the use and management of the parks, monuments, and reservations under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, and any violation of any of the rules and regulations authorized by this section and sections 1, 2, and 4 of this title shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not exceeding six months, or both, and be adjudged to pay all cost of the proceedings. He may also, upon terms and conditions to be fixed by him, sell or dispose of timber in those cases where in his judgment the cutting of such timber is required in order to control the attacks of insects or diseases or otherwise conserve the scenery or the natural or historic objects in any such park,

monument, or reservation. He may also provide in his discretion for the destruction of such animals and of such plant life as may be detrimental to the use of any of said parks, monuments, or reservations. No natural, [1] curiosities, wonders, or objects of interest shall be leased, rented, or granted to anyone on such terms as to interfere with free access to them by the public: Provided, however, That the Secretary of the Interior may, under such rules and regulations and on such terms as he may prescribe, grant the privilege to graze livestock within any national park, monument, or reservation herein referred to when in his judgment such use is not detrimental to the primary purpose for which such park, monument, or reservation was created, except that this provision shall not apply to the Yellowstone National Park: And provided further, That the Secretary of the Interior may grant said privileges, leases, and permits and enter into contracts relating to the same with responsible persons, firms, or corporations without advertising and without securing competitive bids: And provided further, That no contract, lease, permit, or privilege granted shall be assigned or transferred by such grantees, permittees, or licensees without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior first obtained in writing." (emphasis added)

The term "use" in this text clearly refers to public use of a park including uses authorized by the NPS. For this standard to be used to justify lethal control of deer in FINS, the NPS must demonstrate that deer are detrimental to public use of the park. The NPS has failed to provide such evidence in the Fire Island DEIS. It has speculated that public use is impacted by deer in that the public may be adversely impacted by deer over-browsing their habitat resulting in impacts to other wildlife and plant species, to forest regeneration, and to cultural resources. It even claims that public use may be affected if visitors to FINS observed malnourished deer. What it doesn't provide is any evidence that public use of the park has or is being adversely impacted by deer. Speculation is not proof and the NPS has offered no credible evidence that the public have complained about the alleged reduction in vegetation diversity, it has offered no proof that any wildlife species has been adversely impacted by deer, it has provided no evidence that visitors are offended by deer impacts to cultural landscapes, and it cites to no evidence to suggest that deer on FINS are malnourished or that the appearance of such compromised deer have adversely impacted public use and experience/recreation on FINS. What it does provide are the results of a 2008 survey of FINS visitors where approximately 50 percent indicated that the opportunity to see deer improved their visitor experience, that 20 percent reported that deer did not affect their visit, 29 percent indicated that they did not observe deer, and that only 2 percent of survey respondents expressed any concerns or complaints about deer. Fire Island DEIS at 108. Even for those two percent, the NPS did not explain how they may have been adversely impacted by deer which is critical in this case since those concerns could have been tied to disease concerns or simply a fear of large animals and not linked to deer impacts to vegetation or other wildlife on FINS.

The NPS also reports that there have been incidents of deer-human conflicts where food conditioned deer approach visitor or residents in Fire Island communities seeking food handouts. If those incidents are real, the NPS, under 16 USC 3 would have the authority to lethally remove those deer on park lands that threaten or accost park visitors. Taking action to address such specific human-deer conflicts is far different, however, than a parkwide killing program intended to substantially reduce deer density due primarily to alleged impacts to park vegetation. Also, the authority provided by 16 USC 3 does not apply to deer that are not on park lands - such as those who may "threaten" people within the Fire Island communities since the language only refers to wildlife "detrimental to the use of said parks." Furthermore, I note that this legal authority doesn't obligate the NPS to use lethal control to address such human-deer conflict issues and that, preferably, it would employ public education and non-lethal strategies (i.e., harassment of deer, cracker shells, rubber bullets, and similar devices) to try to retrain the deer to avoid humans. I also note that the existence of food-conditioned deer is a problem that was caused by humans so any solution must be primarily directed to changing human behavior.

The NPS must provide an explanation as to what legal authority it believes authorizes it to engage in the wide scale slaughter of deer on FINS. Beyond merely citing to a law, it must provide a cogent explanation as to the applicability of that law on FINS.

3. The NPS has to incorporate deer, vegetation, cultural resources, and invasive species management plans into a single document as required by NEPA and since these issues are inextricably intertwined.

The present Fire Island DEIS is referred to as a "Draft White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement." Yet, in its preparation of this plan, the NPS referred to the plan as the "White-tailed Deer and Vegetation Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement." Indeed, in the three NPS newsletters published while the present plan was in preparation and in its report summarizing comments received during the scoping portion of the planning process, the NPS refers to the plan as a deer and vegetation management plan. This makes perfect sense since, as the NPS reports ad nauseum in the Fire Island DEIS, the fundamental reason why it is even contemplating management of deer on FINS is because of alleged deer impacts on vegetation including woody species, shrubs, and herbaceous species both on FINS proper and on the William Floyd Estate. It also claims that deer management is necessary to address deer-human conflicts within Fire Island communities but this is not the

primary driver of the planning process and, to be honest, such concerns can be addressed without the need for lethal deer control.

The NPS fails to provide any explanation in the Fire Island DEIS as to why it elected to proceed with a management plan that was limited to deer instead of combining a deer and vegetation management plan in the same document. However, throughout the DEIS the NPS refers to a separate vegetation management plan that it intends to produce in the future. Such a vegetation management plan is desperately needed for FINS given the unique natural and anthropogenic impacts to vegetation, entirely unrelated to deer, that affects vegetation diversity, production, and forest regeneration on barrier islands not the least of which are the implications of climate change which the NPS references in the context of deer management in the Fire Island DEIS. Theoretically, a vegetation management plan would provide a more detailed examination of the current vegetation composition and structure within FINS, identify vegetation management objectives, and evaluate the full suite of threats to vegetation ranging from soil properties, plant/tree diseases, insects, ambient temperature, precipitation, salt water intrusion, climate change, and other stochastic events. It would also provide information about plant and forest ecology including the impact of canopy coverage on vegetation production/forest regeneration.

Other separate planning documents referred to in the Fire Island DEIS or other documents that are not - but should be - incorporated into the present plan include a cultural resources plan for the William Floyd Estate, invasive species management efforts, a MRA to assess the impact of proposed actions within the Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness area, and a detailed vegetation monitoring plan.

The William Floyd Estate is a 613-acre historic property that is managed by FINS. This property is situated on Long Island. It is not connected to the barrier island where FINS is located but it is managed as part of FINS. As repeatedly referenced in the Fire Island DEIS, though there are other cultural resources throughout FINS, deer impacts to cultural resources are limited to the William Floyd Estate. Such effects including deer damage to gardens, ornamental plantings, forest regeneration, and other culturally important resources.

There are a number of references to invasive species in the Fire Island DEIS. Specifically, while the analysis of invasive species in the Fire Island DEIS is lacking any detail (i.e., where invasive species are most problematic, efforts made to address such infestations, success of such efforts, and the potential sources for invasive species), the NPS repeatedly asserts that deer numbers and their feeding/browsing pressures can promote and stimulate the spread of invasive species. It is not that more detailed information about the invasive species problem on FINS is not available. For example, in the 2007-2011 FINS SP, the NPS refers to an Invasive Species Inventory and Mapping project in 2002 which identified 15 invasive/exotic species found in 12 areas of the park totally approximately 25 acres of infestations.

The MRA is a decision-making tool related to actions taken within Congressionally designated Wilderness Area. The Fire Island Wilderness Area within the FINS was established by Congress in 1980. The NPS reports that it will engage in the MRA analysis once it selects a proposed action through this decision-making process and before taking any actions that may impact the FINS wilderness yet it fails to indicate whether it intends to involve the public in this separate decision-making process. While the Wilderness Act and NEPA are separate statutes, since actions that may occur in the FINS wilderness are subject to review under NEPA, considering the importance of public review in the NEPA process, and since the actions to be taken in the wilderness area are directly linked to the broader deer management plan, the MRA should have been incorporated into the Fire Island DEIS and, consequently, subject to public review and comment. The United States Forest Service routinely includes such MRA documents in its NEPA documents that are subject to public review and comment. Alternatively, the NPS should make clear its intention to ensure that the public has an opportunity to participate in the MRA decision-making process once that document has been completed.

The detailed vegetation monitoring plan was referenced in Appendix B of the Fire Island DEIS. Appendix B provided additional details about vegetation monitoring but, inexplicably, it included more of an overview of such plans while the detailed plans were not included. Considering that vegetation monitoring directly triggers the initiation or cessation of the proposed lethal measures to control white-tailed deer, it is inexplicable why the NPS failed to provide the detailed vegetation monitoring plans in the present document. NEPA requires such disclosures and the public deserve access to the document for their review and so that it can comment on the comprehensiveness of the monitoring protocol.

While the MRA and detailed vegetation monitoring plans should have been included in the Fire Island DEIS, the NPS decision to separately prepare deer, vegetation, cultural resources, and invasive species management plans represent a clear and blatant violation of federal law. Separating related management actions and subjecting them to independent environmental analyses and decision-making processes is referred to as "segmentation" and violates NEPA.

NEPA requires that federal agencies, when preparing environmental impact statements, must assess the scope of the

analysis. NEPA implementing regulations define "scope" to consist of "the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in an environmental impact statement." 40 CFR Â§1508.25. The scope of an "individual statement may depend on its relationships to other statements." Id. When assessing the scope of an EIS, an agency must consider three types of actions, alternatives, and impacts. Id. In this case, the three type of actions are most relevant. Those actions include "connected actions" which refer to actions that "are closely related and therefore should be discussed in the same impact statement;" "cumulative actions" which "when viewed with other proposed actions have cumulatively significant impacts and should therefore be discussed in the same impact statement;" and "similar actions" which "when viewed with other reasonably foreseeable or proposed agency actions, have similarities that provide a basis for evaluating their environmental consequences [sic] together, such as common timing or geography." Id. at Â§1508.25(a)(1)(2) and (3). The regulations provide additional standards to determine if an action qualifies as a "connected action" which include whether the action will "automatically trigger other actions which may require environmental impact statements," "cannot or will not proceed unless other actions are taken previously of simultaneously," and/or if they "are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification."

In the present case, deer, vegetation, and cultural resource management plans are inextricably intertwined and, therefore, clearly qualify as connected, cumulative, and similar actions. The NPS, as stated in the Fire Island DEIS, concedes that the primary purpose and need for deer management is to address the purported impacts of deer on vegetation. Similarly, the NPS reports that deer are the primary concern in regard to their impacts on cultural resources on the William Floyd Estate. In other words, concern over vegetation diversity, production and forest regeneration triggered the development of a deer management plan to reduce deer impacts to vegetation including to vegetation characteristics on the William Floyd Estate which are considered cultural resources do to their significance for interpreting the landscape. In both cases, that is vegetation management and cultural resources management, the NPS concedes that it is developing separate management plans and, as previously mentioned, during the current planning process the NPS initially intended to publish a deer and vegetation management plan. What it fails to do is to explain why, if these three planning elements are linked, it believes that preparing separate management plans is consistent with NEPA.

It hasn't provided such an explanation because it can't. Deer, vegetation, and cultural resources management on FINS are like a tripod; if one or two legs are removed the tripod falls over. All three legs of the tripod have to be functioning together for the tripod to serve its purpose. Similarly, in this case, all three of these management plans have to be combined into a single document so that the full complement of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts can be evaluated in a single document. Far from representing an overtly cumbersome or inefficient analysis of issues, such a comprehensive EIS would force the NPS to explore other factors that may be affecting the other resources (i.e., deer, vegetation, and cultural) of concern and to consider a different suite of alternatives to achieve management objectives for all three management elements in the same environmental document. For example, as explained in this comment letter, there are a host of natural and anthropogenic factors, independent of deer, that may be adversely impacting vegetation diversity, productivity and forest regeneration on FINS; factors which the NPS has failed to directly evaluate in the Fire Island DEIS preferring instead to blame deer. A complete plan that encompassed all three planning elements would require the NPS to consider these other factors that, to date, it has ignored in its planning process.

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This legal deficiency cannot be remedied in the Final EIS. Rather, the NPS should terminate the current planning process and begin anew with a document that will comprehensively evaluate all three resource management plans (i.e., deer, vegetation, and cultural) in a single environmental document.

4. The NPS has failed to include any analysis of how the actions contemplated in the Fire Island DEIS would satisfy the impairment and unacceptable impact standards contained in NPS Management Policies.

Section 1 of the NPS Organic Act provides the overarching mandate of the NPS which is to:

& promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations hereinafter specified & by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them

unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. (16 USC 1).

Based on this language, the NPS must leave park resources and values unimpaired unless a particular law directly and specifically provides otherwise. NPS Management Policies at 1.4.4. This mandate is considered to be the cornerstone of the Organic Act and the primary responsibility of the NPS. Id. An impairment is an impact that, in the professional judgment of the responsible NPS manager, would harm the integrity of park resources or values, including the opportunities that otherwise would be present for the enjoyment of those resources or values. Policies at 1.4.5. An impact is more likely to constitute an impairment if it affects a resource or value whose conservation is necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park, or key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park, or identified in the parks general management plan or other relevant NPS planning document as being of significance. Id. Park resources and values subject to the no-impairment standard include, but are not limited to, the parks scenery, natural and historic objects, & wildlife, & processes and conditions that sustain them, including & ecological, biological, and physical processes that created the parks and continue to act upon it; scenic features; natural visibility, both in day time and at night; natural landscapes, natural soundscapes and smells; water and air resources; soils; geological resources; paleontological resources; archeological resources; cultural landscapes; ethnographic resources; historic and prehistoric sites; structures, and objects; museum collections; and native plants and animals. Id. at 1.4.6.

Since the impact threshold at which impairment occurs is not always readily apparent, the NPS has created the unacceptable impacts standard to provide greater assurance that impairment will not occur. Unacceptable impacts are impacts that fall short of impairment, but are still not acceptable within a particular parks environment. Policies at 1.4.7.1. Unacceptable impacts are impacts that, individually or cumulatively, would & be inconsistent with a parks purposes or values, or impede the attainment of a parks desired future conditions for natural and cultural resources as identified through the parks planning process, or create an unsafe or unhealthful environment for visitors or employees, or diminish opportunities for current or future generations to enjoy, learn about, or be inspired by park resource or values, or unreasonably interfere with park program or activities, or an appropriate use, or the atmosphere of peace and tranquility, or the natural soundscape maintained in wilderness and natural, historic, and commemorative locations within the park, or NPS concessioner or contractor operations or services. Policies at 1.4.7.1.

The decision as to whether an impact represents an impairment or constitutes an unacceptable impact is not intended to be made behind closed doors. Rather, the NPS decision-maker, before approving a proposed action that could lead to an impairment of park resources and values, & must consider the impacts on the proposed action and determine, in writing, that the activity will not lead to an impairment of park resources and values. In making this determination, the NPS decision-maker is to use his/her professional judgment, consider relevant NEPA documents, consultations under the National Historic Preservation Act, relevant scientific and scholarly studies, advice by subject matter experts and others with relevant knowledge or experience, and the results of civic engagement and public involvement activities relating to the decision. Policies at 1.4.7. These same standards are also applicable when reaching conclusions about unacceptable impacts.

In the Fire Island DEIS, the NPS has failed to include this required analysis. Nowhere in the document are the standards of impairment or unacceptable impacts even discussed let alone evaluated in the context of the alternatives evaluated in the Fire Island DEIS. This is a fatal flaw in the Fire Island DEIS which cannot be corrected in the Final EIS. Instead the NPS needs to prepare a supplement to the Fire Island DEIS to include this required impairment analysis which then must be subject to public review and comment. In preparing this supplement, the NPS should be cognizant of the finding in *Bluewater Network v. Salazar* (U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Civil Action No. 08-841) where the court criticized the NPS for failing to provide meaningful and quantifiable intensity definition when determining whether jet ski use represented an impairment to park resources. Absent this analysis, the Fire Island DEIS decision-making process cannot proceed.

5. The NPS has failed to employ a proper process to create its criteria for an acceptable immunocontraceptive vaccine.

NPS criteria for what it considers an acceptable immunocontraceptive vaccine include:

1. The fertility control agent is federally approved and state-registered for application to free-ranging white-tailed deer populations.
2. The agent provides multiple-year (three or more) efficacy (80%-1%) minimize the cost and labor required to administer the drug to a large number of deer.
3. The agent can be administered through remote injection to avoid capturing the animal on a regular basis and to increase the efficiency of distribution.
4. The agent would leave no harmful residual in the meat (meat would be safe for human and non-target animal consumption).

5. The agent would have minimal impact on deer behavior (e.g., reproductive behaviors, social behaviors, out of season estrous cycling).

The NPS fails to explain how these criteria were developed, who developed them, or why the NPS believes each individual criterion is reasonable. Ultimately, these criteria are a product of a wholesale change in NPS policy, a change that was not independently subject to public review, which permits and promotes the lethal slaughter of native wildlife in national parks after decades of largely protecting park wildlife.

From 1967 when the Leopold Report was published until the mid-1990s when the NPS initiated a deer culling program in Gettysburg National Historical Park, the NPS did not engage in any wide-scale slaughter of native wildlife in any national park (not including those parks where public hunting is permitted by statute, enabling legislation, or Presidential proclamation). After the culling in Gettysburg, the NPS didn't engage in another wide-scale effort to cull native wildlife in national parks until 2009 when it initiated a lethal elk culling program in Rocky Mountain National Park and in 2010 when a deer cull was initiated in Catoctin Mountain Park. After that, the floodgates opened and the NPS initiated lethal killing programs in a number of parks including Valley Forge, Rock Creek, Indiana Dunes, other parks, and (though not yet initiated) in three national military battlefields in Virginia and Maryland (i.e., Antietam, Manassas, and Monocacy). It is also engaging in similar wildlife management decision-making processes in other parks in addition to FINS.

Though immunocontraception has been considered as an alternative to lethal control in all of these planning processes, it has yet to be selected as the proposed action. This is despite the fact that the technology has been used successfully in several parks including FINS, Assateague, and Point Reyes to non-lethally manage wild animal populations. The primary reason it hasn't been selected is because the NPS has determined that current vaccines can't meet the NPS-developed criteria established to determine when an acceptable vaccine is available to be used to non-lethally control a native wildlife species population in a park. This, in turn, is a product of the specific criteria which, I contend the NPS has purposefully created so that it can dismiss immunocontraception as a viable alternative in favor of selecting an option that emphasizes lethal management.

In addition to believing that the NPS purposefully developed immunocontraceptive vaccine criteria that permits it to select lethal management options, I contend that the current vaccine criteria - criteria that have remained largely the same in the various deer (and other species) management plans published in the past decade - were a product of largely internal deliberations perhaps with the involvement of outside consultants specifically selected by the NPS to achieve a pre-determined outcome. At no point has the NPS, as part of any of the past park-specific planning processes or separate from such processes, sought the opinion of the public on the vaccine criteria nor has it ever consulted with the majority of well-known scientists who are the leaders/pioneers in developing this technology. If the NPS had done either (i.e., solicit public comments on the criteria or engage a full complement of experts in their development) it may have been persuaded to adopt more reasonable criteria. The current criteria, for obvious reasons, are far from reasonable but with minor alterations they could be the basis for a fundamental shift in NPS policies from a focus on lethal to a non-lethal control.

Since the immunocontraceptive vaccine criteria are the primary determinant of whether the NPS selects a lethal versus non-lethal management strategy, they should be subject to independent public and expert review. Though this review should have occurred when the criteria were first developed, the NPS failed to engage the public and/or outside fertility control experts at that time. Ideally, considering the significant shift in NPS policy from protection of native ungulates to killing native ungulates that are believed to be overabundant, the NPS should engage in a broader analysis and review, including public participation, in its system wide wildlife management policies. At a minimum, however, it must subject its current fertility control vaccine criteria to separate analysis and review by the public, including experts in wildlife management in national parks, reproductive physiology of ungulates, and in fertility control vaccines.

This is not to suggest that the current criteria cannot be met by one or more vaccines that are presently available for use, at least experimental use, in deer but, rather, I question the process used to develop the vaccine criteria was intentionally opaque in order to achieve a predetermined outcome.

To address this deficiency, the NPS should suspend the current planning process and initiate a new planning effort. Ideally, this effort would begin with a programmatic analysis of wildlife management throughout the national park system. This planning process would engage the public in a process to determine short, long-term, and emergency strategies (including immunocontraception) to employ to manage wildlife, including ungulates, in national parks, what triggers should be established to initiate such management actions, and to assess the environmental impacts of such strategies.

Alternatively, at a minimum, the NPS should permit the public with an opportunity to review and comment on the current vaccine criteria as articulated in the Fire Island DEIS and, based on public input, consider revising the criteria before proceeding with the current planning process. Failure to pursue either option would suggest that the

NPS has little interest in transparency and, indeed, has purposely established immunocontraceptive vaccine criteria that it believes provide the basis for the selection of management alternatives that promote lethal use.

I would note that despite the NPS efforts to discount the viability of fertility control as a legitimate management option that could be employed immediately, the results of the previous immunocontraception experiment were very positive resulting in, in some treatment areas, a reduction in the deer population of approximately 58 percent. Given such success it remains a mystery as to why the NPS terminated the program.

6. The Fire Island DEIS does not satisfy the requirements of NEPA:

A. The NPS has failed to substantiate the purpose and need for the proposed action:

The NPS reports that the purpose of the Fire Island DEIS is to develop a deer management strategy that supports protection, preservation, regeneration, and restoration of native vegetation and other natural and cultural resources at the Seashore and reduces undesirable human-deer interactions in the Fire Island communities. Fire Island DEIS at 1. In addition, the NPS intends for the plan to promote public understanding of the complex relationship between deer and Seashore resources, tick-borne diseases, people, and human infrastructure. Id.

According to the NPS, action is needed at the present time to address impacts associated with changes in white-tailed deer abundance, distribution, and behavior across the Seashore. Fire Island DEIS at 1. Such impacts are broadly identified as:

" Heavy browsing by white-tailed deer has resulted in adverse impacts on native vegetation across Fire Island as well as on natural and cultural resources at the William Floyd Estate;

" The presence of abundant food sources (including naturally occurring vegetation, unsecured garbage, intentional feeding, gardens/ornamental landscaping) and shelter in the Fire Island communities have resulted in adverse interactions between deer and humans and the developed environment;

" Adverse interactions also occur due to the habituation of deer to the unthreatening presence of humans and conditioning of deer, particularly to food sources, in the Fire Island communities and high-visitor use areas.

Given these claims, to substantiate the purpose and need to implement deer management actions, particularly the overtly draconian option of lethal deer control, the NPS would have to prove that deer are: a) adversely impacting park vegetation by preventing its preservation; b) preventing forest regeneration and restoration; c) harming other natural resources within FINS; d) damaging cultural resources; and, e) causing undesirable human-deer interactions within FINS and in adjacent Fire Island communities.

To justify the selection of a lethal control option, the NPS would have to prove that the deer are detrimental to the use of FINS to be in compliance with its own statutory mandate in 16 USC 3. Furthermore, since the wide-scale killing of native ungulates is not consistent with overall NPS management mandates reflected in its own statutes, regulations, policies, and the enabling legislation for FINS, even if the NPS could provide evidence to comply with 16 USC 3, it should only pursue lethal control as a last resort; that is if non-lethal management, including fertility control, fencing, and other management options, have been tried and have failed to address the perceived problem. Even if not explicitly legally mandated, the NPS should agree to try non-lethal options first prior to resorting to lethal control given its overarching legal mandate that directs it to protect, not persecute, native wildlife in national parks.

The evidence and data included in the Fire Island DEIS does not substantiate the purpose and need for the proposal to engage in the park-wide lethal control of deer. While some may question whether the relevant information provides support for any active management of deer on FINS, including non-lethal management, I do not oppose the implementation of non-lethal management options to begin to address the concerns about deer raised by the NPS. Nevertheless, I do not believe that the NPS has sufficiently substantiated the majority of its deer-related concerns with credible evidence or analysis. I strongly encourage the NPS to immediately reestablish the deer immunocontraception project in order to resume the use of fertility control to reduce, stop, and, ideally, reverse the rate of growth of the FINS deer population. It is unfortunate that the NPS erred in stopping the program in 2009 which has cost it five years of control efforts.

Before providing a specific analysis of how and why the information contained in the Fire Island DEIS does not substantiate the alleged purpose and need for active deer management, a brief evaluation of relevant NPS regulations, policies, and the FINS enabling legislation is warranted.

NPS regulations:

Despite the immense ecological, aesthetic, spiritual, cultural and economic value of national parks and the important role that the NPS play in protecting wildlife and other natural features and processes in lands under its jurisdiction, NPS regulations relevant to wildlife protection are limited. The regulations contained in 36 CFR 2 which pertain to resource protection and public use and recreation in national parks with the majority related to controlling public

use.

Those regulations that are relevant to wildlife protection and management in national parks prohibit possessing, destroying, injuring, defacing, removing, digging, or disturbing from its natural state: &living or dead wildlife& 36 CFR 2.1(a). In addition, the feeding, touching, teasing, frightening or intentional disturbing of wildlife nesting, breeding or other activities is also prohibited. Id. at 2.2(a)(2). Exceptions to these prohibitions include circumstances where authorized hunting is permitted in parks where such activity is specifically mandated by Federal statutory law, Id. at 2.2(a)(1) and (b)(1), or where hunting & is specifically authorized as a discretionary activity under Federal statutory law if the superintendent determines that such activity is consistent with public safety and enjoyment, and sound resource management principles. Id. at 2.2(b)(2). In the latter case, any hunting that is permitted must be done so through the promulgation of special regulations, id., which requires compliance with standard rulemaking procedures.

If a park allows hunting, if it intends to close any portion of the park to facilitate the hunt, the closure must be published as a rulemaking in the Federal Register if the closure & is of a nature, magnitude and duration that will result in a significant alteration in the public use pattern of the park area, adversely affect the parks natural, aesthetic, scenic or cultural values, require a long-term or significant modification in the resource management objectives of the unit, or is of a highly controversial nature. 36 CFR 1.5(b).

In the case of FINS, as discussed below, the superintendent is mandated to permit hunting, fishing and shell-fishing in FINS, though the enabling legislation does not explicitly authorize deer hunting. Consequently, the type of hunting, what species can be targeted, when it can occur, where it can occur, or what weapons could be used is left to the discretion of the superintendent (with the caveat that any hunting permitted must be consistent with state laws but that the NPS can impose conditions more restrictive than state laws). Consequently, if deer hunting were to be permitted on FINS it would have to fall under the standards of 36 CFR 2.2(b)(2). Also, if any FINS lands were closed to public use to facilitate such hunting, the NPS would have to engage in rulemaking to close these lands, even if the closure is only temporary, because of the highly controversial nature of a deer hunt on FINS.

Notably, there are no NPS regulations that provide further guidance as to implementing 16 USC 3 in regard to permitting the destruction of wildlife in national parks if they are detrimental to the use of said parks.

NPS Management Policies:

NPS Management Policies specify that the National Park Service will strive to understand, maintain, restore, and protect the inherent integrity of the natural resources, processes, systems, and values of the parks while providing meaningful and appropriate opportunities to enjoy them. Policies at 4 (Introduction). Furthermore, the NPS recognizes that natural process, including biological resources such as native plants, animals, and communities and biological processes such as photosynthesis, succession, and evolution, and species are evolving, and it will allow this evolution to continue - minimally influenced by human actions. The term natural conditions as used in the Management Policies describes the condition of resources that would occur in the absence of human dominance over the landscape. Id.

According to the Policies:

Natural resources will be managed to preserve fundamental physical and biological processes, as well as individual species, features, and plant and animal communities. The Service will not attempt to solely preserve individual species (except threatened or endangered species) or individual natural processes; rather, it will try to maintain all the components and processes of naturally evolving park ecosystems, including the natural abundance, diversity, and genetic and ecological integrity of the plant and animal species native to those ecosystems. Just as all components of a natural system will be recognized as important, natural changes will also be recognized as an integral part of the functioning of natural systems. Policies at 4.1.

This policy recognizes the importance of natural change as an integral part of the functioning of natural systems. As applied to FINS, this means that the mere fact that deer, a dominant or keystone herbivore, may be altering the vegetative component of the park that should be recognized as natural change occurring as part of the succession of the FINS habitats that deer occupy and utilize. Attempting to stop or alter this would seemingly be inconsistent with this particular policy as it represents an effort to purposefully manipulate one native species to create a desired response within other species that results in an altered landscape that is a product of human intervention instead of natural change.

The NPS will not intervene in natural biological or physical processes, except to restore natural ecosystem functioning that has been disrupted by past or ongoing human activities. Policies at 4.1. Furthermore, the NPS is

required to maintain as parts of the natural ecosystems of parks all plants and animals native to park ecosystems. Policies at 4.4.1. This will be done by preserving and restoring the natural abundances, diversities, dynamics, distributions, habitats, and behaviors of native plant and animal populations and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur and by restoring native plant and animal populations in parks when they have been extirpated by past human-caused actions. Id.

In regard to the management of native plants and animals, whenever possible, natural processes will be relied upon to maintain native plant and animal species and influence natural fluctuations in populations of these species. Policies at 4.4.2. The NPS may intervene to manage these species only when such management will not cause unacceptable impacts to the species populations or to other park components and/or ecosystem processes and when such intervention is needed to, among other reasons: 1) because a population occurs in an unnaturally high or low concentration as a result of human influences (such as & the extirpation of predators, the creation of highly productive habitat through agriculture or urban landscapes) and it is not possible to mitigate the effects of the human influences; or 2) to protect rare and threatened or endangered species. Policies at 4.4.2. Finally, when native plants or animals are removed for any reason - such as to reduce unnatural population conditions resulting from human activities - the NPS will maintain the appropriate levels of natural genetic diversity.

While it is, as demonstrated by the NPS in the Fire Island DEIS, possible to selectively cite to specific Policies to claim that the NPS has the authority to implement lethal deer control, when the Policies are considered in total and in the proper context, the use of lethal control to remove native wildlife from a national park is limited to extraordinarily rare circumstances. Indeed, it is clear from the Policies, that the NPS places considerable emphasis on preserving natural processes, including succession, and embraces natural change. This is precisely what is occurring on FINS in regard to its deer population and other park resources. It is also clear from the Policies that protection and restoring natural conditions is important, if not paramount, in regard to overall NPS management of parks.

The question of what is natural or what constitutes natural conditions is far more difficult to answer. As an initial matter, given the deer management strategies contained in the Fire Island DEIS, it appears that the NPS does not believe that FINS currently exists in a natural state. If this is the case, then what is natural? What should the plant and animal species assemblage consist of if FINS was in a natural condition? Would predators be present? If so, which predators would be present and in what densities? What would the faunal assemblage include? What species, in what densities, where would the species be growing, and what level of productivity would exist? How would the NPS determine what conditions would be natural? Would it be based on conditions documented in 1964 when FINS was established, in 1967 as the NPS has proposed for the Sunken Forest, in 1980, 1990, 2010, 2010, or 2014? Or, would the NPS establish the natural baseline as what existed before European settlement of the country? The NPS does not provide such information in the Fire Island DEIS nor does it attempt to address the question of what is natural versus what is artificial or unnatural. What is clear is that, in its natural state, Fire Island would not be home to thousands of people and the development impacts to house and sustain the human population would not exist nor would it be visited by 2.2 million people annually. Because humans do reside on Fire Island, and because FINS provides recreational opportunities for millions of visitors annually, this equates to a loss of wildlife habitat, a likely impact to natural wildlife diversity and densities, and consequently, an introduction of an unnatural element to FINS.

This, again then begs the question of what is natural? Is it what existed prior to the arrival of the colonists and the settlement of New York State and Fire Island or is natural what exists now. The former condition, no matter how natural it may have been, is unattainable. Similarly, since natural change and habitat succession is inevitable, what existing on FINS when it was established or even 20 years ago can't represent what is natural nor should the NPS attempt to restore such a snapshot in time. What is natural, consequently, is what exists now. It may not reflect what would be considered pristine or untouched, but it reflects what is natural recognizing that its characteristics have been molded by natural and anthropogenic factors. This is not to suggest that houses, shopping centers, schools, and other infrastructure on FINS are natural as obviously they are not, but the current existence of the 17 communities on Fire Island is a consequence of human settlement and growth and, therefore, could and should be considered as natural as is possible at the present time.

Assuming, without conceding, that the Policies are all consistent with the intent of the Organic Act, the only circumstances that permit the NPS to intervene and manipulate or interfere with natural processes, including succession, is to restore natural ecosystem functioning that has been disrupted by past or ongoing human activities,

to address a species population that is unnaturally high as a result of human influences if said influences cannot be mitigated, and to protect rare, threatened, or endangered species.

In regard to the first standard, we must return to the issue of what is natural and ask if natural conditions can be legitimately restored to FINS given its location and multitude of threats to its wildlife and other resources caused by internal (including non-deer factors) and external factors. The second standard is not relevant in this case both because it hasn't been proven that the FINS deer population is unnaturally high but mainly because there are multiple means of mitigating human influences including the use of non-lethal immunocontraceptive technologies, fencing, and to explore alternative management strategies for deer outside of FINS. The third standard is also not relevant since the NPS has offered no evidence in the Fire Island DEIS, beyond mere speculation, that deer in RCP are adversely

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impacting protected species. Indeed, the NPS dismissed from consideration in the Fire Island DEIS consideration of impacts to special status wildlife species while, for special status plant species, the NPS uses small scale fencing or screening to protect those species from deer when they are found.

Enabling legislation:

The enabling legislation that established FINS includes two sections that are applicable to the management of deer and other natural resources. They are:

"for the purpose of conserving and preserving the use of future generations of certain relatively unspoiled and undeveloped beaches, dunes, and other natural features within Suffolk county, New York, which possess high value to the Nation as examples of unspoiled areas of great natural beauty in close proximity to large concentrations of urban population, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to establish an area to be known as the "Fire Island National Seashore."

"The Secretary shall permit hunting, fishing, and shell-fishing on lands and waters under his administrative jurisdiction in the Fire Island National Seashore in accordance with the laws of New York and the United States of America except that the Secretary may designation zones where, and establish periods when, no hunting shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment. Any regulations of the Secretary under this Section shall be issued after consultation with the Conservation Department of the State of New York." There are several components of these provisions that are worth noting. First, the enabling legislation does not require that the beaches, dunes and other natural features remain in pristine conditions as it specifies that the goal is ensure that they are relatively unspoiled. This is likely a product of the natural features not being in pristine condition when FINS was established in 1964 and recognition by Congress that, over time, as a result of both natural and anthropogenic impacts, the condition of such natural features could decline.

