



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Fire Island National Seashore News Release

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NPS Seeks Input for Fire Island National Seashore Deer Management Plan Newsletter now Available; Public Scoping Period Open from June 17 through July 24, 2011

Patchogue, New York— Fire Island National Seashore Superintendent Chris Soller announced that the National Park Service (NPS) is preparing a **White- tailed Deer and Vegetation Management Plan** and its **Environmental Impact Statement** (plan/EIS) for the Seashore. The purpose of the plan/EIS is to address issues associated with the abundance and distribution of white- tailed deer within park boundaries. The issues include impacts from deer on the natural and cultural resources of the Seashore, as well as impacts resulting from deer- human interaction. The process starts with a **public scoping period**, which will be open from **June 17 through July 24, 2011**. Information gathered during this time period will help planners progress to the next stage of the process, the development of draft **preliminary management alternatives**, which are expected to be available for review by early **2012**. A Draft Fire Island National Seashore White- tailed Deer and Vegetation Management Plan/EIS will be published after careful consideration and evaluation of each proposed management alternative, and the NPS preferred alternative will be presented at that time. “Deer management has been a very sensitive issue in many national parks,” stated Soller, “and we want to be sure that the decisions we make are respectful of all resources.”

No public meetings are planned during the public scoping period for this plan, but a newsletter is available online. Public input is important at this point to ensure that the National Park Service has a strong foundation for the alternatives for this plan. The **White- tailed Deer and Vegetation Management Plan** will become an implementation plan of the Seashore’s more comprehensive General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS), currently being developed.

Public scoping comments about the proposed **White- tailed Deer and Vegetation Management Plan** may be submitted electronically from June 17 through July 24, 2011 at the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) web site:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/FireIslandDeerPlanScoping>

or by mail:

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(more)

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Public meetings will be held after Draft Preliminary Alternatives are prepared for Fire Island National Seashore's **White-tailed Deer and Vegetation Management Plan**. These meetings are expected to be conducted during 2012.

Additional information about the Seashore's current deer research and monitoring programs is available online at www.nps.gov/fiis/naturescience/deer.htm.

For more information about Fire Island National Seashore, visit the park's web site at www.nps.gov/fiis.

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