

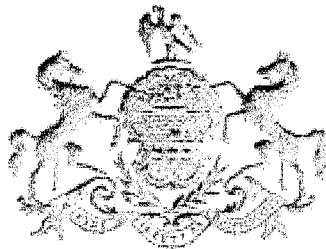
**AN UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL FOR CONDUCTING**

**AN EVALUATION OF PENNSYLVANIA'S**

**WHITE-TAILED DEER MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**An Independent Scientific Study By**  
**John Eveland**  
**Project Director and Principal Investigator**

**June 14, 2007**



**Prepared For**  
**Representative Edward G. Staback**  
**Majority Chair, Game and Fisheries Committee**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

**Prepared By**  
**John F. Eveland**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**The Terra Cor Institution**



**A Science Initiative of The Terra Cor Institution**

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## INTRODUCTION / NEED FOR PROJECT

Within the past few years, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has instituted a new statewide deer management policy that was intended to depart from traditional "maximum-sustained-yield" management of white-tailed deer -- a long-held policy with principally single-purpose intent to benefit sport hunting. In contrast, the new policy is focused on the continuing incremental statewide reduction of deer numbers until a more 'forest friendly' population may be achieved and maintained. Under this new policy, statewide deer numbers will continue to be reduced annually until the Game Commission is satisfied that it has reached a population level that is conducive to the new deer management objectives of the agency.

Although many sportsmen have accepted the concept of a lower deer population and overall reduction in hunter success that has resulted from the agency's new deer management policy, many others have not. As a result, the scientific credibility of the agency and its mission have been questioned by sportsmen fervently enough to incite legal action toward halting the new deer management policy.

There are more than just the roughly 800,000 sportsmen and their associated millions of family members and friends that are affected by the new policy, with factions mounted on both sides of the issue. For example, fewer sportsmen will annually bag a deer, and segments of the outdoor sporting and hospitality industries seem to be adversely impacted by reductions in deer numbers; while others, such as the agriculture and lumber industries, auto insurance companies, and residential landscape and garden enthusiasts may hail the effects of a decreased herd. This is a problem that does not seem to be dissipating, and, infact, appears to be increasing as factions polarize in support of their ideals. It is a problem that has affected the credibility of the Pennsylvania Game Commission as perceived by many sportsmen, and intends to exacerbate a currently declining trust by the citizens of the Commonwealth in state government. It is, therefore, an image problem that extends beyond the Game Commission, and is possible and even likely to affect public confidence in other state agencies as well as the legislature and office of the governor.

Although the Game Commission has presented scientific evidence to support its new management policy, and, therefore, has assured the sportsmen that the policy is based upon a sound scientific foundation that is in the long-term best interest of sportsmen; many sportsmen do not accept the new deer management policy as being rooted in sound scientific principle nor in the best interest of sportsmen and the sport of hunting. And so the conflict continues -- and heightens!

Proposed, herein, is the implementation of an independent private (non-governmental) scientific evaluation of Pennsylvania's deer herd and the Game Commission's new deer management policy. It is to be conducted by a proven and respected wildlife ecologist and operated as a project of The Terra Cor Institution -- an existing private nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to science, education, and environment. A one-year scientific investigation and final report entitled "An Evaluation of Pennsylvania's White-Tailed Deer Management Policy" would provide independent scientific documentation toward solving the above-cited serious and growing statewide problem. For less than the cost of legal actions between sportsmen organizations and government, the, herein, proposed scientific investigation is designed to provide over 800,000 sportsmen and possibly millions of additional concerned citizens with unbiased scientific recourse to their questions and concerns, to halt hostilities between sportsmen and the Game Commission, and to end a deteriorating public trust in the Game Commission and state government.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The successful management of Pennsylvania's deer herd is a complex issue that involves knowledge and application of varied disciplines and concerns. Proposed, herein, is a multi-disciplinary scientific investigation to analyze significant ecological relationships of white-tailed deer in Pennsylvania and to evaluate the deer management policy of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Ecology, herein, is defined as the relationship of deer with their environment, both natural and human parts of the environment. It includes, therefore, the effects of the deer herd upon forests (regeneration and overall forest health), and impacts to agriculture, the driving public, gardeners and backyard enthusiasts; as well as impacts to the deer herd resulting from wildlife management, especially hunting. The survey will not just assess impacts that would result from a high deer population, but also the effects of low and decreasing deer numbers, such as the resulting negative impact that might occur to the outdoor sporting and hospitality industries, and the positive impacts to agriculture, lumber, and auto insurance industries.

