

Chapter 5 – Consultation and Coordination
Response to Comments

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0506

April 8, 2005

Don Neubacher, Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, CA 94965

Dear Superintendent Neubacher:

I am writing you concerning the draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Non-native Deer Management Plan that has been prepared by the Park Service to address the problems posed by the growing populations of non-native axis and fallow deer at the Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

Over the past few weeks my office has received numerous letter from constituents deeply concerned about this issue. I'm sure that you know the arguments. On one side there is a wish to protect the native species, biodiversity, and historical uses of the park (and nearby private property), which are threatened by a rapidly expanding population of non-native deer. On the other side, there is strong and heartfelt support for the preservation of these very beautiful creatures.

Unfortunately, I've been told that many of these deer carry a contagious disease, which is both difficult to screen and incurable, and would preclude relocating them to the wild or other less sensitive preserve areas, which would be my first choice.

I believe, however, that the most positive action would be fertility control as a significant component of a non-native deer control program and urge the Park Service to engage in the research that will be necessary to develop and deliver long-acting contraception to the non-native deer population. While fertility control may not be the entire answer, however, research into these areas would have the beneficial effect of helping to develop the technologies to humanely deal with similar problems in the future.

Please know that I appreciate the difficult and very complex work that the Park Service does to protect our national treasures.

Sincerely,



Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

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