



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Wildlife Services

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November 6, 2015

Mayor Bill de Blasio
The City of New York
Office of the Mayor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio and President Oddo,

Thank you for your letter dated October 28, 2015 regarding our Environmental Assessment (EA) for white-tailed deer damage management in New York State. This environmental compliance document is a requirement under the National Environmental Policy Act and considers future actions New York Wildlife Services may take to help landowners and land managers in the state address damage caused by white-tailed deer.

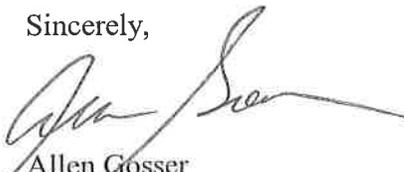
We greatly value our relationship with agencies such as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, and we value their input into this planning process, which also considers public comments. Although an EA is not required for an agency to go forward with developing a management plan, the Environmental Assessment can help guide the plan, and Wildlife Services and the cooperating agencies benefit from the process.

We anticipate the EA will be made available for public comment on Regulations.gov in December, and this comment period will last a minimum of 30 days. The public will have a full 30 days to review the document and have the opportunity to express their feedback and opinions about the EA. Wildlife Services personnel will read through all of the comments and organize and analyze the data to make an informed decision.

We do understand that white-tailed deer populations are growing throughout the state in both rural and urban areas, including Staten Island. We further understand that you are eager to move forward with developing a city-specific white-tailed deer damage management plan. Wildlife Services is dedicated to its mission of providing Federal leadership and expertise in resolving wildlife conflicts to allow people and wildlife to coexist. In doing so, New York Wildlife Services is striving to produce a sound environmental compliance document that balances the needs of the community with local white-tailed deer populations.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the state and the city on this important wildlife management issue. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Allen Gosser
State Director



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