Second, there is no explanation as to what constitutes "other natural features" within FINS though this likely includes other natural areas, including forested habitats, and even the wildlife that exists within FINS. Indeed, in the Fire Island DEIS, the NPS concedes that the deer are a "natural feature" of FINS as should be obvious. Consequently, the NPS is required to ensure that the deer remain in a "relatively unspoiled" condition; the meaning or implications of which the NPS has neither disclosed nor explained in the Fire Island DEIS.

Third, in regard to hunting, it is notable that the language of the enabling legislation does not mandate any particular type of hunt nor does it identify what species the NPS must allow to be hunted on FINS. This decision, along with a determination of where, when, and whether hunting should be allowed on FINS is left to the discretion of the NPS and the FINS superintendent based on his/her determination as to whether hunting is consistent with public safety, administration, and public use and enjoyment of FINS. Finally, as this text explicitly references that hunting is only allowed pursuant to regulations established by the NPS, this would clearly trigger 36 CFR 2.2(b)(2) which requires that hunting allowed pursuant to the discretion of the NPS can only be permitted through the promulgation of special regulations. The process of adopting special regulations to permit hunting or any type of use (other than uses explicitly mandated by Congress) requires compliance with rulemaking procedures including providing an opportunity for public participation.

Recognizing these legal standards, to substantiate the purpose and need to implement deer management actions, the NPS must provide compelling evidence to substantiate the allegations that it has set forth to justify management, including lethal management, of deer. Those impacts are that deer: a) adversely impact park vegetation by preventing its preservation, regeneration, and restoration; b) harm other natural resources within FINS; and, c) damage cultural resources; and cause undesirable human-deer interactions within FINS and in adjacent Fire Island communities. The NPS simply hasn't met this burden as the information it has provided to substantiate these claims are largely speculative with virtually no credible evidence from scientific studies conducted on FINS or the William Floyd Estate.

B. The NPS has failed to consider a reasonable range of alternatives.

Regulations implementing NEPA explicitly require federal agencies to "rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives," 40 CFR 1502.14(a), including "reasonable alternatives: not within the jurisdiction of the lead agency." *Id.* at 1502.14(c). In the Fire Island DEIS, the NPS seriously considered only four alternatives: a no-action alternative (Alternative A), a non-lethal alternative (Alternative B); a lethal control alternative (Alternative C), and a lethal control followed by fertility control alternative (Alternative D). These are the standard set of alternatives that the NPS has considered in previous deer management plans and environmental documents prepared for other national parks.

There are several additional alternatives that the NPS should have considered. These include alternatives that can best be described as a NYSDEC alternative, a public education/fencing only alternative, and an incremental deer removal alternative. I note that it would not necessarily support one or more of these alternatives but I merely offer these alternatives to demonstrate the inadequacy of the current suite of alternatives.

The NYSDEC alternative is consistent with the NEPA provision that requires the lead agency to consider alternatives not within its jurisdiction. It would involve working with NYSDEC to expand its deer management activities (lethal and/or non-lethal) outside of FINS and the William Floyd Estate in order to reduce the deer population/density of deer in the area. Though this may not have any effect on deer on FINS or on the William Floyd Estate it may help reduce alleged complaints about deer by residents of Fire Island communities..

A public education/fencing only alternative would represent a version of Alternative B without the fertility control element but that would implement reasonable actions well beyond those anticipated in Alternative A. Nearly all of the alleged deer-related impacts identified by the NPS are linked to either inappropriate human behaviors (i.e., feeding deer, improperly securing garbage receptacles) or are a product of deer consumption of vegetation in either unique or culturally significant landscapes. Public education and fencing could be employed to address the bulk of the alleged impacts. While this alternative would not include any active management to reduce the deer population, since FINS is a barrier island, reducing the quantity of habitat available to deer through fencing could, in time, result in a reduction in the deer population if the population size recalibrates itself based on available habitat.

An incremental deer removal alternative would, instead of identifying a specific deer density goal to achieve through lethal or non-lethal control, permit the NPS to remove a specific number of deer (a number much smaller than what is anticipated under the current Alternatives C or D). It would also require the immediate implementation of fertility control and fencing while monitoring vegetation to determine its response to the actions taken. This is a modified version of Alternative D whereby the NPS, for example, would remove 40 deer over two years to immediately reduce the density of deer in areas where the NPS believes deer impacts are particularly acute. At the same time it would immediately and aggressively pursue fertility control and fencing strategies to further reduce deer numbers over time while protecting sensitive, unique, or culturally important vegetation/habitats.

Furthermore, the NPS erred in dismissing from serious consideration the option of incorporating deer sterilization (through surgical procedures) as a component of the existing Alternative B. Many of the recent deer management projects that incorporate sterilization as a management measure are too new to have generated published studies. Nevertheless, it is simply logical that, if deer numbers/density is a concern on FINS, then any action that may reduce those numbers or density absent complete extirpation of the deer should be considered by the NPS.

Sterilization (which would target female deer) would permanently remove target animals from the reproductive population while allowing them to live out their lives on FINS. While sterilized deer would still consume vegetation they would never contribute any offspring to the deer population and would reduce the number of animals that would have to be treated annually, biennially, or triennially with fertility control agents. A sterilization component could target female deer of any age or could focus on older female deer who have already contributed to the FINS deer population by birthing one or more fawns. While there would be inherent risks associated with the capture and surgical procedures and, consequently, some deer may be lost during the process, this is a far more humane approach to deer management compared to the proposal to employ sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia, and public hunting to reduce the deer population on FINS.

The NPS rejected the sterilization option claiming that, as a stand-alone alternative, it is technically infeasible in part

due to the time required to sterilize each deer, and, if combined with another alternative, it was rejected because there is little available research on population level effects. In addition, the NPS was concerned about employing an irreversible management action, in combination with another alternative, given deer population parameters on FINS that could potentially change significantly in the future. While it is entirely unclear what the NPS meant by the potential for a significant change in deer population parameters on FINS (unless it is foreshadowing its intended selection of lethal control as a primary management strategy) the arguments that the NPS uses to reject sterilization don't withstand even minimal scrutiny.

According to the data provided by the NPS, there are approximately 370 deer on FINS and the William Floyd Estate. Of that total, approximately 50-60 percent are female deer. Since the NPS wants to retain a viable deer population, if it combined sterilization with fertility control, it could sterilize a fraction of the deer in order to reduce the number of deer requiring vaccine treatments annually, biennially, or triennially. Since the NPS would presumably use a reversible vaccine, such as PZP, treated deer will only remain non-productive for as long as they continue to be vaccinated. Since it is unlikely that there would be genetic concerns associated with deer on FINS, as long as a portion of the deer are left to breed, absent a severe stochastic event, deer will always be present on FINS. Though I do not advocate the use of sterilization as a stand-alone option for deer management, even if sterilization were used in that way, the number of deer that could be sterilized to generate the desired population level effect is not excessive.

Furthermore, should the NPS claim that sterilization or immunocontraception is unacceptable because of potential behavioral effects to deer, this claim is entirely without merit. Indeed, considering its own statutory mandate to protect native wildlife, the NPS can't possibly assert that the finality of lethal control which permanently removes deer from the FINS population is preferable to using common surgical procedures to sterilize female deer in order to prevent them from breeding while allowing them to live out their lives on FINS. Sterilized deer would not exhibit breeding behaviors and, therefore, would not be available to breed, would not extend the rut, and would not give birth to fawns outside of the normal fawn birthing season.

Given the benefits of sterilization either as an independent action or as a component of Alternative B, the NPS must reconsider the potential value of this element of a non-lethal deer management strategy for FINS.

C. The NPS has failed to provide measurable and objective criteria to distinguish between the impacts inherent to the alternatives evaluated and to monitor the outcome of the selected alternative.

As previously mentioned, the analysis of alternatives is the "heart of the environmental impact statement." 40 CFR 1502.14. In evaluating the no action and action alternatives, including the proposed action, federal agencies "should present the environmental impact of the proposal and the alternatives in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decisionmaker and the public." *Id.* (emphasis added). Furthermore, NEPA requires that federal agencies "rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives," *id.* at 1502.14(a), and "devote substantial treatment to each alternative considered in detail including the proposed action so that reviewers may evaluate their comparative merits." *Id.* at 1502.14(b) (emphasis added).

The development of alternatives, identification of a preferred alternative, and ultimately the selection of a proposed action is not intended to merely be a paperwork exercise. Instead, the alternatives are intended to represent reasonable options for achieving management objectives. Once the proposed action is implemented there is an expectation that the agency will monitor the results of the action to ensure it achieves those objectives. To accomplish this, the management objectives must be specific, meaningful, reasonable, and measurable. Since the objectives inform the development of the alternatives evaluated in the Fire Island DEIS and since said alternatives are required to be sufficiently distinct to permit an evaluation of their comparative merits, including specific, meaningful, reasonable, and measurable objectives would facilitate evaluation of the alternatives and their subsequent monitoring to determine the outcome of the proposed action.

Providing such measureable and reasonable objectives in the Fire Island DEIS is not intended to simply be a make-work exercise for the NPS. Rather, without such detail, the description and evaluation of the environmental consequences of the alternatives is largely a product of opinion without any substantive evidence to justify such opinions and the ability to monitor the success or outcome of the selected alternative is lost. In its strategic plans, FINS refers to the Government Performance and Results Act which XXXXX. To satisfy those requirements, the NPS includes objective, measureable, and XXX standards in defining what it intends to accomplish during the duration of the strategic plan. As previously noted, strategic plans or SPs are only one step up in the NPS decision-making process from implementation plans or IPs (which would include the current deer management plan). If the NPS interprets the GPRA to require the use of objective and measureable XXXX in its SPs, it is illogical why the

same standards should not be included in its IPs particularly since IPs are intended to achieve the desired conditions identified in SPs, the GMP, and PMPs.

Furthermore, in *Bluewater Network v. Salazar*, a case challenging the legality of jet ski use in a national park, the court, in ruling for the plaintiffs, went into considerable detail as to the failure of the NPS to provide sufficient intensity definitions in the context of its analysis of whether jet skis cause impairment. While alternatives in a DEIS are different than the intensity definition used to assess impairment it is illogical to think that the need for objective and quantifiable intensity standards for evaluating impairment would not translate into a similar requirement for the development of objective and quantifiable metrics in the context of alternatives evaluated in the Fire Island DEIS. At a minimum, the court's ruling in *Bluewater Network v. Salazar* should compel the NPS to provide specific, meaningful, quantifiable, and reasonable management metrics for each impact topic evaluated in the document which would then permit a more robust and substantive evaluation of the comparative merits of each alternative. In the analysis of environmental consequences in the Fire Island DEIS, the NPS evaluates the impact on vegetation including effects on unique vegetation communities, wetlands, white-tailed deer population, other wildlife and wildlife habitat, wilderness, cultural landscapes, visitor use and experience/recreation, Fire Island communities and adjacent landowners, public health and safety, and seashore operations. Yet, it has only established specific, meaningful, and measureable objectives for deer, a limited number of woody plant species, and deer-human conflicts. However, many of these unjustified, unreasonable, and/or not based on credible scientific evidence and, hence, the lack of specific, meaningful, measurable, and reasonable objectives make the evaluation of the comparative merits of the alternatives evaluated in the Fire Island DEIS impossible. For example, without specific, meaningful, measureable, and reasonable objectives to assess visitor use experience/recreation on FINS in relationship to deer, how can the four alternatives be compared? In other words, what metrics will the NPS use to determine how deer impact visitor use and experience/recreation and how such uses and experiences change over time once this decision-making process is completed and an action is implemented?

In evaluating the environmental consequences of each alternative, the NPS relies on five measures of "impact:" direct, indirect, cumulative, adverse, and beneficial. The NPS is legally obligated by NEPA to consider direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts but the decision to classify impacts as either "adverse" or "beneficial" was selected by the NPS. "Adverse" impacts are those "that cause an unfavorable result to the resource when compared to the existing conditions" while a "beneficial" impact are those "that would result in a positive change to the resource when compared to the existing conditions." These definitions are not meaningful, quantifiable, and, consequently they are not measurable.

For example, in regard to public health and safety, what constitutes an unfavorable result? If five FINS visitors are injured by deer or contract Lyme disease (though it is unlikely that the disease could be definitively linked to time spent at FINS) is that an unfavorable result? Or, would 50 visitors have to be so affected to qualify as an unfavorable result? Or, if the NPS received reports of 20 deer knocking over garbage cans in an adjacent community, is that considered an unfavorable result? As to visitor use and experience/recreation if ten visitors were to report that they observed more birds during the post-deer management visit to FINS, is that considered a beneficial result? Or, if ten visitors express disappointment of not seeing more deer or not seeing a particular deer that they had met during a previous FINS visit, is that an unfavorable result? Merely classifying impacts as adverse or beneficial without any meaningful, reasonable, or quantifiable metrics renders the process of evaluating the comparative merits of the alternatives meaningless. To address these concerns, the NPS must establish measureable metrics for each impact category.

In addition, for those impact categories for which the NPS has attempted to establish thresholds for action (i.e., vegetation characteristics for Sunken Forest, other maritime forest, and the William Floyd Estate; deer density, and deer-human conflicts), it must reevaluate such thresholds to ensure that they are reasonable and understandable. For example, for the Sunken Forest the threshold for action is applicable to select woody and shrub species and is based on stem density data from 1967 (nearly 50 years ago). This standard entirely ignores the likely natural changes to FINS including to the Sunken Forest area that have occurred since 1967. Consequently, based on the evidence disclosed by the NPS, this threshold would appear to be unreasonable.

For the other maritime forests, the threshold for action is rather confusing and the additional information contained in Appendix B does not clarify how the threshold was established or how it would be measured. This should be clarified.

For the William Floyd Estate, the forest regeneration threshold for action is based on forest regeneration data from Pennsylvania. Unless those Pennsylvania lands are comparable to the conditions on William Floyd Estate and unless those lands are managed pursuant to the standards of the NPS, those thresholds are meaningless and should not be used. The NPS must either demonstrate why forest regeneration standards on these two different areas can be comparable or develop new standards for the William Floyd Estate.

Similarly, in regard to the proposed deer density of 20-25 deer, this is based on a variety of studies from other states that suggest that at that density vegetative conditions will improve. The problem is that the study sites in those other states are likely not comparable to FINS. This must be clarified.

D. The NPS failed to disclose all relevant information to substantiate its claims contained in its analysis and has provided a self-serving analysis of the environmental consequences of the proposed action and its alternative presumably to achieve a particular outcome.

According to the regulations implementing NEPA, this section "forms the scientific and analytic basis for the comparisons" of the alternatives evaluated in the Fire Island DEIS. 40 CFR 1502.16. NEPA requires that the information in any environmental document, including the information contained in the environmental consequences section of the document, be "of high quality" and subject to "accurate scientific analysis." *Id.* at Â§1500.1(b). The NPS has failed to meet this and other basic criteria in its analysis of the environmental consequences of the alternatives, including the no action alternative, in the Fire Island DEIS. The following analysis is based on the different impact factors evaluated in the Fire Island DEIS.

Please note that not all of the impact factors or statements made by the NPS in its analysis of the environmental consequences of the alternatives are evaluated below as some are either not of concern and/or they are largely irrelevant to the analysis. In addition, as the environmental consequences of Alternative D (the lethal control followed by fertility control alternative) are largely covered by the analysis of consequences of Alternatives A, B, and C, with one exception, no further analysis of the impacts of Alternative D are included below. Also, as a reminder, I fully support specific elements common to all of the action alternatives including the enhancement in efforts to educate visitors/residents about deer, how to live with deer, the ecology of ticks and tick-vectoring disease, how to reduce the likelihood of infection by a tick-vectoring disease, and the use of fencing to protect sensitive species, unique habitats, and forested lands.

Impacts on vegetation:

As a result of the comment deadline, I did not have sufficient time to complete the analysis of this section of the Fire Island DEIS. I would note, however, that despite frequent references to various vegetation monitoring exclosures and plots, the availability of baseline and preliminary vegetation monitoring data, very little data is actually disclosed in the Fire Island DEIS. The NPS has no justification for withholding all relevant vegetation monitoring data which it must disclose as part of its decision-making process.

Impacts on white-tailed deer population:

A. The NPS reports that its deer population estimates are obtained using a distance sampling methodology and that information on the actual physical condition of deer are unavailable except via personal observations by NPS employees. Fire Island DEIS at 141. Prior to employing a distance sampling methodology, the NPS relied on aerial surveys to count deer on FINS.

The NPS has not adequately described the distance sampling methodology. What information it does provide suggests that the survey routes include sections of road or boardwalks within FINS. This raises concerns about the accuracy of the population estimate if deer are attracted to roadways and/or boardwalks for any reason including, but not limited to, habituation to humans, expectation of a food reward, access to more nutritious forage in such areas, or potentially increase salt content of roadside vegetation depending on what methods the NPS uses to treat its roads prior to or during ice/snow storms. At a minimum, the NPS must provide a more detailed explanation of the distance sampling methodology.

B. The NPS refers to its own Management Policies to support its alleged need to control the deer population on FINS. Specifically, the NPS cites to section 4.4.1 of its Management Policies which include directives for "preserving and restoring the natural abundances, diversities, dynamics, distributions, habitat, and behaviors of native plant and animal populations and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur; restoring native plant and animal populations in parks when they have been extirpated by past human-caused actions; and minimizing human impacts on native plants, animals, populations, communities, and ecosystems, and the processes that sustain them." Fire Island DEIS at 141.

These particular policies do not reflect all of the policies relevant to the management of deer on FINS. See analysis of the NPS Management Policies provided previously in this letter.

C. The NPS relies on the 1964 enabling legislation establishing FINS to support the need to take actions against deer. The relevant portion of that legislation specifies that FINS was established "for the purpose of conserving and preserving for the use of future generations certain relatively unspoiled and undeveloped beaches, dunes, and other natural features within Suffolk County, New York, which possess high values to the Nation as examples of unspoiled areas of great natural beauty in close proximity to large concentrations of urban population." Fire Island

DEIS at 141.

See analysis of the FINS enabling legislation provided earlier in this comment letter.

D. As to the environmental consequences of Alternative A , the NPS claims that:

a. The continued increase in the deer population may affect overall deer condition, reproductive patterns, and fawn mortality rates on FINS and the William Floyd Estate if nutrition becomes a limiting factor. The NPS relies on data from a 1988-89 public deer hunt on FINS that indicated that deer pregnancy rates differed starkly between deer in the FINS wilderness (50 percent) and those residing in the Fire Island communities (100 percent) likely due to the availability of additional food supplies (i.e., household garbage, browsing on private ornamental plants and landscaping, approaching humans for food handouts) in the communities. The NPS also reports that, based on data collected from the same public deer hunt, the body weights of fawns were found to be less than those killed on Long Island which the NPS claims was due to the high population densities of deer on Fire Island. Fire Island EIS at 142.

This information indicates that deer are, indeed, capable of regulating their own numbers but that such regulatory abilities can be compromised if deer have access to artificial food sources. The fact that the NPS found that the weight of fawns on FINS were less than fawns killed on Long Island is indicative of a deer population that was in the process of self-regulation. Lower weight fawns likely have a higher mortality rate and, if they do survive, their physical condition (if they are female) may correlate to their level of production.

b. On the William Floyd Estate the NPS suggests that deer that traverse gaps in the perimeter fence surrounding the estate would be at an increased risk of vehicle collisions, harassment by residents, and "disorientation because of unfamiliar settings." Fire Island DEIS at 142.

The NPS has offered no evidence to substantiate this assertion. For example, it provides no information about the risk of deer-vehicle collisions on Long Island, the number of such collisions in a particular year, how that number has changed over time, or, more specifically, the number and rate of collisions near the William Floyd Estate. Similarly, AWI is unaware of any evidence to suggest that deer that occupy the William Floyd Estate will become disoriented if they were to slip through existing gaps in the perimeter fence. White-tailed deer are a remarkably resourceful and adaptable species and, therefore, absent being translocated miles from their home range it is unlikely that they will become disoriented because they have ventured beyond the borders of their existing range. The NPS should remove this claim from the Fire Island DEIS.

c. A higher deer density creates a higher level of risk for the spread of communicable deer diseases like chronic wasting disease. Fire Island EIS at 142.

This is the first and only reference to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the Fire Island DEIS. If the NPS is going to make the claim that a high deer density may increase the risk of spreading communicable diseases, the NPS should provide a detailed analysis of potential diseases, their pathology, epidemiology, and impact on deer and other wildlife species. In regard to CWD, the NPS should provide information about the presence of CWD in New York State (or the location of the closest evidence of CWD to FINS) and whether the prion that causes CWD is considered a native or exotic organism. It is particularly important to identify the likelihood that FINS deer may be exposed to CWD and the potential source of that exposure so that the public can assess the veracity of the NPS claim.

Moreover, since disease is considered a natural factor in regulating wildlife populations, the NPS should make clear that the mere existence of disease in the FINS deer does not necessarily constitute an adverse impact nor does it mandate efforts to prevent or cure the disease.

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d. The NPS claims that deer, particularly those occupying Fire Island communities "would continue to be susceptible to harm from unintentional ingestion of harmful substances .. as well as accidental injuries caused by cracks in boardwalks and jumping fences."

The NPS has failed to disclose any data to suggest that deer are ingesting harmful substances or the frequency of such incidents. In addition, though the NPS refers to deer injuries caused by cracks in boardwalks or from jumping fences, it fails to include any data documenting that such injuries have occurred, the type/severity of the injuries sustained, and/or the frequency of such injuries. If the data exists, the NPS should disclose it but, if such data is not available, the NPS should remove these claims from the Fire Island DEIS since they would appear to represent examples of hyperbole or exaggeration to achieve a particular outcome than an actual, legitimate concern.

E. As to the environmental consequences of Alternative B, the NPS claims that:

a. Female deer would be required to be captured and tagged for identification and then administered the fertility control agent. Fire Island DEIS at 144.

The NPS fails to disclose under what requirements the female deer would need to, at least initially, be captured and tagged. Is this a requirement imposed by the NPS itself or perhaps a standard required by the NYSDEC? Considering that the NYSDEC has no legal authority over deer on FINS or on the William Floyd Estate, it is unclear if it could even impose such a requirement on the NPS. Or, is this required by another federal agency (i.e., the EPA) if the vaccine of choice is being used on an experimental basis?

This capture and tagging requirement may simply be intended to mark treated deer in order to monitor them to determine the efficacy of the fertility control agent though such capture and tagging, since it inevitably increases the cost, time, and risk associated with the use of fertility control vaccines is not essential.

Indeed, if the NPS were to implement a comprehensive immunocontraceptive program that incorporates the use of bait, persons skilled in darting deer, and it embarks on a focused effort to vaccinate a maximum number of deer at the appropriate time of year, fawn production results during the next birthing season would be sufficient to broadly determine the efficacy of the vaccine. In other words, particularly if only one vaccine is being used, it is more important to determine the number of fawns born than to understand which specific female deer gave birth to fawns. In addition, I am unaware of any evidence to suggest that vaccinating a single deer multiple times during the same time period would be detrimental to the animal. Instead, such repeated darting may enhance the immunological reaction by the deer thereby increasing the efficacy of the vaccine.

From a pure scientific research methodology, there would be value in being able to follow individual deer to assess the deer-specific efficacy of the vaccine. This is particularly true if different vaccines are utilized as part of an experimental protocol to assess vaccine-specific efficacy. Nevertheless, to address this concern, the NPS should elaborate on the legal or other standard that requires the capture and tagging of female deer that may be subject to fertility control treatments.

b. Depending on the vaccine used, it could result in out of season breeding behaviors which would result in fawns being born later in the summer or fall potentially resulting in higher fawn mortality in the winter. Energetic costs could also be increased, particularly for male deer, if the rutting season is extended. Fire Island DEIS at 144.

This may be a concern for certain vaccines but the NPS should expand this discussion to note that this concern is not relevant for all vaccines (e.g., Gonacon). In addition, it should note that if a particular vaccine results in an extended breeding season and even if it results in late fawn births, this doesn't necessarily correlate to any adverse impacts either on male/female deer or on fawns. In other words, fawns born late in the season may not experience higher mortality in winter and male deer, even if they exert additional energy during an extended rutting season, may not be adversely affected by doing so. Failing to concede such information results in the NPS painting an inaccurate picture of the potential benefits and consequences of immunocontraception.

Furthermore, it is a highly disingenuous for the NPS to express concern about fawns being born outside the normal birthing season potentially contributing to increased fawn mortality in winter when the NPS is proposing a park-wide large scale deer slaughter strategy on FINS. If anything, consistent with the NPS objective to reduce the deer

population and its assertion that it is only concerned about deer at a population level, the NPS should have no concerns or qualms with the alleged potential for increased fawn mortality or the energetic implications of an alleged extended rut that may (or may not) occur if certain immunocontraceptive vaccines are used.

c. Bait stations used to attract deer for capture would introduce artificial food sources to deer and promote undesirable food conditioning behavior potentially causing deer to become reliant on such artificial food sources as well as increasing the potential for the spread of disease among deer congregating around the baiting sites. Fire Island DEIS at 145.

The NPS raises similar concern in regard to the 4-Poster tick control devices, three of which are used by two Fire Island communities to try to treat deer with chemicals that will reduce their role in harboring ticks that may transmit tick-borne diseases to humans. These concerns as related to these 4-Poster devices are more legitimate than the concerns associated with baiting since the 4-Poster devices are presumably used year round resulting in deer consumption of tons of bait used to attract deer to the devices. Conversely, if bait is used solely to attract deer for the purpose of capture for tagging and fertility control treatments, the deer would only have access to bait for, at most, a few days which is unlikely to result in the animals becoming reliant on artificial food sources. The NPS has provided no evidence to substantiate such a concern or to indicate that temporary bait sites used merely to capture deer pose any increased risk of disease transmission between deer. This would appear to be another example of the NPS concocting concerns about the use of bait as part of a potential immunocontraceptive project in order to justify not selecting Alternative B as the proposed action.

d. The use of fencing in this alternative would reduce the total habitat available to deer potentially resulting in higher concentrations of deer on the remaining habitat which could translate into nutritional stress, malnutrition, or deer injury if deer attempted to jump the fences to access previously occupied habitat. Fire Island DEIS at 145.

The NPS has provided no credible evidence to suggest that these concerns are legitimate. While reducing the habitat available to deer would reduce the amount of food available to the animals, this does not necessarily correlate to nutritional stress or evidence of malnutrition. Deer are highly adaptable and are dietary generalists able to survive on a variety of plants. Moreover, if necessary, deer can be highly mobile in search of alternative food sources.

Even if nutritional stress is a product of reducing available habitat for deer, this can occur even without the installation of fences. For example, a severe storm or fire could reduce, at least temporarily, the available food supply for deer. Consequently, nutritional stress can be a product of surviving in the wild and may be a condition that wild animals, including deer, have adapted to as part of their normal physiology. In other words, nutritional stress may not be an anomalous condition in wild animals but, rather, merely a natural occurrence. Furthermore, the NPS has provided no data or evidence documenting the potential or likelihood of deer injury as a result of attempt to jump any fences that are constructed to prevent deer access to certain lands/habitats.

e. Reducing the deer population would allow the surviving deer to better withstand stresses from habitat damage caused by dramatic weather occurrences attributable to climate change such as higher frequency of storm events, higher storm intensity, and storm flooding and overwashes. Fire Island DEIS at 146. Such stochastic events are considered a natural means of population control of wildlife species. Consequently, whether the NPS elects to reduce the FINS deer population or not, regardless of the deer density, deer may still be killed either directly or indirectly as a result of dramatic weather occurrences. In other words, the physical condition of deer is not necessarily indicative of a greater chance to survive a dramatic weather event. While deer that are more physically robust may be able to survive longer if their habitat is severely degraded as a result of a severe storm, depending on the pace of habitat recovery they still may perish.

f. Over the 15 year duration of the plan, approximately 600-710 fertility control treatments would be required (if the vaccine were available in year 1) for deer on FINS with another 290-315 for treatments of deer at the William Floyd Estate. Fire Island DEIS at 144.

This is a remarkably small number of potential fertility control treatments over the 15 year duration of the Fire Island DEIS which counsels in favor of selecting Alternative B as the proposed action. If this data is correct, the total number of fertility control treatments over 15 years will be 1,025 or, on average, 68 per year. AWI recognizes that the majority of the treatments would be delivered in the first years of the project but, given this relatively small number of treatments, this will reduce the cost of a fertility control program; a factor which, therefore, the NPS

cannot use to reject this alternative.

F. As to the environmental consequences of Alternative C, the NPS claims that:

a. Lethal control would remove 220-235 (65 percent) of the deer on FINS during year 1 and 2 with another 90-95 deer (44 percent) killed on the William Floyd Estate during the first years of control if Alternative C is selected. This compares to a New York state deer harvest rate of 21-26 percent between 2003 and 2007. Furthermore, after the initial two years of lethal control, 30 deer (23 percent) and 15 (13 percent) deer would be lethally removed from FINS and the William Floyd Estate, respectively indicating that, after year 2, there would be "no adverse impacts on the overall deer population." Fire Island DEIS at 148/149.

The adverse impact here is not a product of comparing the percentage of deer killed on FINS and/or the William Floyd Estate to the percentage killed by hunters in New York. Rather, the adverse impact is that the deer are being killed at all. Unlike the deer killed by hunters in New York, the deer on FINS live on a national park where, until now, they have been fully protected consistent with NPS legal mandates. The NPS can't simply ignore the protection it has largely afforded FINS deer (except for 1988-89 when it allowed an experimental deer hunt that was very controversial and subject to a variety of logistical problems) but, rather, needs to recognize the significance of the wholesale change in the long-standing deer management policy that it is contemplating.

Impact on other wildlife and wildlife habitat:

G. The NPS concedes that the assessment of deer impacts to other wildlife and wildlife habitat is merely a "qualitative evaluation of wildlife presence, habitat quality, and how those habitats would be impacted negatively or positively by proposed actions." Fire Island DEIS at 152.

A "qualitative" analysis is nothing more than speculation offered by the NPS as to what may happen to other wildlife species depending on the alternative selected. It does not provide the credible, quantifiable, evidence required to accurately and adequately either understand or substantively comment on the impact of the alternatives on other wildlife and their habitat. Though the NPS cites to a variety of studies to try to substantiate its claims in this analysis, it provides virtually no data on other wildlife or their habitat on FINS. For example, though it claims that deer impacts could adversely impact a variety of birds, insects, small mammals, and reptiles, it provides no data on existing population estimates, population trends (positive or negative), habitat quantity or quality, nor does it disclose and discuss any threats to those other wildlife species. Most likely, this is because the NPS doesn't have such data. The solution to such an absence in data is not to speculate about potential impacts but, rather, to collect the relevant data to substantiate such claims. If the NPS has no credible data from FINS that any wildlife species have declined as a consequence of deer, it must not rely on this factor in determining which alternative should be selected as the proposed action.

H. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative A, the NPS claims that:

a. High deer densities will adversely affect birds and other wildlife based on various studies from Pennsylvania, northern Virginia, Delaware, and elsewhere that compared wildlife presence/absence and density to deer density levels. Fire Island DEIS at 154.

It is entirely inappropriate and reckless to compare alleged deer impacts to wildlife in other states and within other habitats to the potential deer impacts to other wildlife on FINS, a barrier island. Unless these other studies sites are nearly identical in the ecological characteristics and conditions to FINS (e.g., vegetation structure, composition, abundance, diversity, production; slope and aspect; soil conditions; precipitation amount and timing; ambient temperature; faunal assemblage) these other studies, though of academic interest, cannot and should not be used to predict what may be occurring on FINS. Ideally, if the NPS intends to claim that deer are adversely impacting other wildlife on FINS, it would have data from FINS documenting the trend in species population over time and evidence that any decline is attributable to impacts to habitat caused by deer. Absent such FINS-specific evidence, the NPS should not make such assertions based on data from other areas that are likely entirely different in terms of their ecological characteristics compared to FINS.

b. Reptile populations on FINS have declined since the 1970s potentially as a consequence of DDT pesticide use during the 1950s, saltwater intrusion, and development and though the study did not consider deer impacts, the NPS reports that they could have contributed to the decline. Fire Island DEIS at 154.

Here, though the original study did not implicate deer as having any role in the reported reduction in reptile populations on FINS, the NPS is suggesting, with no evidence, that deer impacts may have contributed to the decline. If there is no evidence that deer, in fact, contributed to the decline, the NPS should not suggest otherwise.

This assertion should be removed from the Fire Island DEIS.

c. Understory impacts attributable to white-tailed deer could adversely impact songbirds, insect populations, small mammals, and reptiles. Fire Island DEIS at 154.

The NPS has offered no data or other evidence in the Fire Island DEIS to demonstrate any short or long-term reduction in songbirds, insect populations, or small mammals on FINS as a consequence of alleged deer impacts. If it wants to make such an assertion it must back it up with data or other evidence. In regard to reptiles, as mentioned previously, a study documenting a decline in reptile abundance on FINS did not implicate deer as a causal factor in that decline.

d. Fencing would fragment wildlife habitat and could impede the ability of some species to freely move about in search of habitats to sustain their needs. Fire Island DEIS at 154.

The NPS the reports in the Fire Island DEIS that the type of fencing used would exclude deer from certain habitats but would allow other species to access the fenced areas presumably either by passing through the fence, climbing over it, or digging under it. Therefore, while fencing could fragment habitat and prevent deer to move freely across the landscape, the NPS has provided no evidence that such impacts would affect other wildlife species.

I. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative B (the non-lethal alternative), the NPS claims that:

a. Until fertility control began to reduce the deer population, impacts could include the loss of native understory vegetation palatable to deer and the spread of unpalatable invasive species making it difficult to manage for native vegetation recovery in later years and that these impacts, in turn, would affect songbird, invertebrate, and small mammal habitat through the loss of vegetation used as food sources and protective cover. Fire Island DEIS at 156.

The NPS has provided no evidence in the Fire Island DEIS that other wildlife species have been adversely impacted by deer or deer browsing. If the NPS wants to make this claim it must provide evidence to substantiate it.

b. Within the William Floyd Estate, the proposed fencing would allow for vegetation recovery thereby benefiting a host of other wildlife species with the exception of some predator species whose effectiveness of capturing prey may decline. Fire Island DEIS at 156.