**PGC-Stated Policy Goals.** This proposal includes (but is not limited to) a scientific evaluation of the three stated goals of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's new deer management policy:

- to create healthier forests.
- to produce healthier deer.
- to reduce deer/human conflicts.

**Objective.** The goal of this scientific study, therefore, is to evaluate the Pennsylvania Game Commission's deer management policy.

**Scientific Parameters.** In general, the principal parameters that will be scientifically investigated include:

- population dynamics of the Pennsylvania deer herd.
- environmental impacts caused by the herd.
- management impacts to the deer herd.
- socioeconomic impacts.
- forest analysis, especially the effects of deer upon Pennsylvania forest regeneration, composition, and replacement.

Population dynamics will assess deer numbers, age structure, and gender structure. In addition to this determination of the existing condition, an analysis of population trends, and the rate of change if population numbers are not static, is important in understanding the population dynamics of the herd. Annual additions to the existing population resulting from birth will be determined along with analysis of annual losses due to hunting, vehicle collisions, predation, winter loss, and other causes. Population numbers will be presented in age classes (such as fawns, yearlings, and up) so that an accurate assessment of the breeding and nonbreeding portions of the population can emerge. A determination of sex classes will complete the picture of the existing condition and aid in assessing the viability of the new deer management (hunting) policy.

Environmental impacts will investigate and discuss the theoretical and measured effects of high deer numbers on such environmental parameters as forest health and regeneration, agriculture, and gardeners and backyard enthusiasts; and the impacts of low deer numbers on outdoor sporting and hospitality industries. In this regard, however, emphasis will be focused on the actual existing environmental impacts during the year in which the investigation occurs.

Of special interest to sportsmen will be the impacts to the deer herd that are occurring from the new deer management policy, and an analysis of how the current impacts compare to those effects that resulted from traditional management policies of the recent past. The success of management impacts in attaining the principal goals of the new deer management policy (such as improving deer

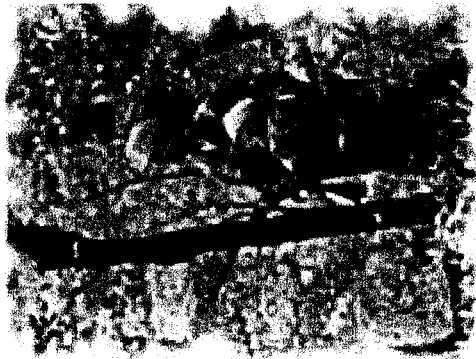
# DEER MANAGEMENT: A COMPLEX ISSUE

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- Deer Herd
- Wildlife Habitat
- Wildlife Populations
- Forest Regeneration
- Forest Composition
- Forest Replacement

## SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT

- Jobs & Economy
- Outdoor Sporting Industry
- Agriculture
- Lumber Industry
- Auto Insurance Industry
- Backyard Gardeners
- Sportsmen
- Game Commission



## SCIENCE

- Forest Ecology
- Natural Succession
- Old Growth Forests
- Vegetation Types
- Communities & Ecosystems
- Wildlife Ecology

## PHILOSOPHY

- Sound Science vs Common Sense
- Hunting vs Non-Hunting
- Gun Control vs 2nd Amendment
- Human Element vs Natural Element
- Conservation vs Preservation
- Tradition vs Change
- Multiple-Use Management
- Maximum Sustained Yield

**Wildlife Management is not a Science, but a Practice -- the Application of Science.  
However, the Foundation of Management is based on Philosophy.**

health and forest health, and reducing deer/human conflicts) will be investigated and discussed. In addition to biological parameters, a socioeconomic impact study will determine the effects of the herd -- as well as the management policy -- upon related social and economic criteria within the Commonwealth. On one side of the issue, emphasis will focus on the economic impacts of the management policy to outdoor sporting and hospitality industries and the social relevance to sportsmen and the sport of hunting. On the counter side of the issue, socioeconomic impacts of the herd to agriculture, lumber, and automobile insurance industries will be analyzed.

