



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Morristown National Historical Park

Washington Place

Morristown, New Jersey 07960

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE # 600

Morristown National Historical Park

Deer Spotlighting

DEER SPOTLIGHTING MANUAL

Deer spotlighting was begun at Morristown National Historical Park in 1984. It was implemented by the Resource Management Specialist in order to monitor the white-tailed deer population within the park, including such factors as: total number of deer, sex ratio, feeding vs. active sites, and number of fawns. Spotlighting is completed for four nights during each of two consecutive weeks (total of eight nights - up to two nights of data can be thrown out if necessary). Spotlighting is conducted either quarterly or during the following months: July, August, November, March, and December/January.

Each spotlighting count should be completed in such a way as to maintain as many constants as possible. With this in mind, the following guidelines should be used:

1. Always begin spotlighting 20 minutes after sunset (use the Farmer's Almanac and adjust for daylight saving and location).
2. Maintain the spotlighting vehicle at a constant speed of 7 mph.
3. Follow the spotlighting route exactly (see attached map).
4. Be consistent when recording data and use prepared data sheets.
5. Refer to prepared map for questions regarding location.
6. If any variations in the spotlighting procedure or abnormal conditions should occur, make note of it on the data sheet.

5. The vehicle must be maintained at a constant speed of 7 mph.
6. Consistency is critical to the collection of data.
7. This procedure cannot be accomplished while closing the park.
8. The fewer people used, the less bias enters the data.

SPOTLIGHTING DATA BASE

1. Enter data sheet information as soon as possible after spotlighting.
2. Data base for this is titled: Spotlight. DBF.
3. D-Base III+ is used.
4. Data sheet matches D-Base structure.

Equipment:

1. Government vehicle.
2. Data sheets and route map.
3. Two spotlights (run directly from car battery).
4. Penlight and pen or pencil.

Attached:

1. Sample Spotlighting Sheet.
2. Spotlighting Route Map.

Submitted by: Robert Masson Date: 10/22/92
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Lynn R. Wightman, Chief Ranger

Approved by: Diane H. Dayson Date: 10/22/92
Diane H. Dayson, Superintendent

MORRISTOWN NATIONAL
HISTORICAL PARK
ROAD AND TRAIL MAP
NEW JERSEY BRIGADE AREA
PARK ROADS OPEN 9AM-SUNSET

FOR MORE INFORMATION
SEE PARK RANGER

REGULATIONS:
LEAVE NATURAL AND HISTORICAL
FEATURES UNDISTURBED
NO FIRES