While there's little question that if an area is fenced to exclude deer that vegetation conditions within the fenced area will gradually change, it is less certain how this will benefit other wildlife species. This is particularly true on FINS where the NPS has provided no data regarding the current status of other wildlife species (birds, small mammals, insects, reptiles/amphibians), no historical data regarding their abundances in the past, and it has provided no proposed monitoring mechanism to assess future abundances. Consequently, without such data, suggesting that vegetation recovery in fenced areas will benefit other wildlife on FINS is speculative. What the NPS should do to address this lack of data is to scour the historical literature and other records related to FINS, examine its own historical wildlife survey records (if any exist), consult other databases that may contain records relevant to species abundance on FINS, immediately initiate baseline studies to collect abundance data on a wide range of species, and establish a protocol to monitor changes in wildlife species presence/absence, diversity, and abundance in the future. Considering that the NPS is alleging that deer have caused such adverse impacts to other wildlife on FINS, that data should be collected and the new monitoring protocol prepared for inclusion in either a new Fire Island DEIS or a supplement to the present DEIS in order to fill this significant gap in data.

c. Fencing could interrupt movements of other mammals such as foxes and raccoons. Fire Island DEIS at 156.

AWI believes that this concern is overstated as both foxes and raccoons are highly adaptable animals that would likely figure out ways to traverse any fence whether it involves climbing over the fence (raccoons) or digging under the fence (foxes).

J. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative C, the NPS claims that:

a. The rapid reduction in deer numbers across FINS would result in immediate beneficial response to vegetation

including understory herbs, forbs, shrubs, and saplings, which in turn would benefit songbirds, insects, and small mammals. Fire Island DEIS at 158

While the slaughter of deer on FINS will most likely increase vegetation abundance, diversity, and production, it is not clear that this will translate into benefits for songbirds, insects, and small mammals. The NPS hasn't disclosed sufficient data on the status, population trends, or other (non-deer) threats to those other species to enable the public to properly evaluate the legitimacy of this claim.

Impacts on wilderness:

A. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative A, the NPS claims that:

a. The use of fencing to protect sensitive species, for a 13 foot square experimental deer enclosure, and to establish vegetation monitoring plots could violate the Wilderness Act. Fire Island DEIS at 162.

Considering the purpose of the fencing and that the amount of fencing is not excessive, it is highly unlikely that this constitutes a violation of the Wilderness Act particularly if the materials used to construct the small fenced areas are packed into the Fire Island Wilderness by foot or using horses and not through the use of motorized vehicles. More importantly, though the NPS concedes that it has established one or more experimental deer enclosures on FINS, it has failed to disclose any data on vegetation composition, abundance, or production within these enclosures.

b. If the deer population grows to a density whereby heavy browsing this may result in an ecological system imbalance. Fire Island DEIS at 163.

The NPS indicates in the Fire Island DEIS that deer that inhabit the Fire Island Wilderness may have a much lower productivity rate compared to deer occupying adjacent Fire Island communities. It also reports that any deer translocated to the Fire Island Wilderness if Alternative B were selected would not be expected to significantly increase deer density and their browsing impacts, according to NPS biologists, would be within the range of natural variability. Given these factors and considering that deer, though not territorial per se, occupy specific ranges, it is difficult to perceive how the deer population within Fire Island Wilderness could grow to a density whereby browsing results in ecological system imbalance.

Moreover, the NPS doesn't explain what it believes constitutes an ecological system imbalance and/or why, considering the natural regulation management mandate of the NPS, such impacts are not consistent with allowing natural ecosystems processes to function without disruption though human actions. The mere fact that deer eat plants or that they may hinder forest regeneration is not demonstrative of an ecosystem imbalance but, rather, is evidence of ecosystem function and natural succession. If deer were to become overabundant within Fire Island Wilderness then, in time, their condition would decline, productivity would diminish, and the population would balance itself at a level supported by the ecosystem.

B. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative B, the NPS claims that:

a. Deer that approach humans in Fire Island communities would be captured and translocated to the Fire Island Wilderness "as long as additional deer would not result in heavy browsing of wilderness vegetation." Fire Island DEIS at 164.

This is the first reference to this criteria of heavy browsing of wilderness vegetation being potentially used to avoid translocating captured deer to the Fire Island Wilderness. This condition was not included in the description of Alternative B contained in Chapter 2 of the Fire Island DEIS. Consequently, it is unclear if this is indeed a component of Alternative B. If it is, the NPS must provide additional information to quantify what it means by "heavy browsing of wilderness vegetation" and explain how such browsing pressures will be monitored including disclosing the specific methodology to be used. It also must disclose what level of browsing pressure will be the threshold used to terminate deer translocations. Without such specific information, it is difficult, if not impossible, to assess the justification for, or impacts of, this component of Alternative B.

b. The use of a chemical fertility control vaccine would impose modern human control over the deer population which would therefore diminish the untrammled quality of the Fire Island Wilderness on a recurring basis. This would also require some type of marking or tagging (e.g., radio collars, ear tags, or dye markings) of treated and

translocated deer. Fire Island DEIS at 164.

Considering the reason that would justify the selection of Alternative B, the fact that deer that are translocated into or that occupy the Fire Island Wilderness Area may be treated with a fertility control agent and potentially tagged or marked would represent a minor intrusion into the wilderness experience. Indeed, if the NPS were to provide information to wilderness users as to the reasons and justification for the program, inevitably the vast majority of users would understand and very likely support the effort as preferable over the alternative of slaughter.

C. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative C , the NPS claims that:

a. If management goals for special-status species protection are attained, management actions (i.e., fencing of sensitive species) may no longer be necessary. Fire Island DEIS at 165.

I am unaware of the management goals set for special-status plant species. The NPS did not disclose such goals in the Fire Island DEIS with the exception of a rather broad objective of merely hoping that these species return at some point in the future. The NPS must disclose these management goals for special-status species if they exist or, if they don't exist, this statement must be modified.

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b. The use of lethal control methods would impose modern human control over the deer which would diminish the untrammled quality of the Fire Island Wilderness while the use of visible and audible evidence of human-imposed management of the deer population could also reduce opportunities for solitude within the Fire Island Wilderness for visitors not participating in the hunt. Fire Island DEIS at 165/166.

This is a significant issue that warrants further analysis in the Fire Island DEIS and in the MRA. Though hunting is not prohibited in wilderness areas, in this case the Fire Island Wilderness is within a national park. Consequently, in addition to the provisions of the Wilderness Act, hunting would have to be evaluated in the context of NPS legal standards, including the Organic Act, regulations, Management Policies, and the FINS enabling legislation. The superintendent would have to also consider whether hunting is consistent with public safety, with the visitor use/experience on FINS, and whether it is even biologically necessary. If hunting is allowed it would have to be permitted through promulgation of a special regulation. Furthermore, the superintendent has the authority to dictate where, when, by whom, and how hunting could be permitted and can impose conditions that are more restrictive than state laws.

Most importantly, if hunting is allowed, there must be a comprehensive examination of its impacts in relation to the qualities of the Fire Island Wilderness and the requirements of the Wilderness Act. Should sharpshooting also be considered for the Fire Island Wilderness, its impacts on the qualities of wilderness, including on solitude, also must be fully evaluated. Considering that, as reported in the Fire Island DEIS, the deer population in the Fire Island Wilderness is stable, that the deer population is not adversely impacting the ecology of the Fire Island Wilderness, and that even if such impacts were documented they would be within the range of natural variability for a fluctuating deer population within the wilderness area, public hunting or sharpshooting is not biologically justified in the Fire Island Wilderness and should not be permitted.

c. Visitor use and experience/recreation would not be significantly affected either adversely or beneficially because FINS would continue to offer relatively unspoiled and undeveloped beaches, dunes, and other natural features where visitors can interact with wildlife and learn about the William Floyd Estate.

This claim is clearly incorrect. Considering the results of the 2008 visitor survey which found that approximately 50 percent of visitor had their use/experience of FINS enhanced by observing deer, the wholesale slaughter of hundreds of deer on FINS over two or more years will inevitably result in a significant adverse impact to at least half of FINS visitors particularly among those who have visited in the past and enjoyed the deer. Alternatively, if this claim is correct and there would be no significant benefit to the visitor experience by the lethal removal of hundreds of deer since they still will be able to access relatively unspoiled and undeveloped beaches, dunes, and other natural

features, then what justification exists for even entertaining any lethal deer control strategy?

Impacts on cultural landscapes:

A. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative A, the NPS claims that:

a. Ornamental plants, gardens, forest regeneration, and other elements of the cultural landscape of the William Floyd Estate, will continue to be adversely affected by heavy deer browsing pressure impacting the ability of the NPS to fully interpret the landscape because certain features are missing and facilitating the proliferation of invasive species. Fire Island DEIS at 169.

This claim is largely based on observations by NPS biologists. The NPS has offered no credible data or other evidence, beyond mere observations, to substantiate that ornamental plants, gardens, and/or forest regeneration on the William Floyd Estate have been adversely impacted by deer. Considering that the NPS admits that it XXXXX, it would seemingly be impossible, at least at this time, for the NPS to substantiate such claims with data. Considering that deer impacts to FINS, including impacts to vegetation, have apparently been a concern since the mid-1980s, it seems odd that vegetation monitoring on the William Floyd Estate only began in XXXX. While AWI is not suggesting that such impacts are not possible and/or are not occurring, the fact that the NPS only initiated vegetation monitoring on the William Floyd Estate in XXX suggests that such impacts must not be as significant or severe as the NPS is claiming; otherwise surely it would have initiated such monitoring decades ago so that it would have credible data to prove the claimed impacts.

The need to fully interpret the landscape also hasn't been sufficiently explained. In this case, it would appear that the NPS is attempting to recreate a snapshot in time from some historical era when William Floyd and family occupied and used the estate lands. Yet, the NPS has failed to explain why it feels obliged to recreate this snapshot in time instead of recognizing that, over time, natural and anthropogenic factors have affected and changed the William Floyd Estate. Surely, given the skill of the NPS interpretation staff, they can use alternative methods (i.e., old photographs, drawing, renderings of what the historical landscape may have appeared) to transport visitors back in time in order to help them interpret the landscape as it appeared at whatever year the NPS is most interested in preserving. Indeed, painting that picture while explaining how the landscape has changed over time, and why, may also be of interest to visitors to the William Floyd Estate to help them appreciate the evolution of the landscape whether it was caused by natural or anthropogenic forces. The NPS isn't legally mandated to preserve the William Floyd Estate as it existing in some year in the past since it doesn't impose such manipulations to other historic landscapes under its jurisdiction.

B. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative B, the NPS claims that:

a. The introduction of a fence to protect this historic core of the William Floyd Estate from deer would create a large-scale nonhistoric feature into the cultural landscape creating a physical and visual boundary that did not exist historically disrupting the intended uninterrupted view from the bay to the main house. Fire Island DEIS at 170.

As indicated by the NPS the visual intrusion that it claims fencing will present can be somewhat mitigated by the selection of fencing materials and particular colors. Whether this is done or not, considering the significant benefits of this alternative in sparing the lives of hundreds of deer on FINS, this so-called visual intrusion is justified and should not be used by the NPS to reject the selection of Alternative B as the proposed action. Indeed, until and unless the fence is constructed the NPS can only speculate as to how it may impact the visitor experience. Even then, the NPS can mitigate such impacts by explaining the purpose and significance of the fence along with the broader effort by the NPS to non-lethally and humanely reduce the deer population on FINS. AWI suspects that with such mitigation the NPS will receive few complaints from visitors to the William Floyd Estate regarding the use of fencing to ostensibly protect the cultural and natural resources found on the William Floyd Estate.

b. The introduction of rotational fencing to protect forest on the William Floyd Estate would not only be visible but would create a nonhistoric barrier in an areas that was prized by the Floyd family for its open space and recreational use. Fire Island DEIS at 171.

See previous response.

C. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative C, the NPS claims that:

a. Even the limited fencing proposed under this alternative would introduce a nonhistoric feature onto the landscape that may disrupt the integrity of the landscape surrounding the house. Fire Island DEIS at 173.

As indicated by the NPS the visual intrusion that it claims fencing will present can be somewhat mitigated by the selection of fencing materials and particular colors. Whether this is done or not, considering the significant benefits of this alternative in sparing the lives of hundreds of deer on FINS, this so-called visual intrusion is justified and should not be used by the NPS to reject the selection of Alternative B as the proposed action. Indeed, until and unless the fence is constructed the NPS can only speculate as to how it may impact the visitor experience. Even then, the NPS can mitigate such impacts by explaining the purpose and significance of the fence along with the broader effort by the NPS to non-lethally and humanely reduce the deer population on FINS. AWI suspects that with such mitigation the NPS will receive few complaints from visitors to the William Floyd Estate regarding the use of fencing to ostensibly protect the cultural and natural resources found on the William Floyd Estate.

b. The lower acreage forest suffers from a lack of forest regeneration at least partially due to deer browsing, in conjunction with the spread of exotic invasive species. Fire Island DEIS at 173.

AWI notes that, in this particular statement, the NPS has conceded that there are factors other than deer browsing that impact forest regeneration. As discussed in greater detail below, the NPS should have included a far more comprehensive analysis of invasive and exotic species and their impact on vegetation, other wildlife, and wildlife habitat.

Impacts on visitor use and experience/recreation:

A. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative A, the NPS claims that:

a. A 2008 survey of FINS visitors revealed that approximately 50 percent of respondents "felt that close contact with deer or other wildlife added to their Seashore experience," 20 percent "felt the presence of deer or other wildlife had no effect on their experience," and 2 percent "felt the deer detracted from their experience." Furthermore, another 29 percent of visitors reported "no contact with deer or other wildlife." In other words approximately 99 percent of those who participated in this survey either benefitted from the presence of deer on FINS, had no contact with deer, or reported that deer had no impact on their experience. Yet, apparently based on a mere 2 percent of those surveyed, the NPS claims that "visitor use and experience/recreation would continue to be impacted by deer on Fire Island and in the William Floyd Estate. Fire Island DEIS at 175.

The NPS assertion that deer would continue to impact visitor use and experience/recreation is not supported by the evidence that the NPS includes in the Fire Island DEIS. Unless there is other survey data that the NPS has not disclosed, the reality is that, as evidenced by the results of the 2008 survey, deer do not detract from the visitor use and/or experience/recreation on FINS. If anything, deer actually improve the visitor experience. Instead of trying to denigrate deer by making claims that its own data do not support, the NPS should concede that deer improve the visitor experience on FINS and take this significant fact into consideration during its decision-making process.

b. Some visitors may enjoy an increased chance of observing deer while some other visitors may be disappointed in the altered ecosystem and the missed opportunity to experience a more intact cultural landscape at the William Floyd Estate. Fire Island DEIS at 177.

The NPS has included no data or other evidence in the Fire Island DEIS to prove that visitors to FINS including the William Floyd Estate are either disappointed in the altered ecosystem and/or the missed opportunity to experience a more intact cultural landscape. Indeed, the NPS has provided very little credible evidence to demonstrate that ecosystems on FINS have been altered since, with the exception of Sunken Forest, the NPS has bases such claims on only preliminary data collected in recent years with no long-term data set to substantiate alleged changes in vegetation characteristics. Even if such alterations have occurred, they reflect natural changes to the ecosystem consistent with natural ecological processes driven by a keystone herbivore. If the NPS has data to substantiate this claim that the quality of visits to William Floyd Estate are compromised because of deer impacts, it must disclose that data or eliminate this claim from the Fire Island DEIS.

B. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative B, the NPS claims that:

a. Fencing used to protect unique habitats and forested areas would be noticeable to FINS visitors and could distract

from natural views and cultural landscapes. Fire Island DEIS at 177/178.

The NPS also claims in other sections of the Fire Island DEIS that it could mitigate such visual impacts of fencing by positioning fences within forested habitats and by using colored fence materials that would better blend into the landscape. Consequently, the visual distraction represented by fence construction is not as significant as suggested by this statement. Even if it were, such a visual distraction should not be considered as an adverse impact since, in this alternative, fencing and fertility control would be used to spare FINS deer from slaughter.

C. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative C, the NPS claims that:

a. The visitor experience and wildlife viewing opportunities would improve as the deer population decreases as other fauna populations increase and vegetation populations regenerate though, for some visitors, this may diminish their experience depending on visitor sentiment toward particular species. Fire Island DEIS at 179.

Not only is there no credible evidence offered to suggest that faunal and the majority of floral species have been adversely or unnaturally impacted by deer on FINS but, without such evidence, it is impossible to substantiate the claim that these species populations will increase if the deer population decreases. Furthermore, even if such impacts can be documented, the NPS cannot demonstrate that they are not a naturally occurring result of existing ecosystem processes and succession influenced by a keystone herbivore. Even for those faunal species, such as in Sunken Forest, where the NPS documents a decline in stem densities since 1967, not only could there be other factors contributing to the reported declines but the NPS has failed to explain how the alterations to the vegetative composition of Sunken Forest is not a product of natural ecological process driven or influenced by a keystone herbivore.

What's most troubling about this claim, however, is how it largely ignores the potential significant impacts of lethal deer control on FINS visitors and residents of adjacent communities who value and treasure their interactions with FINS deer. This impact may also extend beyond the boundaries of Fire Island and could encompass people who have never visited - and may never visit - FINS who could be emotionally harmed by the mere contemplation of deer within a national park being killed by sharpshooters and/or hunters.

Deer are not perennial plants. When a deer is killed it is gone forever. The NPS claims that it is only concerned about populations yet the general public is often concerned about individual animals. Residents and visitors may establish bonds with particular deer that may be uniquely marked or particularly friendly and, in those circumstances, the killing of deer, including animals that are known as individuals, can result in significant emotional impacts to visitors and/or residents.

Even if such bonds or relationships don't exist, visitors, residents, and those who may appreciate FINS from afar may receive considerable enjoyment from observing, photographing, drawing, interacting with, or merely contemplating deer within FINS and appreciating the protections they are currently afforded within FINS. These individuals could be emotionally devastated should they learn that those protections have been repealed that that it is open season on deer on FINS.

The NPS largely ignores such impacts of the proposed lethal management options based on the claim that even if it allows deer to be killed, there will still be surviving deer to observe. This is a simplistic and ignorant attitude that diminishes, likely purposefully, the importance of FINS deer to visitors, residents, and other citizens. Indeed, as previously indicated, according to 2008 survey data, approximately 50 percent of visitors surveyed reported that deer improved their use/experience at FINS. Furthermore, considering that the 16-year deer fertility control program on FINS was a product of local citizen demands and in large part financially supported by Fire Island residents, those who supported this non-lethal management program may be particularly harmed if the NPS elects to pursue a lethal control alternative. Notably, the NPS fails to even consider how lethal control may impact the ability of FINS visitors and residents to even see deer considering their diminished numbers and the likelihood that the deer will be exhibit greater evasiveness and be more likely to flee from the presence of humans - thereby substantially altering the visitor experience and the ability of visitors and residents to observe and enjoy deer.

b. Some visitors, if they learn about lethal control, could be comforted by the fact that the sharpshooters are professionally trained, work at night, and that the deer meat would be donated to food pantries. Other visitors would

be uncomfortable with lethal control for various reasons including the humanness of the method, moral opposition, and perceive safety risks. Still other visitors could take advantage of the opportunity to hunt deer at FINS. Fire Island DEIS at 179.

Though waterfowl hunting is currently permitted on FINS, the NPS should not allow public hunting of deer. While I am opposed to any lethal control of deer on FINS, I am particularly concerned about any proposal that would allow the public to hunt deer on FINS since public hunters may not be able to efficiently and humanely kill deer and they may not consistently follow all safety protocols to protect FINS visitors, protected species, or residents of adjacent communities. As noted in the Fire Island DEIS, an experimental deer and rabbit hunt on FINS both lasted only a single year or, at most, two but were ultimately terminated due to significant public opposition, conflicts with other FINS users, or logistical difficulties.

Though I concede that the enabling legislation for FINS permits hunting, I do not explicitly designate what species must be hunted or under what circumstances. Hence, despite offering public hunting as an element of Alternatives C and D, the NPS has the discretion to revoke this offer. In this case, the NPS should exercise this discretion for the benefit of public safety, to avoid the killing or injury of non-target species, and to prevent unnecessary cruelty as a consequence of not efficiently or rapidly killing deer.

D. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative D (the lethal followed by fertility control option), the NPS claims that:

a. Some FINS visitors could be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to hunt deer on FINS but could be deterred by the permitting process and/or cost. Fire Island DEIS at 181.

See response regarding public hunting above.

Impacts on Fire Island communities and adjacent landowners:

A. The NPS reports that though "most residents and visitors to Fire Island are either 'satisfied' or 'highly satisfied' with the general quality of life on Fire Island," FINS has receive an increasing number of complaints about the deer population most of which have come from residents of the Fire Island communities whose concerns included deer browsing of gardens and ornamental plantings and their access to unsecured trash. Fire Island DEIS at 183.

Except for claiming that it has received an increasing number of complaints about the deer population from Fire Island residents, the NPS failed to disclose the actual complaint data in the Fire Island DEIS. Without that information it is impossible to verify the accuracy of the NPS claim and/or to understand the types of complaints being made to the NPS. This is relevant since different types of complaints require different solutions. If the majority of complaints involved fear of tick-borne disease, deer eating ornamental plants/gardens, or about deer spilling refuse from unsecured garbage cans, this can be addressed through public education. If complaints refer to concerns about deer/vehicle collisions this can be addressed through public education, erecting warning signs at collision hotspots, the use of various systems that warn drivers to the presence of deer or discourage deer from traversing roads, or by reducing speed limits. There is no justification for the NPS to not disclose relevant details from the complaints it has received and to report on the number of complaints received over time.

B. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative A, the NPS claims that:

a. The number of deer-human conflict incidents, which are reported to and managed by the NYSDEC, in adjacent communities would remain the same or could increase. Fire Island DEIS at 184.

The NPS has not disclosed sufficient information to allow this claim to be properly evaluated. The NPS has indicated that such deer-human conflict incidents in Fire Island communities include deer approaching humans, deer eating gardens and ornamental landscaping, and deer accessing and potentially spilling unsecured garbage. What the NPS doesn't disclose is any information regarding the number of incidents per year or month, how the number of incidents has changed (increased or decreased) over time, the severity of such incidents (i.e., have any incident led to human injury or is there a direct causative link between human disease and deer), what efforts have been made by the NYSDEC, the NPS, or independently by residents to resolve such conflicts, and the outcome of those efforts. Considering that the NYSDEC is a partner with the NPS in this decision-making process, it is inconceivable why the NPS would not have or be able to access the deer-human conflict data required to more fully describe these conflict

incidents within Fire Island communities within the Fire Island DEIS.

b. Deer trampling and browsing of existing vegetation throughout FINS would increase while ongoing browsing of residential gardens and plantings could adversely impact community aesthetics and spilled garbage attributable to deer would diminish the appearance of the communities. Fire Island DEIS at 184.

The NPS has provided no data or other information in the DEIS to substantiate its claim that deer trampling is adversely impacting deer vegetation in FINS. Nor has it provided any data to document the severity or frequency of incidents where deer have adversely impacted residential gardens, ornamental plantings, or been responsible for spilling garbage. Without such data it is impossible to verify the accuracy of this claim. Moreover, the data disclosed on the impacts of deer browsing on vegetation on FINS is limited to a small number of species, is based on preliminary analyses of recently obtained data, and, with the exception of Sunken Forest, it does not appear that the NPS has sufficient historical baseline data to credibly document changes in forest composition over time. Whatever vegetation monitoring data it does have it has, again with the exception of some data disclosed for Sunken Forest, largely failed to disclose in the Fire Island DEIS.

C. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative B, the NPS claims that:

a. Fire Island community resident would benefit from improved condition and appearance of community vegetation as a result of the decreased presence of deer in the communities. Fire Island DEIS at 185.

The NPS has provided no evidence to indicate that the current condition and appearance of community vegetation has diminished or that community residents are concerned about the appearance of said vegetation. Without such data, this claim cannot be substantiated and, therefore, should not be included in the Fire Island DEIS.

D. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative C, the NPS claims that:

a. A majority of Fire Island community members have indicated a need to reduce adverse impacts of deer and some of them may agree with residents near Cuyahoga Valley National Park where only 15-20 percent of those surveyed considered lethal control to be "very unacceptable." Fire Island DEIS at 187.

The NPS has failed to provide any evidence to substantiate its assertion that a majority of Fire Island community members have agreed to the need to reduce the adverse impacts of deer. Even if this is accurate, reducing the adverse impact of deer is not synonymous with supporting lethal control options. It is possible that Fire Island residents may, indeed, support reducing adverse impacts attributable to deer but the majority may not support lethal control. Furthermore, suggesting that Fire Island residents may have the same attitudes as residents who live near Cuyahoga Valley National Park is highly dubious as the different sets of residents likely have different values, different experiences with deer, and different attitudes toward deer and their conservation. If anything, the reference to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park survey reflects the lack of site-specific survey data for residents of Fire Island communities. Without any evidence to substantiate this claim, the NPS should not include it in its analysis.

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Correspondence:	Seventh block of text of comments on the Fire Island National Seashore deer management plan and environmental impact statement				

Impacts on public health and safety:

A. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative A, the NPS claims that:

a. Deer would continue to feed from unsecured garbage containers which could cause the containers to spill thereby spreading refuse and indirectly leading to public health hazards. Fire Island DEIS at 190.

The NPS must elaborate on this claim as it does not appear to represent a credible concern. At a minimum, the NPS must disclose the frequency of deer spilling garbage and explain what public health hazards can occur as a result of such incidents. Even if this is a legitimate concern, I note that use of garbage receptacles that can't be opened by

deer and/or the proper securing of existing garbage receptacles would eliminate this alleged problem and concern.

b. A larger deer population could diminish the health and appearance of the herd which could translate into "a perceived risk to public health and safety if the population appears to be in poor health."

The NPS must elaborate on this claim as it, frankly, is so far-fetched as to border on ridiculous. I am unaware of any evidence that correlates the appearance of a deer herd to a perceived public health and safety risk. While certain individuals may not enjoy observing deer in poor health it is unclear why they would consider that a threat to their own public health or safety. The NPS offers no evidence or study to substantiate this claim which should be provided or the claim should be removed from the Fire Island DEIS.

B. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative B, the NPS claims that:

a. Deer-human conflict incidents would likely decrease, thereby improving public health and safety and a smaller deer population "would lead to fewer hosts for ticks, and the risk of tick-borne diseases could decrease." Fire Island DEIS at 191.

I agree that this alternative would result in a decline in the deer population which, at least theoretically, could cause a reduction in deer-human conflicts. Claims that this, in turn, could reduce the risk of tick-borne diseases are less certain given the increasing scientific evidence delinking deer density from the risk of tick-borne diseases. The NPS briefly mentions but does not adequately evaluate or discuss the increasing scientific evidence that reveals that other species, particularly small rodents, are more significant in transmitting tick-borne diseases to human. Yet, it clearly is aware of this information as it largely avoids directly linking deer density to tick-borne disease transmission risk. The NPS should reconsider this claim and revise it consistent with the scientific evidence to indicate that, even if the deer population is reduced in size, there would still be a risk of tick-borne disease and that visitors and residents would still be well advised to take common sense precautions to avoid exposure to ticks.

b. Use of a fertility control agent has the potential to alter deer behavior which could result in impact to public safety among people who notice the changes in deer behavior. Fire Island DEIS at 192.

The NPS needs to elaborate on this claim as it is difficult to understand how any change in deer behavior that may be caused by the use of a fertility control agent could impact public safety. How could such behavioral changes impact public safety, what would be the likelihood of such impacts, and what would be the potential severity of such impacts? If the NPS has any proof of such impacts, it must be disclosed or, if not, this claim should be removed from the Fire Island DEIS.

Impacts on seashore operations:

A. The NPS reports that the estimated cost of each alternative are based on assumptions documented in Chapter 2 of the Fire Island DEIS and that the analysis assumes that adequate funding would be received before implementation of the plan. Fire Island DEIS at 196.

The NPS failed to provide cost estimates for each alternative in the Fire Island DEIS. Unlike similar documents prepared for other parks where the NPS has included an estimate of the itemized cost of all alternatives considered, that data simply was not included in the Fire Island DEIS.

This is a fatal flaw in the analysis since NEPA requires the disclosure of such information given that economics are part and parcel of the "human environment" particularly where, as is the case for FINS, the implementation of the proposed action is dependent on sufficient funding which the NPS clearly states will have to be received before action can be taken. Furthermore, considering that such funds, if available, are public tax-dollars, the public has an absolute right to know how much each alternative is estimated to cost and the estimated cost of each component of each alternative so that the public can consider those costs in relationship to the environmental impacts of each alternative. This flaw in the analysis can't be resolved in a Final EIS. Rather, the NPS must either publish a supplement to the Draft EIS or revise and republish the current draft to include this missing economic information.

B. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative B, the NPS claims that:

a. FINS would compile and circulate a list of native deer-resistant or less desirable plant species to reduce deer

presence within the communities. Fire Island DEIS at 198.

I strongly support this proposal but questions why the NPS has not already developed and distributed such a list as part of its past and present public education efforts. Considering the draconian strategies that the NPS is now proposing to reduce the FINS deer population, the NPS should have developed such a list decades ago and should have been continuously updating and distributing the list in order to educate residents on landscaping options that would reduce the attractiveness of their yards to deer while also not exacerbating impacts from invasive/exotic species.

b. A new staff position could be required if FINS obtains jurisdiction to manage human-deer interactions in the Fire Island communities to enforce deer-related restrictions, such as ticketing residents for feeding deer, providing shelter for deer, or improperly storing garbage bins. Fire Island DEIS at 198.

While it is unclear how FINS would obtain the jurisdiction to manage human-deer interactions, if that authority is acquired I strongly support the issuance of tickets and other tools that include financial penalties to resident that feed deer or improperly secure garbage bins. Considering that deer shelters include woodlots, orchards, and nurseries, ticketing people for providing shelter to deer would appear to be rather draconian though, if the NPS elects to help those landowners fence their properties to eliminate deer access, that would be commendable. While I sympathize with those residents to believe that feeding deer is appropriate, ultimately many of the alleged adverse deer impacts within Fire Island communities are a product of human behaviors and ignorance. Altering those behaviors, through education and/or penalties, may be sufficient to remedy such impacts and, subsequently, preventing the unnecessary slaughter of FINS deer.

c. Capture and euthanasia of deer would be considered for those animals that continue to return to Fire Island communities and/or continue to approach humans. Fire Island DEIS at 199.

This option - to capture and euthanize translocated deer that continue to return to Fire Island communities and/or continue to approach humans - was not included in the description of this Alternative in Chapter 2 of the Fire Island DEIS. Indeed, the only time this option is mentioned is here and, consequently, it is not clear if it is intended to be an element of Alternative B. Furthermore, considering that Alternative B is the non-lethal alternative, I strongly oppose the incorporation of this option into Alternative B.

C. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative C, the NPS claims that:

a. The capture and euthanasia of deer that approach humans in Fire Island communities would be more cost-effective than the translocation and follow-up monitoring required under Alternative B.

The NPS has provided no estimates of the costs of any of the alternatives and/or estimates of the costs of specific components contained in the individual alternatives including estimates for the cost of capture and euthanasia versus capture, translocation, and monitoring. Without such data, it is impossible to verify the accuracy of this claim and, therefore, it should be removed from the analysis.

The foregoing analysis of many of the claims or assertions contained in the Fire Island DEIS raises a number of questions and concerns regarding the legitimacy of the NPS arguments and identifies a number of instances where the NPS has simply failed to disclose all relevant information necessary to enable the public to either verify the accuracy of the NPS claim or to properly evaluate the environmental consequences of the alternative being evaluated. The NPS must remedy these deficiencies either in an entirely new DEIS or in a supplement to the present DEIS should it desire to continue to pursue the development of a deer management plan.

E. The NPS has failed to consider a litany of other factors, independent of deer, which may impact forest regeneration and vegetation diversity and productivity on FINS.

If the NPS were to be believed then, based on the content of the Fire Island DEIS, it would appear that deer are solely responsible for a smorgasbord of impacts to natural and cultural resources on FINS. Such impacts attributable to deer browsing or alleged overbrowsing include preventing forest regeneration, devastating forest structure, reducing diversity of vegetation, destroying forest understory, reducing vegetation productivity, and reducing shrub and herbaceous species. These impacts, in turn, have reportedly reduced species (plant and animal) diversity by reducing or eliminating habitat particularly for ground-nesting birds, for reptiles, and for other species. Deer are also alleged to represent a threat to public safety and health including by accessing and spilling garbage in adjacent Fire Island

communities, approaching humans in FINS and in adjacent communities seeking food handouts, and because they may harbor ticks that carry various tick-borne disease.

What the NPS fails to do is to consider other factors that may be causing or contributing to these very impacts that the NPS attribute to deer. I am not suggesting that deer do not or cannot cause such impacts, I am merely recognizing that the NPS has failed to disclose, analyze, consider, or discuss other factors that may be related to such impacts. The failure to provide such an analysis is not just a violation of NEPA (which requires full disclosure of all environmental information relevant to the decision to be made) but it reflects a bias by NPS which is using the Fire Island DEIS to paint the worst possible picture of deer to generate increased support for its preferred management alternative. Indeed, with the exception of indicating that some visitors to FINS enjoy seeing deer and that deer improve their experience, there is virtually no other statement in the Fire Island DEIS that could be considered complimentary to deer or that recognizes their important role in the ecosystem.

Had the NPS disclosed and provided a more comprehensive analysis of all the factors that may be contributing to the impacts that it attributes solely to deer, the analysis would have been more complete (as required by NEPA) and more meaningful. The following discussion elaborates on such factors though it is not intended to be a comprehensive analysis of all such factors that may be affecting vegetation production, diversity, forest structure and regeneration, other wildlife, and/or public safety and health on FINS and in adjacent communities. The NPS is legally responsible for providing a comprehensive analysis of such factors, not me.

Vegetation:

FINS is a barrier island. Hence, its vegetation characteristics, diversity, structure, production, and ecology is comparable to other barrier islands and coastal ecosystems but it cannot be compared to non-coastal ecosystems or inland forests. The NPS includes some references to the unique ecological circumstances relevant to a barrier island, though it fails to properly and comprehensively elaborate on these unique ecological conditions found on barrier islands. Moreover, the NPS does not provide, though it should, a separate description of the ecology of barrier islands or of the unique natural factors that influence the ecology of such islands and/or are relevant to vegetation production, diversity, and forest regeneration.

Such factors include: a) soil characteristics including soil type, salinity, and composition; b) impact of storm surge on vegetative health; c) soil disease; d) precipitation amounts and patterns; e) ambient temperature; f) plant/tree disease; g) competition with exotic/invasive species; h) insects composition and ecology particular for insects known to kill harm plants/trees; i) air quality/pollution; j) water quality; k) canopy cover and its impact on primary production; l) plant/tree health and vigor; m) herbivore (not deer) impact on plant (woody, herbaceous and other) production, diversity, and health; n) soil erosion and erosive potential (wind and/or water) of soil types; and, o) impact of sea level rise on vegetation and soil ecology and health.