Finally, this ecological study will survey Pennsylvania forests from three principal perspectives: (1) as habitat for deer and other wildlife; (2) as a natural resource toward promoting non-consumptive outdoor activities, such as hiking, camping, horseback riding, and bird watching; and (3) as a producer of lumber and commercial forest products. Pennsylvania is a vegetatively diverse ecosystem that is comprised of the many forest types that occur within two major natural forest regions. There are many variables besides the deer herd that influence natural forest regeneration and the successful development of forest systems over time. Therefore, the principles of forest ecology must be fully considered in conducting an assessment of the condition of Pennsylvania's forests and the impact of the deer herd upon forest regeneration and succession.

The project's general research outline and report presentation format is listed in the following table.

**Scientific Method.** Principal scientific investigations will be conducted by John Eveland -- forester, wildlife biologist, and ecologist by education and profession. His experience is summarized later in this document in the Capabilities and Experience section. Investigations will include both primary and secondary research techniques -- conducting primary research where needed to answer key questions or confirm secondary data of great significance to the outcome of the study; and conducting secondary research through interviews with deer managers and stakeholders, and through the collection of existing data. Every attempt will be made to consider the information and viewpoints of as many stakeholders as possible. When needed, expert scientific consulting services may be sought for certain portions of the overall investigation.

There should be more involved in the formulation and implementation of wildlife management plans than purely scientific parameters (wildlife ecology, forest ecology, and socioeconomics). The foundation of policy should be based on a fundamental philosophy -- albeit one that is subject to change and the influence of time -- that guides the development of the wildlife management plan. Therefore, an attempt will be made to determine the traditional and contemporary philosophies of the state conservation agencies, and how they influenced the development of the new deer management policy. Such an analysis is important even before the validity of scientific principle and practice is assessed.

**Duration.** Given that most major naturally-occurring and human-induced factors affecting the deer population are annual happenings (such as population increase resulting from deer births in spring, and reductions resulting from the fall hunting season and winter mortality), the scientific survey will be conducted over the course of one year. This one-year survey will result in a thorough assessment of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's deer management policy and culminate in a report entitled "An Evaluation of Pennsylvania's White-Tailed Deer Management Policy".

# AN EVALUATION OF PENNSYLVANIA'S WHITE-TAILED DEER MANAGEMENT POLICY

## -- RESEARCH OUTLINE --

- I. OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the Pennsylvania Game Commission's deer management policy.
- II. METHOD: Primary and Secondary Research
- III. PARAMETERS (include but are not limited to):
  - A. An analysis of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's deer-related policy and operations, including the Commission's three management goals for healthier forests, healthier deer, and reduced deer/human conflicts; and an analysis of the Commission's annual deer harvest methods and results.
  - B. An analysis of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources policy and operations that relate to deer management and the current issue.
  - C. A scientific analysis of Pennsylvania's deer herd.
  - D. A scientific analysis of Pennsylvania's forests.
  - E. A determination of the environmental impact caused by the deer herd.
  - F. A determination of the impact upon the statewide deer herd caused by the Game Commission's management policy.
  - G. A determination of the socioeconomic impact of the state's deer management policy.
- IV. COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS
- V. DISCUSSION OF CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHY
- VI. CONCLUSION

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND PARTNERSHIP

As previously mentioned, John Eveland will serve as project director and principal scientific investigator. The white-tailed deer study would be conducted as a project of The Terra Cor Institution -- a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Research and operational funds would be housed and administered as an earmarked Terra Cor budget.

