

Help Prevent Killing Jekyll Island's Deer!

THE THREAT: A Jekyll Island Authority (JIA) committee charged with finding ways to reduce the island's deer population has apparently narrowed the deer-reduction options to using federal government sharpshooters, locally-trained sharpshooters, or a controlled hunt. A recommendation on whether to proceed will soon be made to the JIA board.

CITIZEN RESPONSE: The threat to Jekyll's deer has led to the formation of *Citizens for the Humane Treatment of Animals on Jekyll*, a group that:

- Opposes the use of lethal means to 'manage' Jekyll's deer population
- Believes the state ban on firearms use within Jekyll Island State Park must be upheld
- Believes the best way to regulate deer numbers is to let nature do the job unless truly extraordinary circumstances dictate otherwise
- Supports the use of a newly developed, remotely injected deer contraceptive **IF** an artificial way of reducing deer population is proven to be necessary



Information on *Citizens for the Humane Treatment of Animals on Jekyll Island* and how you can help save Jekyll's deer is available

*On Facebook - [*SaveJekyll'sDeer*](#)

*By contacting **Bonnie Newell** at savejekylldeer@gmail.com or by phone at **912-319- 2030**

*By visiting www.savejekylldeer.org. (Due to the newness of this website, use the address bar, not the search bar)

KILLING JEKYLL'S DEER IS UNWARRANTED:

- The approximate number of deer on Jekyll Island has not been established; the method used to estimate that number has produced contradictory and inaccurate results.
- Deer impacts on the ecology of Jekyll's maritime forest have not been scientifically established.
- Killing deer to reduce population is counterproductive; the remaining female deer respond to greater food abundance by reproducing at a higher rate, resulting in a quick rebound in deer numbers.
- By nature, deer reproduce less when their numbers outdistance the food supply. This natural regulation of deer reproduction has typically kept deer numbers in balance with the local environment.

KILLING JEKYLL'S DEER AS AN 'EXPERIMENT' IS ETHICALLY WRONG:

The “precautionary approach” to deer management described in the note below sent by one member of the JIA’s Deer Committee to another says it is okay to reduce deer numbers even without compelling evidence showing population reduction is actually needed:

“I would also not say that we know that deer population reduction is necessary on Jekyll. The way I have tried to articulate my position is that I think it is advisable for protection of ecological diversity based on a precautionary approach to ecological management. In other words, my reading of the literature and admittedly quite limited assessment of plant communities on the island leads me to the conclusion that it would be a good idea, if feasible, to reduce the deer population and observe the results.”

For citizens of conscience, this ‘preemptive strike’ approach to managing Jekyll’s deer population is a cruel and ethically indefensible experiment that ignores the intrinsic value of these beautiful creatures.



THE BOTTOM LINE: The JIA can put Jekyll Island on the national map as an example of progressive deer population management or go with the generic script, which says shoot the deer to reduce their numbers. Shooting deer that are virtually domesticated and viewed by many Jekyll visitors as one of the island’s endearing attractions is clearly the wrong choice for Jekyll, for the deer, and for the JIA’s public image.

If you care about the fate of Jekyll’s deer, please join *Citizens for the Humane Treatment of Animals on Jekyll Island.*

Membership is free!

www.savejekylldeer.org (use the address bar, not the search bar)