The NPS is not only required to disclose and discuss these issues but it also must provide trend data (i.e., how these factors have changed over time either to the benefit or detriment of vegetation) and must comprehensively evaluate the implications of current and future changes to environmental conditions (including, but not limited to, those attributable to climate change) that may impact vegetation health, ecology and productivity. The Fire Island DEIS contains virtually no information regarding these factors despite their obvious relevance to vegetation ecology on FINS. For example, there's no discussion of soil health or ecology on FINS, of plant disease, insects that may harm/kill vegetation, of climatic/weather characteristics of the region, or any data on canopy coverage on any of the forests, including the Sunken Forest, on FINS. Based on an analysis of a Google Earth screen shot of the Sunken Forest apparently taken in June 2013, there appears to be considerable canopy cover in this area which has likely reduced forest regeneration potential regardless of the presence of deer.

Furthermore, in addition to such factors that are closely linked to the "natural" ecology of barrier islands in a time of climate change, the NPS must also evaluate any anthropogenic factors that may be impacting, adversely or beneficially, vegetation health, ecology, and productivity. FINS is visited by approximately 810,000 people each year. Those visitors must have an impact on FINS including on its vegetative conditions. Indeed, in its 2007-2011 SP, FINS indicates that "the biggest manageable threats to wilderness character at FINS are encroachment of exotic/invasive species and overuse of the wilderness by backcountry campers and day use from beach users;" information that is not disclosed in the Fire Island DEIS. In addition, the FINS superintendent's compendium permits the public to collect a number of floral species on FINS (Superintendent's Compendium at 36 CFR 2.1-1) yet this as well is not disclosed in the Fire Island DEIS. Allowing the collection of such species when the NPS is apparently so concerned about deer impacts to vegetation, including some of the same species that it allows the public to collect, is nonsensical. Any other anthropogenic impacts such as any garbage dumping, illegal trail creation, illegal cutting or collection of vegetation should also be disclosed and evaluated as a threat to vegetation diversity, productivity, and health.

It is unclear if the ecology of the lands within the William Floyd Estate is more similar to barrier islands or inland

forests. Considering that the William Floyd Estate is located on Long Island, it likely has some ecological characteristics that are different than that found on FINS but, nevertheless, all of the factors referred to above would also apply to the William Floyd Estate and should have been disclosed in the Fire Island DEIS. Of course, the William Floyd Estate is a highly manipulated environment which includes, according to information and pictures contained in the Fire Island DEIS, gardens, ornamental plants, and large turf areas along with forested habitat. In other words, the William Floyd Estate provides ideal habitat for deer which includes both abundant sources of food (including artificial foods) alongside of forests which provide deer with needed shelter. Yet, the NPS neither admits to this in the Fire Island DEIS nor to it recognize the absurdity and obscenity of proposing to kill deer on the William Floyd Estate merely for taking advantage of the ideal, manipulated landscape provided to them by humans. Of course, if the NPS were to select Alternative B as its proposed action, the deer would be spared while fencing would allow the NPS to achieve its objectives for the William Floyd Estate to improve its value as a cultural landscape.

In regard to the issue of invasive species, this is a critically important issue that is not provided sufficient attention or analysis in the Fire Island DEIS. In the DEIS, in addition to identifying some of the invasive plant species found on FINS, the majority of other references pertain to deer and how deer help spread invasive species by, primarily, overbrowsing and area providing an opportunity for invasive species to proliferate and spread. The NPS provides no information about the severity of the invasive/exotic species infestation on FINS, where the invasive species "hotspots" are located, what efforts and methods (i.e., hand removal, machine removal, herbicide use, etc...) are being used to combat these infestation, the success of such methods, and/or how the invasive species may be affecting, beneficially or adversely, native species (plant and animal) on FINS. Nor does it evaluate what role, if any, deer play in controlling any of the invasive species through consumption of their leaves, stems, or flowers. Furthermore, though the NPS repeatedly claims that deer contribute to the spread of invasive species, there's no analysis of the role of humans in invasive/exotic species infestations. The reality is that humans, including those who reside in the Fire Island communities and elsewhere on Long Island, are the ultimate source of invasive species on FINS. While some invasive species in the area have likely been present for decades, they all have a human origin. Humans purchase invasive species or their seeds and plant them perhaps for their aesthetic beauty without understanding that they are invasive/exotic or without attempting to control their spread. While deer may deposit seeds of invasive species in the feces or carry such seeds in their hair, the seeds of some species may have been introduced to FINS by birds, or they were transported to the island by wind or water. The NPS has not conceded this fact nor does it provide any information about the existence of exotic/invasive species in Fire Island communities, efforts its making to convince landowners to replace invasive species with naturally occurring species, or any outreach it does to local nurseries or horticulturalists to seek their assistance in preventing the distribution of those invasive/exotic species that are particularly troublesome.

Other wildlife including birds:

As with vegetation on FINS, there are a number of non-deer factors that can affect other wildlife on FINS none of which were disclosed, analyzed, or discussed in the Fire Island DEIS. Regardless of the species, these include: a) wildlife disease; b) direct or indirect impacts of exotic/invasive species (plant or animal) on FINS wildlife and their habitat; c) predator/prey dynamics; d) existence of feral animals (e.g., dogs and/or cats) on FINS; e) habitat fragmentation; f) habitat quality changes (unrelated to alleged deer impacts); g) intra and inter-specific competition; h) impacts inherent to human-use of FINS; i) stochastic events; and , j) climate change and implications of its effects on barrier island ecology. In addition, for birds, particularly migratory birds, adverse impacts of various factors throughout their migratory range could diminish their numbers independent of threat factors that may exist at FINS. A comprehensive and legally appropriate analysis of deer management on FINS would have - and should have - evaluated these and other related factors as to their impact on FINS wildlife species and wildlife habitat instead of suggesting that such impacts are solely a consequence of deer and their alleged impacts on FINS.

Public health and safety:

Public health and safety concerns identified in the Fire Island DEIS are limited to deer approaching humans in FINS and within adjacent Fire Island communities, deer accessing and potentially spilling unsecured garbage, and concerns about tick-borne disease. The first two issues are largely a human problem, not a deer problem. These can and should be addressed primarily via human behavioral modification through public education and enforcement of existing municipal, town, or city codes that prohibit feeding or sheltering deer or which require proper handling of refuse. If such laws don't exist in Fire Island communities and/or if they need to be strengthened, the NPS should work with the relevant municipal or town councils to achieve this outcome.

In regard to tick-borne diseases, while deer are often a host for the adult ticks, there is increasing scientific evidence that there are a host of more important hosts, particularly small mammals. Consequently, though deer are often identified as the sole culprit in causing the spread of tick-borne disease, particularly Lyme disease, to humans, it has

now been well established that even in the absence of deer Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases can still pose a risk to public health as a consequence of other wildlife hosts for the ticks. Again, public education is the primary tool to be used here to explain the ecology of Lyme disease and other tick-borne disease to resident and visitors to Fire Island in order to help them understand that deer are not the "enemy" here and to impress upon them alternative strategies that they can employ to reduce the likelihood of their exposure to Lyme disease or other tick-borne diseases. Indeed, though the NPS rails against deer for their alleged impact on understory vegetation, by removing such vegetation deer may serve to reduce habitat quality for the small rodents, including white-footed mice, that are the primary hosts of ticks and which are the source of Lyme disease. Such impacts may also facilitate the hunting of these rodents by avian and mammalian predators.

F. The NPS has failed to adequately evaluate the cumulative impact of the proposed action and other alternatives evaluated in the Fire Island DEIS.

NEPA implementing regulations define "cumulative impact" as "the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agencies (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions." 40 CFR 1508.7. An "action" includes "new and continuing activities, including projects and programs entirely or partly financed, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by federal agencies; new or revised agency rules, regulations, plans, policies, or procedures; and legislative proposals." Id. at 1508.18.

In the Fire Island DEIS, the NPS evaluation of cumulative impacts is limited to the following actions that the NPS claims are those that are past, present or reasonably foreseeable: tick monitoring, 4 Poster Deer Treatment Devices, waterfowl hunting, deer hunting and deer damage permits, William Floyd Estate cultural landscape report and treatment plan, and enhanced monitoring and management of invasive plant species. This list, however, is incomplete as it doesn't include public use of FINS, Fire Island community development, or climate change.

Public use of FINS is clearly applicable to evaluating the cumulative impacts of each alternative since such use can effect park wildlife, including deer, and vegetation. As previously explained, the NPS has conceded in its 2007 to 2011 SP that public use of FINS has resulted in adverse impacts to vegetation as a result of human day use of beaches and backcountry recreation. Though the NPS included visitor use and experience/recreation as an impact factor in the Fire Island DEIS this examined how each alternative would impact visitor use but not how visitor use impacts deer, other wildlife, and vegetation ecology on FINS.

As the definition of cumulative impact includes action taken by non-Federal agencies and even private persons, development activities within Fire Island communities should have been evaluated as a cumulative impact. It could be that these communities are fully developed and that, consequently, without the ability to expand their footprint there will be no additional significant impact on FINS wildlife, including deer, or wildlife habitat. If this is not the case, then the NPS should have consulted with the Fire Island communities to determine their development plans so that such information could be included in the Fire Island DEIS in order to analyze its impact, when combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, on FINS.

Though climate change does not represent an "action" per se, there is little question that the implications of climate change particularly in regard to a barrier island like FINS will be substantial and will impact potentially all wildlife and vegetation on FINS. The NPS includes some discussion of climate change in the Fire Island DEIS but that is in the context of claiming that the impacts of climate change will be even more severe to vegetation and other wildlife if the deer population on FINS is not reduced. What the NPS fails to provide is a comprehensive of how climate change impacts (e.g., sea level rise, increased storm frequency, increased severity of storms, overwash, saltwater intrusion) will impact deer, other wildlife, vegetation, FINS operation, and visitor use either as a stand-alone impact or cumulatively when combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable impacts. Not only should the NPS have included a comprehensive review of such adverse implications associated with climate change in Chapter XX described the Affected Environment but it should have evaluated such impacts in its cumulative impacts analysis of each alternative.

Conclusion:

The foregoing comprehensive analysis of the Fire Island DEIS identifies a series of deficiencies in the document several of which are fatal flaws that should result in a termination of the current decision-making process. These flaws are not simply deficiencies in the Fire Island DEIS itself but also include significant procedural inadequacies. Such flaws include: a) the lack of an up-to-date GMP; b) illegal segmentation of a broader action that should have resulted in a deer and vegetation management plan into separate planning documents to avoid evaluating the full suite of environmental impacts in a single analysis; c) the NPS failure to engage in an analysis of impairment and/or unacceptable impacts in the Fire Island DEIS as required by its own Policies; d) reliance of fertility control vaccine criteria that are self-serving, intended to achieve a particular outcome, and were not adopted through a transparent process; e) a failure to provide and explain the legal basis for taking action particularly for the proposed use of lethal

strategies against a native ungulate; f) a failure to substantiate the purpose and need for deer management particularly lethal deer management; g) the lack of consideration of a reasonable range of alternatives; h) a failure to include objective, reasonable, and quantifiable metrics to adequately distinguish between the impacts of each alternative and/or to monitor the outcome of the alternative selected; i) ignoring a host of other factors that could impact vegetation, other wildlife, and public health while preferring to attribute such impacts solely on deer; and, j) a failure to fully evaluate the cumulative impacts of each alternative.

Given these deficiencies, the NPS has two choices. It can terminate the current planning process and begin anew with the goal of preparing a far more comprehensive analysis that encompasses deer, vegetation, and other required elements into a single plan or it can suspend the current decision-making process in order to prepare a supplement to the Fire Island DEIS to address these deficiencies. While some of the less significant flaws in the present analysis can be remedied as the current decision-making process continues, the major flaws cannot.

This is not to suggest, however, that certain management measures cannot be instituted immediately to begin to remedy some of the perceived impacts attributable to deer identified by the NPS. This would include a continuation (and expansion) of the NPS public education efforts and utilization of fencing to protect unique and sensitive species. Most importantly, the NPS should immediately reestablish the deer fertility control program that was inexplicably terminated in 2009 as a research program in order to resume the use of immunocontraceptive vaccines to non-lethal control the growth of the FINS deer population.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the Fire Island DEIS.

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Correspondence: As the host of the 4-Poster Deer Tick Management Technology on our property in Fair Harbor, I support the part of FINS Alternate Plan B which requires only NON-Lethal management of the deer herd populations on Fire Island. Since the device I host has successfully reduced tick borne disease incidents in Fair Harbor-Dunewood from many scores to a handful every year, grateful residents have engaged me in literally hundreds of "deer management" discussions in recent years. Also, the most representative organization in our community, the Fair Harbor Community Asso., appointed me to manage and insure continuance of this technology which drastically reduces these tick borne infections - some of which can be lethal within 3 days.

My observation from this perch is that popular sentiment against cullings on our 16 sq. mi., densely populated residential and wildlife island is nearly unanimous. Cullings are regarded as a lazy and inhumane alternative that reflect badly on the perpetrators.

The good news is twofold: (1)that there is virtually no disagreement amongst residents, government agencies and NGOs on the need to cap deer populations. Also,(2) that there is an IMMENSE amount of popular interest, professional knowledge, manpower and NGOs available to help implement immuno-contraception and public education plans - if the Seashore will openly engage, rather than proceed with go-it-alone directives that frustrate the public and force them to other remedies.

Amongst the difficulties I find in every plan including Plan B, is that your "Select Criteria" for implementation insure INACTION in the case of immuno-contraception and EXCESSIVE action in the case of the "Thresholds" your loosely defined "human-deer interactions" mandate.

It's stunning to note that you have the time and manpower to observe and identify deer for the euphemistic "euthanization", while in the public forum in Ocean Beach last August we heard of "insufficient manpower" for the currently available immuno-contraception alternatives. And on that point, it's just not credible that FINS management is ignorant of the facts that (1)immuno-contraception is currently and successfully in use at another National Seashore Park in Maryland, and (2) the NPS has the wherewithal to quickly obtain permits to use immuno-contraceptives from sister agencies. It's only a matter of willingness. (3) And the idea that a government agency will shoot deer from a tiny herd captive on an outer beach, because they are too friendly with people in this densely populated region won't stand the light of day in any public forum (no less You Tubes of FINS "euthanizations") - for the good reason that Fire Island is a unique place where that type of interaction is inevitable.

What's most disturbing to Fire Islanders and the near 1 million Americans who visit every year, is that this is a pattern we see repeatedly from our public servants at FINS. Policies appear to be based on some vision of its administrators that is not spelled out to the public. Dedicated citizens are railroaded or fatigued by the rule-making (and action delaying) powers of the Seashore. Here we have the Seashore creating an expensive "study" replete with false parameters to insure that results are in keeping with their preference for one solution and their antipathy to another which, in the view of most Fire Islanders, is preferable.

I have seen this recently in my attempts to provide the only known preventative to tick-borne diseases currently available. As the CDC said in August 2013, their numbers on the scope of Lyme and other tick borne diseases were off by a factor of 10! They said tick borne diseases are at "epidemic proportions." Tick-borne Ehrlichiosis has evolved to be lethal within 3 days. But the Seashore's response has not evolved. Speaking for the Seashore, Mr. Bilecki recently proclaimed, "We will not allow any new 4-Posters on Fire Island."

No hearing. No explanation. No concern for public health. No science.

This management style does not sit well with Fire Islanders who in fact are people from all over the country. We saw this in the past when through a non-profit funded by local residents, the FI Wildlife Foundation, we brought a joint Cornell-DEC study to Fire Island in order to satisfy their requirements that this 4 poster devise is both effective and environmentally sound. Three years and \$2 million dollars later, we did.

The response of the Seashore was to move the goalposts, delay implementation, and make executive fiat's changing the dates when we may and may not begin and end our seasonal operations. This decreased its effectiveness. What they based their actions on, we can't say because they neither tell us, nor present facts to justify altering the operation.

The result of all this is that Fire Islanders do not trust the management of the Fire Island National Seashore to faithfully execute policy and truthfully represent their expensive "science". In fairness, some of this distrust precedes current management. Part 28 of the enabling legislation that created NPS's presence here (of which I played a small part petitioning as a boy!), states that except under extreme parameters incl. the Superintendent's consent, "no multi-family dwellings shall be allowed in the residential communities." Yet 3 were constructed in the past 20 years in Kismet alone. Fire Islanders know these stories well.

Does the NPS?

Residents are always hopeful that new administrators will bring more open, equitable, and law-abiding administrators. They have learned that management culture at FINS has a great impact on their lives, and they wonder how to insure that a more open and equitable system is not so dependent on a political appointee.

Fire Island National Seashore is just now - one month ago - 50 years old. It came into being when an overbearing New York State bureaucracy headed by Robert Moses, was determined to destroy the way of life and the natural beauty of Fire Island. Fire Islanders rose up and denied him authority here. Recently, when a NYS agency overstepped the law here, I learned that the spirit that gave rise to the Seashore is alive and well in another generation of influential residents. My hope is that this process will prove Fire Islanders right in turning to the NPS for honest management. And I am very optimistic for the bright future of Fire Island, because I know that Fire Islanders will fight to insure it.

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Correspondence: Please accept the following comments on the Fire Island National Seashore Draft Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Please note that this is a revised copy of the comment letter and that this is the version that should be reviewed by the National Park Service.

Because of the length of this comment letter and the limitation of this NPS comment website, I am required to break the comments into several blocks of text in order to submit it in its entirety.

Thank you for considering this information.

October 10, 2014

Fire Island National Seashore
120 Laurel Street
Patchogue
NY 11772-3596

To Whom It May Concern:

I submit the following comments on the Fire Island National Seashore Draft White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (hereafter Fire Island DEIS). I submit these comments on my own behalf and not on behalf of any organization.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed action, which would allow the lethal control of deer on Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) (including the William Floyd Estate and adjacent community properties) via sharpshooting, capture, euthanasia, and public hunting. Lethal control of native deer is entirely unnecessary in this case because it is inconsistent with legal standards governing wildlife management on national parks (and, specifically, on FINS) and there are reasonable and feasible alternatives that will achieve the desired reduction in the deer population without resorting to the use of lethal strategies. Furthermore, as discussed in more detail throughout this comment letter, it appears that the National Park Service (NPS) is using deer as a scapegoat for other management issues that are affecting the integrity of FINS, including the effects of invasive species, climate change (including sea level rise), and inappropriate human behaviors.

This DEIS is the latest in a litany of similar plans that demonstrate how far the NPS has strayed from its original mission, as dictated by the NPS Organic Act (16 USC Â§1 et seq.). Congress did not intend for national parks to be killing fields for native wildlife species, regardless of the alleged justification for such extreme management actions. Conversely, Congress intended for national parks to be distinct from national wildlife refuges, national forests, and other lands under federal ownership; they were, in fact, intended to be de facto sanctuaries, where native wildlife and natural ecosystem processes were to be protected and public use permitted only if it is consistent with conservation objectives.

Here, the NPS has proposed a management plan that is entirely antithetical to the NPS mission because it permits lethal control of a native species in order to address alleged adverse impacts to native plants. According to the NPS, forest regeneration, vegetation diversity, and vegetation productivity are being adversely impacted by deer, resulting in cascading impacts to cultural resources, other wildlife species, and public use and enjoyment of FINS. Despite these allegations, the NPS provides virtually no credible data to support such assertions. With the exception of the Sunken Forest (a unique maritime forest on the FINS), the NPS has only begun to monitor deer impacts to other park forests in the past few years - - hardly sufficient time to fully understand how or if deer are impacting the forest ecosystems and whether such impacts are beyond the bounds of natural variability.

The NPS wrongly relies on forest productivity measures from forests in Pennsylvania as the basis for assessing forest impacts on FINS, despite the substantial environmental differences between woodlands in Pennsylvania and FINS, which is a barrier island. Furthermore, the NPS has failed to provide any direct evidence that any species on FINS has been adversely impacted by deer preferring to rely on mere supposition to make its case. And, finally, far from adversely impacting visitor use and enjoyment of FINS as the NPS claims, its own data indicates that only 2 percent of visitors report concerns about deer, while approximately 50 percent indicate that the deer enhance their visit to FINS.

I do not question whether deer can impact the ecosystems that they inhabit but rather, whether such impacts are unnatural (if indeed the evidence presented by the NPS substantiates the alleged impacts) and, if they are, whether lethal control is an appropriate response. In this particular case, the NPS proposal to allow sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia, and public hunting, is particularly egregious because the NPS previously engaged in a 16-year experimental immunocontraception program for deer on FINS which was demonstrably successful and inexplicably terminated in 2009. In this case, there should be little doubt that Alternative B (which combines fencing and immunocontraception to address alleged deer impacts to FINS) should be selected as the preferred alternative if the NPS believes the deer population on FINS must be reduced.

The selection of Alternative B is the preferred alternative. It is strongly supported by scientific evidence, clearly the most compassionate option, and will achieve the desired reduction in the deer population over time. Admittedly, it won't achieve the desired reduction as quickly as either Alternatives C or D; however, considering that the deer

"overpopulation" has supposedly taken decades to become a "problem," the NPS should not simply seek the quickest way to reduce the population immediately. Indeed, when immunocontraception is combined with the proposed fencing plan, it can facilitate NPS achieving management objectives for both deer and vegetation without the need to kill deer as long as the NPS demonstrates a commitment to make this non-lethal approach work. Moreover, unlike lethal control, which will stimulate a compensatory reproductive response among surviving deer and potentially increased deer immigration (particularly on the William Floyd Estate), the gradual reduction in the deer population using immunocontraception reduces the likelihood of compensatory reproduction in FINS deer. Given the relatively small size of the deer population on FINS and the William Floyd Estate (an estimated 370 deer) at present, the use of bait to attract deer to feeding stations to be captured and vaccinated or directly darted with the vaccine can achieve the desired level of vaccination of female deer to ensure program success. Furthermore, recognizing that deer hunting will continue to occur on state lands adjacent to FINS, an immunocontraception program would also fulfill NPS' objective of collaborating with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in the regional management of deer.

Undoubtedly, the NPS will claim that there is no current immunocontraceptive vaccine that will meet its criteria for an effective vaccine. As discussed in more detail below, those criteria were not developed with any public input (including input from immunocontraception experts) and arguably formulated to be near impossible to meet so that lethal control is the preferred option. I assert that there are vaccines that can and should be used, and have been used on FINS (and other national parks) successfully. These vaccines could be reemployed tomorrow to resume efforts to non-lethally control the FINS deer population.

The tragedy here is that the NPS wrongly terminated the Fire Island deer immunocontraception program in 2009 without sufficient cause, thereby losing five years of potential non-lethal deer control. The NPS should not allow its desire to use the "perfect" vaccine to prevent its use of a "good" vaccine to start achieving its deer management objectives. Indeed, while FINS has already played a significant role in advancing the science of immunocontraception by allowing the vaccine to be used on deer from 1993 to 2009, it now has an opportunity to further advance the technology and help create that "perfect" vaccine that it desires to use in other parks that currently resort to lethal control. The NPS should aspire to become part of the development of humane technologies instead of favoring the "quick fix" of lethal control.

The NPS has not sufficiently explored the potential for the use of non-lethal strategies in the Fire Island DEIS. It failed to provide any explanation as to why it terminated the deer immunocontraception program in 2009 and elected to dismiss from serious consideration the potential use of surgical sterilizations of deer as a non-lethal management tool and supplement to immunocontraceptive vaccines. This decision was entirely without justification. Permanent sterilization of female deer should be included by the NPS in the toolbox of non-lethal strategies to address the alleged deer overpopulation on FINS.

The NPS has also failed to disclose all relevant information to the public and to subject that information to the level of scientific analysis that is legally required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Despite the girth of the DEIS, it is woefully inadequate in many respects.

Fundamentally, despite being originally described as a deer and vegetation management plan, the current plan is solely a deer management plan where the actions taken to manage deer are directly tied to concerns over vegetation diversity, production and forest regeneration on FINS. If the intent was, in fact, to create a deer and vegetation management plan, the NPS has failed to include any "plan" that would qualify as a vegetation management plan. Yet, considering the primary justification for the proposal to kill deer - which is to address deer impacts to vegetation - the NPS is legally obligated to provide a combined deer and vegetation management plan. Similarly, given the alleged impacts of deer on the cultural resources of the William Floyd Estate and the role of invasive species within FINS, legally the NPS should have produced a management plan that encompassed all of these elements in a single document. Separating these issues into individual management plans, when the issues are inextricably intertwined, is not legal under NEPA.

In addition, the NPS is proceeding with the development of a deer management plan without first updating its General Management Plan (GMP). NPS policies create a mandatory hierarchy of planning which has been violated in this instance. This planning hierarchy demands that the agency start with a Foundation Statement and follow it with a GMP. The GMP then provides for Implementation Plans that include plans for deer, vegetation, cultural resources, and invasive species management.

Here, NPS apparently intends to incorporate the deer management plan into the GMP for FINS, however, NPS policies do not permit the use of such a backwards planning process. .

The Fire Island DEIS is also inadequate in that it fails to:

- A) Substantiate the purpose and need for the proposed action;
- B) Include a full range of reasonable and feasible alternatives;

- C) Include measurable and objective criteria in regard to the alternatives included in the analysis;
- D) Disclose relevant information related to, and provides a biased and inaccurate analysis of, the environmental consequences of the proposed action and other alternatives;
- E) Provide any evidence to substantiate many of its alleged impacts of deer;
- F) Consider other factors, beyond deer, that may be affecting vegetation diversity, productivity, and forest regeneration on FINS, and;
- G) Engage in an analysis of cumulative impacts that is wholly inadequate.

In regard to the NPS failure to disclose all information relevant to the analysis in the Fire Island DEIS, I note that in July 2011 scoping comments to the NPS by the Animal Welfare Institute, it suggested that the NPS establish a website where it could provide the public with access to all relevant documents, data, and records used by the NPS in preparing the Fire Island DEIS. The NPS failed to do so and, consequently, its failure to disclose information to substantiate its allegations or claims made in the Fire Island DEIS violates NEPA and may violate other federal laws.

Finally, I note that the NPS has failed to include any analysis of whether the actions identified in the Fire Island DEIS will result in impairments or unacceptable impacts to natural resources or other natural attributes on FINS. The 2006 NPS Management Policies make clear that this analysis is required and, in similar management plans and environmental impact statements prepared for other parks, the NPS incorporated such an analysis. This deficiency cannot be remedied in a Final EIS unless the NPS explicitly solicits public comment on the FEIS before completing the decision-making process.

Instead, the NPS, at a minimum, should prepare a supplemental DEIS to correct this and other deficiencies in its analysis and make the supplemental document available for a separate round of public comments. In this supplemental DEIS, the NPS should also include its Minimum Requirements Analysis (MRA) to permit actions in the Congressionally designated wilderness area on FINS and a more detailed vegetation monitoring plan as identified in Appendix B of the Fire Island DEIS, both of which were not incorporated into the present DEIS but should be subject to public review and comment.

The remainder of this comment letter will provide evidence to substantiate the assertions contained above.

1. The NPS cannot proceed with the DEIS absent an updated FINS GMP:

The 2006 NPS Management Policies (hereafter Policies) provide detailed information regarding NPS planning processes. It identifies several types of "planning elements (that) are part of an interrelated framework that will inform NPS decision-making." Policies at 2.2. These elements include, in order, a Foundation Statement, GMP, Program Management Plans, Strategic Plans, Implementation Plans, Annual Performance Plans, and Annual Performance Reports. *Id.*

A Foundation Statement (FS) is based on the individual park's "enabling legislation or presidential proclamation and ... documents the park purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, and primary interpretive themes." *Id.* The FS is generally developed in concert with the GMP since the GMP process provides an opportunity for the public to participate in the development of the FS. I am unaware of whether FINS has developed an FS.

A GMP is intended to be a "broad umbrella document that sets the long-term goals for the park based on the foundation statement." *Id.* A GMP defines "the desired natural and cultural resource conditions to be achieved and maintained over time ... the necessary conditions for visitors to understand, enjoy, and appreciate the park's significant resources" the kinds and levels of management activities, visitor use and development that are appropriate for maintaining the desired conditions and identified indicators and standards for maintaining the desired conditions." *Id.* Throughout the NPS planning process, there are typically two opportunities for public participation. The first is at the GMP stage whereby the draft GMP is subject to NEPA analysis and then it and the relevant NEPA document are available for public review. Policies at 2.3 and 2.3.1.5. A GMP for FINS was published in 1977. That document provides broad direction for the management of FINS and includes management objectives, including for vegetation and wildlife, for the park. It contains no reference to deer, any problems with deer, and provides no management direction specific to deer or for any particular floral or faunal species.

Program Management Plans (PMPs) "follow the general management plan and provide program-specific information on strategies to achieve and maintain the desired resource conditions and visitor experience, including identification of appropriate visitor use where applicable." Policies at 2.2. PMPs are intended to provide "a bridge between the broad direction provided in the general management plan and specific actions taken to achieve goals." *Id.* at 2.3.2. Examples of PMPs identified in the Policies include a resource stewardship strategy, comprehensive interpretation plans, land protection plans, visitor use plan, fire management plan, asset management plan, or a management stewardship plan. *Id.* at 2.2 and 2.3.2. I am unaware as to whether FINS has any existing PMPs.

Strategic Plans (SPs) provide "1 to 5-year direction and objective, measurable, long-term goals" for the park. The long-term goals "define the resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved in the near future." *Id.* The

superintendent of each park is accountable to implement these plans and to reach these long-term goals. The goals themselves are "based on the park's foundation statement; an assessment of the park's natural and cultural resources, park visitors' experiences and the park's performance capability given available personnel, funding, and external factors." Id. FINS has prepared SPs for 2004-2006 and 2007-2011. I am unaware of a more recent strategic plan has been prepared by FINS. The former plan contains no reference to deer, deer management, and does not include any specific goals related to deer. The latter plan, references deer management in the context of the immunocontraceptive research program that was in place on FINS between 1993 and 2009. None of the information included in that section of that strategic plan referenced any particular or acute concerns or problems with the deer population; it only references the immunocontraceptive program. Interestingly, according to the description in that strategic plan, the deer management program included efforts to reduce deer feeding opportunities in Fire Island communities which the NPS did not reference in the Fire Island DEIS nor did it report on the results of that portion of the deer management program in the DEIS.

Implementation Plans (IPs) "provide project-specific details needed to implement an action in an area of a park and explain how the action(s) helps achieved long-term goals." Policies at 2.2. More specifically, IPs "will focus on how to implement activities and projects needed to achieve the desired conditions identified in the general management plan, strategic plan, and program management planning documents (id. at 2.3.3.1); hence such plans logically must follow the development of a GMP, PMPs, and SPs. The current draft deer management plan represents an IP. IPs provide the second opportunity during the overall park planning process when the public have an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.

Annual Performance Plans (APPs) and Annual Performance Reports (APRs) are the final elements of the NPS planning process. APPs identify the annual goals and set forth an annual work plan to guide park efforts for a fiscal year. Id. While APRs provide an accounting of the annual results achieved by the park in relation to annual goals. Id.

As indicated in the Fire Island DEIS, FINS does not have an up-to-date GMP. The revised GMP is apparently in preparation. According to information obtained from the FINS website, the GMP planning process began in 2006 but the last GMP newsletter update was published in September 2012. According to that newsletter, the NPS has already solicited and received public comment on preliminary management alternatives for both the FINS proper and for the William Floyd Estate. None of this information, including any summary of the preliminary GMP alternatives, was disclosed in the Fire Island DEIS.

In addition, in that September 2012 GMP newsletter, the NPS references the "deer and vegetation management plan" and claims that that planning process can go forward independent of completion of the revised GMP because it is being subject to analysis in an environmental impact statement.

This claim is entirely erroneous considering, as the Policies make clear, that an IP (like the deer management plan) is intended to implement activities and projects to achieve the desired conditions identified in the GMP, PMPs, and SPs. Completing this decision-making process on deer management and then preparing a draft GMP and associated NEPA document and subjecting those documents to public review is entirely antithetical to the NPS planning process as detailed in the Policies. The Policies set forth a step-wise and hierarchical planning process in order to achieve the overall objective of park service decision-making which is to:

"use planning to bring logic, analysis, public involvement, and accountability into the decision-making process. Park planning and decision-making will be conducted as a continuous, dynamic cycle, from broad visions shared with the public to individual, annual work assignments and evaluations. Each park will be able to demonstrate to decision-makers, staff, and the public how decisions related to one another in terms of comprehensive, logical, and trackable rationale.

NEPA prohibits an agency from taking any major federal actions that are covered by a separate programmatic environmental impact statement and may significantly affect the quality of the human environment unless the action is "justified independently of the (programmatic EIS)," "is itself accompanied by an adequate environmental impact statement," and "will not prejudice the ultimate decision on the program." 40 CFR 1506.1(c)(1)(2) and (3).

However, none of those criteria are applicable in this case. In particular, the NEPA analysis to be prepared on the GMPs not a programmatic document and, even if it were, given NPS Policies, the deer management plan is not justified independently of the GMP but, rather, must logically follow the GMP as part of the NPS planning process. Furthermore, as articulated in this letter, the present EIS is not adequate and, as the NPS concedes in the Fire Island DEIS, the decision to be made on deer management will prejudice the decision to be made on the GMP.

The NPS cannot remedy this deficiency in its Final EIS. Instead, the NPS must shelve the current document pending completion of the GMP process and then revisit the Fire Island DEIS to ensure it is consistent with the updated GMP. At that time, the Fire Island DEIS should be subject to a second round of public comment so that the public can also assess the content of the DEIS in comparison to the updated GMP and then, and only then, can the NPS

render a final decision on the Fire Island DEIS. Please note that I do not raise this concern in order to delay the implementation of deer management actions and, indeed, I strongly support the NPS resuming the deer immunocontraception program and continuing with current deer/vegetation management efforts (education/fencing of sensitive species) on FINS immediately, pending completion of these other planning processes.

2. The NPS has failed to articulate the legal basis for its proposed action or to provide any detailed analysis of the legal basis for its proposal to use lethal measures to control deer on FINS.

The NPS indicates in the Fire Island DEIS that the its legal authority to kill deer on FINS either comes from 16 USC 1 or 16 USC 3 which are both provisions within the NPS Organic Act. Instead of clearly identifying the specific legal authority that it believes to justify the use of sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia, or public hunting to remove deer from the FINS ecosystem, the NPS simply cites to these two statutes without any explanation. The reality is that 16 USC 1 cannot be used to legally justify the lethal control of native wildlife on national parks for engaging in entirely natural behaviors (i.e., eating). The second provision, 16 USC 3, does provide the NPS with limited authority to remove native wildlife but only if it is determined that the wildlife is "detrimental to use of the park." That standard has not been met in this case.

