National Park Service News Release

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National Park Service Announces Approval of White-tailed Deer Chronic Wasting Disease Detection and Initial Response Plan/Environmental Assessment

Antietam and Monocacy National Battlefields have completed an Initial Response Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan/EA) for Chronic Wasting Disease in white-tailed deer. The Finding of No Significant Impact for the Plan/EA was approved by Margaret O'Dell, National Capital Regional Director, for the National Park Service on January 15, 2010.

The Plan/EA details the approved strategy for the detection of and initial response to chronic wasting disease (CWD) in white-tailed deer, should the disease appear in animals on or near the battlefields. It is important to note that Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has not been detected in white-tailed deer in Maryland. However, since the disease has been detected within 60 miles of the park units and may threaten park units in the future this planning process was initiated.

As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for this project, the NPS reviewed and considered a range of potential disease management alternatives and has hosted six public meetings to present the issue and invite input. The approved Plan, Finding of No Significant Impact, and other public documents related to the plan can be reviewed at the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/anti. Additional information about the battlefields can be found at www.nps.gov/anti and www.nps.gov/mono.

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