The proposed private/public partnership, therefore, is:

(1) Project Director

- The Terra Cor Institution (Nonprofit 501(c)(3))  
John Eveland, Project Director and Principal Investigator

(2) Primary Public Partner / Sponsor

- Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Game and Fisheries Committee  
Rep. Ed Staback (Majority Chairman)  
Steve McMullen (Executive Director)  
Rep. Sam Rohrer (Minority Chairman)  
Rep. Dan Surra (Project Liaison)

(3) In Cooperation With

- Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation

(4) Public / Private Partners

- Pennsylvania Game Commission  
Carl Roe (Executive Director), PGC Coordinator
- Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs  
Melody Zullinger, Executive Director
- Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania  
Greg Levengood, Chairman

(5) Associate Partners

- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
- Other Private Stakeholders

## THE TERRA COR INSTITUTION

The nonprofit Terra Cor Institution has completed Stage I of a multifaceted project toward addressing major problems that will face America and Pennsylvania in coming generations. Conceived and directed by John Eveland, Terra Cor is a state-of-the-art project to create in western Pennsylvania the world's first truly international park -- introducing to the world the first in a new generation of interactive cultural theme parks in science, education, environment, and the performing arts. It is designed with the educational and scientific value of the Smithsonian and the entertainment dynamics of Disney World. The sum of these elements will result in the most dynamic and interactive cultural institution and learning center on Earth. Studies have indicated that the Park (encompassing over 3,000 acres) will attract 14,000,000 annual visitors from throughout America and the world, create 15,000 jobs, and generate \$700,000,000 of annual regional economic stimulation. Terra Cor's programs will significantly affect the well-being of America for generations, and create a new industrial foundation for Pennsylvania deemed by Penn State studies to be "the most significant regional happening in Pennsylvania witnessed in our lifetime;" and by the U.S. Department of Commerce as "the biggest boon ever for western Pennsylvania."

## BUDGET ANALYSIS

The one-year budget outline is, herein, presented. Although the budget and personnel requirement are considered to be nominal, this plan is formulated toward providing the most effective funding level to conduct the highest quality forest ecology and wildlife research and management assessments, to satisfy anticipated high travel demands for research and presentations, to generate hardcopy and electronic reports for mass distribution to private and public stakeholders, and to accomplish all project goals.

BUDGET ANALYSIS (1 1/2 Personnel +Office).....\$265,000

- Project Director / Principal Scientist (F/T)
- Strategic Plan
- Office Space / Operation
- Secretarial / Word Processing (H/T)
- Primary and Secondary Research
- Standard Field Materials and Supplies
- Travel Costs
- Contract Scientific, Computer, Graphic, Administrative Services
- Data Analysis / Report Preparation and Production
- Multimedia and Electronic Reports Capabilities
- Project Liaison

## REQUEST FOR PUBLIC FUNDING

The request for public funding is presented in the following table with associated tasks and procedures. This proposal request of the Game and Fisheries Committee of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives is an unsolicited initiative by John Eveland toward answering relevant scientific and other questions relating to the current Pennsylvania deer management controversy, and thus, toward resolving the conflict and ameliorating relationships among myriad private and public factions. The Pennsylvania white-tailed deer herd is, certainly, the "flagship" of the state's wildlife and hunting communities. The scientific and responsible management of deer is, therefore, a critical statewide issue that both private and public sectors should strive toward as partners in natural resources management with the best interests of the herd, of wildlife and forest resources, of sportsmen and other stakeholders, and of the citizens of the Commonwealth as their common goal. This unsolicited proposal by John Eveland is designed to conduct the necessary studies and provide the scientific documentation that will resolve the questions relating to the issue.

A one-time request is, herein, made for \$265,000 that will provide the resources required to complete the major tasks listed in the following table, and, thus, the overall project objective. Funding would be directed to, housed within, and administered by The Terra Cor Institution, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All portions of the project would be led by John Eveland as project director and principal investigator. Additional contractual services may be required, and will be funded and coordinated from the initial \$265,000 earmark budget and coordinated by the project director.

The project will commence upon funding.