The NPS cites to 16 USC 1 as one of the laws that it claims may authorize the lethal control of deer within FINS. Specifically, the language relied on by the NPS provides the fundamental purpose of the NPS which is that the agency:

"shall promote and regulate the use of Federal areas known as national parks by such means and measures as conform with the fundamental purpose of the parks to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The NPS has consistently relied on this language and, specifically, the so-called impairment standard, to justify the slaughter of elk and deer in other national parks. I, on behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute, have consistently argued, and will do so again in this case, that the impairment standard cannot be used to justify the lethal control of deer or any other native species in a national park. An analysis of the quoted statutory language (as well as historical records, and NPS Policies) makes it crystal clear that the impairment standard only applies to activities or uses permitted or authorized in the parks, including public and NPS activities and uses, and was never intended and cannot be used to justify the massive slaughter of hundreds of native deer because they are eating park vegetation. The Organic Act makes clear that the fundamental purpose of the NPS is to conserve park scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life. A secondary purpose is to permit the enjoyment of the national parks by the public. Such enjoyment is not open-ended or without limitations. Indeed, the Organic Act makes clear that such enjoyment is only permitted when it can be done in "such a manner and by such means as will leave (the parks) unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." The "such a manner and by such means" language is applicable to the enjoyment of the parks, not to the conservation of park scenery or wildlife. The "and" between "therein" and "to provide" sets apart the final clause of the statutory language that deals with park enjoyment from the conservation mandate. Had Congress intended for the impairment standard to apply to the conservation mandate, it would have structured the statutory language as follows:

"shall promote and regulate the use of Federal areas known as national parks by such means and measures as conform with the fundamental purpose of the parks to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same while ensuring that the parks remain unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Though many have claimed that the NPS has dual mandates that are conflicting (conservation versus promoting public use), such interpretations are in direct conflict with the plain language of the statute. Moreover, as exhaustively research by Winks (1997) , the legislative and historical records demonstrate that not only does the Organic Act not represent a conflicting mandate to the NPS but that the impairment standard was applicable only to the enjoyment of the parks and not to other issues.

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The plain and indisputable meaning or applicability of the impairment standard as reflected in the Organic Act was

not altered by the General Authorities Act of 1979 or by the 1978 amendment to that Act (the "Redwood amendment"). Indeed, if anything that Act, as amended, further affirms that the impairment standard is applicable to activities conducted in the parks and not to the impacts of native species on park vegetation or other resources. The relevant language of the General Authorities Act, as amended, is:

"Congress further reaffirms, declares, and directs that the promotion and regulation of the various areas of the National Park System ... shall be consistent with and founded in the purposes established by section 1 of this title, to the common benefit of all the people of the United States. The authorization of activities shall be construed and the protection, management, and administration of these areas shall be conducted in light of the high public value and integrity of the National Park System and shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established, except as may have been or shall be directly and specifically provided by Congress" (emphasis added).

The NPS attempts to substantiate the use of the impairment standard to justify its lethal deer control plan by citing to *New Mexico State Game Commission v. Udall* (410 F.2d 1197, 1201 (10th Cir. 1969)) and to *United States v. Moore* (640 F. Supp. 164, 166 (S.D. W.VA. 1986)). A review of both cited cases demonstrates that neither provide the support that the NPS alleges for its use of the impairment standard to justify the wide-scale slaughter of deer.

In *New Mexico State Game Commission* the NPS was sued for its failure to obtain permits from the state to remove up to 50 deer as part of a scientific research project. As an initial matter, there is a significant and substantive difference between lethally removing a limited number of park wildlife as part of a research project and the proposed action which, if implemented, will remove hundreds of deer from FINS. Moreover, the *New Mexico State Game Commission* case is 40 years old and, since then, the NPS has promulgated several versions of its management policies that provide additional guidance for wildlife management in national parks. Thus, while the NPS may continue to permit the lethal removal of wildlife for the purpose of research conducted in the parks, the intent of its current policies are to dissuade the use of lethal strategies to study park wildlife.

Independent of the plain differences between the scenario in *New Mexico State Game Commission* and the present proposal for FINS, the critical finding in the case was as follows:

Clearly the Secretary has broad statutory authority to promote and regulate the national parks to conserve the scenery and wildlife therein 'in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.' 16 U.S.C. Â§ 1. Anything detrimental to this purpose is detrimental to the park. In addition to this broad authority, the Secretary is specifically authorized 'in his discretion' to destroy such animals 'as may be detrimental' to the use of any park. 16 U.S.C. Â§ 3. The obvious purpose of this language is to require the Secretary to determine when it is necessary to destroy animals which, for any reason, may be detrimental to the use of the park. He need not wait until the damage through overbrowsing has taken its toll on the park plant life and deer herd before taking preventive action no less than he would be required to delay the destruction of a vicious animal until after an attack upon a person. In the management of the deer population within a national park the Secretary can make reasonable investigations and studies to ascertain the number which the area will support without detriment to the general use of the park. He may use reasonable methods to obtain the desired information to the end that damage to the park lands and the wildlife thereon may be averted.

This language supports the interpretation of the Organic Act language that links the impairment standard to the "enjoyment" of the parks. Activities that are detrimental to such "enjoyment" are detrimental to the parks and are impermissible. Moreover, the court identified an entirely different legal standard, 16 USC 3, when determining the authority for the NPS to remove wildlife from the parks when it can be demonstrated that wildlife use is "detrimental to the use of the park." In this context, "use" clearly refers to public use of the park. The applicability of this provision to lethal deer control in FINS is addressed below but, suffice it to say, the NPS has failed to provide any credible evidence that deer are detrimental to the public use of FINS.

Moore involves the spraying of a pesticide in the New River Gorge National River. The Governor of West Virginia and the state's Director of its Department of Natural Resources desired to spray a pesticide in the national park to "reduce and remove the gnat or black fly from the southern counties of West Virginia." The NPS refused to permit such spraying arguing that black flies, no matter how pesky or annoying, are "wildlife" and are therefore protected by NPS statutes and regulations and that, even if such spraying were allowed, the state would be required to obtain a permit before applying the pesticide. In *Moore*, the court cites to NPS regulations that prohibit the "possessing, destroying, injuring, defacing, removing, digging, or disturbing from its natural state living or dead wildlife" 36 CFR 2.1(a). In addition, the court cites to *New Mexico State Game Commission* and the authority of 16 USC 3 to demonstrate that the NPS has the authority to publish rules and regulations for the proper use and management of the parks and to permit the "destruction of such animals and of such plant life as may be detrimental to the use of any of said parks" Thus, again, *Moore* provides no legal support for the NPS use of the impairment standard to justify its wide-scale slaughter of deer.

If any additional proof is necessary that the impairment standard is applicable only to the enjoyment and uses of the parks, the NPS Management Policies provide even more evidence supporting this indisputable intent. The most recent iteration of the NPS Management Policies (hereafter Policies) was published in 2006. In regard to the issue and applicability of the impairment standard, the Policies make clear that said standards are directly tied to activities or uses authorized by the NPS. The foraging behavior of deer cannot possibly be considered an action or activity within a park. Actions or activities are clearly intended to apply primarily to public uses of the parks such as hiking, bicycling, snowmobiling, and rock climbing. They also encompass actions or activities undertaken by the NPS such as facility development, scientific research, and wildlife management practices including the lethal control of wildlife. The distinction here is that the role of deer in a park, whether beneficial or adverse to a park, is not an action or activity subject to the impairment standard but any decision by the NPS to manage those deer, through lethal or non-lethal means, would trigger the impairment standard. To suggest that deer consuming plants qualifies as an impairment would mean that, despite the absurdity, a mountain lion killing an elk would also qualify as an impairment.

As an underlying matter, the Policies specify that a mandate to conserve park resources and values is the fundamental purpose of the national park system, Policies at 1.4.3, and that when there is a "conflict between conserving resources and values and providing for the enjoyment of them, conservation is to be predominant." *Id.* Since the fundamental mission of the NPS is conservation, it is entirely logical and sensible that the impairment standard would apply to those uses and activities authorized by the NPS to facilitate and promote public enjoyment of the parks. Not only is this interpretation consistent with the Organic Act but it is referenced throughout the Policies. For example:

"In the administration of mandated uses, park managers must allow the use; however, they do have the authority to and must manage and regulated the use to ensure, to the extent possible, that impacts on park resources from that use are acceptable. In the administration of authorized uses, park managers have the discretionary authority to allow and manage the use, provided that the use will not cause impairment or unacceptable impacts." Policies at 1.4.3.1.

"The impairment of park resources and values may not be allowed by the Service unless directly and specifically provided for by legislation or by the proclamation establishing the park. The relevant legislation or proclamation must provide explicitly (not by implication or inference) for the activity, in terms that keep the Service from having the authority to manage the activity so as to avoid the impairment." Policies at 1.4.4.

"An impact that may, but would not necessarily, lead to impairment may result from visitor activities, NPS administrative activities ; or activities undertaken by concessioners, contractors, and others operating in the park." Policies at 1.4.5.

"Before approving a proposed action that could lead to an impairment of park resources and values, an NPS decision-maker must consider the impacts of the proposed action and determine, in writing, that the activity will not lead to an impairment of park resources and values." Policies at 1.4.7.

"When an NPS decision-maker becomes aware that an ongoing activity might have led or might be leading to an impairment of park resources or values, he or she must investigate and determine if there is or will be an impairment." Policies at 1.4.7.

"The Service will do this (avoid impairment) by avoiding impacts that it determines to be unacceptable. These are impacts that fall short of impairment, but are still not acceptable within a particular park's environment. Park managers must not allow uses that would cause unacceptable impacts; they must evaluate existing or proposed uses and determine whether the associated impacts on park resources and values are acceptable." Policies at 1.4.7.1.

"The Service cannot conduct or allow activities in parks that would impact park resources and values to a level that would constitute impairment. To comply with this mandate, park managers must determine in writing whether proposed activities in parks would impair natural resources. Park managers must also take action to ensure that ongoing NPS activities do not cause the impairment of park natural resources." Policies at 4.1.

"Although studies involving physical impacts to park resources or the removal of objects or specimens may be permitted, studies and collecting activities that will lead to the impairment of park resources and values are prohibited." Policies at 4.2.

"The 1970 National Park System General Authorities Act, as amended in 1978, prohibits the Service from allowing any activities that would cause derogation of the values and purposes for which the parks have been established (except as directly and specifically provided by Congress). Taken together, these two laws establish for NPS managers (1) a strict mandate to protect park resources and values; (2) a responsibility to actively manage all park uses; and (3) when necessary, an obligation to regulate their amount, kind, time, and place in such a way that future generations can enjoy, learn, and be inspired by park resources and values and appreciate their national significance in as good or better condition than the generation that preceded them." Policies at 8.1.

"In exercising its discretionary authority, the Service will allow only uses that are (1) appropriate to the purpose for

which the park was established, and (2) can be sustained without causing unacceptable impacts. Recreational activities and other uses that would impair a park's resources, values, or purposes cannot be allowed." Policies at 8.1.1.

"Superintendents must continually monitor and examine all park uses to ensure that unanticipated and unacceptable impacts do not occur." Policies at 8.1.2.

"Superintendents will develop and implement visitor use management plans and take action, as appropriate, to ensure that recreational uses and activities in the park are consistent with its authorizing legislation or proclamation and do not cause unacceptable impacts on park resources or values." Policies at 8.2.2.1.

When the statutory language is combined with these policies, it is indisputable that the impairment standard cannot be used to legally justify the proposed action.

The only other legal authority that the NPS can consider to justify the proposed action is that contained in 16 USC 3. The specific language in that provision is:

"The Secretary of the Interior shall make and publish such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary or proper for the use and management of the parks, monuments, and reservations under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, and any violation of any of the rules and regulations authorized by this section and sections 1, 2, and 4 of this title shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not exceeding six months, or both, and be adjudged to pay all cost of the proceedings. He may also, upon terms and conditions to be fixed by him, sell or dispose of timber in those cases where in his judgment the cutting of such timber is required in order to control the attacks of insects or diseases or otherwise conserve the scenery or the natural or historic objects in any such park, monument, or reservation. He may also provide in his discretion for the destruction of such animals and of such plant life as may be detrimental to the use of any of said parks, monuments, or reservations. No natural, [1] curiosities, wonders, or objects of interest shall be leased, rented, or granted to anyone on such terms as to interfere with free access to them by the public: Provided, however, That the Secretary of the Interior may, under such rules and regulations and on such terms as he may prescribe, grant the privilege to graze livestock within any national park, monument, or reservation herein referred to when in his judgment such use is not detrimental to the primary purpose for which such park, monument, or reservation was created, except that this provision shall not apply to the Yellowstone National Park: And provided further, That the Secretary of the Interior may grant said privileges, leases, and permits and enter into contracts relating to the same with responsible persons, firms, or corporations without advertising and without securing competitive bids: And provided further, That no contract, lease, permit, or privilege granted shall be assigned or transferred by such grantees, permittees, or licensees without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior first obtained in writing." (emphasis added)

The term "use" in this text clearly refers to public use of a park including uses authorized by the NPS. For this standard to be used to justify lethal control of deer in FINS, the NPS must demonstrate that deer are detrimental to public use of the park. The NPS has failed to provide such evidence in the Fire Island DEIS. It has speculated that public use is impacted by deer in that the public may be adversely impacted by deer over-browsing their habitat resulting in impacts to other wildlife and plant species, to forest regeneration, and to cultural resources. It even claims that public use may be affected if visitors to FINS observed malnourished deer. What it doesn't provide is any evidence that public use of the park has or is being adversely impacted by deer. Speculation is not proof and the NPS has offered no credible evidence that the public have complained about the alleged reduction in vegetation diversity, it has offered no proof that any wildlife species has been adversely impacted by deer, it has provided no evidence that visitors are offended by deer impacts to cultural landscapes, and it cites to no evidence to suggest that deer on FINS are malnourished or that the appearance of such compromised deer have adversely impacted public use and experience/recreation on FINS. What it does provide are the results of a 2008 survey of FINS visitors where approximately 50 percent indicated that the opportunity to see deer improved their visitor experience, that 20 percent reported that deer did not affect their visit, 29 percent indicated that they did not observe deer, and that only 2 percent of survey respondents expressed any concerns or complaints about deer. Fire Island DEIS at 108. Even for those two percent, the NPS did not explain how they may have been adversely impacted by deer which is critical in this case since those concerns could have been tied to disease concerns or simply a fear of large animals and not linked to deer impacts to vegetation or other wildlife on FINS.

The NPS also reports that there have been incidents of deer-human conflicts where food conditioned deer approach visitor or residents in Fire Island communities seeking food handouts. If those incidents are real, the NPS, under 16 USC 3 would have the authority to lethally remove those deer on park lands that threaten or accost park visitors. Taking action to address such specific human-deer conflicts is far different, however, than a parkwide killing program intended to substantially reduce deer density due primarily to alleged impacts to park vegetation. Also, the authority provided by 16 USC 3 does not apply to deer that are not on park lands - such as those who may "threaten" people within the Fire Island communities since the language only refers to wildlife "detrimental to the use of said

parks." Furthermore, I note that this legal authority doesn't obligate the NPS to use lethal control to address such human-deer conflict issues and that, preferably, it would employ public education and non-lethal strategies (i.e., harassment of deer, cracker shells, rubber bullets, and similar devices) to try to retrain the deer to avoid humans. I also note that the existence of food-conditioned deer is a problem that was caused by humans so any solution must be primarily directed to changing human behavior.

The NPS must provide an explanation as to what legal authority it believes authorizes it to engage in the wide scale slaughter of deer on FINS. Beyond merely citing to a law, it must provide a cogent explanation as to the applicability of that law on FINS.

3. The NPS has to incorporate deer, vegetation, cultural resources, and invasive species management plans into a single document as required by NEPA and since these issues are inextricably intertwined.

The present Fire Island DEIS is referred to as a "Draft White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement." Yet, in its preparation of this plan, the NPS referred to the plan as the "White-tailed Deer and Vegetation Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement." Indeed, in the three NPS newsletters published while the present plan was in preparation and in its report summarizing comments received during the scoping portion of the planning process, the NPS refers to the plan as a deer and vegetation management plan. This makes perfect sense since, as the NPS reports ad nauseum in the Fire Island DEIS, the fundamental reason why it is even contemplating management of deer on FINS is because of alleged deer impacts on vegetation including woody species, shrubs, and herbaceous species both on FINS proper and on the William Floyd Estate. It also claims that deer management is necessary to address deer-human conflicts within Fire Island communities but this is not the primary driver of the planning process and, to be honest, such concerns can be addressed without the need for lethal deer control.

The NPS fails to provide any explanation in the Fire Island DEIS as to why it elected to proceed with a management plan that was limited to deer instead of combining a deer and vegetation management plan in the same document. However, throughout the DEIS the NPS refers to a separate vegetation management plan that it intends to produce in the future. Such a vegetation management plan is desperately needed for FINS given the unique natural and anthropogenic impacts to vegetation, entirely unrelated to deer, that affects vegetation diversity, production, and forest regeneration on barrier islands not the least of which are the implications of climate change which the NPS references in the context of deer management in the Fire Island DEIS. Theoretically, a vegetation management plan would provide a more detailed examination of the current vegetation composition and structure within FINS, identify vegetation management objectives, and evaluate the full suite of threats to vegetation ranging from soil properties, plant/tree diseases, insects, ambient temperature, precipitation, salt water intrusion, climate change, and other stochastic events. It would also provide information about plant and forest ecology including the impact of canopy coverage on vegetation production/forest regeneration.

Other separate planning documents referred to in the Fire Island DEIS or other documents that are not - but should be - incorporated into the present plan include a cultural resources plan for the William Floyd Estate, invasive species management efforts, a MRA to assess the impact of proposed actions within the Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness area, and a detailed vegetation monitoring plan.

The William Floyd Estate is a 613-acre historic property that is managed by FINS. This property is situated on Long Island. It is not connected to the barrier island where FINS is located but it is managed as part of FINS. As repeatedly referenced in the Fire Island DEIS, though there are other cultural resources throughout FINS, deer impacts to cultural resources are limited to the William Floyd Estate. Such effects including deer damage to gardens, ornamental plantings, forest regeneration, and other culturally important resources.

There are a number of references to invasive species in the Fire Island DEIS. Specifically, while the analysis of invasive species in the Fire Island DEIS is lacking any detail (i.e., where invasive species are most problematic, efforts made to address such infestations, success of such efforts, and the potential sources for invasive species), the NPS repeatedly asserts that deer numbers and their feeding/browsing pressures can promote and stimulate the spread of invasive species. It is not that more detailed information about the invasive species problem on FINS is not available. For example, in the 2007-2011 FINS SP, the NPS refers to an Invasive Species Inventory and Mapping project in 2002 which identified 15 invasive/exotic species found in 12 areas of the park totally approximately 25 acres of infestations.

The MRA is a decision-making tool related to actions taken within Congressionally designated Wilderness Area. The Fire Island Wilderness Area within the FINS was established by Congress in 1980. The NPS reports that it will engage in the MRA analysis once it selects a proposed action through this decision-making process and before taking any actions that may impact the FINS wilderness yet it fails to indicate whether it intends to involve the public in this separate decision-making process. While the Wilderness Act and NEPA are separate statutes, since actions that may occur in the FINS wilderness are subject to review under NEPA, considering the importance of

public review in the NEPA process, and since the actions to be taken in the wilderness area are directly linked to the broader deer management plan, the MRA should have been incorporated into the Fire Island DEIS and, consequently, subject to public review and comment. The United States Forest Service routinely includes such MRA documents in its NEPA documents that are subject to public review and comment. Alternatively, the NPS should make clear its intention to ensure that the public has an opportunity to participate in the MRA decision-making process once that document has been completed.

The detailed vegetation monitoring plan was referenced in Appendix B of the Fire Island DEIS. Appendix B provided additional details about vegetation monitoring but, inexplicably, it included more of an overview of such plans while the detailed plans were not included. Considering that vegetation monitoring directly triggers the initiation or cessation of the proposed lethal measures to control white-tailed deer, it is inexplicable why the NPS failed to provide the detailed vegetation monitoring plans in the present document. NEPA requires such disclosures and the public deserve access to the document for their review and so that it can comment on the comprehensiveness of the monitoring protocol.

While the MRA and detailed vegetation monitoring plans should have been included in the Fire Island DEIS, the NPS decision to separately prepare deer, vegetation, cultural resources, and invasive species management plans represent a clear and blatant violation of federal law. Separating related management actions and subjecting them to independent environmental analyses and decision-making processes is referred to as "segmentation" and violates NEPA.

NEPA requires that federal agencies, when preparing environmental impact statements, must assess the scope of the analysis. NEPA implementing regulations define "scope" to consist of "the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in an environmental impact statement." 40 CFR Â§1508.25. The scope of an "individual statement may depend on its relationships to other statements." Id. When assessing the scope of an EIS, an agency must consider three types of actions, alternatives, and impacts. Id. In this case, the three type of actions are most relevant. Those actions include "connected actions" which refer to actions that "are closely related and therefore should be discussed in the same impact statement;" "cumulative actions" which "when viewed with other proposed actions have cumulatively significant impacts and should therefore be discussed in the same impact statement;" and "similar actions" which "when viewed with other reasonably foreseeable or proposed agency actions, have similarities that provide a basis for evaluating their environmental consequences [sic] together, such as common timing or geography." Id. at Â§1508.25(a)(1)(2) and (3). The regulations provide additional standards to determine if an action qualifies as a "connected action" which include whether the action will "automatically trigger other actions which may require environmental impact statements," "cannot or will not proceed unless other actions are taken previously or simultaneously," and/or if they "are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification."

In the present case, deer, vegetation, and cultural resource management plans are inextricably intertwined and, therefore, clearly qualify as connected, cumulative, and similar actions. The NPS, as stated in the Fire Island DEIS, concedes that the primary purpose and need for deer management is to address the purported impacts of deer on vegetation. Similarly, the NPS reports that deer are the primary concern in regard to their impacts on cultural resources on the William Floyd Estate. In other words, concern over vegetation diversity, production and forest regeneration triggered the development of a deer management plan to reduce deer impacts to vegetation including to vegetation characteristics on the William Floyd Estate which are considered cultural resources do to their significance for interpreting the landscape. In both cases, that is vegetation management and cultural resources management, the NPS concedes that it is developing separate management plans and, as previously mentioned, during the current planning process the NPS initially intended to publish a deer and vegetation management plan. What it fails to do is to explain why, if these three planning elements are linked, it believes that preparing separate management plans is consistent with NEPA.

It hasn't provided such an explanation because it can't. Deer, vegetation, and cultural resources management on FINS are like a tripod; if one or two legs are removed the tripod falls over. All three legs of the tripod have to be functioning together for the tripod to serve its purpose. Similarly, in this case, all three of these management plans have to be combined into a single document so that the full complement of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts can be evaluated in a single document. Far from representing an overtly cumbersome or inefficient analysis of issues, such a comprehensive EIS would force the NPS to explore other factors that may be affecting the other resources (i.e., deer, vegetation, and cultural) of concern and to consider a different suite of alternatives to achieve management objectives for all three management elements in the same environmental document. For example, as explained in this comment letter, there are a host of natural and anthropogenic factors, independent of deer, that may be adversely impacting vegetation diversity, productivity and forest regeneration on FINS; factors which the NPS has failed to directly evaluate in the Fire Island DEIS preferring instead to blame deer. A complete plan that

encompassed all three planning elements would require the NPS to consider these other factors that, to date, it has ignored in its planning process.

This legal deficiency cannot be remedied in the Final EIS. Rather, the NPS should terminate the current planning process and begin anew with a document that will comprehensively evaluate all three resource management plans (i.e., deer, vegetation, and cultural) in a single environmental document.

4. The NPS has failed to include any analysis of how the actions contemplated in the Fire Island DEIS would satisfy the impairment and unacceptable impact standards contained in NPS Management Policies.

Section 1 of the NPS Organic Act provides the overarching mandate of the NPS which is to:

"to promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations hereinafter specified by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." (16 U.S.C. 1)

Based on this language, the NPS "must leave park resources and values unimpaired unless a particular law directly and specifically provides otherwise." NPS Management Policies at 1.4.4. This mandate is considered to be the cornerstone of the Organic Act and the primary responsibility of the NPS. Id. An impairment is "an impact that, in the professional judgment of the responsible NPS manager, would harm the integrity of park resources or values, including the opportunities that otherwise would be present for the enjoyment of those resources or values." Policies at 1.4.5. An impact is more likely to constitute an impairment if it affects a resource or value whose conservation is "necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park," or "key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park," or "identified in the park's general management plan or other relevant NPS planning document as being of significance." Id. Park resources and values subject to the no-impairment standard include, but are not limited to, "the park's scenery, natural and historic objects, wildlife, processes and conditions that sustain them, including ecological, biological, and physical processes that created the parks and continue to act upon it; scenic features; natural visibility, both in day time and at night; natural landscapes, natural soundscapes and smells; water and air resources; soils; geological resources; paleontological resources; archeological resources; cultural landscapes; ethnographic resources; historic and prehistoric sites, structures, and objects; museum collections; and native plants and animals." Id. at 1.4.6.

Since the impact threshold at which impairment occurs is not always readily apparent, the NPS has created the "unacceptable impacts" standard to provide greater assurance that impairment will not occur. "Unacceptable impacts" are "impacts that fall short of impairment, but are still not acceptable within a particular park's environment." Policies at 1.4.7.1. "Unacceptable impacts" are "impacts that, individually or cumulatively, would be inconsistent with a park's purposes or values," or "impede the attainment of a park's desired future conditions for natural and cultural resources as identified through the park's planning process," or "create an unsafe or unhealthful environment for visitors or employees," or "diminish opportunities for current or future generations to enjoy, learn about, or be inspired by park resource or values," or "unreasonably interfere with park program or activities, or an appropriate use, or the atmosphere of peace and tranquility, or the natural soundscape maintained in wilderness and natural, historic, and commemorative locations within the park, or NPS concessioner or contractor operations or services." Policies at 1.4.7.1.

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The decision as to whether an impact represents an impairment or constitutes an unacceptable impact is not intended to be made behind closed doors. Rather, the NPS decision-maker, before approving a proposed action that could lead to an impairment of park resources and values, & must consider the impacts on the proposed action and determine, in writing, that the activity will not lead to an impairment of park resources and values. In making this determination, the NPS decision-maker is to use his/her professional judgment, consider relevant NEPA documents, consultations under the National Historic Preservation Act, relevant scientific and scholarly studies, advice by subject matter experts and others with relevant knowledge or experience, and the results of civic engagement and public involvement activities relating to the decision. Policies at 1.4.7. These same standards are also applicable when reaching conclusions about unacceptable impacts.

In the Fire Island DEIS, the NPS has failed to include this required analysis. Nowhere in the document are the standards of impairment or unacceptable impacts even discussed let alone evaluated in the context of the alternatives evaluated in the Fire Island DEIS. This is a fatal flaw in the Fire Island DEIS which cannot be corrected in the Final EIS. Instead the NPS needs to prepare a supplement to the Fire Island DEIS to include this required impairment analysis which then must be subject to public review and comment. In preparing this supplement, the NPS should be cognizant of the finding in *Bluewater Network v. Salazar* (U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Civil Action No. 08-841) where the court criticized the NPS for failing to provide meaningful and quantifiable intensity definition when determining whether jet ski use represented an impairment to park resources. Absent this analysis, the Fire Island DEIS decision-making process cannot proceed.

5. The NPS has failed to employ a proper process to create its criteria for an acceptable immunocontraceptive vaccine.

NPS criteria for what it considers an acceptable immunocontraceptive vaccine include:

1. The fertility control agent is federally approved and state-registered for application to free-ranging white-tailed deer populations.
2. The agent provides multiple-year (three or more) efficacy (80%-10%) to minimize the cost and labor required to administer the drug to a large number of deer.
3. The agent can be administered through remote injection to avoid capturing the animal on a regular basis and to increase the efficiency of distribution.
4. The agent would leave no harmful residual in the meat (meat would be safe for human and non-target animal consumption).
5. The agent would have minimal impact on deer behavior (e.g., reproductive behaviors, social behaviors, out of season estrous cycling).

The NPS fails to explain how these criteria were developed, who developed them, or why the NPS believes each individual criterion is reasonable. Ultimately, these criteria are a product of a wholesale change in NPS policy, a change that was not independently subject to public review, which permits and promotes the lethal slaughter of native wildlife in national parks after decades of largely protecting park wildlife.

From 1967 when the Leopold Report was published until the mid-1990s when the NPS initiated a deer culling program in Gettysburg National Historical Park, the NPS did not engage in any wide-scale slaughter of native wildlife in any national park (not including those parks where public hunting is permitted by statute, enabling legislation, or Presidential proclamation). After the culling in Gettysburg, the NPS didn't engage in another wide-scale effort to cull native wildlife in national parks until 2009 when it initiated a lethal elk culling program in Rocky Mountain National Park and in 2010 when a deer cull was initiated in Catoctin Mountain Park. After that, the floodgates opened and the NPS initiated lethal killing programs in a number of parks including Valley Forge, Rock Creek, Indiana Dunes, other parks, and (though not yet initiated) in three national military battlefields in Virginia and Maryland (i.e., Antietam, Manassas, and Monocacy). It is also engaging in similar wildlife management decision-making processes in other parks in addition to FINS.

Though immunocontraception has been considered as an alternative to lethal control in all of these planning processes, it has yet to be selected as the proposed action. This is despite the fact that the technology has been used successfully in several parks including FINS, Assateague, and Point Reyes to non-lethally manage wild animal populations. The primary reason it hasn't been selected is because the NPS has determined that current vaccines can't meet the NPS-developed criteria established to determine when an acceptable vaccine is available to be used to non-lethally control a native wildlife species population in a park. This, in turn, is a product of the specific criteria which, I contend the NPS has purposefully created so that it can dismiss immunocontraception as a viable alternative in favor of selecting an option that emphasizes lethal management.

In addition to believing that the NPS purposefully developed immunocontraceptive vaccine criteria that permits it to select lethal management options, I contend that the current vaccine criteria - criteria that have remained largely the same in the various deer (and other species) management plans published in the past decade - were a product of largely internal deliberations perhaps with the involvement of outside consultants specifically selected by the NPS to achieve a pre-determined outcome. At no point has the NPS, as part of any of the past park-specific planning processes or separate from such processes, sought the opinion of the public on the vaccine criteria nor has it ever consulted with the majority of well-known scientists who are the leaders/pioneers in developing this technology. If the NPS had done either (i.e., solicit public comments on the criteria or engage a full complement of experts in their development) it may have been persuaded to adopt more reasonable criteria. The current criteria, for obvious reasons, are far from reasonable but with minor alterations they could be the basis for a fundamental shift in NPS policies from a focus on lethal to a non-lethal control.

Since the immunocontraceptive vaccine criteria are the primary determinant of whether the NPS selects a lethal

versus non-lethal management strategy, they should be subject to independent public and expert review. Though this review should have occurred when the criteria were first developed, the NPS failed to engage the public and/or outside fertility control experts at that time. Ideally, considering the significant shift in NPS policy from protection of native ungulates to killing native ungulates that are believed to be overabundant, the NPS should engage in a broader analysis and review, including public participation, in its system wide wildlife management policies. At a minimum, however, it must subject its current fertility control vaccine criteria to separate analysis and review by the public, including experts in wildlife management in national parks, reproductive physiology of ungulates, and in fertility control vaccines.

This is not to suggest that the current criteria cannot be met by one or more vaccines that are presently available for use, at least experimental use, in deer but, rather, I question the process used to develop the vaccine criteria was intentionally opaque in order to achieve a predetermined outcome.

To address this deficiency, the NPS should suspend the current planning process and initiate a new planning effort. Ideally, this effort would begin with a programmatic analysis of wildlife management throughout the national park system. This planning process would engage the public in a process to determine short, long-term, and emergency strategies (including immunocontraception) to employ to manage wildlife, including ungulates, in national parks, what triggers should be established to initiate such management actions, and to assess the environmental impacts of such strategies.

Alternatively, at a minimum, the NPS should permit the public with an opportunity to review and comment on the current vaccine criteria as articulated in the Fire Island DEIS and, based on public input, consider revising the criteria before proceeding with the current planning process. Failure to pursue either option would suggest that the NPS has little interest in transparency and, indeed, has purposely established immunocontraceptive vaccine criteria that it believes provide the basis for the selection of management alternatives that promote lethal use.

I would note that despite the NPS efforts to discount the viability of fertility control as a legitimate management option that could be employed immediately, the results of the previous immunocontraception experiment were very positive resulting in, in some treatment areas, a reduction in the deer population of approximately 58 percent. Given such success it remains a mystery as to why the NPS terminated the program.

6. The Fire Island DEIS does not satisfy the requirements of NEPA:

A. The NPS has failed to substantiate the purpose and need for the proposed action:

The NPS reports that the purpose of the Fire Island DEIS is to develop a deer management strategy that supports protection, preservation, regeneration, and restoration of native vegetation and other natural and cultural resources at the Seashore and reduces undesirable human-deer interactions in the Fire Island communities. Fire Island DEIS at 1. In addition, the NPS intends for the plan to promote public understanding of the complex relationship between deer and Seashore resources, tick-borne diseases, people, and human infrastructure. *Id.*

According to the NPS, action is needed at the present time to address impacts associated with changes in white-tailed deer abundance, distribution, and behavior across the Seashore. Fire Island DEIS at 1. Such impacts are broadly identified as:

" Heavy browsing by white-tailed deer has resulted in adverse impacts on native vegetation across Fire Island as well as on natural and cultural resources at the William Floyd Estate;

" The presence of abundant food sources (including naturally occurring vegetation, unsecured garbage, intentional feeding, gardens/ornamental landscaping) and shelter in the Fire Island communities have resulted in adverse interactions between deer and humans and the developed environment;

" Adverse interactions also occur due to the habituation of deer to the unthreatening presence of humans and conditioning of deer, particularly to food sources, in the Fire Island communities and high-visitor use areas.

Given these claims, to substantiate the purpose and need to implement deer management actions, particularly the overtly draconian option of lethal deer control, the NPS would have to prove that deer are: a) adversely impacting park vegetation by preventing its preservation; b) preventing forest regeneration and restoration; c) harming other natural resources within FINS; d) damaging cultural resources; and, e) causing undesirable human-deer interactions within FINS and in adjacent Fire Island communities.

To justify the selection of a lethal control option, the NPS would have to prove that the deer are detrimental to the use of FINS to be in compliance with its own statutory mandate in 16 USC 3. Furthermore, since the wide-scale killing of native ungulates is not consistent with overall NPS management mandates reflected in its own statutes, regulations, policies, and the enabling legislation for FINS, even if the NPS could provide evidence to comply with 16 USC 3, it should only pursue lethal control as a last resort; that is if non-lethal management, including fertility control, fencing, and other management options, have been tried and have failed to address the perceived problem.

