

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Acadia National Park  
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

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January 24, 1968

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Superintendent, Acadia

Subject: Wildlife Management Program, White Tailed Deer

In our memorandum of October 10, 1967, we advised that the Acadia Deer Management Program in the form of herd control would continue during the 1968 winter season. A decision concerning the exact number of deer to be removed was postponed pending the completion of a thesis study related to this problem by a University of Maine graduate student.

Members of the park staff attended an Oral Examination on January 5 at the University of Maine that marked the conclusion of the study. Based on thesis conclusions and our own field observations, the 1968 control program was initiated on January 11.

We will seek to remove approximately 30 to 40 deer from the park deer population. Only those localized areas where previous control effort has been inadequate will be involved. Deer will be taken by shooting and, to every extent possible, live capture. Live-trapped deer will be released on the mainland in cooperation with the Maine Department of Fish and Game. As in previous years, deer removed by shooting will be donated to the county school lunch program after certain biological samples from each carcass have been collected for analysis by the University of Maine. Only permanent park personnel will participate in the control effort.

As a part of continuing deer research, several new exclosures will be located at strategic sites within the park. Other data will be obtained through a second and complimentary graduate study just getting underway.

ALBERTA NATIONAL PARK  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Total herd size remains flexible and necessary control requirements will change as does the ecosystem. But evidence points strongly to the fact that efforts have been successful over the past seven years to reduce the herd to a level in balance with its environment. The decision to remove about 30 to 40 animals should allow total deer numbers to increase slightly based on projected reproductive increments. Careful measurement of deer browse will dictate to what extent herd expansion will be allowed.

Efforts continue in an attempt to refine trapping techniques to the extent that all control will be accomplished by live capture in the near future.

(SGD) Thomas B. Hyde

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cc:

Chief Park Naturalist  
East District Ranger