**REQUEST FOR PUBLIC FUNDING  
TOWARD CONDUCTING  
AN INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S WHITE-TAILED DEER MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**An Unsolicited Proposal  
By John Eveland  
Administered through the Nonprofit Terra Cor Institution**

**I. PUBLIC FUNDING REQUEST .....\$265,000**

**II. MAJOR TASKS TO BE COMPLETED**

- A. Population Dynamics of the Pennsylvania Deer Herd: An assessment of the deer population and an analysis of harvest methodology and records.**
- B. Environmental Impacts of the Herd**
  - 1. Effects of high deer numbers on forest health and regeneration, agriculture, residential gardens and landscaping, and related parameters**
  - 2. Effects of low deer numbers on the outdoor sporting industry, hospitality industries, and related parameters**
- C. Management Impacts**
  - 1. To the numbers and structure of the deer population**
  - 2. To sportsmen and the sport of hunting**
- D. Management Policy: Analysis of the Game Commission's management goals for (1) healthier forests, (2) healthier deer, &(3) reduced deer/ human conflicts**
- E. Forest Ecology Study: A statewide scientific assessment of**
  - 1. Forest Regeneration and Succession**
  - 2. Forest Resources**
    - a. Wildlife and wildlife habitat**
    - b. Lumber and commercial forest products**
    - c. Outdoor recreation**
  - 3. DCNR'S "Browsing Report for the Pennsylvania State Forests (2006)" and other DCNR related initiatives**
- F. Socioeconomic Impacts: An assessment of socioeconomic impacts to the lumber industry, agricultural industry, outdoor sporting and hospitality industries, auto insurance industry, sportsmen, and Pennsylvania Game Commission, itself, relating to the deer herd and management policies of the Game Commission**

**III. PROCEDURES**

- A. Principal Investigator: John Eveland**
- B. Additional Contractual Scientific Services**
- C. Subcontractual Socioeconomic Services**
- D. Other Subcontract Services as Needed**
- E. Field Research, Primary and Secondary Research, related Travel Expenses**
- F. Project Coordination, Public Relations, Liaison, and related Travel Expenses**
- G. Multimedia and Electronic Reports Capabilities**
- H. Office, Part-Time Assistance, Secretarial, and Computer Services**
- I. Graphic Art, Data Analysis, and Report Reproduction Services**
- J. The Financial and Administrative Resources of The Terra Cor Institution**

## SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITIES AND EXPERIENCE

Of the three big game mammals in Pennsylvania (white-tailed deer, black bear, and elk), John Eveland conducted the first statewide research, wrote the original state management plans, and is directly responsible for the recovery and success of two of these species -- black bears and elk. He is by profession a forester, wildlife biologist, and ecologist. His scientific experience includes studies for the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. John Eveland is without question one of the most experienced wildlife ecologists in the state, and is acknowledged as a national specialist in the ecology of North America for having conducted scientific research on wildlife, forest ecology, and natural systems within over 30 states and provinces of North America--from the northern hardwood forests of Pennsylvania and rocky coasts of New England to the southern pine forests and sandy shores of the Carolinas and Louisiana; from the mixed oak forests of mid-America to southwest deserts and canyonlands of Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and New Mexico; and from the Rocky Mountain states of Wyoming, Colorado, and Montana to the boreal forests of Canada and Alaska.

### As A University Research Scientist

**Black Bear Research.** As a biologist at Penn State University, John conducted the first statewide scientific bear research program ever in Pennsylvania. The study included live-trapping, tagging, and radio-telemetry tracking of bears in order to scientifically determine the status of the statewide bear population, and to answer critical ecological questions. He determined that there were less than 2,000 black bears in the entire state, and that the population was declining. As a result, John wrote the first statewide bear management plan for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, which was immediately implemented in 1970 by the closing of the state bear hunting season, subsequent reductions in the length of the season from one week to a maximum three-day season, the issuance of bear licenses for hunters, the classification of state bear management zones, and the statewide system of bear check stations during hunting seasons. To accurately age bears, he developed the Pennsylvania microscopic method of annular (tooth-ring) analysis using premolar teeth from living bears. Dr. Gary Alt (a later black bear ecologist with the Pennsylvania Game Commission) said of John in a published Focus feature article of the Pittsburgh Tribune Review:

*Alt became interested in bears when he was in high school and Eveland came to the area for field studies. "He was the bear man," Alt said of Eveland. "He was a legend, and he was bigger than life as far as I was concerned."*

Because of John's first statewide bear management plan (which remains virtually in effect to this day), Pennsylvania's bear population has experienced a remarkable recovery, and today is estimated at over 17,000 bears -- and increasing.