Even if not explicitly legally mandated, the NPS should agree to try non-lethal options first prior to resorting to lethal control given its overarching legal mandate that directs it to protect, not persecute, native wildlife in national parks.

The evidence and data included in the Fire Island DEIS does not substantiate the purpose and need for the proposal to engage in the park-wide lethal control of deer. While some may question whether the relevant information provides support for any active management of deer on FINS, including non-lethal management, I do not oppose the implementation of non-lethal management options to begin to address the concerns about deer raised by the NPS. Nevertheless, I do not believe that the NPS has sufficiently substantiated the majority of its deer-related concerns with credible evidence or analysis. I strongly encourage the NPS to immediately reestablish the deer immunocontraception project in order to resume the use of fertility control to reduce, stop, and, ideally, reverse the rate of growth of the FINS deer population. It is unfortunate that the NPS erred in stopping the program in 2009 which has cost it five years of control efforts.

Before providing a specific analysis of how and why the information contained in the Fire Island DEIS does not substantiate the alleged purpose and need for active deer management, a brief evaluation of relevant NPS regulations, policies, and the FINS enabling legislation is warranted.

NPS regulations:

Despite the immense ecological, aesthetic, spiritual, cultural and economic value of national parks and the important role that the NPS play in protecting wildlife and other natural features and processes in lands under its jurisdiction, NPS regulations relevant to wildlife protection are limited. The regulations contained in 36 CFR 2 which pertain to resource protection and public use and recreation in national parks with the majority related to controlling public use.

Those regulations that are relevant to wildlife protection and management in national parks prohibit possessing, destroying, injuring, defacing, removing, digging, or disturbing from its natural state: &living or dead wildlife& 36 CFR 2.1(a). In addition, the feeding, touching, teasing, frightening or intentional disturbing of wildlife nesting, breeding or other activities is also prohibited. Id. at 2.2(a)(2). Exceptions to these prohibitions include circumstances where authorized hunting is permitted in parks where such activity is specifically mandated by Federal statutory law, Id. at 2.2(a)(1) and (b)(1), or where hunting & is specifically authorized as a discretionary activity under Federal statutory law if the superintendent determines that such activity is consistent with public safety and enjoyment, and sound resource management principles. Id. at 2.2(b)(2). In the latter case, any hunting that is permitted must be done so through the promulgation of special regulations, id., which requires compliance with standard rulemaking procedures.

If a park allows hunting, if it intends to close any portion of the park to facilitate the hunt, the closure must be published as a rulemaking in the Federal Register if the closure & is of a nature, magnitude and duration that will result in a significant alteration in the public use pattern of the park area, adversely affect the parks natural, aesthetic, scenic or cultural values, require a long-term or significant modification in the resource management objectives of the unit, or is of a highly controversial nature. 36 CFR 1.5(b).

In the case of FINS, as discussed below, the superintendent is mandated to permit hunting, fishing and shell-fishing in FINS, though the enabling legislation does not explicitly authorize deer hunting. Consequently, the type of hunting, what species can be targeted, when it can occur, where it can occur, or what weapons could be used is left to the discretion of the superintendent (with the caveat that any hunting permitted must be consistent with state laws but that the NPS can impose conditions more restrictive than state laws). Consequently, if deer hunting were to be permitted on FINS it would have to fall under the standards of 36 CFR 2.2(b)(2). Also, if any FINS lands were closed to public use to facilitate such hunting, the NPS would have to engage in rulemaking to close these lands, even if the closure is only temporary, because of the highly controversial nature of a deer hunt on FINS.

Notably, there are no NPS regulations that provide further guidance as to implementing 16 USC 3 in regard to permitting the destruction of wildlife in national parks if they are detrimental to the use of said parks.

NPS Management Policies:

NPS Management Policies specify that the National Park Service will strive to understand, maintain, restore, and protect the inherent integrity of the natural resources, processes, systems, and values of the parks while providing meaningful and appropriate opportunities to enjoy them. Policies at 4 (Introduction). Furthermore, the NPS recognizes that natural process, including biological resources such as native plants, animals, and communities and biological processes such as photosynthesis, succession, and evolution, and species are evolving, and it will allow this evolution to continue - minimally influenced by human actions. The term natural conditions as used in the Management Policies describes the condition of resources that would occur in the absence of human dominance over the landscape. Id.

According to the Policies:

Natural resources will be managed to preserve fundamental physical and biological processes, as well as individual species, features, and plant and animal communities. The Service will not attempt to solely preserve individual species (except threatened or endangered species) or individual natural processes; rather, it will try to maintain all the components and processes of naturally evolving park ecosystems, including the natural abundance, diversity, and genetic and ecological integrity of the plant and animal species native to those ecosystems. Just as all components of a natural system will be recognized as important, natural changes will also be recognized as an integral part of the functioning of natural systems. Policies at 4.1.

This policies recognizes the importance of natural change as an integral part of the functioning of natural systems. As applied to FINS, this means that the mere fact that deer, a dominant or keystone herbivore, may be altering the vegetative component of the park that should be recognized as natural change occurring as part of the succession of the FINS habitats that deer occupy and utilize. Attempting to stop or alter this would seemingly be inconsistent with this particular policy as it represent an effort to purposefully manipulate one native species to create a desired response within other species that results in an altered landscape that is a product of human intervention instead of natural change.

The NPS will not intervene in natural biological or physical processes, except to restore natural ecosystem functioning that has been disrupted by past or ongoing human activities. Policies at 4.1. Furthermore, the NPS is required to maintain as parts of the natural ecosystems of parks all plants and animals native to park ecosystems. Policies at 4.4.1. This will be done by preserving and restoring the natural abundances, diversities, dynamics, distributions, habitats, and behaviors of native plant and animal populations and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur and by restoring native plant and animal populations in parks when they have been extirpated by past human-caused actions. Id.

In regard to the management of native plants and animals, whenever possible, natural processes will be relied upon to maintain native plant and animal species and influence natural fluctuations in populations of these species. Policies at 4.4.2. The NPS may intervene to manage these species only when such management will not cause unacceptable impacts to the species populations or to other park components and/or ecosystem processes and when such intervention is needed to, among other reasons: 1) because a population occurs in an unnaturally high or low concentration as a results of human influences (such as & the extirpation of predators, the creation of highly productive habitat through agriculture or urban landscapes) and it is not possible to mitigate the effects of the human influences; or 2) to protect rare and threatened or endangered species. Policies at 4.4.2. Finally, when native plants or animals are removed for any reason - such as to reduce unnatural population conditions resulting from human activities - the NPS will maintain the appropriate levels of natural genetic diversity.

While it is, as demonstrated by the NPS in the Fire Island DEIS, possible to selectively cite to specific Policies to claim that the NPS has the authority to implement lethal deer control, when the Policies are considered in total and in the proper context, the use of lethal control to remove native wildlife from a national park is limited to extraordinarily rare circumstances. Indeed, it is clear from the Policies, that the NPS places considerable emphasis on preserving natural processes, including succession, and embraces natural change. This is precisely what is occurring on FINS in regard to its deer population and other park resources. It is also clear from the Policies that protection and restoring natural conditions is important, if not paramount, in regard to overall NPS management of parks.

The question of what is natural or what constitutes natural conditions is far more difficult to answer. As an initial matter, given the deer management strategies contained in the Fire Island DEIS, it appears that the NPS does not believe that FINS currently exists in a natural state. If this is the case, then what is natural? What should the plant and animal species assemblage consist of if FINS was in a natural condition? Would predators be present? If so, which predators would be present and in what densities? What would the faunal assemblage include? What species, in what densities, where would the species be growing, and what level of productivity would exist? How would the NPS determine what conditions would be natural? Would it be based on conditions documented in 1964 when FINS was established, in 1967 as the NPS has proposed for the Sunken Forest, in 1980, 1990, 2010, 2010, or 2014? Or, would the NPS establish the natural baseline as what existed before European settlement of the country? The NPS does not provide such information in the Fire Island DEIS nor does it attempt to address the question of what is

natural versus what is artificial or unnatural. What is clear is that, in its natural state, Fire Island would not be home to thousands of people and the development impacts to house and sustain the human population would not exist nor would it be visited by 2.2 million people annually. Because humans do reside on Fire Island, and because FINS provides recreational opportunities for millions of visitors annually, this equates to a loss of wildlife habitat, a likely impact to natural wildlife diversity and densities, and consequently, an introduction of an unnatural element to FINS.

This, again then begs the question of what is natural? Is it what existed prior to the arrival of the colonists and the settlement of New York State and Fire Island or is natural what exists now. The former condition, no matter how natural it may have been, is unattainable. Similarly, since natural change and habitat succession is inevitable, what existing on FINS when it was established or even 20 years ago cant represent what is natural nor should the NPS attempt to restore such a snapshot in town. What is natural, consequently, is what exists now. It may not reflect what would be considered pristine or untouched, but it reflects what is natural recognizing that its characteristics have been molded by natural and anthropogenic factors. This is not to suggest that houses, shopping centers, schools, and other infrastructure on FINS are natural as obviously they are not, but the current existence the 17 communities on Fire Island is a consequence of human settlement and growth and, therefore, could and should be considered as natural as is possible at the present time.

Assuming, without conceding, that the Policies are all consistent with the intent of the Organic Act, the only circumstances that permit the NPS to intervene and manipulate or interfere with natural processes, including succession, is to restore natural ecosystem functioning that has been disrupted by past or ongoing human activities, to address a species population that is unnaturally high as a result of human influences if said influences cannot be mitigated, and to protect rare, threatened, or endangered species.

In regard to the first standard, we must return to the issue of what is natural and ask if natural conditions can be legitimately restored to FINS given its location and multitude of threats to its wildlife and other resources caused by internal (including non-deer factors) and external factors. The second standard is not relevant in this case both because it hasnt been proven that the FINS deer population is unnaturally high but mainly because there are multiple means of mitigating human influences including the use of non-lethal immunocontraceptive technologies, fencing, and to explore alternative management strategies for deer outside of FINS. The third standard is also not relevant since the NPS has offered no evidence in the Fire Island DEIS, beyond mere speculation, that deer in RCP are adversely impacting protected species. Indeed, the NPS dismissed from consideration in the Fire Island DEIS consideration of impacts to special status wildlife species while, for special status plant species, the NPS uses small scale fencing or screening to protect those species from deer when they are found.

Enabling legislation:

The enabling legislation that established FINS includes two sections that are applicable to the management of deer and other natural resources. They are:

for the purpose of conserving and preserving the use of future generations of certain relatively unspoiled and undeveloped beaches, dunes, and other natural features within Suffolk county, New York, which possess high value to the Nation as examples of unspoiled areas of great natural beauty in close proximity to large concentrations of urban population, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to establish an area to be known as the Fire Island National Seashore.

The Secretary shall permit hunting, fishing, and shell-fishing on lands and waters under his administrative jurisdiction in the Fire Island National Seashore in accordance with the laws of New York and the United States of America except that the Secretary may designation zones where, and establish periods when, no hunting shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment. Any regulations of the Secretary under this Section shall be issued after consultation with the Conservation Department of the State of New York. There are several components of these provisions that are worth noting. First, the enabling legislation does not require that the beaches, dunes and other natural features remain in pristine conditions as it specifies that the goal is ensure that they are relatively unspoiled. This is likely a product of the natural features not being in pristine condition when FINS was established in 1964 and recognition by Congress that, over time, as a result of both natural and anthropogenic impacts, the condition of such natural features could decline.

Second, there is no explanation as to what constitutes other natural features within FINS though this likely includes other natural areas, including forested habitats, and even the wildlife that exists within FINS. Indeed, in the Fire Island DEIS, the NPS concedes that the deer are a natural feature of FINS as should be obvious. Consequently, the

NPS is required to ensure that the deer remain in a relatively unspoiled condition; the meaning or implications of which the NPS has neither disclosed nor explained in the Fire Island DEIS.

Third, in regard to hunting, it is notable that the language of the enabling legislation does not mandate any particular type of hunt nor does it identify what species the NPS must allow to be hunted on FINS. This decision, along with a determination of where, when, and whether hunting should be allowed on FINS is left to the discretion of the NPS and the FINS superintendent based on his/her determination as to whether hunting is consistent with public safety, administration, and public use and enjoyment of FINS. Finally, as this text explicitly references that hunting is only allowed pursuant to regulations established by the NPS, this would clearly trigger 36 CFR 2.2(b)(2) which requires that hunting allowed pursuant to the discretion of the NPS can only be permitted through the promulgation of special regulations. The process of adopting special regulations to permit hunting or any type of use (other than uses explicitly mandated by Congress) requires compliance with rulemaking procedures including providing an opportunity for public participation.

Recognizing these legal standards, to substantiate the purpose and need to implement deer management actions, the NPS must provide compelling evidence to substantiate the allegations that it has set forth to justify management, including lethal management, of deer. Those impacts are that deer: a) adversely impact park vegetation by preventing its preservation, regeneration, and restoration; b) harm other natural resources within FINS; and, c) damage cultural resources; and cause undesirable human-deer interactions within FINS and in adjacent Fire Island communities. The NPS simply has not met this burden as the information it has provided to substantiate these claims are largely speculative with virtually no credible evidence from scientific studies conducted on FINS or the William Floyd Estate.

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B. The NPS has failed to consider a reasonable range of alternatives.

Regulations implementing NEPA explicitly require federal agencies to "rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives," 40 CFR 1502.14(a), including "reasonable alternatives: not within the jurisdiction of the lead agency." Id. at 1502.14(c). In the Fire Island DEIS, the NPS seriously considered only four alternatives: a no-action alternative (Alternative A), a non-lethal alternative (Alternative B); a lethal control alternative (Alternative C), and a lethal control followed by fertility control alternative (Alternative D). These are the standard set of alternatives that the NPS has considered in previous deer management plans and environmental documents prepared for other national parks.

There are several additional alternatives that the NPS should have considered. These include alternatives that can best be described as a NYSDEC alternative, a public education/fencing only alternative, and an incremental deer removal alternative. I note that it would not necessarily support one or more of these alternatives but I merely offer these alternatives to demonstrate the inadequacy of the current suite of alternatives.

The NYSDEC alternative is consistent with the NEPA provision that requires the lead agency to consider alternatives not within its jurisdiction. It would involve working with NYSDEC to expand its deer management activities (lethal and/or non-lethal) outside of FINS and the William Floyd Estate in order to reduce the deer population/density of deer in the area. Though this may not have any effect on deer on FINS or on the William Floyd Estate it may help reduce alleged complaints about deer by residents of Fire Island communities..

A public education/fencing only alternative would represent a version of Alternative B without the fertility control element but that would implement reasonable actions well beyond those anticipated in Alternative A. Nearly all of the alleged deer-related impacts identified by the NPS are linked to either inappropriate human behaviors (i.e., feeding deer, improperly securing garbage receptacles) or are a product of deer consumption of vegetation in either unique or culturally significant landscapes. Public education and fencing could be employed to address the bulk of the alleged impacts. While this alternative would not include any active management to reduce the deer population, since FINS is a barrier island, reducing the quantity of habitat available to deer through fencing could, in time, result in a reduction in the deer population if the population size recalibrates itself based on available habitat.

An incremental deer removal alternative would, instead of identifying a specific deer density goal to achieve through lethal or non-lethal control, permit the NPS to remove a specific number of deer (a number much smaller than what is anticipated under the current Alternatives C or D). It would also require the immediate implementation of fertility control and fencing while monitoring vegetation to determine its response to the actions taken. This is a modified

version of Alternative D whereby the NPS, for example, would remove 40 deer over two years to immediately reduce the density of deer in areas where the NPS believes deer impacts are particularly acute. At the same time it would immediately and aggressively pursuing fertility control and fencing strategies to further reduce deer numbers over time while protecting sensitive, unique, or culturally important vegetation/habitats.

Furthermore, the NPS erred in dismissing from serious consideration the option of incorporating deer sterilization (through surgical procedures) as a component of the existing Alternative B. Many of the recent deer management projects that incorporate sterilization as a management measure are too new to have generated published studies. Nevertheless, it is simply logical that, if deer numbers/density is a concern on FINS, then any action that may reduce those numbers or density absent complete extirpation of the deer should be considered by the NPS.

Sterilization (which would target female deer) would permanently remove target animals from the reproductive population while allowing them to live out their lives on FINS. While sterilized deer would still consume vegetation they would never contribute any offspring to the deer population and would reduce the number of animals that would have to be treated annually, biennially, or triennially with fertility control agents. A sterilization component could target female deer of any age or could focus on older female deer who have already contributed to the FINS deer population by birthing one or more fawns. While there would be inherent risks associated with the capture and surgical procedures and, consequently, some deer may be lost during the process, this is a far more humane approach to deer management compared to the proposal to employ sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia, and public hunting to reduce the deer population on FINS.

The NPS rejected the sterilization option claiming that, as a stand-alone alternative, it is technically infeasible in part due to the time required to sterilize each deer, and, if combined with another alternative, it was rejected because there is little available research on population level effects. In addition, the NPS was concerned about employing an irreversible management action, in combination with another alternative, given deer population parameters on FINS that could potentially change significantly in the future. While it is entirely unclear what the NPS meant by the potential for a significant change in deer population parameters on FINS (unless it is foreshadowing its intended selection of lethal control as a primary management strategy) the arguments that the NPS uses to reject sterilization don't withstand even minimal scrutiny.

According to the data provided by the NPS, there are approximately 370 deer on FINS and the William Floyd Estate. Of that total, approximately 50-60 percent are female deer. Since the NPS wants to retain a viable deer population, if it combined sterilization with fertility control, it could sterilize a fraction of the deer in order to reduce the number of deer requiring vaccine treatments annually, biennially, or triennially. Since the NPS would presumably use a reversible vaccine, such as PZP, treated deer will only remain non-productive for as long as they continue to be vaccinated. Since it is unlikely that there would be genetic concerns associated with deer on FINS, as long as a portion of the deer are left to breed, absent a severe stochastic event, deer will always be present on FINS. Though I do not advocate the use of sterilization as a stand-alone option for deer management, even if sterilization were used in that way, the number of deer that could be sterilized to generate the desired population level effect is not excessive.

Furthermore, should the NPS claim that sterilization or immunocontraception is unacceptable because of potential behavioral effects to deer, this claim is entirely without merit. Indeed, considering its own statutory mandate to protect native wildlife, the NPS can't possibly assert that the finality of lethal control which permanently removes deer from the FINS population is preferable to using common surgical procedures to sterilize female deer in order to prevent them from breeding while allowing them to live out their lives on FINS. Sterilized deer would not exhibit breeding behaviors and, therefore, would not be available to breed, would not extend the rut, and would not give birth to fawns outside of the normal fawn birthing season.

Given the benefits of sterilization either as an independent action or as a component of Alternative B, the NPS must reconsider the potential value of this element of a non-lethal deer management strategy for FINS.

C. The NPS has failed to provide measurable and objective criteria to distinguish between the impacts inherent to the alternatives evaluated and to monitor the outcome of the selected alternative.

As previously mentioned, the analysis of alternatives is the "heart of the environmental impact statement." 40 CFR 1502.14. In evaluating the no action and action alternatives, including the proposed action, federal agencies "should present the environmental impact of the proposal and the alternatives in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decisionmaker and the public." *Id.* (emphasis added). Furthermore, NEPA requires that federal agencies "rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives," *id.* at 1502.14(a), and "devote substantial treatment to each alternative considered in detail including the proposed action so that reviewers may evaluate their comparative merits." *Id.* at 1502.14(b) (emphasis

added).

The development of alternatives, identification of a preferred alternative, and ultimately the selection of a proposed action is not intended to merely be a paperwork exercise. Instead, the alternatives are intended to represent reasonable options for achieving management objectives. Once the proposed action is implemented there is an expectation that the agency will monitor the results of the action to ensure it achieves those objectives. To accomplish this, the management objectives must be specific, meaningful, reasonable, and measurable. Since the objectives inform the development of the alternatives evaluated in the Fire Island DEIS and since said alternatives are required to be sufficiently distinct to permit an evaluation of their comparative merits, including specific, meaningful, reasonable, and measurable objectives would facilitate evaluation of the alternatives and their subsequent monitoring to determine the outcome of the proposed action.

Providing such measureable and reasonable objectives in the Fire Island DEIS is not intended to simply be a make-work exercise for the NPS. Rather, without such detail, the description and evaluation of the environmental consequences of the alternatives is largely a product of opinion without any substantive evidence to justify such opinions and the ability to monitor the success or outcome of the selected alternative is lost. In its strategic plans, FINS refers to the Government Performance and Results Act which is intended to improve the performance management of federal agencies. As part of that process, the NPS sets objective, quantifiable, and measurable goals so that performance can be adequately measured and report and so progress on mission accomplishments can be assessed. As previously noted, strategic plans or SPs are only one step up in the NPS decision-making process from implementation plans or IPs (which would include the current deer management plan). If the NPS interprets the GPRA to require the use of objective, quantifiable, and measurable goals in its SPs, it is illogical why the same standards should not be included in its IPs particularly since IPs are intended to achieve the desired conditions identified in SPs, the GMP, and PMPs.

Furthermore, in *Bluewater Network v. Salazar*, a case challenging the legality of jet ski use in a national park, the court, in ruling for the plaintiffs, went into considerable detail as to the failure of the NPS to provide sufficient intensity definitions in the context of its analysis of whether jet skis cause impairment. While alternatives in a DEIS are different than the intensity definition used to assess impairment it is illogical to think that the need for objective and quantifiable intensity standards for evaluating impairment would not translate into a similar requirement for the development of objective and quantifiable metrics in the context of alternatives evaluated in the Fire Island DEIS. At a minimum, the court's ruling in *Bluewater Network v. Salazar* should compel the NPS to provide specific, meaningful, quantifiable, and reasonable management metrics for each impact topic evaluated in the document which would then permit a more robust and substantive evaluation of the comparative merits of each alternative.

In the analysis of environmental consequences in the Fire Island DEIS, the NPS evaluates the impact on vegetation including effects on unique vegetation communities, wetlands, white-tailed deer population, other wildlife and wildlife habitat, wilderness, cultural landscapes, visitor use and experience/recreation, Fire Island communities and adjacent landowners, public health and safety, and seashore operations. Yet, it has only established specific, meaningful, and measurable objectives for deer, a limited number of woody plant species, and deer-human conflicts. However, many of these unjustified, unreasonable, and/or not based on credible scientific evidence and, hence, the lack of specific, meaningful, measurable, and reasonable objectives make the evaluation of the comparative merits of the alternatives evaluated in the Fire Island DEIS impossible. For example, without specific, meaningful, measurable, and reasonable objectives to assess visitor use experience/recreation on FINS in relationship to deer, how can the four alternatives be compared? In other words, what metrics will the NPS use to determine how deer impact visitor use and experience/recreation and how such uses and experiences change over time once this decision-making process is completed and an action is implemented?

In evaluating the environmental consequences of each alternative, the NPS relies on five measures of "impact:" direct, indirect, cumulative, adverse, and beneficial. The NPS is legally obligated by NEPA to consider direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts but the decision to classify impacts as either "adverse" or "beneficial" was selected by the NPS. "Adverse" impacts are those "that cause an unfavorable result to the resource when compared to the existing conditions" while a "beneficial" impact are those "that would result in a positive change to the resource when compared to the existing conditions." These definitions are not meaningful, quantifiable, and, consequently they are not measurable.

For example, in regard to public health and safety, what constitutes an unfavorable result? If five FINS visitors are injured by deer or contract Lyme disease (though it is unlikely that the disease could be definitively linked to time spent at FINS) is that an unfavorable result? Or, would 50 visitors have to be so affected to qualify as an unfavorable result? Or, if the NPS received reports of 20 deer knocking over garbage cans in an adjacent community, is that considered an unfavorable result? As to visitor use and experience/recreation if ten visitors were to report that they observed more birds during the post-deer management visit to FINS, is that considered a beneficial result? Or, if ten

visitors express disappointment of not seeing more deer or not seeing a particular deer that they had met during a previous FINS visit, is that an unfavorable result? Merely classifying impacts as adverse or beneficial without any meaningful, reasonable, or quantifiable metrics renders the process of evaluating the comparative merits of the alternatives meaningless. To address these concerns, the NPS must establish measureable metrics for each impact category.

In addition, for those impact categories for which the NPS has attempted to establish thresholds for action (i.e., vegetation characteristics for Sunken Forest, other maritime forest, and the William Floyd Estate; deer density, and deer-human conflicts), it must reevaluate such thresholds to ensure that they are reasonable and understandable. For example, for the Sunken Forest the threshold for action is applicable to select woody and shrub species and is based on stem density data from 1967 (nearly 50 years ago). This standard entirely ignores the likely natural changes to FINS including to the Sunken Forest area that have occurred since 1967. Consequently, based on the evidence disclosed by the NPS, this threshold would appear to be unreasonable.

For the other maritime forests, the threshold for action is rather confusing and the additional information contained in Appendix B does not clarify how the threshold was established or how it would be measured. This should be clarified.

For the William Floyd Estate, the forest regeneration threshold for action is based on forest regeneration data from Pennsylvania. Unless those Pennsylvania lands are comparable to the conditions on William Floyd Estate and unless those lands are managed pursuant to the standards of the NPS, those thresholds are meaningless and should not be used. The NPS must either demonstrate why forest regeneration standards on these two different areas can be comparable or develop new standards for the William Floyd Estate.

Similarly, in regard to the proposed deer density of 20-25 deer, this is based on a variety of studies from other states that suggest that at that density vegetative conditions will improve. The problem is that the study sites in those other states are likely not comparable to FINS. This must be clarified.

D. The NPS failed to disclose all relevant information to substantiate its claims contained in its analysis and has provided a self-serving analysis of the environmental consequences of the proposed action and its alternative presumably to achieve a particular outcome.

According to the regulations implementing NEPA, this section "forms the scientific and analytic basis for the comparisons" of the alternatives evaluated in the Fire Island DEIS. 40 CFR 1502.16. NEPA requires that the information in any environmental document, including the information contained in the environmental consequences section of the document, be "of high quality" and subject to "accurate scientific analysis." Id. at Â§1500.1(b). The NPS has failed to meet this and other basic criteria in its analysis of the environmental consequences of the alternatives, including the no action alternative, in the Fire Island DEIS. The following analysis is based on the different impact factors evaluated in the Fire Island DEIS.

Please note that not all of the impact factors or statements made by the NPS in its analysis of the environmental consequences of the alternatives are evaluated below as some are either not of concern and/or they are largely irrelevant to the analysis. In addition, as the environmental consequences of Alternative D (the lethal control followed by fertility control alternative) are largely covered by the analysis of consequences of Alternatives A, B, and C, with one exception, no further analysis of the impacts of Alternative D are included below. Also, as a reminder, I fully support specific elements common to all of the action alternatives including the enhancement in efforts to educate visitors/residents about deer, how to live with deer, the ecology of ticks and tick-vectored disease, how to reduce the likelihood of infection by a tick-vectored disease, and the use of fencing to protect sensitive species, unique habitats, and forested lands.

Impacts on vegetation:

As a result of the comment deadline, I did not have sufficient time to complete the analysis of this section of the Fire Island DEIS. I would note, however, that despite frequent references to various vegetation monitoring exclosures and plots, the availability of baseline and preliminary vegetation monitoring data, very little data is actually disclosed in the Fire Island DEIS. The NPS has no justification for withholding all relevant vegetation monitoring data which it must disclose as part of its decision-making process.

Impacts on white-tailed deer population:

A. The NPS reports that its deer population estimates are obtained using a distance sampling methodology and that information on the actual physical condition of deer are unavailable except via personal observations by NPS employees. Fire Island DEIS at 141. Prior to employing a distance sampling methodology, the NPS relied on aerial surveys to count deer on FINS.

The NPS has not adequately described the distance sampling methodology. What information it does provide suggests that the survey routes include sections of road or boardwalks within FINS. This raises concerns about the accuracy of the population estimate if deer are attracted to roadways and/or boardwalks for any reason including, but

not limited to, habituation to humans, expectation of a food reward, access to more nutritious forage in such areas, or potentially increase salt content of roadside vegetation depending on what methods the NPS uses to treat its roads prior to or during ice/snow storms. At a minimum, the NPS must provide a more detailed explanation of the distance sampling methodology.

B. The NPS refers to its own Management Policies to support its alleged need to control the deer population on FINS. Specifically, the NPS cites to section 4.4.1 of its Management Policies which include directives for "preserving and restoring the natural abundances, diversities, dynamics, distributions, habitat, and behaviors of native plant and animal populations and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur; restoring native plant and animal populations in parks when they have been extirpated by past human-caused actions; and minimizing human impacts on native plants, animals, populations, communities, and ecosystems, and the processes that sustain them." Fire Island DEIS at 141.

These particular policies do not reflect all of the policies relevant to the management of deer on FINS. See analysis of the NPS Management Policies provided previously in this letter.

C. The NPS relies on the 1964 enabling legislation establishing FINS to support the need to take actions against deer. The relevant portion of that legislation specifies that FINS was established "for the purpose of conserving and preserving for the use of future generations certain relatively unspoiled and undeveloped beaches, dunes, and other natural features within Suffolk County, New York, which possess high values to the Nation as examples of unspoiled areas of great natural beauty in close proximity to large concentrations of urban population." Fire Island DEIS at 141.

See analysis of the FINS enabling legislation provided earlier in this comment letter.

D. As to the environmental consequences of Alternative A , the NPS claims that:

a. The continued increase in the deer population may affect overall deer condition, reproductive patterns, and fawn mortality rates on FINS and the William Floyd Estate if nutrition becomes a limiting factor. The NPS relies on data from a 1988-89 public deer hunt on FINS that indicated that deer pregnancy rates differed starkly between deer in the FINS wilderness (50 percent) and those residing in the Fire Island communities (100 percent) likely due to the availability of additional food supplies (i.e., household garbage, browsing on private ornamental plants and landscaping, approaching humans for food handouts) in the communities. The NPS also reports that, based on data collected from the same public deer hunt, the body weights of fawns were found to be less than those killed on Long Island which the NPS claims was due to the high population densities of deer on Fire Island. Fire Island EIS at 142.

This information indicates that deer are, indeed, capable of regulating their own numbers but that such regulatory abilities can be compromised if deer have access to artificial food sources. The fact that the NPS found that the weight of fawns on FINS were less than fawns killed on Long Island is indicative of a deer population that was in the process of self-regulation. Lower weight fawns likely have a higher mortality rate and, if they do survive, their physical condition (if they are female) may correlate to their level of production.

b. On the William Floyd Estate the NPS suggests that deer that traverse gaps in the perimeter fence surrounding the estate would be at an increased risk of vehicle collisions, harassment by residents, and "disorientation because of unfamiliar settings." Fire Island DEIS at 142.

The NPS has offered no evidence to substantiate this assertion. For example, it provides no information about the risk of deer-vehicle collisions on Long Island, the number of such collisions in a particular year, how that number has changed over time, or, more specifically, the number and rate of collisions near the William Floyd Estate. Similarly, AWI is unaware of any evidence to suggest that deer that occupy the William Floyd Estate will become disoriented if they were to slip through existing gaps in the perimeter fence. White-tailed deer are a remarkably resourceful and adaptable species and, therefore, absent being translocated miles from their home range it is unlikely that they will become disoriented because they have ventured beyond the borders of their existing range. The NPS should remove this claim from the Fire Island DEIS.

c. A higher deer density creates a higher level of risk for the spread of communicable deer diseases like chronic wasting disease. Fire Island EIS at 142.

This is the first and only reference to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the Fire Island DEIS. If the NPS is going to make the claim that a high deer density may increase the risk of spreading communicable diseases, the NPS should provide a detailed analysis of potential diseases, their pathology, epidemiology, and impact on deer and other wildlife species. In regard to CWD, the NPS should provide information about the presence of CWD in New York State (or the location of the closest evidence of CWD to FINS) and whether the prion that causes CWD is considered a native or exotic organism. It is particularly important to identify the likelihood that FINS deer may be exposed to CWD and the potential source of that exposure so that the public can assess the veracity of the NPS claim.

Moreover, since disease is considered a natural factor in regulating wildlife populations, the NPS should make clear that the mere existence of disease in the FINS deer does not necessarily constitute an adverse impact nor does it mandate efforts to prevent or cure the disease.

d. The NPS claims that deer, particularly those occupying Fire Island communities "would continue to be susceptible to harm from unintentional ingestion of harmful substances .. as well as accidental injuries caused by cracks in boardwalks and jumping fences."

The NPS has failed to disclose any data to suggest that deer are ingesting harmful substances or the frequency of such incidents. In addition, though the NPS refers to deer injuries caused by cracks in boardwalks or from jumping fences, it fails to include any data documenting that such injuries have occurred, the type/severity of the injuries sustained, and/or the frequency of such injuries. If the data exists, the NPS should disclose it but, if such data is not available, the NPS should remove these claims from the Fire Island DEIS since they would appear to represent examples of hyperbole or exaggeration to achieve a particular outcome than an actual, legitimate concern.

E. As to the environmental consequences of Alternative B, the NPS claims that:

a. Female deer would be required to be captured and tagged for identification and then administered the fertility control agent. Fire Island DEIS at 144.

The NPS fails to disclose under what requirements the female deer would need to, at least initially, be captured and tagged. Is this a requirement imposed by the NPS itself or perhaps a standard required by the NYSDEC? Considering that the NYSDEC has no legal authority over deer on FINS or on the William Floyd Estate, it is unclear if it could even impose such a requirement on the NPS. Or, is this required by another federal agency (i.e., the EPA) if the vaccine of choice is being used on an experimental basis?

This capture and tagging requirement may simply be intended to mark treated deer in order to monitor them to determine the efficacy of the fertility control agent though such capture and tagging, since it inevitably increases the cost, time, and risk associated with the use of fertility control vaccines is not essential.

Indeed, if the NPS were to implement a comprehensive immunocontraceptive program that incorporates the use of bait, persons skilled in darting deer, and it embarks on a focused effort to vaccinate a maximum number of deer at the appropriate time of year, fawn production results during the next birthing season would be sufficient to broadly determine the efficacy of the vaccine. In other words, particularly if only one vaccine is being used, it is more important to determine the number of fawns born than to understand which specific female deer gave birth to fawns. In addition, I am unaware of any evidence to suggest that vaccinating a single deer multiple times during the same time period would be detrimental to the animal. Instead, such repeated darting may enhance the immunological reaction by the deer thereby increasing the efficacy of the vaccine.

