



Purpose, Need, Objectives, and Potential Management Strategies for the White-tailed Deer Management Plan at Valley Forge NHP

Purpose

The purpose of the White-tailed Deer Management Plan and EIS is to develop a deer management strategy that supports long-term protection, preservation, and restoration of native vegetation and other natural and cultural resources.

Need

- An increasing number of deer over the past two decades has resulted in undesirable changes in the species composition, structure, abundance, and distribution of native plant communities and associated wildlife.
- Browsing of tree and shrub seedlings by deer will prevent the ability of native forests to grow and mature.



Within fenced areas, a diverse plant community has developed, dominated by native plant species.

Objectives

Natural Resources

Vegetation

- Protect and promote restoration of the natural abundance, distribution, structure, and composition of native plant communities by reducing browsing, trampling, and non-native seed dispersal by deer.
- Reduce deer browsing pressure enough to ensure tree and shrub regeneration that results in a diverse forest structure dominated by native species.
- Promote a mix of native herbaceous plant species and reduce the competitive advantage of invasive non-native plant species.
- Promote natural ecological processes such as forest regeneration.

Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

- Maintain a white-tailed deer population within the park while protecting other park resources.
- Protect and preserve the natural abundance, distribution, and diversity of other native wildlife species by promoting the restoration of native plant communities.
- Protect and promote restoration of lower canopy and ground nesting bird habitat.

Threatened, Endangered, and Species of Special Concern

- Maintain and promote the restoration of rare plant and animal species and their habitat.

Cultural Resources

- Protect the integrity of the cultural landscape, including the patterns of open versus wooded land, commemorative plantings, and vegetative screening.

Potential Management Strategies

- Existing Management
- Fencing of Targeted Vegetation Communities
- Lethal Reduction With Firearms by Specially Trained Professionals
- Reproductive Control (Surgical and Chemical)
- Lethal Reduction Without Firearms by Specially Trained Professionals (Archery and Capture and Euthanasia)

Public Scoping Meetings

Wednesday, November 8th
1:00pm to 4:00pm
Valley Forge NHP, Education Center

Thursday, November 9th, 2006
6:00pm to 9:00pm
Tredyffrin Township Building

Additional information may be obtained at:
<http://www.nps.gov/vafo> or <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>