

*Chapter 5 – Consultation and Coordination
Response to Comments*

4/6/2005 7:41 PM FROM: visualpoint.com-usr TO: 84,,14156638132 PAGE: 001 OF 001

wednesday, April 6, 2005

Ann Nelson
Point Reyes National Seashore
National Park Service
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, CA 94956

Dear Point Reyes National Seashore Nelson,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the planning process at Point Reyes National Seashore. I applaud the excellent work you've done in the past, and as you finalize your management plan I encourage you to choose Alternative D - a proactive approach to the problem of axis and fallow deer.

The park is at a critical juncture in its relationship with non-native deer. Because of the deer's expansive nature, the disruption they cause to Point Reyes' native ecosystem could become irreparable. With the Park Service mandate to protect and restore native ecosystems, I believe the park must adopt a plan that can address these issues based on its human and financial resources. If action is not taken soon, proactive solutions will pass us by. Point Reyes must have a roadmap to deal with these ever-expanding species before it's too late.

As you well know, the invasive axis and fallow deer are disruptive in a number of ways. In addition to disturbing native flora and out-competing native fauna, they pose threats to endangered species like the red-legged frog and coho salmon that you've worked so hard to protect. As they grow in population and gain more ground, the deer might become more aggressive toward park visitors. In addition, the financial drain is significant for nearby ranchers, the community at large, and a Park Service already struggling with inadequate budgets. I understand that you have limited staff and resources to deal with monitoring the spread of disease through these invasive animals, which is why an aggressive program that begins now will make all the difference in the future.

Thanks again for this opportunity to voice my support for Alternative D for Point Reyes National Seashore.

Sincerely,

Frank Holmes
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