From a pure scientific research methodology, there would be value in being able to follow individual deer to assess the deer-specific efficacy of the vaccine. This is particularly true if different vaccines are utilized as part of an experimental protocol to assess vaccine-specific efficacy. Nevertheless, to address this concern, the NPS should elaborate on the legal or other standard that requires the capture and tagging of female deer that may be subject to fertility control treatments.

b. Depending on the vaccine used, it could result in out of season breeding behaviors which would result in fawns

being born later in the summer or fall potentially resulting in higher fawn mortality in the winter. Energetic costs could also be increased, particularly for male deer, if the rutting season is extended. Fire Island DEIS at 144.

This may be a concern for certain vaccines but the NPS should expand this discussion to note that this concern is not relevant for all vaccines (e.g., Gonacon). In addition, it should note that if a particular vaccine results in an extended breeding season and even if it results in late fawn births, this doesn't necessarily correlate to any adverse impacts either on male/female deer or on fawns. In other words, fawns born late in the season may not experience higher mortality in winter and male deer, even if they exert additional energy during an extended rutting season, may not be adversely affected by doing so. Failing to concede such information results in the NPS painting an inaccurate picture of the potential benefits and consequences of immunocontraception.

Furthermore, it is a highly disingenuous for the NPS to express concern about fawns being born outside the normal birthing season potentially contributing to increased fawn mortality in winter when the NPS is proposing a park-wide large scale deer slaughter strategy on FINS. If anything, consistent with the NPS objective to reduce the deer population and its assertion that it is only concerned about deer at a population level, the NPS should have no concerns or qualms with

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the alleged potential for increased fawn mortality or the energetic implications of an alleged extended rut that may (or may not) occur if certain immunocontraceptive vaccines are used.

c. Bait stations used to attract deer for capture would introduce artificial food sources to deer and promote undesirable food conditioning behavior potentially causing deer to become reliant on such artificial food sources as well as increasing the potential for the spread of disease among deer congregating around the baiting sites. Fire Island DEIS at 145.

The NPS raises similar concern in regard to the 4-Poster tick control devices, three of which are used by two Fire Island communities to try to treat deer with chemicals that will reduce their role in harboring ticks that may transmit tick-borne diseases to humans. These concerns as related to these 4-Poster devices are more legitimate than the concerns associated with baiting since the 4-Poster devices are presumably used year round resulting in deer consumption of tons of bait used to attract deer to the devices. Conversely, if bait is used solely to attract deer for the purpose of capture for tagging and fertility control treatments, the deer would only have access to bait for, at most, a few days which is unlikely to result in the animals becoming reliant on artificial food sources. The NPS has provided no evidence to substantiate such a concern or to indicate that temporary bait sites used merely to capture deer pose any increased risk of disease transmission between deer. This would appear to be another example of the NPS concocting concerns about the use of bait as part of a potential immunocontraceptive project in order to justify not selecting Alternative B as the proposed action.

d. The use of fencing in this alternative would reduce the total habitat available to deer potentially resulting in higher concentrations of deer on the remaining habitat which could translate into nutritional stress, malnutrition, or deer injury if deer attempted to jump the fences to access previously occupied habitat. Fire Island DEIS at 145.

The NPS has provided no credible evidence to suggest that these concerns are legitimate. While reducing the habitat available to deer would reduce the amount of food available to the animals, this does not necessarily correlate to nutritional stress or evidence of malnutrition. Deer are highly adaptable and are dietary generalists able to survive on a variety of plants. Moreover, if necessary, deer can be highly mobile in search of alternative food sources.

Even if nutritional stress is a product of reducing available habitat for deer, this can occur even without the installation of fences. For example, a severe storm or fire could reduce, at least temporarily, the available food supply for deer. Consequently, nutritional stress can be a product of surviving in the wild and may be a condition that wild animals, including deer, have adapted to as part of their normal physiology. In other words, nutritional

stress may not be an anomalous condition in wild animals but, rather, merely a natural occurrence. Furthermore, the NPS has provided no data or evidence documenting the potential or likelihood of deer injury as a result of attempt to jump any fences that are constructed to prevent deer access to certain lands/habitats.

e. Reducing the deer population would allow the surviving deer to better withstand stresses from habitat damage caused by dramatic weather occurrences attributable to climate change such as higher frequency of storm events, higher storm intensity, and storm flooding and overwashes. Fire Island DEIS at 146. Such stochastic events are considered a natural means of population control of wildlife species. Consequently, whether the NPS elects to reduce the FINS deer population or not, regardless of the deer density, deer may still be killed either directly or indirectly as a result of dramatic weather occurrences. In other words, the physical condition of deer is not necessarily indicative of a greater chance to survive a dramatic weather event. While deer that are more physically robust may be able to survive longer if their habitat is severely degraded as a result of a severe storm, depending on the pace of habitat recovery they still may perish.

f. Over the 15 year duration of the plan, approximately 600-710 fertility control treatments would be required (if the vaccine were available in year 1) for deer on FINS with another 290-315 for treatments of deer at the William Floyd Estate. Fire Island DEIS at 144.

This is a remarkably small number of potential fertility control treatments over the 15 year duration of the Fire Island DEIS which counsels in favor of selecting Alternative B as the proposed action. If this data is correct, the total number of fertility control treatments over 15 years will be 1,025 or, on average, 68 per year. AWI recognizes that the majority of the treatments would be delivered in the first years of the project but, given this relatively small number of treatments, this will reduce the cost of a fertility control program; a factor which, therefore, the NPS cannot use to reject this alternative.

F. As to the environmental consequences of Alternative C, the NPS claims that:

a. Lethal control would remove 220-235 (65 percent) of the deer on FINS during year 1 and 2 with another 90-95 deer (44 percent) killed on the William Floyd Estate during the first years of control if Alternative C is selected. This compares to a New York state deer harvest rate of 21-26 percent between 2003 and 2007. Furthermore, after the initial two years of lethal control, 30 deer (23 percent) and 15 (13 percent) deer would be lethally removed from FINS and the William Floyd Estate, respectively indicating that, after year 2, there would be "no adverse impacts on the overall deer population." Fire Island DEIS at 148/149.

The adverse impact here is not a product of comparing the percentage of deer killed on FINS and/or the William Floyd Estate to the percentage killed by hunters in New York. Rather, the adverse impact is that the deer are being killed at all. Unlike the deer killed by hunters in New York, the deer on FINS live on a national park where, until now, they have been fully protected consistent with NPS legal mandates. The NPS can't simply ignore the protection it has largely afforded FINS deer (except for 1988-89 when it allowed an experimental deer hunt that was very controversial and subject to a variety of logistical problems) but, rather, needs to recognize the significance of the wholesale change in the long-standing deer management policy that it is contemplating.

Impact on other wildlife and wildlife habitat:

G. The NPS concedes that the assessment of deer impacts to other wildlife and wildlife habitat is merely a "qualitative evaluation of wildlife presence, habitat quality, and how those habitats would be impacted negatively or positively by proposed actions." Fire Island DEIS at 152.

A "qualitative" analysis is nothing more than speculation offered by the NPS as to what may happen to other wildlife species depending on the alternative selected. It does not provide the credible, quantifiable, evidence required to accurately and adequately either understand or substantively comment on the impact of the alternatives on other wildlife and their habitat. Though the NPS cites to a variety of studies to try to substantiate its claims in this analysis, it provides virtually no data on other wildlife or their habitat on FINS. For example, though it claims that deer impacts could adversely impacts a variety of birds, insects, small mammals, and reptiles, it provides no data on existing population estimates, population trends (positive or negative), habitat quantity or quality, nor does it disclose and discuss any threats to those other wildlife species. Most likely, this is because the NPS doesn't have such data. The solution to such an absence in data is not to speculate about potential impacts but, rather, to collect the relevant data to substantiate such claims. If the NPS has no credible data from FINS that any wildlife species have declined as a consequence of deer, it must not rely on this factor in determining which alternative should be selected as the proposed action.

H. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative A, the NPS claims that:

a. High deer densities will adversely affect birds and other wildlife based on various studies from Pennsylvania, northern Virginia, Delaware, and elsewhere that compared wildlife presence/absence and density to deer density levels. Fire Island DEIS at 154.

It is entirely inappropriate and reckless to compare alleged deer impacts to wildlife in other states and within other habitats to the potential deer impacts to other wildlife on FINS, a barrier island. Unless these other studies sites are nearly identical in the ecological characteristics and conditions to FINS (e.g., vegetation structure, composition, abundance, diversity, production; slope and aspect; soil conditions; precipitation amount and timing; ambient temperature; faunal assemblage) these other studies, though of academic interest, cannot and should not be used to predict what may be occurring on FINS. Ideally, if the NPS intends to claim that deer are adversely impacting other wildlife on FINS, it would have data from FINS documenting the trend in species population over time and evidence that any decline is attributable to impacts to habitat caused by deer. Absent such FINS-specific evidence, the NPS should not make such assertions based on data from other areas that are likely entirely different in terms of their ecological characteristics compared to FINS.

b. Reptile populations on FINS have declined since the 1970s potentially as a consequence of DDT pesticide use during the 1950s, saltwater intrusion, and development and though the study did not consider deer impacts, the NPS reports that they could have contributed to the decline. Fire Island DEIS at 154.

Here, though the original study did not implicate deer as having any role in the reported reduction in reptile populations on FINS, the NPS is suggesting, with no evidence, that deer impacts may have contributed to the decline. If there is no evidence that deer, in fact, contributed to the decline, the NPS should not suggest otherwise. This assertion should be removed from the Fire Island DEIS.

c. Understory impacts attributable to white-tailed deer could adversely impact songbirds, insect populations, small mammals, and reptiles. Fire Island DEIS at 154.

The NPS has offered no data or other evidence in the Fire Island DEIS to demonstrate any short or long-term reduction in songbirds, insect populations, or small mammals on FINS as a consequence of alleged deer impacts. If it wants to make such an assertion it must back it up with data or other evidence. In regard to reptiles, as mentioned previously, a study documenting a decline in reptile abundance on FINS did not implicate deer as a causal factor in that decline.

d. Fencing would fragment wildlife habitat and could impede the ability of some species to freely move about in search of habitats to sustain their needs. Fire Island DEIS at 154.

The NPS the reports in the Fire Island DEIS that the type of fencing used would exclude deer from certain habitats but would allow other species to access the fenced areas presumably either by passing through the fence, climbing over it, or digging under it. Therefore, while fencing could fragment habitat and prevent deer to move freely across the landscape, the NPS has provided no evidence that such impacts would affect other wildlife species.

I. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative B (the non-lethal alternative), the NPS claims that:

a. Until fertility control began to reduce the deer population, impacts could include the loss of native understory vegetation palatable to deer and the spread of unpalatable invasive species making it difficult to manage for native vegetation recovery in later years and that these impacts, in turn, would affect songbird, invertebrate, and small mammal habitat through the loss of vegetation used as food sources and protective cover. Fire Island DEIS at 156.

The NPS has provided no evidence in the Fire Island DEIS that other wildlife species have been adversely impacted by deer or deer browsing. If the NPS wants to make this claim it must provide evidence to substantiate it.

b. Within the William Floyd Estate, the proposed fencing would allow for vegetation recovery thereby benefiting a host of other wildlife species with the exception of some predator species whose effectiveness of capturing prey may decline. Fire Island DEIS at 156.

While there's little question that if an area is fenced to exclude deer that vegetation conditions within the fenced area

will gradually change, it is less certain how this will benefit other wildlife species. This is particularly true on FINS where the NPS has provided no data regarding the current status of other wildlife species (birds, small mammals, insects, reptiles/amphibians), no historical data regarding their abundances in the past, and it has provided no proposed monitoring mechanism to assess future abundances. Consequently, without such data, suggesting that vegetation recovery in fenced areas will benefit other wildlife on FINS is speculative. What the NPS should do to address this lack of data is to scour the historical literature and other records related to FINS, examine its own historical wildlife survey records (if any exist), consult other databases that may contain records relevant to species abundance on FINS, immediately initiate baseline studies to collect abundance data on a wide range of species, and establish a protocol to monitor changes in wildlife species presence/absence, diversity, and abundance in the future. Considering that the NPS is alleging that deer have caused such adverse impacts to other wildlife on FINS, that data should be collected and the new monitoring protocol prepared for inclusion in either a new Fire Island DEIS or a supplement to the present DEIS in order to fill this significant gap in data.

c. Fencing could interrupt movements of other mammals such as foxes and raccoons. Fire Island DEIS at 156.

AWI believes that this concern is overstated as both foxes and raccoons are highly adaptable animals that would likely figure out ways to traverse any fence whether it involves climbing over the fence (raccoons) or digging under the fence (foxes).

J. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative C, the NPS claims that:

a. The rapid reduction in deer numbers across FINS would result in immediate beneficial response to vegetation including understory herbs, forbs, shrubs, and saplings, which in turn would benefit songbirds, insects, and small mammals. Fire Island DEIS at 158

While the slaughter of deer on FINS will most likely increase vegetation abundance, diversity, and production, it is not clear that this will translate into benefits for songbirds, insects, and small mammals. The NPS hasn't disclosed sufficient data on the status, population trends, or other (non-deer) threats to those other species to enable the public to properly evaluate the legitimacy of this claim.

Impacts on wilderness:

A. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative A, the NPS claims that:

a. The use of fencing to protect sensitive species, for a 13 foot square experimental deer enclosure, and to establish vegetation monitoring plots could violate the Wilderness Act. Fire Island DEIS at 162.

Considering the purpose of the fencing and that the amount of fencing is not excessive, it is highly unlikely that this constitutes a violation of the Wilderness Act particularly if the materials used to construct the small fenced areas are packed into the Fire Island Wilderness by foot or using horses and not through the use of motorized vehicles. More importantly, though the NPS concedes that it has established one or more experimental deer enclosures on FINS, it has failed to disclose any data on vegetation composition, abundance, or production within these enclosures.

b. If the deer population grows to a density whereby heavy browsing this may result in an ecological system imbalance. Fire Island DEIS at 163.

The NPS indicates in the Fire Island DEIS that deer that inhabit the Fire Island Wilderness may have a much lower productivity rate compared to deer occupying adjacent Fire Island communities. It also reports that any deer translocated to the Fire Island Wilderness if Alternative B were selected would not be expected to significantly increase deer density and their browsing impacts, according to NPS biologists, would be within the range of natural variability. Given these factors and considering that deer, though not territorial per se, occupy specific ranges, it is difficult to perceive how the deer population within Fire Island Wilderness could grow to a density whereby browsing results in ecological system imbalance.

Moreover, the NPS doesn't explain what it believes constitutes an ecological system imbalance and/or why, considering the natural regulation management mandate of the NPS, such impacts are not consistent with allowing natural ecosystems processes to function without disruption through human actions. The mere fact that deer eat plants

or that they may hinder forest regeneration is not demonstrative of an ecosystem imbalance but, rather, is evidence of ecosystem function and natural succession. If deer were to become overabundant within Fire Island Wilderness then, in time, their condition would decline, productivity would diminish, and the population would balance itself at a level supported by the ecosystem.

B. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative B, the NPS claims that:

a. Deer that approach humans in Fire Island communities would be captured and translocated to the Fire Island Wilderness "as long as additional deer would not result in heavy browsing of wilderness vegetation." Fire Island DEIS at 164.

This is the first reference to this criteria of heavy browsing of wilderness vegetation being potentially used to avoid translocating captured deer to the Fire Island Wilderness. This condition was not included in the description of Alternative B contained in Chapter 2 of the Fire Island DEIS. Consequently, it is unclear if this is indeed a component of Alternative B. If it is, the NPS must provide additional information to quantify what it means by "heavy browsing of wilderness vegetation" and explain how such browsing pressures will be monitored including disclosing the specific methodology to be used. It also must disclose what level of browsing pressure will be the threshold used to terminate deer translocations. Without such specific information, it is difficult, if not impossible, to assess the justification for, or impacts of, this component of Alternative B.

b. The use of a chemical fertility control vaccine would impose modern human control over the deer population which would therefore diminish the untrammled quality of the Fire Island Wilderness on a recurring basis. This would also require some type of marking or tagging (e.g., radio collars, ear tags, or dye markings) of treated and translocated deer. Fire Island DEIS at 164.

Considering the reason that would justify the selection of Alternative B, the fact that deer that are translocated into or that occupy the Fire Island Wilderness Area may be treated with a fertility control agent and potentially tagged or marked would represent a minor intrusion into the wilderness experience. Indeed, if the NPS were to provide information to wilderness users as to the reasons and justification for the program, inevitably the vast majority of users would understand and very likely support the effort as preferable over the alternative of slaughter.

C. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative C, the NPS claims that:

a. If management goals for special-status species protection are attained, management actions (i.e., fencing of sensitive species) may no longer be necessary. Fire Island DEIS at 165.

I am unaware of the management goals set for special-status plant species. The NPS did not disclose such goals in the Fire Island DEIS with the exception of a rather broad objective of merely hoping that these species return at some point in the future. The NPS must disclose these management goals for special-status species if they exist or, if they don't exist, this statement must be modified.

b. The use of lethal control methods would impose modern human control over the deer which would diminish the untrammled quality of the Fire Island Wilderness while the use of visible and audible evidence of human-imposed management of the deer population could also reduce opportunities for solitude within the Fire Island Wilderness for visitors not participating in the hunt. Fire Island DEIS at 165/166.

This is a significant issue that warrants further analysis in the Fire Island DEIS and in the MRA. Though hunting is not prohibited in wilderness areas, in this case the Fire Island Wilderness is within a national park. Consequently, in addition to the provisions of the Wilderness Act, hunting would have to be evaluated in the context of NPS legal standards, including the Organic Act, regulations, Management Policies, and the FINS enabling legislation. The superintendent would have to also consider whether hunting is consistent with public safety, with the visitor use/experience on FINS, and whether it is even biologically necessary. If hunting is allowed it would have to be permitted through promulgation of a special regulation. Furthermore, the superintendent has the authority to dictate where, when, by whom, and how hunting could be permitted and can impose conditions that are more restrictive than state laws.

Most importantly, if hunting is allowed, there must be a comprehensive examination of its impacts in relation to the qualities of the Fire Island Wilderness and the requirements of the Wilderness Act. Should sharpshooting also be considered for the Fire Island Wilderness, its impacts on the qualities of wilderness, including on solitude, also must

be fully evaluated. Considering that, as reported in the Fire Island DEIS, the deer population in the Fire Island Wilderness is stable, that the deer population is not adversely impacting the ecology of the Fire Island Wilderness, and that even if such impacts were documented they would be within the range of natural variability for a fluctuating deer population within the wilderness area, public hunting or sharpshooting is not biologically justified in the Fire Island Wilderness and should not be permitted.

c. Visitor use and experience/recreation would not be significantly affected either adversely or beneficially because FINS would continue to offer relatively unspoiled and undeveloped beaches, dunes, and other natural features where visitors can interact with wildlife and learn about the William Floyd Estate.

This claim is clearly incorrect. Considering the results of the 2008 visitor survey which found that approximately 50 percent of visitor had their use/experience of FINS enhanced by observing deer, the wholesale slaughter of hundreds of deer on FINS over two or more years will inevitably result in a significant adverse impact to at least half of FINS visitors particularly among those who have visited in the past and enjoyed the deer. Alternatively, if this claim is correct and there would be no significant benefit to the visitor experience by the lethal removal of hundreds of deer since they still will be able to access relatively unspoiled and undeveloped beaches, dunes, and other natural features, then what justification exists for even entertaining any lethal deer control strategy?

Impacts on cultural landscapes:

A. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative A, the NPS claims that:

a. Ornamental plants, gardens, forest regeneration, and other elements of the cultural landscape of the William Floyd Estate, will continue to be adversely affected by heavy deer browsing pressure impacting the ability of the NPS to fully interpret the landscape because certain features are missing and facilitating the proliferation of invasive species. Fire Island DEIS at 169.

This claim is largely based on observations by NPS biologists. The NPS has offered no credible data or other evidence, beyond mere observations, to substantiate that ornamental plants, gardens, and/or forest regeneration on the William Floyd Estate have been adversely impacted by deer. Considering that the NPS admits that it has only recently initiated vegetation monitoring on the William Floyd Estate, it would seemingly be impossible, at least at this time, for the NPS to substantiate such claims with data. Considering that deer impacts to FINS, including impacts to vegetation, have apparently been a concern since the mid-1980s, it seems odd that vegetation monitoring on the William Floyd Estate only began recently. While AWI is not suggesting that such impacts are not possible and/or are not occurring, the fact that the NPS only initiated vegetation monitoring on the William Floyd Estate recently suggests that such impacts must not be as significant or severe as the NPS is claiming; otherwise surely it would have initiated such monitoring decades ago so that it would have credible data to prove the claimed impacts.

The need to fully interpret the landscape also hasn't been sufficiently explained. In this case, it would appear that the NPS is attempting to recreate a snapshot in time from some historical era when William Floyd and family occupied and used the estate lands. Yet, the NPS has failed to explain why it feels obliged to recreate this snapshot in time instead of recognizing that, over time, natural and anthropogenic factors have affected and changed the William Floyd Estate. Surely, given the skill of the NPS interpretation staff, they can use alternative methods (i.e., old photographs, drawing, renderings of what the historical landscape may have appeared) to transport visitors back in time in order to help them interpret the landscape as it appeared at whatever year the NPS is most interested in preserving. Indeed, painting that picture while explaining how the landscape has changed over time, and why, may also be of interest to visitors to the William Floyd Estate to help them appreciate the evolution of the landscape whether it was caused by natural or anthropogenic forces. The NPS isn't legally mandated to preserve the William Floyd Estate as it existing in some year in the past since it doesn't impose such manipulations to other historic landscapes under its jurisdiction.

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B. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative B, the NPS claims that:

a. The introduction of a fence to protect this historic core of the William Floyd Estate from deer would create a large-scale nonhistoric feature into the cultural landscape creating a physical and visual boundary that did not exist historically disrupting the intended uninterrupted view from the bay to the main house. Fire Island DEIS at 170.

As indicated by the NPS the visual intrusion that it claims fencing will present can be somewhat mitigated by the selection of fencing materials and particular colors. Whether this is done or not, considering the significant benefits of this alternative in sparing the lives of hundreds of deer on FINS, this so-called visual intrusion is justified and should not be used by the NPS to reject the selection of Alternative B as the proposed action. Indeed, until and unless the fence is constructed the NPS can only speculate as to how it may impact the visitor experience. Even then, the NPS can mitigate such impacts by explaining the purpose and significance of the fence along with the broader effort by the NPS to non-lethally and humanely reduce the deer population on FINS. AWI suspects that with such mitigation the NPS will receive few complaints from visitors to the William Floyd Estate regarding the use of fencing to ostensibly protect the cultural and natural resources found on the William Floyd Estate.

b. The introduction of rotational fencing to protect forest on the William Floyd Estate would not only be visible but would create a nonhistoric barrier in an areas that was prized by the Floyd family for its open space and recreational use. Fire Island DEIS at 171.

See previous response.

C. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative C, the NPS claims that:

a. Even the limited fencing proposed under this alternative would introduce a nonhistoric feature onto the landscape that may disrupt the integrity of the landscape surrounding the house. Fire Island DEIS at 173.

As indicated by the NPS the visual intrusion that it claims fencing will present can be somewhat mitigated by the selection of fencing materials and particular colors. Whether this is done or not, considering the significant benefits of this alternative in sparing the lives of hundreds of deer on FINS, this so-called visual intrusion is justified and should not be used by the NPS to reject the selection of Alternative B as the proposed action. Indeed, until and unless the fence is constructed the NPS can only speculate as to how it may impact the visitor experience. Even then, the NPS can mitigate such impacts by explaining the purpose and significance of the fence along with the broader effort by the NPS to non-lethally and humanely reduce the deer population on FINS. AWI suspects that with such mitigation the NPS will receive few complaints from visitors to the William Floyd Estate regarding the use of fencing to ostensibly protect the cultural and natural resources found on the William Floyd Estate.

b. The lower acreage forest suffers from a lack of forest regeneration at least partially due to deer browsing, in conjunction with the spread of exotic invasive species. Fire Island DEIS at 173.

AWI notes that, in this particular statement, the NPS has conceded that there are factors other than deer browsing that impact forest regeneration. As discussed in greater detail below, the NPS should have included a far more comprehensive analysis of invasive and exotic species and their impact on vegetation, other wildlife, and wildlife habitat.

Impacts on visitor use and experience/recreation:

A. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative A, the NPS claims that:

a. A 2008 survey of FINS visitors revealed that approximately 50 percent of respondents "felt that close contact with deer or other wildlife added to their Seashore experience," 20 percent "felt the presence of deer or other wildlife had no effect on their experience," and 2 percent "felt the deer detracted from their experience." Furthermore, another 29 percent of visitors reported "no contact with deer or other wildlife." In other words approximately 99 percent of those who participated in this survey either benefitted from the presence of deer on FINS, had no contact with deer, or reported that deer had no impact on their experience. Yet, apparently based on a mere 2 percent of those surveyed, the NPS claims that "visitor use and experience/recreation would continue to be impacted by deer on Fire Island and in the William Floyd Estate. Fire Island DEIS at 175.

The NPS assertion that deer would continue to impact visitor use and experience/recreation is not supported by the

evidence that the NPS includes in the Fire Island DEIS. Unless there is other survey data that the NPS has not disclosed, the reality is that, as evidenced by the results of the 2008 survey, deer do not detract from the visitor use and/or experience/recreation on FINS. If anything, deer actually improve the visitor experience. Instead of trying to denigrate deer by making claims that its own data do not support, the NPS should concede that deer improve the visitor experience on FINS and take this significant fact into consideration during its decision-making process.

b. Some visitors may enjoy an increased chance of observing deer while some other visitors may be disappointed in the altered ecosystem and the missed opportunity to experience a more intact cultural landscape at the William Floyd Estate. Fire Island DEIS at 177.

The NPS has included no data or other evidence in the Fire Island DEIS to prove that visitors to FINS including the William Floyd Estate are either disappointed in the altered ecosystem and/or the missed opportunity to experience a more intact cultural landscape. Indeed, the NPS has provided very little credible evidence to demonstrate that ecosystems on FINS have been altered since, with the exception of Sunken Forest, the NPS has based such claims on only preliminary data collected in recent years with no long-term data set to substantiate alleged changes in vegetation characteristics. Even if such alterations have occurred, they reflect natural changes to the ecosystem consistent with natural ecological processes driven by a keystone herbivore. If the NPS has data to substantiate this claim that the quality of visits to William Floyd Estate are compromised because of deer impacts, it must disclose that data or eliminate this claim from the Fire Island DEIS.

B. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative B, the NPS claims that:

a. Fencing used to protect unique habitats and forested areas would be noticeable to FINS visitors and could distract from natural views and cultural landscapes. Fire Island DEIS at 177/178.

The NPS also claims in other sections of the Fire Island DEIS that it could mitigate such visual impacts of fencing by positioning fences within forested habitats and by using colored fence materials that would better blend into the landscape. Consequently, the visual distraction represented by fence construction is not as significant as suggested by this statement. Even if it were, such a visual distraction should not be considered as an adverse impact since, in this alternative, fencing and fertility control would be used to spare FINS deer from slaughter.

C. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative C, the NPS claims that:

a. The visitor experience and wildlife viewing opportunities would improve as the deer population decreases as other fauna populations increase and vegetation populations regenerate though, for some visitors, this may diminish their experience depending on visitor sentiment toward particular species. Fire Island DEIS at 179.

Not only is there no credible evidence offered to suggest that faunal and the majority of floral species have been adversely or unnaturally impacted by deer on FINS but, without such evidence, it is impossible to substantiate the claim that these species populations will increase if the deer population decreases. Furthermore, even if such impacts can be documented, the NPS cannot demonstrate that they are not a naturally occurring result of existing ecosystem processes and succession influenced by a keystone herbivore. Even for those faunal species, such as in Sunken Forest, where the NPS documents a decline in stem densities since 1967, not only could there be other factors contributing to the reported declines but the NPS has failed to explain how the alterations to the vegetative composition of Sunken Forest is not a product of natural ecological process driven or influenced by a keystone herbivore.

What's most troubling about this claim, however, is how it largely ignores the potential significant impacts of lethal deer control on FINS visitors and residents of adjacent communities who value and treasure their interactions with FINS deer. This impact may also extend beyond the boundaries of Fire Island and could encompass people who have never visited - and may never visit - FINS who could be emotionally harmed by the mere contemplation of deer within a national park being killed by sharpshooters and/or hunters.

Deer are not perennial plants. When a deer is killed it is gone forever. The NPS claims that it is only concerned about populations yet the general public is often concerned about individual animals. Residents and visitors may establish bonds with particular deer that may be uniquely marked or particularly friendly and, in those

circumstances, the killing of deer, including animals that are known as individuals, can result in significant emotional impacts to visitors and/or residents.

Even if such bonds or relationships don't exist, visitors, residents, and those who may appreciate FINS from afar may receive considerable enjoyment from observing, photographing, drawing, interacting with, or merely contemplating deer within FINS and appreciating the protections they are currently afforded within FINS. These individuals could be emotionally devastated should they learn that those protections have been repealed that that it is open season on deer on FINS.

The NPS largely ignores such impacts of the proposed lethal management options based on the claim that even if it allows deer to be killed, there will still be surviving deer to observe. This is a simplistic and ignorant attitude that diminishes, likely purposefully, the importance of FINS deer to visitors, residents, and other citizens. Indeed, as previously indicated, according to 2008 survey data, approximately 50 percent of visitors surveyed reported that deer improved their use/experience at FINS. Furthermore, considering that the 16-year deer fertility control program on FINS was a product of local citizen demands and in large part financially supported by Fire Island residents, those who supported this non-lethal management program may be particularly harmed if the NPS elects to pursue a lethal control alternative. Notably, the NPS fails to even consider how lethal control may impact the ability of FINS visitors and residents to even see deer considering their diminished numbers and the likelihood that the deer will be exhibit greater evasiveness and be more likely to flee from the presence of humans - thereby substantially altering the visitor experience and the ability of visitors and residents to observe and enjoy deer.

b. Some visitors, if they learn about lethal control, could be comforted by the fact that the sharpshooters are professionally trained, work at night, and that the deer meat would be donated to food pantries. Other visitors would be uncomfortable with lethal control for various reasons including the humanness of the method, moral opposition, and perceive safety risks. Still other visitors could take advantage of the opportunity to hunt deer at FINS. Fire Island DEIS at 179.

Though waterfowl hunting is currently permitted on FINS, the NPS should not allow public hunting of deer. While I am opposed to any lethal control of deer on FINS, I am particularly concerned about any proposal that would allow the public to hunt deer on FINS since public hunters may not be able to efficiently and humanely kill deer and they may not consistently follow all safety protocols to protect FINS visitors, protected species, or residents of adjacent communities. As noted in the Fire Island DEIS, an experimental deer and rabbit hunt on FINS both lasted only a single year or, at most, two but were ultimately terminated due to significant public opposition, conflicts with other FINS users, or logistical difficulties.

Though I concede that the enabling legislation for FINS permits hunting, I do not explicitly designate what species must be hunted or under what circumstances. Hence, despite offering public hunting as an element of Alternatives C and D, the NPS has the discretion to revoke this offer. In this case, the NPS should exercise this discretion for the benefit of public safety, to avoid the killing or injury of non-target species, and to prevent unnecessary cruelty as a consequence of not efficiently or rapidly killing deer.

D. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative D (the lethal followed by fertility control option), the NPS claims that:

a. Some FINS visitors could be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to hunt deer on FINS but could be deterred by the permitting process and/or cost. Fire Island DEIS at 181.

See response regarding public hunting above.

Impacts on Fire Island communities and adjacent landowners:

A. The NPS reports that though "most residents and visitors to Fire Island are either 'satisfied' or 'highly satisfied' with the general quality of life on Fire Island," FINS has receive an increasing number of complaints about the deer population most of which have come from residents of the Fire Island communities whose concerns included deer browsing of gardens and ornamental plantings and their access to unsecured trash. Fire Island DEIS at 183.

Except for claiming that it has received an increasing number of complaints about the deer population from Fire Island residents, the NPS failed to disclose the actual complaint data in the Fire Island DEIS. Without that

information it is impossible to verify the accuracy of the NPS claim and/or to understand the types of complaints being made to the NPS. This is relevant since different types of complaints require different solutions. If the majority of complaints involved fear of tick-borne disease, deer eating ornamental plants/gardens, or about deer spilling refuse from unsecured garbage cans, this can be addressed through public education. If complaints refer to concerns about deer/vehicle collisions this can be addressed through public education, erecting warning signs at collision hotspots, the use of various systems that warn drivers to the presence of deer or discourage deer from traversing roads, or by reducing speed limits. There is no justification for the NPS to not disclose relevant details from the complaints it has received and to report on the number of complaints received over time.

B. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative A, the NPS claims that:

a. The number of deer-human conflict incidents, which are reported to and managed by the NYSDEC, in adjacent communities would remain the same or could increase. Fire Island DEIS at 184.

The NPS has not disclosed sufficient information to allow this claim to be properly evaluated. The NPS has indicated that such deer-human conflict incidents in Fire Island communities include deer approaching humans, deer eating gardens and ornamental landscaping, and deer accessing and potentially spilling unsecured garbage. What the NPS doesn't disclose is any information regarding the number of incidents per year or month, how the number of incidents has changed (increased or decreased) over time, the severity of such incidents (i.e., have any incident led to human injury or is there a direct causative link between human disease and deer), what efforts have been made by the NYSDEC, the NPS, or independently by residents to resolve such conflicts, and the outcome of those efforts. Considering that the NYSDEC is a partner with the NPS in this decision-making process, it is inconceivable why the NPS would not have or be able to access the deer-human conflict data required to more fully describe these conflict incidents within Fire Island communities within the Fire Island DEIS.

b. Deer trampling and browsing of existing vegetation throughout FINS would increase while ongoing browsing of residential gardens and plantings could adversely impact community aesthetics and spilled garbage attributable to deer would diminish the appearance of the communities. Fire Island DEIS at 184.

The NPS has provided no data or other information in the DEIS to substantiate its claim that deer trampling is adversely impacting deer vegetation in FINS. Nor has it provided any data to document the severity or frequency of incidents where deer have adversely impacted residential gardens, ornamental plantings, or been responsible for spilling garbage. Without such data it is impossible to verify the accuracy of this claim. Moreover, the data disclosed on the impacts of deer browsing on vegetation on FINS is limited to a small number of species, is based on preliminary analyses of recently obtained data, and, with the exception of Sunken Forest, it does not appear that the NPS has sufficient historical baseline data to credibly document changes in forest composition over time. Whatever vegetation monitoring data it does have it has, again with the exception of some data disclosed for Sunken Forest, largely failed to disclose in the Fire Island DEIS.

C. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative B, the NPS claims that:

a. Fire Island community resident would benefit from improved condition and appearance of community vegetation as a result of the decreased presence of deer in the communities. Fire Island DEIS at 185.

