

References



GLOSSARY

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A

Abundance. Relative representation of a species in a given area or ecosystem.

Action alternative. An alternative that proposes a different management action or actions to address the purpose, need, and objectives of the plan; one that proposes changes to the current management. Alternatives B, C, and D are the action alternatives in this planning process. See also: “no-action alternative.”

Adaptive management. The rigorous application of management, research, and monitoring to gain information and experience necessary to assess and modify management activities. A process that uses feedback from research and the period evaluation of management actions and the conditions they produce to either reinforce the viability of objectives, strategies, and actions prescribed in a plan or to modify strategies and actions in order to more effectively accomplish management objectives.

Affected environment. A description of the existing environment that may be affected by the proposed action.

Archeological resources. Any material remains or physical evidence of past human life or activities which are of archeological interest, including the record of the effects of human activities on the environment. Archeological resources are capable of revealing scientific or humanistic information through archeological research.

B

Biobullet. A single dose, biodegradable projectile comprised of an outer methylcellulose casing containing a solid, semi-solid, or liquid product (usually a vaccine or chemical contraceptive), propelled by a compressed-air gun.

Biodiversity. The number and variety of organisms found within a specified geographic region.

Birth rate. Demographic measure of the rate at which offspring are born.

Browse line. A visible delineation at approximately 6 feet below which most or all vegetation has been uniformly browsed.

C

Carrying capacity. The maximum number of organisms that can be supported in a given area or habitat.

Cervids. All members of the Cervidae family and hybrids, including deer, elk, and moose.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD). A slowly progressive, infectious, self-propagating neurological disease of captive and free-ranging deer, elk, and moose. CWD belongs to the transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) group of diseases and is characterized by accumulations of abnormal prion proteins in neural and lymphoid tissue.

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Contractor. For the purposes of this plan, a contractor is a fully-insured business entity, nonprofit group, or other governmental agency engaged in wildlife management activities that include trapping, immobilization, and lethal removal through sharpshooting and chemical euthanasia. The contractor must possess all necessary permits and be able to pass any needed security clearances.

Contragestive. A product that prevents or terminates pregnancy.

Cultural landscape. A geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife therein) associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

Cumulative impacts. Those impacts on the environment that result from the incremental effect of the action when added to the past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

D

Deer population. The group of deer living within Fire Island National Seashore that have common characteristics and interbreed among themselves.

Demographic. Referring to the intrinsic factors that contribute to a population's growth or decline: birth, death, immigration, and emigration. The sex ratio of the breeding population and the age structure (the proportion of the population found in each age class) are also considered demographic factors because they contribute to birth and death rates.

Depredation. Deer browsing that leads to vegetation damage or loss.

Direct lethal reduction. For the purposes of this plan, direct lethal reduction is the removal of deer through a combination of sharpshooting, and capture and euthanasia, and public hunting.

Dispersal. One-way and permanent movement of animals from an area of birth to another.

E

Ecosystem. An ecological system; the interaction of living organisms and the nonliving environment, producing an exchange of materials and energy between the living and nonliving.

Endemic. Native to or confined to a particular region.

Environment. The sum total of all biological, chemical, and physical factors to which organisms are exposed; the surroundings of a plant or animal.

Environmental assessment (EA). A concise public document, prepared in compliance with NEPA, that briefly discusses the purposes and need for an action, and provides sufficient evidence and analysis of impacts to determine whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or finding of no significant impact.

Environmental consequences. Environmental effects of project alternatives, including the proposed action, any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided, the relationship

between short term uses of the human environment, and any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved if the proposal should be implemented.

Environmental impact statement (EIS). A detailed written statement required by Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act, analyzing the environmental impacts of a proposed action, adverse effects of the project that cannot be avoided, alternative courses of action, short term uses of the environment versus the maintenance and enhancement of long term productivity, and any irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources.

Environmental Justice. Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Ethnographic resource. Any site, structure, object, landscape, or natural resource feature assigned traditional legendary, religious, subsistence, or other significance in the cultural system of a group traditionally associated with it.

Euthanasia. Ending the life of an animal by humane means.

Exclosure. An area enclosed by a barrier, such as a fence, to protect vegetation and prevent browsing by animals.

Exotic species (or nonnative invasive species). Any introduced plant, animal, or protist species that is not native to the area and may be considered a nuisance; also called nonnative, invasive, or alien species.

F

Fertility control. In this plan/EIS, the use of immunocontraceptive agent to manage population growth.

Forest regeneration. For the purposes of this plan, the regrowth of forest species and renewal of forest tree cover such that the natural forest sustains itself without human intervention.

H

Habitat. The environment in which a plant or animal lives (includes vegetation, soil, water, and other factors).

Herbaceous plants. Non-woody plants; includes grasses, wildflowers, and sedges and rushes (grass-like plants).

Herbivore. An animal that eats a diet consisting primarily of plant material.

Historic Structures. A constructed work, usually immovable by nature or design, consciously created to serve some human act. To be listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register, a site, structure, object, or district must possess historic integrity of those features necessary to convey its significance, particularly with respect to location, setting, design, feeling, association, workmanship, and materials.

Home range. The geographic area in which an animal normally lives.

I

Immunocontraception. The induction of contraception by injecting an animal with a compound that produces an immune response that precludes pregnancy.

Immunocontraceptive. A contraceptive agent that causes an animal to produce antibodies against some protein or peptide involved in reproduction. The antibodies hinder or prevent some aspect of the reproductive process.

Indian Trust resources. The federal Indian Trust responsibility is a legally enforceable obligation on the part of the United States to protect tribal lands, assets, resources, and treaty rights, and it represents a duty to carry out the mandates of federal laws with respect to Native American tribes.

