

North Atlantic Region

At the George Wright Society meeting in Tucson, Ariz., in November the North Atlantic Region convened a meeting of NPS scientists, managers and resource managers to discuss problems of white-tailed deer management. We are organizing a more formal workshop to discuss current and imminent management activities. Those wishing to participate should contact Mike Soukup at (617) 565-8805 or FTS 835-8805.

* * *

Over the past several months the North Atlantic Region has watched a number of our natural resource managers move around the Region and the Service. We were sorry to see Barbara Samora move on to higher pastures from Cape Cod NS to Mount Rainier NP. However, Cape Cod acquired Dave Manski from Wrangell-St. Elias NM in Alaska. The Regional Office lost Len Bobinchock to Acadia NP, where he assumes duties as Chief, Interpretation, Resource Management and Visitor Protection. And most recently we learned that Allan O'Connell will move from Fire Island NS to Acadia to take over Carroll Schell's position. Carroll has moved down to help out the National Capital Regional Office.

* * *

From Ray Kimpel at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore comes word of the 14,500-acre North Manitou Island and its deer herd, which had eaten itself out of house and home. Sleeping Bear Dunes became responsible in 1984 for the island. With the authority and assistance of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, special deer hunts were initiated to harvest as many of the deer as possible, until a normal vegetation pattern could be documented. Now, reproduction and young growth of highly edible plants is being observed generally throughout the island and in established monitoring plots.

Cooperation between the NPS and the Michigan DNR has been a crucial factor in the program's success. The herd, once numbering close to 1,800, is now estimated at 500. Each year between 400 and 700 hunters have made the trip to the island to take part in the hunt, despite difficult travel logistics caused by the early winter storm conditions. Hunter success rates have averaged between 22 and 116 percent. In 1982 North Manitou was designated for wilderness management until Congress could act on its designation under a separate wilderness bill. When the hunts were initiated in 1985 rangers encouraged the use of wilderness camping methods. It appears that there is a cadre of returning hunters who demonstrate a high respect for the wilderness aspects of this program. A primitive weapons hunt is tentatively planned for 1989. Max Holden or Al Haecker at Sleeping Bear can provide details to anyone wishing more information on this project.