The NPS has provided no evidence to indicate that the current condition and appearance of community vegetation has diminished or that community residents are concerned about the appearance of said vegetation. Without such data, this claim cannot be substantiated and, therefore, should not be included in the Fire Island DEIS.

D. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative C, the NPS claims that:

a. A majority of Fire Island community members have indicated a need to reduce adverse impacts of deer and some of them may agree with residents near Cuyahoga Valley National Park where only 15-20 percent of those surveyed considered lethal control to be "very unacceptable." Fire Island DEIS at 187.

The NPS has failed to provide any evidence to substantiate its assertion that a majority of Fire Island community members have agreed to the need to reduce the adverse impacts of deer. Even if this is accurate, reducing the

adverse impact of deer is not synonymous with supporting lethal control options. It is possible that Fire Island residents may, indeed, support reducing adverse impacts attributable to deer but the majority may not support lethal control. Furthermore, suggesting that Fire Island residents may have the same attitudes as residents who live near Cuyahoga Valley National Park is highly dubious as the different sets of residents likely have different values, different experiences with deer, and different attitudes toward deer and their conservation. If anything, the reference to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park survey reflects the lack of site-specific survey data for residents of Fire Island communities. Without any evidence to substantiate this claim, the NPS should not include it in its analysis.

Impacts on public health and safety:

A. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative A, the NPS claims that:

a. Deer would continue to feed from unsecured garbage containers which could cause the containers to spill thereby spreading refuse and indirectly leading to public health hazards. Fire Island DEIS at 190.

The NPS must elaborate on this claim as it does not appear to represent a credible concern. At a minimum, the NPS must disclose the frequency of deer spilling garbage and explain what public health hazards can occur as a result of such incidents. Even if this is a legitimate concern, I note that use of garbage receptacles that can't be opened by deer and/or the proper securing of existing garbage receptacles would eliminate this alleged problem and concern.

b. A larger deer population could diminish the health and appearance of the herd which could translate into "a perceived risk to public health and safety if the population appears to be in poor health."

The NPS must elaborate on this claim as it, frankly, is so far-fetched as to border on ridiculous. I am unaware of any evidence that correlates the appearance of a deer herd to a perceived public health and safety risk. While certain individuals may not enjoy observing deer in poor health it is unclear why they would consider that a threat to their own public health or safety. The NPS offers no evidence or study to substantiate this claim which should be provided or the claim should be removed from the Fire Island DEIS.

B. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative B, the NPS claims that:

a. Deer-human conflict incidents would likely decrease, thereby improving public health and safety and a smaller deer population "would lead to fewer hosts for ticks, and the risk of tick-borne diseases could decrease." Fire Island DEIS at 191.

I agree that this alternative would result in a decline in the deer population which, at least theoretically, could cause a reduction in deer-human conflicts. Claims that this, in turn, could reduce the risk of tick-borne diseases are less certain given the increasing scientific evidence delinking deer density from the risk of tick-borne diseases. The NPS briefly mentions but does not adequately evaluate or discuss the increasing scientific evidence that reveals that other species, particularly small rodents, are more significant in transmitting tick-borne diseases to human. Yet, it clearly is aware of this information as it largely avoids directly linking deer density to tick-borne disease transmission risk. The NPS should reconsider this claim and revise it consistent with the scientific evidence to indicate that, even if the deer population is reduced in size, there would still be a risk of tick-borne disease and that visitors and residents would still be well advised to take common sense precautions to avoid exposure to ticks.

b. Use of a fertility control agent has the potential to alter deer behavior which could result in impact to public safety among people who notice the changes in deer behavior. Fire Island DEIS at 192.

The NPS needs to elaborate on this claim as it is difficult to understand how any change in deer behavior that may be caused by the use of a fertility control agent could impact public safety. How could such behavioral changes impact public safety, what would be the likelihood of such impacts, and what would be the potential severity of such impacts? If the NPS has any proof of such impacts, it must be disclosed or, if not, this claim should be removed from the Fire Island DEIS.

Impacts on seashore operations:

A. The NPS reports that the estimated cost of each alternative are based on assumptions documented in Chapter 2 of the Fire Island DEIS and that the analysis assumes that adequate funding would be received before implementation of the plan. Fire Island DEIS at 196.

The NPS failed to provide cost estimates for each alternative in the Fire Island DEIS. Unlike similar documents prepared for other parks where the NPS has included an estimate of the itemized cost of all alternatives considered, that data simply was not included in the Fire Island DEIS.

This is a fatal flaw in the analysis since NEPA requires the disclosure of such information given that economics are part and parcel of the "human environment" particularly where, as is the case for FINS, the implementation of the proposed action is dependent on sufficient funding which the NPS clearly states will have to be received before action can be taken. Furthermore, considering that such funds, if available, are public tax-dollars, the public has an absolute right to know how much each alternative is estimated to cost and the estimated cost of each component of each alternative so that the public can consider those costs in relationship to the environmental impacts of each alternative. This flaw in the analysis can't be resolved in a Final EIS. Rather, the NPS must either publish a supplement to the Draft EIS or revise and republish the current draft to include this missing economic information.

B. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative B, the NPS claims that:

a. FINS would compile and circulate a list of native deer-resistant or less desirable plant species to reduce deer presence within the communities. Fire Island DEIS at 198.

I strongly support this proposal but questions why the NPS has not already developed and distributed such a list as part of its past and present public education efforts. Considering the draconian strategies that the NPS is now proposing to reduce the FINS deer population, the NPS should have developed such a list decades ago and should have been continuously updating and distributing the list in order to educate residents on landscaping options that would reduce the attractiveness of their yards to deer while also not exacerbating impacts from invasive/exotic species.

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b. A new staff position could be required if FINS obtains jurisdiction to manage human-deer interactions in the Fire Island communities to enforce deer-related restrictions, such as ticketing residents for feeding deer, providing shelter for deer, or improperly storing garbage bins. Fire Island DEIS at 198.

While it is unclear how FINS would obtain the jurisdiction to manage human-deer interactions, if that authority is acquired I strongly support the issuance of tickets and other tools that include financial penalties to resident that feed deer or improperly secure garbage bins. Considering that deer shelters include woodlots, orchards, and nurseries, ticketing people for providing shelter to deer would appear to be rather draconian though, if the NPS elects to help those landowners fence their properties to eliminate deer access, that would be commendable. While I sympathize with those residents to believe that feeding deer is appropriate, ultimately many of the alleged adverse deer impacts within Fire Island communities are a product of human behaviors and ignorance. Altering those behaviors, through education and/or penalties, may be sufficient to remedy such impacts and, subsequently, preventing the unnecessary slaughter of FINS deer.

c. Capture and euthanasia of deer would be considered for those animals that continue to return to Fire Island communities and/or continue to approach humans. Fire Island DEIS at 199.

This option - to capture and euthanize translocated deer that continue to return to Fire Island communities and/or continue to approach humans - was not included in the description of this Alternative in Chapter 2 of the Fire Island DEIS. Indeed, the only time this option is mentioned is here and, consequently, it is not clear if it is intended to be an element of Alternative B. Furthermore, considering that Alternative B is the non-lethal alternative, I strongly oppose the incorporation of this option into Alternative B.

C. In regard to the environmental consequences of Alternative C, the NPS claims that:

a. The capture and euthanasia of deer that approach humans in Fire Island communities would be more cost-

effective than the translocation and follow-up monitoring required under Alternative B.

The NPS has provided no estimates of the costs of any of the alternatives and/or estimates of the costs of specific components contained in the individual alternatives including estimates for the cost of capture and euthanasia versus capture, translocation, and monitoring. Without such data, it is impossible to verify the accuracy of this claim and, therefore, it should be removed from the analysis.

The foregoing analysis of many of the claims or assertions contained in the Fire Island DEIS raises a number of questions and concerns regarding the legitimacy of the NPS arguments and identifies a number of instances where the NPS has simply failed to disclose all relevant information necessary to enable the public to either verify the accuracy of the NPS claim or to properly evaluate the environmental consequences of the alternative being evaluated. The NPS must remedy these deficiencies either in an entirely new DEIS or in a supplement to the present DEIS should it desire to continue to pursue the development of a deer management plan.

E. The NPS has failed to consider a litany of other factors, independent of deer, which may impact forest regeneration and vegetation diversity and productivity on FINS.

If the NPS were to be believed then, based on the content of the Fire Island DEIS, it would appear that deer are solely responsible for a smorgasbord of impacts to natural and cultural resources on FINS. Such impacts attributable to deer browsing or alleged overbrowsing include preventing forest regeneration, devastating forest structure, reducing diversity of vegetation, destroying forest understory, reducing vegetation productivity, and reducing shrub and herbaceous species. These impacts, in turn, have reportedly reduced species (plant and animal) diversity by reducing or eliminating habitat particularly for ground-nesting birds, for reptiles, and for other species. Deer are also alleged to represent a threat to public safety and health including by accessing and spilling garbage in adjacent Fire Island communities, approaching humans in FINS and in adjacent communities seeking food handouts, and because they may harbor ticks that carry various tick-borne disease.

What the NPS fails to do is to consider other factors that may be causing or contributing to these very impacts that the NPS attribute to deer. I am not suggesting that deer do not or cannot cause such impacts, I am merely recognizing that the NPS has failed to disclose, analyze, consider, or discuss other factors that may be related to such impacts. The failure to provide such an analysis is not just a violation of NEPA (which requires full disclosure of all environmental information relevant to the decision to be made) but it reflects a bias by NPS which is using the Fire Island DEIS to paint the worst possible picture of deer to generate increased support for its preferred management alternative. Indeed, with the exception of indicating that some visitors to FINS enjoy seeing deer and that deer improve their experience, there is virtually no other statement in the Fire Island DEIS that could be considered complimentary to deer or that recognizes their important role in the ecosystem.

Had the NPS disclosed and provided a more comprehensive analysis of all the factors that may be contributing to the impacts that it attributes solely to deer, the analysis would have been more complete (as required by NEPA) and more meaningful. The following discussion elaborates on such factors though it is not intended to be a comprehensive analysis of all such factors that may be affecting vegetation production, diversity, forest structure and regeneration, other wildlife, and/or public safety and health on FINS and in adjacent communities. The NPS is legally responsible for providing a comprehensive analysis of such factors, not me.

Vegetation:

FINS is a barrier island. Hence, its vegetation characteristics, diversity, structure, production, and ecology is comparable to other barrier islands and coastal ecosystems but it cannot be compared to non-coastal ecosystems or inland forests. The NPS includes some references to the unique ecological circumstances relevant to a barrier island, though it fails to properly and comprehensively elaborate on these unique ecological conditions found on barrier islands. Moreover, the NPS does not provide, though it should, a separate description of the ecology of barrier islands or of the unique natural factors that influence the ecology of such islands and/or are relevant to vegetation production, diversity, and forest regeneration.

Such factors include: a) soil characteristics including soil type, salinity, and composition; b) impact of storm surge on vegetative health; c) soil disease; d) precipitation amounts and patterns; e) ambient temperature; f) plant/tree disease; g) competition with exotic/invasive species; h) insects composition and ecology particular for insects known to kill harm plants/trees; i) air quality/pollution; j) water quality; k) canopy cover and its impact on primary production; l) plant/tree health and vigor; m) herbivore (not deer) impact on plant (woody, herbaceous and other) production, diversity, and health; n) soil erosion and erosive potential (wind and/or water) of soil types; and, o) impact of sea level rise on vegetation and soil ecology and health.

The NPS is not only required to disclose and discuss these issues but it also must provide trend data (i.e., how these factors have changed over time either to the benefit or detriment of vegetation) and must comprehensively evaluate the implications of current and future changes to environmental conditions (including, but not limited to, those

attributable to climate change) that may impact vegetation health, ecology and productivity. The Fire Island DEIS contains virtually no information regarding these factors despite their obvious relevance to vegetation ecology on FINS. For example, there's no discussion of soil health or ecology on FINS, of plant disease, insects that may harm/kill vegetation, of climatic/weather characteristics of the region, or any data on canopy coverage on any of the forests, including the Sunken Forest, on FINS. Based on an analysis of a Google Earth screen shot of the Sunken Forest apparently taken in June 2013, there appears to be considerable canopy cover in this area which has likely reduced forest regeneration potential regardless of the presence of deer.

Furthermore, in addition to such factors that are closely linked to the "natural" ecology of barrier islands in a time of climate change, the NPS must also evaluate any anthropogenic factors that may be impacting, adversely or beneficially, vegetation health, ecology, and productivity. FINS is visited by approximately 810,000 people each year. Those visitors must have an impact on FINS including on its vegetative conditions. Indeed, in its 2007-2011 SP, FINS indicates that "the biggest manageable threats to wilderness character at FIIS are encroachment of exotic/invasive species and overuse of the wilderness by backcountry campers and day use from beach users;" information that is not disclosed in the Fire Island DEIS. In addition, the FINS superintendent's compendium permits the public to collect a number of floral species on FINS (Superintendent's Compendium at 36 CFR 2.1-1) yet this as well is not disclosed in the Fire Island DEIS. Allowing the collection of such species when the NPS is apparently so concerned about deer impacts to vegetation, including some of the same species that it allows the public to collect, is nonsensical. Any other anthropogenic impacts such as any garbage dumping, illegal trail creation, illegal cutting or collection of vegetation should also be disclosed and evaluated as a threat to vegetation diversity, productivity, and health.

It is unclear if the ecology of the lands within the William Floyd Estate is more similar to barrier islands or inland forests. Considering that the William Floyd Estate is located on Long Island, it likely has some ecological characteristics that are different than that found on FINS but, nevertheless, all of the factors referred to above would also apply to the William Floyd Estate and should have been disclosed in the Fire Island DEIS. Of course, the William Floyd Estate is a highly manipulated environment which includes, according to information and pictures contained in the Fire Island DEIS, gardens, ornamental plants, and large turf areas along with forested habitat. In other words, the William Floyd Estate provides ideal habitat for deer which includes both abundant sources of food (including artificial foods) alongside of forests which provide deer with needed shelter. Yet, the NPS neither admits to this in the Fire Island DEIS nor to it recognize the absurdity and obscenity of proposing to kill deer on the William Floyd Estate merely for taking advantage of the ideal, manipulated landscape provided to them by humans. Of course, if the NPS were to select Alternative B as its proposed action, the deer would be spared while fencing would allow the NPS to achieve its objectives for the William Floyd Estate to improve its value as a cultural landscape.

In regard to the issue of invasive species, this is a critically important issue that is not provided sufficient attention or analysis in the Fire Island DEIS. In the DEIS, in addition to identifying some of the invasive plant species found on FINS, the majority of other references pertain to deer and how deer help spread invasive species by, primarily, overbrowsing and area providing an opportunity for invasive species to proliferate and spread. The NPS provides no information about the severity of the invasive/exotic species infestation on FINS, where the invasive species "hotspots" are located, what efforts and methods (i.e., hand removal, machine removal, herbicide use, etc...) are being used to combat these infestation, the success of such methods, and/or how the invasive species may be affecting, beneficially or adversely, native species (plant and animal) on FINS. Nor does it evaluate what role, if any, deer play in controlling any of the invasive species through consumption of their leaves, stems, or flowers. Furthermore, though the NPS repeatedly claims that deer contribute to the spread of invasive species, there's no analysis of the role of humans in invasive/exotic species infestations. The reality is that humans, including those who reside in the Fire Island communities and elsewhere on Long Island, are the ultimate source of invasive species on FINS. While some invasive species in the area have likely been present for decades, they all have a human origin. Humans purchase invasive species or their seeds and plant them perhaps for their aesthetic beauty without understanding that they are invasive/exotic or without attempting to control their spread. While deer may deposit seeds of invasive species in the feces or carry such seeds in their hair, the seeds of some species may have been introduced to FINS by birds, or they were transported to the island by wind or water. The NPS has not conceded this fact nor does it provide any information about the existence of exotic/invasive species in Fire Island communities, efforts its making to convince landowners to replace invasive species with naturally occurring species, or any outreach it does to local nurseries or horticulturalists to seek their assistance in preventing the distribution of those invasive/exotic species that are particularly troublesome.

Other wildlife including birds:

As with vegetation on FINS, there are a number of non-deer factors that can affect other wildlife on FINS none of

which were disclosed, analyzed, or discussed in the Fire Island DEIS. Regardless of the species, these include: a) wildlife disease; b) direct or indirect impacts of exotic/invasive species (plant or animal) on FINS wildlife and their habitat; c) predator/prey dynamics; d) existence of feral animals (e.g., dogs and/or cats) on FINS; e) habitat fragmentation; f) habitat quality changes (unrelated to alleged deer impacts); g) intra and inter-specific competition; h) impacts inherent to human-use of FINS; i) stochastic events; and , j) climate change and implications of its effects on barrier island ecology. In addition, for birds, particularly migratory birds, adverse impacts of various factors throughout their migratory range could diminish their numbers independent of threat factors that may exist at FINS. A comprehensive and legally appropriate analysis of deer management on FINS would have - and should have - evaluated these and other related factors as to their impact on FINS wildlife species and wildlife habitat instead of suggesting that such impacts are solely a consequence of deer and their alleged impacts on FINS.

Public health and safety:

Public health and safety concerns identified in the Fire Island DEIS are limited to deer approaching humans in FINS and within adjacent Fire Island communities, deer accessing and potentially spilling unsecured garbage, and concerns about tick-borne disease. The first two issues are largely a human problem, not a deer problem. These can and should be addressed primarily via human behavioral modification through public education and enforcement of existing municipal, town, or city codes that prohibit feeding or sheltering deer or which require proper handling of refuse. If such laws don't exist in Fire Island communities and/or if they need to be strengthened, the NPS should work with the relevant municipal or town councils to achieve this outcome.

In regard to tick-borne diseases, while deer are often a host for the adult ticks, there is increasing scientific evidence that there are a host of more important hosts, particularly small mammals. Consequently, though deer are often identified as the sole culprit in causing the spread of tick-borne disease, particularly Lyme disease, to humans, it has now been well established that even in the absence of deer Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases can still pose a risk to public health as a consequence of other wildlife hosts for the ticks. Again, public education is the primary tool to be used here to explain the ecology of Lyme disease and other tick-borne disease to resident and visitors to Fire Island in order to help them understand that deer are not the "enemy" here and to impress upon them alternative strategies that they can employ to reduce the likelihood of their exposure to Lyme disease or other tick-borne diseases. Indeed, though the NPS rails against deer for their alleged impact on understory vegetation, by removing such vegetation deer may serve to reduce habitat quality for the small rodents, including white-footed mice, that are the primary hosts of ticks and which are the source of Lyme disease. Such impacts may also facilitate the hunting of these rodents by avian and mammalian predators.

F. The NPS has failed to adequately evaluate the cumulative impact of the proposed action and other alternatives evaluated in the Fire Island DEIS.

NEPA implementing regulations define "cumulative impact" as "the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agencies (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions." 40 CFR 1508.7. An "action" includes "new and continuing activities, including projects and programs entirely or partly financed, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by federal agencies; new or revised agency rules, regulations, plans, policies, or procedures; and legislative proposals." *Id.* at 1508.18.

In the Fire Island DEIS, the NPS evaluation of cumulative impacts is limited to the following actions that the NPS claims are those that are past, present or reasonably foreseeable: tick monitoring, 4 Poster Deer Treatment Devices, waterfowl hunting, deer hunting and deer damage permits, William Floyd Estate cultural landscape report and treatment plan, and enhanced monitoring and management of invasive plant species. This list, however, is incomplete as it doesn't include public use of FINS, Fire Island community development, or climate change.

Public use of FINS is clearly applicable to evaluating the cumulative impacts of each alternative since such use can effect park wildlife, including deer, and vegetation. As previously explained, the NPS has conceded in its 2007 to 2011 SP that public use of FINS has resulted in adverse impacts to vegetation as a result of human day use of beaches and backcountry recreation. Though the NPS included visitor use and experience/recreation as an impact factor in the Fire Island DEIS this examined how each alternative would impact visitor use but not how visitor use impacts deer, other wildlife, and vegetation ecology on FINS.

As the definition of cumulative impact includes action taken by non-Federal agencies and even private persons, development activities within Fire Island communities should have been evaluated as a cumulative impact. It could be that these communities are fully developed and that, consequently, without the ability to expand their footprint there will be no additional significant impact on FINS wildlife, including deer, or wildlife habitat. If this is not the case, then the NPS should have consulted with the Fire Island communities to determine their development plans so that such information could be included in the Fire Island DEIS in order to analyze its impact, when combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, on FINS.

Though climate change does not represent an "action" per se, there is little question that the implications of climate change particularly in regard to a barrier island like FINS will be substantial and will impact potentially all wildlife and vegetation on FINS. The NPS includes some discussion of climate change in the Fire Island DEIS but that is in the context of claiming that the impacts of climate change will be even more severe to vegetation and other wildlife if the deer population on FINS is not reduced. What the NPS fails to provide is a comprehensive of how climate change impacts (e.g., sea level rise, increased storm frequency, increased severity of storms, overwash, saltwater intrusion) will impact deer, other wildlife, vegetation, FINS operation, and visitor use either as a stand-alone impact or cumulatively when combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable impacts. Not only should the NPS have included a comprehensive review of such adverse implications associated with climate change in Chapter 3 which described the Affected Environment but it should have evaluated such impacts in its cumulative impacts analysis of each alternative.

Conclusion:

The foregoing comprehensive analysis of the Fire Island DEIS identifies a series of deficiencies in the document several of which are fatal flaws that should result in a termination of the current decision-making process. These flaws are not simply deficiencies in the Fire Island DEIS itself but also include significant procedural inadequacies. Such flaws include: a) the lack of an up-to-date GMP; b) illegal segmentation of a broader action that should have resulted in a deer and vegetation management plan into separate planning documents to avoid evaluating the full suite of environmental impacts in a single analysis; c) the NPS failure to engage in an analysis of impairment and/or unacceptable impacts in the Fire Island DEIS as required by its own Policies; d) reliance of fertility control vaccine criteria that are self-serving, intended to achieve a particular outcome, and were not adopted through a transparent process; e) a failure to provide and explain the legal basis for taking action particularly for the proposed use of lethal strategies against a native ungulate; f) a failure to substantiate the purpose and need for deer management particularly lethal deer management; g) the lack of consideration of a reasonable range of alternatives; h) a failure to include objective, reasonable, and quantifiable metrics to adequately distinguish between the impacts of each alternative and/or to monitor the outcome of the alternative selected; i) ignoring a host of other factors that could impact vegetation, other wildlife, and public health while preferring to attribute such impacts solely on deer; and, j) a failure to fully evaluate the cumulative impacts of each alternative.

Given these deficiencies, the NPS has two choices. It can terminate the current planning process and begin anew with the goal of preparing a far more comprehensive analysis that encompasses deer, vegetation, and other required elements into a single plan or it can suspend the current decision-making process in order to prepare a supplement to the Fire Island DEIS to address these deficiencies. While some of the less significant flaws in the present analysis can be remedied as the current decision-making process continues, the major flaws cannot.

This is not to suggest, however, that certain management measures cannot be instituted immediately to begin to remedy some of the perceived impacts attributable to deer identified by the NPS. This would include a continuation (and expansion) of the NPS public education efforts and utilization of fencing to protect unique and sensitive species. Most importantly, the NPS should immediately reestablish the deer fertility control program that was inexplicably terminated in 2009 as a research program in order to resume the use of immunocontraceptive vaccines to non-lethally control the growth of the FINS deer population.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the Fire Island DEIS.

Correspondence ID: 1618 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Oct.10,2014 23:48:53

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Hunting - Deer hunting has not been part of the character of this wilderness. Alternative C states, "To protect vegetation at the Fire Island Wilderness, hunters would not be allowed to use vehicles," but his statement does not preclude driving on the beach, which would negatively impact the wilderness experience of visitors. Increased hunting in the area, particularly the sound of gunfire, would significantly impact opportunities for solitude in this relatively small wilderness.

The number of deer in the Wilderness (91) is below the natural fluctuations in population that the NPS has observed in the past. The deer browse impact studies cited in the EIS show that densities near the 54 per square mile in the Wilderness are problematic. But rather than drawing a general conclusion that some amount of damage is occurring, there should be more study-with minimal impact-of this specific ecosystem, which was dramatically altered by Superstorm Sandy near the end of 2012.

Since the NPS data shows Deer Density is 2 - 4.2x higher in the communities than in the Wilderness, deer

management efforts should be focused on the communities. Public education is paramount.

Translocation - The marking of deer and the artificial increase in population associated with this strategy would cause too adverse an impact on the wilderness experience and increase vegetation loss from deer browse.

"Approximately 1 acre within the Seashore remains designated potential wilderness. Specifically, potential wilderness encompasses the boardwalk nature trail at Smith Point and the dune crossing boardwalk and bathhouse at Old Inlet. In 2012, Hurricane Sandy removed all of these remaining structures, and the Seashore is now pursuing the designation of this last remaining acre as wilderness."

The above quote (from page 101) is perplexing. The area at Old inlet should certainly be designated as wilderness, but a new boardwalk has been constructed (north of the previous location) beginning at the eastern boundary of the wilderness. This, unfortunately, keeps this portion of land in the potential wilderness category because the wilderness character of this area does not include boardwalks. The Watch Hill to Long Cove boardwalks were removed when the area was designated. Also, when part of the northern section of the Smith Point loop was destroyed by ice from the bay, what remained of that section of boardwalk was taken out; this was in keeping with the wilderness character of the area as noted here: "The area of 1 acre, more or less, including the boardwalk nature trail at Smith point and the boardwalk, dune crossing and bathhouse at Old Inlet will remain as potential wilderness until such time as existing non-conforming uses are terminated." (Federal Register: October 12, 1999 (Volume 64, Number 196) Page 55308)

With the exception of hunting in the Wilderness, alternative C is closest to a preferred alternative.

Correspondence ID: 1619 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,14,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: Dear Ms. Ries and the National Park Service,
While at our family home in Saltaire, I received notification of the National Park Service (NPS) plans to shoot the deer on Fire Island to reduce and control their population, for "environmental reasons". Having seen the destruction of habitat on the Galapagos Islands by goats, we understand the need to protect native vegetation & keep animal populations under control. **HOWEVER, I, AND OUR ENTIRE FAMILY, STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY SHOOTING OF DEER AS PART OF THE SOLUTION.**

We have spent many decades at Saltaire and remember the days of many, sickly deer when their population was out of control. We have witnessed the tremendous improvement in their health as well as reduction in population when the pilot program of tick and fertility control was implemented. We live on Clam Cove and enjoyed seeing them cross the marsh to one of the control stations. The moments of coming across does, their fawns, and the occasional buck are special, traditional encounters intrinsic to the experience of being on the island. Residents understand that they need to either plant deer resistant plants or fence off their landscape to prevent deer eating their plantings. Otherwise residents and deer have enjoyed a peaceful coexistence, as Nature intended.

We were very shocked that the tick and fertility control program was not continued. We were even more shocked to see the plans being proposed and favored that depend on killing these creatures. **THESE PLANS ARE EXTREMELY INAPPROPRIATE AND UNNECESSARY!**

INSTEAD the NPS should implement the successful, effective tick and non-lethal fertility control program across Fire Island including the Fire Island National Seashore. Coupled with fencing the core and selected areas of the William Floyd Estate, this would ensure the goals of the NPS and continue the healthy and peaceful coexistence of deer and humans on Fire Island.

P.S. - If it's a question of funding, having spoken with many Saltairians, it is clear monies can be found among the many wealthy property owners on Fire Island to contribute to non-lethal control programs.

Correspondence ID: 1620 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,14,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: Alternative D (the NPS preferred alternative) would include a combination of actions from both alternatives B and C:

- The historic core at the William Floyd Estate would be fenced to exclude deer.
- The deer population on Fire Island and at the William Floyd Estate lower acreage would be reduced to an appropriate deer density to achieve the plan objectives through a combination of sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia of individual deer (when appropriate), and public hunting (with the Fire Island Wilderness only).
- Once reduced, the deer population could be maintained through fertility control or a continuation of actions used for direct reduction.
- Similar to alternative C, deer observed approaching humans within the Fire Island communities would be captured and euthanized.

Reviewers and Respondents Please Note:

If you wish to comment on the plan/EIS, you may

1. Post them electronically at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/FireIslandDeerManagementPlan> or
2. Mail comments to the name and address below.

Lindsay,

I feel alternative D is the best solution.

Correspondence ID: 1621 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,14,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Alternative D (the NPS preferred alternative) would include a combination of actions from both alternatives B and C:

- The historic core at the William Floyd Estate would be fenced to exclude deer.
- The deer population on Fire Island and at the William Floyd Estate lower acreage would be reduced to an appropriate deer density to achieve the plan objectives through a combination of sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia of individual deer (when appropriate), and public hunting (with the Fire Island Wilderness only).
- Once reduced, the deer population could be maintained through fertility control or a continuation of actions used for direct reduction.
- Similar to alternative C, deer observed approaching humans within the Fire Island communities would be captured and euthanized.

Reviewers and Respondents Please Note:

If you wish to comment on the plan/EIS, you may

1. Post them electronically at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/FireIslandDeerManagementPlan> or
2. Mail comments to the name and address below.

Lindsay,

I would agree with Alternative D.

Correspondence ID: 1622 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,14,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms. Ries:
In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Draft White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (draft EIS) for Fire Island National Seashore, New York, CEQ #20140210, prepared by the Fire Island National Seashore staff of the National Park Service.

The purpose of the draft EIS is to develop a deer management strategy that reduces undesirable human-deer interactions in Fire Island National Seashore (Seashore) where deer populations have been expanding since the late

1960s. Negative impacts of the expanding deer population include severe negative impacts on vegetation and cultural landscapes as well as increases in undesirable human-deer interactions. There has also been an increase in the incidence of Lyme disease among Fire Island residents. Fire Island National Seashore staff and researchers have documented a substantial decline in the diversity and abundance of key plant species in the Sunken Forest, which is one of the Seashore's rare plant communities, as well as impacts to native vegetation in other areas of the Seashore and the cultural landscape of the William Floyd Estate. The goal of the plan is to support protection, preservation and restoration of native vegetation and cultural resources throughout the Seashore while reducing human-deer interactions.

The National Park Service selected Alternative D as the preferred alternative. Deer browsing management actions include:

- Exclosure fencing in the Sunken Forest;
- Fencing an area that encloses the historic core of the William Floyd Estate;
- A small scale fenced area of William Floyd Estate protecting special status species;
- Deer population reduction to appropriate density through sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia where appropriate (for deer seen approaching humans to reduce risk of disease transmission), and public hunting;
- Maintenance of deer population levels through the use of fertility control when appropriate methods become available and continuation of methods discussed above until fertility control is available.

EPA supports the National Park Service's selected Alternative D. EPA rates the DEIS an LO or "Lack of Objection." Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS for the White-tailed Deer Management Plan.

Correspondence ID: 1623 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,14,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: E-mail
Correspondence: This email comments on the FI Deer Management Plan.

I have resided year round in Kismet, Fire Island for thirty years and love and adore this wonderful place, including the wildlife. I live on the 1st street facing the Lighthouse Tract and have interacted with the deer at all times of year and admit I enjoy their company. I was very much in favor of the immuno-contraceptive program and would liked it to have been continued but understand the funding and long term time frame issues with this intervention. I understand the Park's need to have in place a balanced and reasonable deer management program to address the important vegetation issues that the deer impact, especially in the FINS wilderness areas. I see less of a downside due to their presence within my community.

I am,, however concerned and frankly alarmed about language in the Alternatives- indicating that ".....Deer observed approaching humans within the Fire Island communities would be captured and euthanized to reduce the risk of negative human deer interactions and prevent other deer from learning this behavior through observation". As a practical matter, I do not understand how this would actually "play out". That is, if a Park ranger were to see a deer seemingly approaching me on or adjacent to my property or my neighbors' properties, the deer would be shot in front of me or taken down and euthanized and I would be the reason for this animal's death because the deer came toward me. This is untenable. I could not deal with such a scenario nor, I fear, could I avoid a confrontation with the Park ranger involved. I strongly request that FINS consider removing this Alternative language from the deer management plan. Either it is very poorly written or is seriously misleading as to intent.

Correspondence ID: 1624 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638
Received: Oct,18,2014 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: E-mail
Correspondence: I do understand that something has to be undertaken to reduce the deer population on Fire Island and reluctantly accept the fact that the herd needs to be culled in the Wilderness Area. Therefore I am willing to support Alternative D except for the euthanization of deer observed approaching humans within the communities.

Correspondence ID: 1625 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Aug,22,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: Materials are vague to the point of obfuscation. Issues were hidden. Most FINS personnel seemed to be hiding behind the current lack of NPS approval of immunocontraceptives. They do not see their role as advocates for approval of existing contraceptives or using their resources to provide evidence for effectiveness of contraceptives in reducing ____ (deer) gradually to decrease effect of browsing on plant diversity in the maritime forest.

National Rifle Association lobby and its influence in Albany has led to a legal mandate that makes contraceptive approval more difficult because all _____ meat must be proven suitable for human consumption. This is not mentioned as a barrier to approval of contraceptives because they have to be found safe for human consumption as well as effective and non-detrimental to deer health.

The superintendent's attitude to the public is both hostile and supercilious. Leslie and other natural resource people are more open and willing to explain basis of positions being advocated. Educational role should be taken seriously.

Correspondence ID: 1626 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Aug,22,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: I believe "Plan A" is the most conducive to Fire Island. Hunting is impossible in the communities. People are very attached to seeing "There" deer and hurting them in anyway will cause problems.

There is no danger in human/deer interaction that I can see.

Correspondence ID: 1627 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Aug,22,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: Everyone has to be reminded not to feed the deer, tourists and residents. Signs to make it very clear are needed.

Correspondence ID: 1628 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Aug,22,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: I appreciate the effort but this meeting was a waste of my time and money on a water taxi. I thought there would be a presentation with an audience Q&A session.

Additionally, having a meeting at the end of August is not a good idea. Most homeowners are away and their houses are rented. September on a weekend would make more sense.

Correspondence ID: 1629 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Aug,22,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: Have a selective shot once a year.

Correspondence ID: 1630 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Aug,22,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: I do not support the killing of any deer. Rather, it would be best to amp up the use of birth control to reduce the deer population.

We do not have the right to kill the deer. Let's use surgical means.

Correspondence ID: 1631 **Project:** 28897 **Document:** 60638

Received: Aug,22,2014 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: Use birth control! Do not kill deer! Get needed approvals however you can postpone killing until some birth control is available or consider moving deer off island. If you don't have approved birth control keep

experimenting til you get approval. These der are tame. Hunting is illegal and dangerous here. Castration sounds like best alternative til best birth control is approved.
