

Chapter 5 – Consultation and Coordination  
Response to Comments

The  
NATIONAL HUMANE  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

Fostering a sentiment of kindness to animals



April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Superintendent John Dell'Osso  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, CA 94956

Dear Superintendent Dell'Osso,

I am writing on behalf of The National Humane Education Society (NHES) and its 400,000 supporters nationwide—many of whom are California residents—to strongly urge the Point Reyes National Seashore to implement only humane methods of population control for the growing number of Fallow and Axis deer on the national park land.

As a non-profit organization which promotes the humane treatment of all animals, NHES is opposed to cruelty to animals in any form, and we are therefore, adamantly opposed to the use of mass killing as a form of wildlife population control. Specifically, NHES is strongly opposed to the proposal of exterminating the Fallow and Axis deer population via hunting.

Further issues of consideration:

- *Net Loss of Revenue:* Many wildlife watchers stop going to parks when they feel unsafe and displeased by hunting; this comes as significant loss of revenue as there are far more wildlife watchers than hunters.
- *Unnecessary Strife:* Often wildlife must endure hunting seasons outside of park lands, and must also adjust to increasing human development. National parks may be the last safe haven wild animals have from unnaturally arduous stresses.
- *Not Effective Population Control:* There is currently no solid evidence supporting hunting as an effective management tool for overpopulation, diseases, nuisance animals, or protection of endangered species.
  - Furthermore, at this time there is no solid evidence supporting the suggestion that Fallow and Axis deer are negatively impacting the environment or harming the native Black Tail deer.

NATIONAL OFFICE:  
P.O. Box 340  
CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414-0340  
PHONE 304/725-0506  
FAX 304/725-1523  
www.nhes.org

PROGRAM:  
SPAY TODAY  
P.O. Box 340  
CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414-0340  
Phone 304/728-8332  
Fax 304/724-6765  
www.nhes.org

AFFILIATE:  
PEACE PLANTATION  
ANIMAL SANCTUARY  
12752 STATE HWY. 206  
WALTON, NY 13856-2327  
PHONE 607/865-5759  
FAX 607/865-6334  
www.ppasny.org

PROGRAM:  
BRIGGS ANIMAL  
ADOPTION CENTER  
P.O. Box 1023  
CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414-10  
PHONE 304/724-6558  
FAX 304/724-6765  
www.baacs.org

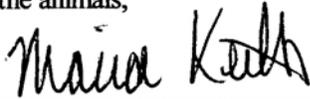
*Chapter 5 – Consultation and Coordination  
Response to Comments*

With these facts in mind, NHES adamantly requests that Point Reyes National Seashore pursue humane methods of population control for the Fallow and Axis deer. In place of killing these sentient creatures, we highly encourage the park to use humane methods such as relocation of deer to less population areas of land, and the use of contraceptives to deter excessive reproduction.

In closing, NHES feels that the creation and enactment of laws pertaining to the humane treatment of *all* animals is of utmost importance. To allow animals neglect and/or abuse is a definite risk to a community and society as a whole. By utilizing humane wildlife population control within national parks, we can remain one step closer to a more humane society.

Thank you very much for your time and effort regarding this issue. NHES will also continue to work for animal welfare and responsible and humane communities nationwide. I look forward to your positive influence on this situation.

For the animals,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Keith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maria Keith  
Humane Education Assistant