

# CHEESEQUAKE STATE PARK

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## 2017-18 Deer Management Program

Cheesequake State Park is managed for both recreational opportunities and resource protection; we cannot have one without the other. White-tailed deer in the Park had reached a population density that was consuming a high level of native plants that are vital to the future of the forest, other animals, and many recreational opportunities.

In 2011 we estimated the density of the Park's deer population through Distance Sampling; a method of data collection from random sightings of deer from different point transects within the Park. The number reported was six times higher than what is required for normal forest regeneration. The past six seasons of safe and effective deer hunting have reduced the population level to less than ten deer per square mile. Wildflowers, along with seedlings of shrubs and trees are starting to grow again. This is the level at which we wish to remain and hunting is necessary to maintain that at this time.

We understand everyone's safety concerns and that some might not be comfortable recreating in a Park where hunting is in progress. Cheesequake enforces that all hunters must be in elevated tree stands, which is a proven safe method for multi-use areas. We share everyone's respect for deer and our goal is to keep them in the Park, but at lower population levels. White-tail deer are an important component of the functioning ecosystems in the Park.

Hunting permits will be offered again through a lottery system. During the 7-day time frame from 8am Wednesday AUG 30 through 4pm Tuesday SEP 5 applications will be accepted. During that time, hunters can drop off / snail mail / email or fax a copy of their 1) NJ Bow Hunting license 2) government issued ID with photo and 3) daytime phone number that will be answered between 8am-4pm when we call about the lottery results on Wed SEP 6.

### LOTTERY REQUIREMENTS

- drop off / snail mail / e-mail or fax the following items between Wednesday AUG 30 at 8am thru Tuesday SEP 5 at 4pm.
- 1) valid NJ Bow Hunting License
- 2) valid government issued Photo ID card
- 3) daytime phone number that you will answer between 8am – 4pm.

