

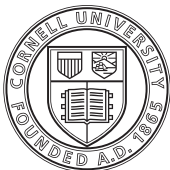
APPENDIX A: Survey instrument

Deer, People and Parks

*A Survey of Residents Living Near
Fire Island National Seashore*



Research conducted by



Cornell University
Department of Natural Resources
Human Dimensions Research Unit



National Park Service
Biological Resource Management Division

About this Questionnaire

The National Park Service seeks your help to improve public involvement in management decisions. The purpose of this survey is to learn about your experiences, opinions and suggestions related to natural resource management in Fire Island National Seashore, particularly with respect to deer and related issues in the park and surrounding community. This survey is part of a larger study about deer and the National Park System.

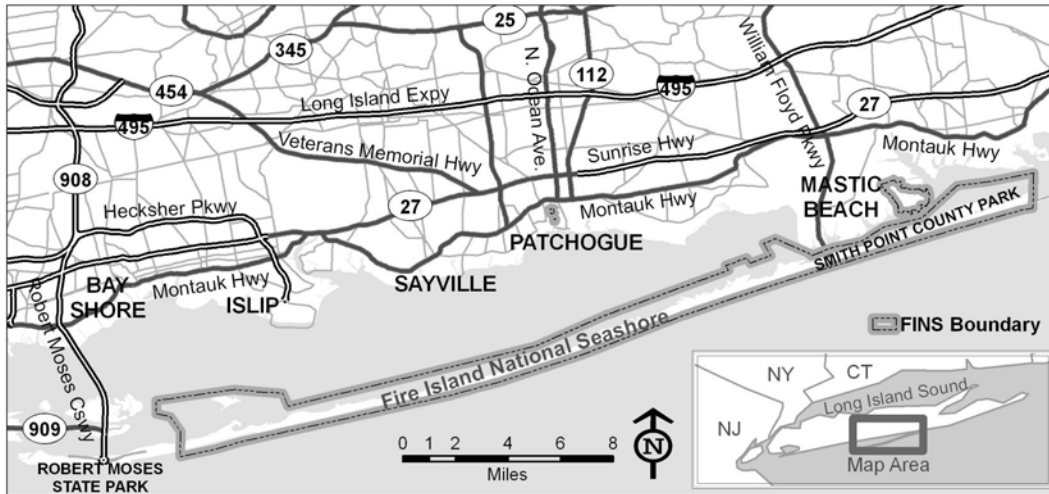
Even if you have not visited Fire Island National Seashore, your feedback will assist the National Park Service when considering community involvement there and at other parks in the future.

Please complete this questionnaire at your earliest convenience, seal it, and drop it in any mailbox (no envelope is needed); return postage has been provided. The questionnaire has an identification number so you can be removed from our mailing list when you return it; your name and address will not be saved with your responses. We appreciate your prompt response.

Thank you for your help with this important study!

Throughout this survey, we may refer to the National Park Service as “NPS” and Fire Island National Seashore as “Fire Island NS,” “FINS,” or “the Park.”

We are specifically interested in your experiences on Fire Island, not in FINS administered areas on Long Island.



YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE, DEER, AND YOUR COMMUNITY

1. Have you ever visited Fire Island National Seashore?

- Yes
- No *(If no, please skip to Question 6)*

2. When you visit Fire Island National Seashore, how much time do you usually spend there? Please check one.

- Passing through on my way to somewhere else
- Less than 4 hours
- Four hours or more, but less than one day
- One day or more

3. Why do you visit Fire Island National Seashore?

Please check all that apply.

- To view the scenery
- To enjoy the smells and sounds of nature
- To view wildlife
- To learn about history
- To spend time with family and friends
- To exercise
- To be outside
- To get away from the usual demands of life
- To volunteer in park activities
- Other, please specify: _____

4. How many visits have you made to Fire Island National Seashore in the past 12 months?

- None *(If none, please skip to Question 6)*
- 1
- 2-4
- 5-10
- More than 10
- Don't know/Can't remember

5. In the past 12 months, how often have you seen deer in Fire Island National Seashore?

Please check one.

<input type="checkbox"/> Every visit	<input type="checkbox"/> Half or more but not all visits	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than half of visits	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
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6. In the past 12 months, how often have you seen deer in your community near Fire Island NS? Please check one.

<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> A few times a week	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Less often than once a week	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
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7. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements about Fire Island National Seashore and your community.

Fire Island National Seashore ...

Please circle one number for each item.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not Sure
makes my community a special place to live	1	2	3	4	5	9
is not an important place for recreation for my community	1	2	3	4	5	9
provides habitat for plants and animals	1	2	3	4	5	9
does not help the local economy	1	2	3	4	5	9
does not protect the landscape from development	1	2	3	4	5	9
provides open space for my community	1	2	3	4	5	9
plays a significant role in my community	1	2	3	4	5	9
attracts tourism dollars to my community	1	2	3	4	5	9
is not a good neighbor	1	2	3	4	5	9
increases the job opportunities in my community	1	2	3	4	5	9
preserves natural resources	1	2	3	4	5	9
is a place where people in my community spend leisure time	1	2	3	4	5	9

YOUR OPINIONS ABOUT DEER IN THE PARK & COMMUNITY

8. In areas administered by Fire Island National Seashore (e.g., the Lighthouse, Sailors Haven, Talisman/Barrett Beach, Watch Hill, Otis Pike Wilderness Area) or in communities on Fire Island, to what extent do you think that deer, in general, are:

Please circle one number for each item.

