

6.0 ALTERNATIVES

6.1 No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, no management of the deer herd would take place. The DRAC has determined that No Action will result in continued growth of the deer herd. Given the complaints about the deer population and the ongoing impacts of ecological damage, deer/vehicle incidents, landscape destruction and tick borne diseases, , the No Action alternative will simply exacerbate the current situation.

It is possible that if the herd grows significantly, lack of food will either result in wasting disease or result in increased density of the deer population outside the VCH.

If the No Action alternative is selected, certain activities associated with sterilization and culling as identified earlier in this DEIS will not occur.

While the costs of the deer management program would not be expended from the Village budget, the ongoing costs of ecological damage, vehicular accidents, landscape loss and replacement and Lyme disease treatment would remain similar to existing conditions or potentially increase as the density of the herd increases.

The No Action alternative would likely have far more adverse impact than the proposed action.

6.2 Sterilization Only, No Culling

Under this alternative, no culling would take place and greater numbers of deer would need to be sterilized in order to stabilize the herd at the numbers recommended by the DRAC. This option is slower and more expensive than culling alone or the combined approach of culling and sterilization. It would take three to five years to stabilize the

herd, and herd reduction would not be evident for five to six years, based on projections by the DRAC.

No culling would take place and thus community objections to this aspect of the proposed program would be placated. No discharge of firearms would occur within the Village.

6.3 Firearm Culling Only, No Sterilization

This is the most cost effective method (in the short-term) to reduce deer herd and also the most controversial. Maintenance of the herd size through continued culling would be required at a higher level, according to the DRAC, because the remaining deer would continue to breed. Culling would most likely need to be ongoing and would disrupt Village harmony for potentially an extended period. Under this alternative, the continued discharge of firearms to maintain desired herd size would take place and the circumstances associated with that activity as described earlier in this DEIS would continue on and off for the foreseeable future.

6.4 Sterilization and Culling by Trapping

At the present time, trapping and killing deer is not permitted under the wildlife regulations of the State of New York. However, if relief could be secured from that provision via the deer management permit, an alternative to using firearms to cull deer would be to trap deer and use a captive bolt gun. This device kills the animal instantly allegedly without causing pain. A captive bolt gun has a steel bolt that is powered by either compressed air or a blank cartridge. The bolt is driven into the animal's brain. It has the same effect on the animal as a firearm with a live bullet. A captive bolt gun is safer than a firearm and is considered to be an effective form of euthanasia by the American Veterinarian Medical Association.

This is a slower process than culling and more labor intensive. Multiple traps could be employed and deer could be culled over an extended period with minor disruption to the local community.

The costs of this process are not known. If such work is carried out by a deer management person retained by the Village or by the Village Police, it is possible that the costs would be less expensive than retaining contractors to shoot deer. If this alternative were to be pursued, a more detailed review of costs would be warranted.