



## Planning Process Update

In June 2011, the National Park Service (NPS) began preparing a White-tailed Deer and Vegetation Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (Deer-Veg Plan/EIS) for Fire Island National Seashore (the Seashore).

This Deer-Veg Plan/EIS will document existing conditions and analyze the environmental consequences of a range of alternatives for managing deer to reduce their impacts on native vegetation, forest regeneration, cultural landscapes (such as the William Floyd Estate), and human-deer interactions at the Seashore. The National Environmental Policy Act, along with other laws, NPS policies, and related regulations will guide the process for developing this Deer-Veg Plan/EIS.

The National Park Service had planned to release the Draft EIS for public comment this past summer. However, additional time was needed to draft the document. This newsletter, the third since the Deer-Veg Plan/EIS planning process began, provides an update on the status of the Deer-Veg Plan/EIS. The previous newsletters summarized project purpose need and objectives, a summary of public comments received on initial scoping, and alternatives development. Both newsletters can be referenced on PEPC LINK. More detailed background information about white-tailed deer and

the history of deer management at the Seashore is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/fiis/naturescience/deer.htm>

Since the last newsletter the following actions have occurred:

- Refined purpose, need and objectives of the Deer-Veg plan/EIS
- Drafted preliminary alternatives
- The planning team continues to refine the draft Deer-Veg plan/EIS and fully develop for the public



## Updated Schedule

The current schedule calls for a Draft Deer-Veg Plan/EIS to be available for agency and public review and comment in summer 2014. Over the course of the next several months the planning team will prepare the Draft Deer-Veg Plan/EIS and circulate it for internal reviews. During the summer of 2014 a 60-day agency and public comment period will commence upon publication of the Draft Deer-Veg Plan/EIS, and public meetings will be held during that period. The following schedule highlights important steps in the upcoming planning and environmental compliance process.

### Important Steps in the Upcoming Planning and Environmental Compliance Process

Notice of Intent to Prepare the Deer-Veg Plan/EIS Published in the Federal Register	✓	June 2011
Public Scoping Period	✓	June - July 2011
NPS Reviews Public Scoping Comments, Gathers Data, and Drafts Preliminary Alternatives	✓	Fall 2011 - Summer 2013
Prepare Draft Deer-Veg Plan/EIS for Internal Review ( <b>WE ARE HERE</b> )		Fall 2013 - Spring 2014
Draft Deer-Veg Plan/EIS to Public for Review and Comment (60 days) and Public Meetings		Summer 2014
Analysis of Agency and Public Comments		Fall 2014
NPS Publishes Final Deer-Veg Plan/EIS		Winter 2015
NPS Publishes Record of Decision		Spring 2015

**Thank you for your continued interest!**