

Vegetation and Deer Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement

Fall 2014

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Morristown National Historical Park
New Jersey



Planning Process Update and Next Steps

Dear Friend of Morristown National Historical Park,

As you know, the National Park Service (NPS) is preparing a Vegetation and Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (plan/EIS) for Morristown National Historical Park. We want to take this opportunity to update you on our preparations and summarize the next steps needed to complete the plan/EIS.

Since our January 2014 newsletter was distributed, the planning team has continued to work on a comprehensive range of alternatives to accomplish the park's long-term goal of preserving and managing a forest that reflects the historic character, biodiversity, and natural processes that were present at the site during the Continental Army's 1779–80 and subsequent winter encampments. As you may recall from the last newsletter, invasive plant species are some of the greatest impediments to restoration of the 18th-century mixed-hardwood forest and promotion of a naturally diverse plant community integral to the cultural landscape of the Jockey Hollow and New Jersey Brigade units. The alternative management strategies have been expanded to incorporate long-term strategies for managing invasive plant species in the park.

The revised alternatives have been reviewed for park planning and environmental compliance purposes by the NPS planning

team, which represents the park, the NPS Northeast regional office, and the NPS Washington offices. This careful review was conducted to ensure that the actions described in the alternatives are consistent with federal environmental laws and NPS environmental policies, and to ensure that they reflect the best practices described in similar plans developed for other units of the national park system. Each of the chapters and appendixes of the plan/EIS is currently being updated and prepared for final review and consultation. As a result, the project schedule has been extended. We anticipate sharing these alternatives with you when we release the draft environmental impact statement for public review, which is anticipated for the late spring/early summer of 2015.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our efforts to reflect the historic condition of Morristown National Historical Park's forest and manage its resources in a thoughtful and sustainable manner. If you have questions about the planning process, please contact Chief of Natural Resources Robert Masson at 908.766.6841 or via e-mail at Robert_Masson@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Ross
Superintendent
Morristown National Historical Park