	IN FINS ADMINISTERED AREAS			IN YOUR COMMUNITIES ON FIRE ISLAND		
	Rarely	Sometimes	Almost always	Rarely	Sometimes	Almost always
wild	1	2	3	1	2	3
peaceful	1	2	3	1	2	3
behaving strangely	1	2	3	1	2	3
dangerous	1	2	3	1	2	3
tame	1	2	3	1	2	3
behaving normally	1	2	3	1	2	3
aggressive	1	2	3	1	2	3
timid	1	2	3	1	2	3
acting naturally	1	2	3	1	2	3
harmless	1	2	3	1	2	3
threatening	1	2	3	1	2	3
acting unnaturally	1	2	3	1	2	3

9. Generally, how do you feel about deer IN FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE ADMINISTERED AREAS? *Please check one.*

- I have no particular feelings about deer in Valley Forge NHP
- I enjoy deer AND I do not worry about deer-related impacts
- I enjoy deer BUT I worry about deer-related impacts
- I do not enjoy deer in Fire Island National Seashore

10. Generally, how do you feel about deer IN COMMUNITIES ON FIRE ISLAND? *Please check one.*

- I have no particular feelings about deer in my community
- I enjoy deer AND I do not worry about deer-related impacts
- I enjoy deer BUT I worry about deer-related impacts
- I do not enjoy deer in my community

11. Please indicate whether you are concerned about any of these deer-related impacts, either In Fire Island National Seashore administered areas or in communities on Fire Island:

Please circle one number for each item.

	IN FINS ADMINIS-TERED AREAS			IN COMMUNI-TIES ON FIRE ISLAND		
	Not at all concerned	Somewhat concerned	Very concerned	Not at all concerned	Somewhat concerned	Very concerned
Having seen unhealthy deer	1	2	3	1	2	3
Fawns that are born too late to survive winter	1	2	3	1	2	3
Presence of deer feces	1	2	3	1	2	3
Deer browsing on naturally growing flowers, trees and shrubs	1	2	3	1	2	3
Deer browsing on landscaped flowers, trees and shrubs	1	2	3	1	2	3
Deer browsing on vegetable gardens	1	2	3	1	2	3
Deer accessing unsecured trash	1	2	3	1	2	3
Deer interacting with pets	1	2	3	1	2	3
Deer behavior around people	1	2	3	1	2	3
People's behavior around deer	1	2	3	1	2	3
Diseases and/or parasites carried by deer	1	2	3	1	2	3
Car accidents involving deer	1	2	3	1	2	3
Other (Please specify): _____	1	2	3	1	2	3

12. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Please circle one number for each item.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not Sure
It is reasonable to have deer in the park	1	2	3	4	5	9
The habitat for deer is better in FINS administered areas than in communities on Fire Island	1	2	3	4	5	9
The local deer herd uses habitat both in FINS administered areas and in communities on Fire Island	1	2	3	4	5	9
Deer seriously damage plants and other resources in the park	1	2	3	4	5	9
Deer create a serious nuisance for people visiting the park	1	2	3	4	5	9
Deer present a serious health risk in the park	1	2	3	4	5	9
Deer present a serious safety risk in the park	1	2	3	4	5	9
The park should start now to address deer-related impacts in the park	1	2	3	4	5	9
Addressing deer-related impacts in FINS administered areas would affect communities on Fire Island	1	2	3	4	5	9
Addressing deer-related impacts in FINS would affect me positively	1	2	3	4	5	9
Addressing deer-related impacts in FINS administered areas would affect me negatively	1	2	3	4	5	9
It is important to understand other people's views about deer-related impacts	1	2	3	4	5	9
The park is part of the local community	1	2	3	4	5	9

13. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements about NPS managers in general.

Please circle one number for each item.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not Sure
NPS managers think it is reasonable to have deer in the park	1	2	3	4	5	9
NPS managers think the habitat for deer is better in FINS administered areas than in communities on FI	1	2	3	4	5	9
NPS managers think the local deer herd uses habitat both in FINS administered areas and communities	1	2	3	4	5	9
NPS managers think deer seriously damage plants and other resources in the park	1	2	3	4	5	9
NPS managers think deer create a serious nuisance for people visiting the park	1	2	3	4	5	9
NPS managers think deer present a serious health risk in the park	1	2	3	4	5	9
NPS managers think deer present a serious safety risk in the park	1	2	3	4	5	9
NPS managers think they should start now to address deer-related impacts in the park	1	2	3	4	5	9
NPS managers think that addressing deer-related impacts FINS administered areas would affect communities on Fire Island	1	2	3	4	5	9
NPS managers think that addressing deer-related impacts in the park would affect me positively	1	2	3	4	5	9
NPS managers think that addressing deer-related impacts in FINS areas would affect me negatively	1	2	3	4	5	9
NPS managers think it is important to understand other people's views about deer-related impacts	1	2	3	4	5	9
NPS managers think the park is part of the local community	1	2	3	4	5	9

YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH PARK MANAGEMENT

14. Have you done any of the following IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?

Please circle one category for each item.