**Elk Research.** Because of his success with bear research, John was asked to conduct the first scientific investigation of Pennsylvania's elk herd as a member of the Penn State faculty. Elk had been native to the state until 1867, when the last eastern elk was killed. Only 46 years later in 1913 elk were reintroduced into the state. No research had ever been conducted during this period. John's first research in the early 1970's focused on population dynamics, range and movements, and basic ecology of the herd. After six months, he had determined a total range size of 200 square miles, a primary range size of 90 square miles (where about 90% of the herd resided for about 90% of the time), and a total herd size of only 63 elk. Two years later he discovered the nationally-significant brainworm disease that had cut the herd by 70%, from 115 elk to only 35 animals within a 10-week period -- explaining why the elk population had not increased nor prospered for three-quarters of a century. John created a multidisciplinary team of parasitologists, immunologists, and veterinarians at Penn State to fully understand the dynamics of the brainworm disease and to develop a preventative serum and method of inoculation. He wrote the first state elk management

plan for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and today the population is over 700 animals -- and increasing.

Ralph Harrison, respected retired forester with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources and Pennsylvania elk historian, worked and lived in the 'elk area' during the period of John's research. He wrote in his publication The Elk of Pennsylvania (published by The Pennsylvania Forestry Association in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and PADER Bureau of Forestry):

*"John and Nick Hunter ( Penn State graduate student assisting John) were two of the most dedicated wildlifers I had ever known. When they left, it created a void (in elk management) that exists to this day."*

**Otter and Bobcat Research.** In addition to black bear and elk research, John designed Pennsylvania's first official population analyses and ecological research for otters and bobcats. The otter research was implemented by his brother, Dr. Thomas Eveland, through a newly-created wildlife degree program at East Stroudsburg University that John designed as a consultant to the university. The bobcat program was implemented by his friend, Dr. David Forney, through Bloomsburg University as the first wildlife-oriented graduate degree program at that institution.

### **As An Industry Ecologist**

**Energy and Environment.** John left Penn State to accept a position with Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh as a senior scientist, ecologist, and project manager. During the next six years, John organized, conducted, and directed scientific research on ecology, environmental systems, and energy development throughout North America. Disciplines included wildlife and plant communities, geology, hydrology, aquatic ecology, water quality, endangered species, and fossil fuels and alternative fuels development (including mining and reclamation, generating station siting and construction, resource transportation, power production, and energy transmission). He coordinated teams of natural resource scientists from universities and the private sector and served as liaison with state and federal government agencies in diverse environmental science projects that often related to proposed and existing energy development facilities such as fossil fuel, nuclear, geothermal and solar power generating stations; coal and uranium mines; energy transport systems; and the long-term impacts (biological, air, water, and soil) of fossil fuel emissions.

John was a scientist and project manager for the environmental field studies on some of America's largest energy development projects, such as the world's largest coal-fired power plant at Four Corners in New Mexico, its proposed 3,000 megawatt equal near the Kaiparowits Plateau in the canyonlands of Utah, the Clinch River Nuclear Breeder Reactor in Tennessee, Bethlehem Mines in Pennsylvania, the vast Sierra Pacific coal mining project in central Wyoming, Tucson Gas and Electric power generating and electric transmission projects in Arizona, site selection and ecological studies for a proposed nuclear power plant in Manitoba, alternative energy studies in Nevada (natural gas, coal gasification, and solar power), and many other power generating stations -- such as Sierra Pacific's coal-fired power plant in Nevada for which John personally selected the site and even chose the colors of this currently-operating facility. He has conducted studies on energy and the environment in 31 states and provinces, and hence is uniquely qualified as an ecologist with broad national and North American expertise.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

