

Chilmark Community Center  
April 6, 2005; 1 – 3 p.m.  
Public Meeting Issues/Comments/Questions

Spraying on Nomans Land Island occurred during 2004, what was being sprayed and why? [Staff response at meeting: herbicide spraying from the air was coordinated closely with the Town of Chilmark. Spraying was to control phragmites and was adjusted at the last minute to ensure that there was little to no wind.]

The CCP should explain invasive species control – what is done and why, should compare aerial vs. hand/backpack spraying

Ensure control of unauthorized access

Nomans Land Island is a draw – “attractive nuisance”

Opportunities for increased/improved law enforcement

Coast guard auxiliary

MOU with Town of Chilmark?

Money available from the Navy?

Handout to boat operators

Newspaper articles

Notice on marine charts that Nomans Land Island is closed to the public

Distance monitoring? Heat sensors

Emergency response – evaluation, need for a plan

Unexploded ordnance – public safety

Will fishing around the island be included in the plan? [Staff response at meeting: USFWS jurisdiction ends at mean low tide for Nomans Land Island. Adjacent waters are outside of our control and will not be included in the CCP.]

Wildlife management/habitat management for specific species – is FWS doing any? Will there be any?

Grassland habitats and the use of controlled burning to keep the island from moving completely to shrubland

Shrubs are less diverse for birds, butterflies, and dragonflies

Keep grassland habitat

What is the condition of the ponds? What is the water quality?

Will the Wampanoag tribe have greater access than the general public?

The Luce family cemetery should be preserved and maintained

1 headstone, approximately 5-6 burials

has the ground been probed?

What are the soil characteristics and quality on Nomans Land Island?

Could grazing be used on Nomans Land Island? Sheep and/or goats to restore sandplain grasslands. Existing sandplain grasslands restoration partnership.

Public access could introduce small mammals – predators (including rats) which could impact some bird populations. Good reason to keep the island closed to the public.

Approximately 100 pair of Virginia rails. On the island they use uplands, which is not characteristic of the species' use elsewhere.

The island has unique characteristics that would be a shame to spoil.