Infrared. The range of invisible radiation wavelength just longer than the red in the visible spectrum.

Irretrievable. A term that applies to the loss of production, harvest, and consumptive or nonconsumptive use of natural resources. For example, recreation experiences are lost irretrievably when an area is closed to human use. The loss is irretrievable, but the action is not irreversible. Reopening the area would allow a resumption of the experience.

Irreversible. A term that describes the loss of future options. Applies primarily to the effects of use of nonrenewable resources, such as minerals or cultural resources, or to those factors, such as soil productivity that are renewable only over long periods of time.

L

Lethal reduction. The purposeful authorized killing of (an) animal(s) to achieve park management objectives.

M

Managed hunt. A special/managed hunt is one in which the government entity allows a certain number of citizen hunters to take a certain number of deer pursuant to specific requirements. Sometimes these hunts include firearm proficiency tests, hunting in specific areas or stands, and taking specific cohorts. Typically, these hunts take place during the state's sport hunting season and last for several days.

Monitoring. A process of collecting information to evaluate if an objective and/or anticipated or assumed results of a management plan are being realized (effectiveness monitoring) or if implementation is proceeding as planned (implementation monitoring).

Myopathy. A non-infectious disease of wild and domestic animals in which muscle damage results from extreme exertion, struggle, or stress.

N

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended. A law that requires all federal agencies to examine the environmental impacts of their actions, incorporate environmental information, and utilize public participation in the planning and implementation of all actions. Federal agencies must integrate NEPA with other planning requirements and prepare appropriate NEPA documents to facilitate better environmental decision making. NEPA requires federal agencies to review and comment on federal agency environmental plans/documents when the

agency has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impacts involved.

Naturally regenerating and sustainable forest. A forest community that has the ability to maintain plant and animal diversity and density by natural (non-human facilitated) tree replacement.

No-action alternative. The alternative in which baseline conditions and trends are projected into the future without any substantive changes in management. Alternative A is the no-action alternative in this planning process.

P

Palatable. The property of being acceptable to the taste or sufficiently agreeable in flavor to be eaten.

Parasitism. A symbiotic relationship in which one species, the parasite, benefits at the expense of the other, the host.

Penetrating captive bolt gun. A gun with a steel bolt that is powered by either compressed air or a blank cartridge. When fired, the bolt is driven into the animal's brain and renders it instantly unconscious without causing pain.

Pericardial. Around or surrounding the heart.

Population (or species population). A group of individual plants or animals that have common characteristics and interbreed among themselves and not with other similar groups.

Population dynamics. All the elements of change by which a particular population exists such as mortality, reproduction, and movement.

Predator restoration. The method of reintroducing natural predators as a means of controlling a highly dense population.

Productivity. Number of fawns born minus those killed through all sources of mortality at a given population size.

R

Radial distance. A straight-line distance measured along a radius.

Record of decision (ROD). A concise public record of decision prepared by a federal agency, pursuant to NEPA, that contains a statement of the decision, identification of all alternatives, a statement as to whether all practical means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected have been adopted (and if not, why they were not), and a summary of monitoring and enforcement where applicable for any mitigation.

Regulated (traditional) hunting. Killing, trapping, or capture of animals as allowed by law.

Reproductive control. See fertility control.

Reproductive intervention. A method or methods used to limit the numbers of animals in a population by decreasing the reproductive success of the animals, such as contraception or sterilization.

Reproductive rate. Number of fetuses per doe.

Rut. An annually recurring condition or period of sexual excitement and reproductive activity in deer; the breeding season.

S

Sacred Sites. Places containing certain natural and cultural resources which have established religious meaning and are used as locales of private ceremonial activities.

Sapling. A young tree, generally not over 4 inches in diameter at breast height.

Scoping. An early and open process for determining the extent and variety of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.

Seedling. A young plant grown from seed; a young tree before it becomes a sapling.

Sex ratio. The proportion of males to females (or vice versa) in a population. A sex ratio of 50:50 would mean an equal number of does and bucks in a deer population.

Sharpshooting. The authorized shooting of animals by specially trained professionals using appropriate weapons for means of effective and efficient lethal control.

Special-status Species. Special-status species include plant and animal species that have regulatory protection under current federal and state laws. Federal protection is afforded through the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), which is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service defines an “endangered” species as one that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A “threatened” species is one that is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. The agency maintains a list of plants and animals native to the U.S. that are ESA candidates or are proposed for possible addition to the federal list.

Species diversity. The variety of different species present in a given area; species diversity takes into account both species richness and the relative abundance of a species.

Species richness. The number of species present in a community.

Spotlight counts. A method used to estimate deer numbers in an area by shining spotlights at night and counting the number of deer observed. This technique provides an estimate of deer numbers but not density.

Subcutaneous. Under the skin.

T

Translocation. The method of sedating, capturing, and moving deer from one location to another. Under alternative B in this plan/EIS, deer would be translocated from the Fire Island communities west of Sailors Haven to the Fire Island Wilderness.

U

Ungulate. A hoofed, typically herbivorous, animal; includes horses, cows, deer, elk, and bison.

V

Vaccine. A suspension of killed or attenuated microorganisms that, when introduced into the body, stimulates an immune response against that microorganism.

Vascular plant. A plant that contains a specialized conducting system consisting of phloem (food-conducting tissue) and xylem (water-conducting tissue). Ferns, trees, and flowering plants are all vascular plants.

Viable white-tailed deer population. A population of deer that allows the forest to naturally regenerate, while maintaining a healthy deer population in the park.

W

Woody plants. Plants containing wood fibers, such as trees and shrubs.

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