For decades, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has provided a relatively large deer herd primarily for the benefit of sport hunting under a "maximum sustained yield" management philosophy. This is a textbook philosophy that was designed many years ago by Aldo Leopold who is considered to be the father of wildlife management; it is taught to wildlife management students in universities throughout America. This traditional wildlife management philosophy was designed to support the maximum number of deer that was possible on a yearly basis without harming the state's forests. Some years ago, the Game Commission, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, concluded that the forest was, in fact, not sustaining itself, and that the size of the deer herd needed to be reduced. The Game Commission's new objective was, therefore, to reduce the deer herd to a point that would result: (1) in healthier forests, (2) in healthier deer, and (3) in fewer conflicts between deer and humans.

Many sportsmen, however, disagree with this new deer management philosophy. For generations sportsmen have been accustomed to a fall tradition that has been passed on from parent to child. It reaches back for not just decades, but for generations; and for many sportsmen who go afield with muzzleloading firearms, it is a tradition that remains relatively unchanged since our colonial founding. Change from a tradition that is so strong and longheld is very difficult, and which a significant number of sportsmen believe is not needed. As a result, the state's conservation community has become polarized, with state conservation agencies promoting change while sportsmen try to hang on to tradition. It is a conflict that does not seem to be abating, but instead is growing. Already we have witnessed legal action with more proposed toward altering or stopping this new management policy, and some state legislators have proposed laws toward influencing management and remedying the conflict.

However, there are others who are affected by the new deer management policy, not the least of which are those citizens and businesses who depend upon the many millions of dollars that are generated yearly by the outdoor sporting industry. This represents a significant part of our state economy, and so this deer management issue reaches beyond the realms of science and tradition, beyond recreation, and forestry, and agriculture, and beyond the loss of flowers along driveways and vegetables in gardens. There is an economic concern that must be realized as well.

This ecological/investigatory assessment offers the Game and Fisheries Committee of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives with a unique opportunity to address serious statewide problems -- (1) to substantiate the viability of the Game Commission's new deer management policy in the face of significant opposition by a large number of sportsmen, (2) to conduct an ecological assessment of the state's forest resources and deer herd, (3) to provide sportsmen and other outdoor stakeholders with scientific recourse to their concerns and frustrations, and (4) to improve the declining image of the Game Commission, state elected officials, and the Pennsylvania governmental process -- with a single low-cost and highly credible solution. By authorizing and sponsoring the proposed scientific study -- "An Evaluation of Pennsylvania's White-Tailed Deer Management Policy" -- to be conducted by a private independent source of high experience and reputation, the State can provide over 800,000 sportsmen and possibly millions of additional concerned citizens with unbiased scientific recourse to their questions and concerns.

Regarding project directorship and the scientific process, John Eveland is uniquely qualified as a wildlife biologist, ecologist, and forester to conduct comprehensive scientific research on wildlife, forest ecology, natural systems, and environmental quality in Pennsylvania. His intensive in-depth scientific investigations of bears, elk, wildlife habitat, and forests in Pennsylvania; his extensive research of wildlife populations within over 30 states and provinces throughout North America; and his experience of forest ecology and plant communities within virtually every major natural ecosystem throughout North America have gained him national professional and media acclaim.

He is an experienced corporate administrator and project director, and offers The Terra Cor Institution's support services of professional scientific, technical, graphic art, computer, and report production services in conducting the, herein, proposed research on the ecology of white-tailed deer in Pennsylvania and the deer management policy of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

## **STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATION**

Although no considerations other than those presented in full within this document are perceived at this time, in order to conduct the most thorough research evaluation, to assure production of the highest quality report, and to guarantee that the objective of the study is completely accomplished, new areas of interest and concern necessitate that flexibility in both goals and procedures remains as a consideration. Therefore, methodology and courses of action as described in this document may be subject to additions, deletions, and/or alternations at any time during the study as deemed appropriate and necessary by the project director and as approved by the Majority Chairman of the Game and Fisheries Committee of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives toward accomplishing the overall objective of the project.