Read or listened to news about the park	Yes	No	Not Sure
Talked with local park staff	Yes	No	Not Sure
Talked with other public officials about the park	Yes	No	Not Sure
Provided written comments to a park management plan, impact statement, or survey (excluding this survey)	Yes	No	Not Sure
Written a letter to a newspaper about the park	Yes	No	Not Sure
Attended a public meeting about the park	Yes	No	Not Sure
Participated in a community group or community activity related to a park issue	Yes	No	Not Sure

15. If the park were to consider addressing deer-related impacts in the future, how likely is it that you would do any of the following ?

Please circle one number for each item.

	Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely	Very Likely	Not Sure
Read or listen to news about park actions to address deer-related impacts	1	2	3	4	9
Talk with local park staff about deer impacts	1	2	3	4	9
Talk with other public officials about deer impacts	1	2	3	4	9
Provide written comments to a park management plan, impact statement, or survey related to deer impacts (in addition to this survey)	1	2	3	4	9
Write a letter to a newspaper about deer impacts	1	2	3	4	9
Attend a public meeting about deer impacts	1	2	3	4	9
Participate in a community group or community activity related to deer impacts	1	2	3	4	9

16. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements about management and planning at Fire Island National Seashore.

Please circle one number for each item.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not Sure
	1	2	3	4	5	9
I usually have enough opportunities to provide input on park management decisions						
I do not believe my input typically is (or would be) taken seriously by park management						
I do not have enough information to give meaningful input on deer management						
The different ways the park asks for my opinion (e.g., via written comments, conversations with park staff, public meetings, etc.) encourage me to provide input						
I am not comfortable voicing my opinion about park management decisions						
Public input usually leads to better management decisions						
For the most part, interactions between myself, park managers, experts, and people with ideas different from my own help build future relationships						

17. How much influence do you think people like yourself can have on the management of Fire Island National Seashore? Please check one.

- A lot
 Some
 Very little
 None at all

18. How much influence do you think people like yourself can have in making the communities surrounding Fire Island National Seashore a better place to live? Please check one.

- A lot
 Some
 Very little
 None at all

19. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements about management at Fire Island National Seashore.

Please circle one number for each item.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not Sure
On the whole, National Park Service employees are dedicated to preserving and protecting Fire Island National Seashore	1	2	3	4	5	9
Fire Island National Seashore is an educational resource for my community	1	2	3	4	5	9
I do not feel welcome at Fire Island National Seashore	1	2	3	4	5	9
Fire Island National Seashore typically works with local communities for shared purposes	1	2	3	4	5	9
On the whole, the rules and regulations at Fire Island National Seashore do not help preserve and protect it for the future.	1	2	3	4	5	9
My community typically does not help care for Fire Island National Seashore	1	2	3	4	5	9
Managers at Fire Island National Seashore typically listen to opinions from people like me	1	2	3	4	5	9
I usually do not support the resource management decisions made at Fire Island National Seashore	1	2	3	4	5	9
I usually trust management at Fire Island National Seashore to make good decisions about resource management	1	2	3	4	5	9

20. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree that management at Fire Island National Seashore typically is...

Please circle one number for each item.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not Sure
trustworthy	1	2	3	4	5	9
not knowledgeable	1	2	3	4	5	9
not fair	1	2	3	4	5	9
telling the whole story	1	2	3	4	5	9
unbiased	1	2	3	4	5	9
concerned about my community's well-being	1	2	3	4	5	9
unconcerned about the public interest	1	2	3	4	5	9
watching out for my community's interests	1	2	3	4	5	9

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

All information you provide is never associated with your name.

21. In what year were you born? 19_____

22. Are you male or female? Male Female

23. How long have you lived in a community near Fire Island?
_____ years

24. Please tell us which activities you have participated in, at any location (not just in the park or your community), in the last 12 months: *Please check all that apply.*

- Hiking/Walking outdoors
- Biking
- Picnicking
- Camping
- Boating/Canoeing/Kayaking
- Wildlife viewing
- Nature photography/Painting/Sketching
- Horseback riding
- Hunting
- Fishing

25. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? *Please check one.*

- Some high school
- High school diploma/G.E.D.
- Some college or technical school
- Associate's Degree (e.g., A.A.)
- College undergraduate degree (e.g., B.A., B.S.)
- Graduate degree (e.g., M.S., Ph.D., M.D.)

26. Please use the space below for any additional comments:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

**To return this questionnaire, simply seal it and drop it into the nearest mailbox.
Postage has already been provided.**

For more information about this project, please visit:

<http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/deerpeopleparks>

or call: 607-255-4136.

To learn more about the National Park System, please visit:

<http://www.nps.gov>

To learn more about Fire Island National Seashore, please visit:

<http://www.nps.gov/fils/>

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