

# Florida deer-hunt delay hurt herd, officials say

**United Press International**  
FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Officials who gave up a "mercy hunt" of 2,200 starving deer say intervention by preservationists allowed the animals to become "decimated" before they could be saved and it will take years to rebuild the herd.

"I'm afraid there were no real winners in this whole situation, despite the well-intentioned efforts of a lot of people," Col. Robert Brantly, executive director of the Freshwater Fish and Game Commission, said Monday.

The commission gave up its "mercy kill" of 2,200 deer starved by high water in its second day, saying there was no hope for saving the herd. "It will take us time to study the data we have collected and determine the real value of what was done," Brantly said.

The official count for the two-day operation was only 720 deer killed and 17 deer rescued by animal lovers, who complained they did not have enough airboats or personnel to do a proper job.

Jack Kassewitz Jr., who led the rescue effort, said "there's no way in hell" his small band of volunteers with only a few airboats could save 100 deer, as it had hoped, between Sunday and noon Tuesday.

Fish and game officers had said there were 5,500 deer starving in the Everglades where heavy rains had covered much of their food and forced them to high ground where they had to compete for sustenance.

They said if 2,200 deer were killed in an emergency hunt, the remainder of the animals would have more food to eat and the herd

would survive. But critic Cleveland Amory and other preservationists took the matter to court, saying the deer should be relocated instead.

U.S. District Judge Eugene Spellman delayed the hunt from Friday morning until Sunday and Brantly said that might have doomed the deer.

He said the delay allowed the herd to become "decimated" before the kill began. Brantly canceled two more days of hunting in the northern half of the area containing the starving deer.

"We have to accept the loss of the deer in the north," Brantly said. "The delay brought about by the suit has thinned out the herd in the north to almost total decimation."

Commission spokesman Bill Lampton said it would take years to rebuild the herd.

"We were just now recovering from a 1978 die-off, which should give you an indication of how long it will take," Lampton said.

"We're sure there will be a core of animals left in the area on which we can build a future herd," he said. "But right now, we can't say how many are left."

Although the band of 50 animal lovers headed by Miamian Kassewitz only relocated 19 deer during the two-day hunt, he said the effort was a success.

"The goal was to show we could take the animals out alive," Kassewitz said. "We did that."

Brantly disagreed. "Kassewitz showed he can remove individual animals but if you remove 15 or 50 animals and that's all you do, you have no effect on the herd," he said.

# Utah waste site studied

**United Press International**  
SALT LAKE CITY — The Department of Energy plans to go ahead with a limited study of the Gibson dome area as a possible high-level nuclear waste dump, despite a pledge of no cooperation from Utah's governor.

Gov. Scott Matheson last week told his department heads to refuse to issue any permits to the DOE for testing at Gibson dome, because the DOE refused

to conduct a full-scale environmental impact statement before the testing.

Kenneth Rhea, an associate district manager for the Bureau of Land Management in Moab, said the BLM decided Monday to allow the DOE to proceed with all testing that does not require a state permit.

He said those tests include "seismic lines" to examine deep subsurface geology at the site — which has a salt formation some

2,800 feet below the eastern edge of Canyonlands National Park — and some trenching to examine the surface geology.

When Matheson issued the memorandum Thursday, officials predicted the order would effectively block the DOE's plans to study the area, which is one of four sites under consideration to store high-level nuclear waste. Other sites are in Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana.

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# Lightning strikes mountain hiker

**United Press International**  
FRANCONIA, N.H. — A lightning bolt smacked into a group of 12 hikers on an Outward Bound expedition in the White Mountains Monday afternoon, instantly killing the co-leader and knocking about half the others to the ground, authorities said Tuesday.

None of the others required medical treatment. The identity of the victim, a co-leader, 24, from Hanover, was not released pending notification of relatives.

But her husband was the other group leader and he spent three hours trying in vain to resuscitate her about 200 feet below the summit of the 5,000-foot Mt. Lincoln, officials said.

After the storm cleared, a Green Beret helicopter on man-

euvers in the area airlifted the victim and her husband out of the mountains to the hospital while the others spent the night at a mountain hut about two miles from the accident site on nearby Mt. Lafayette.

"From what we understand the group was proceeding along a ridge when the weather began to deteriorate and they heard a thunderclap," said Peter Wil-lauer, director of the Hurricane Island (Maine) Outward Bound School.

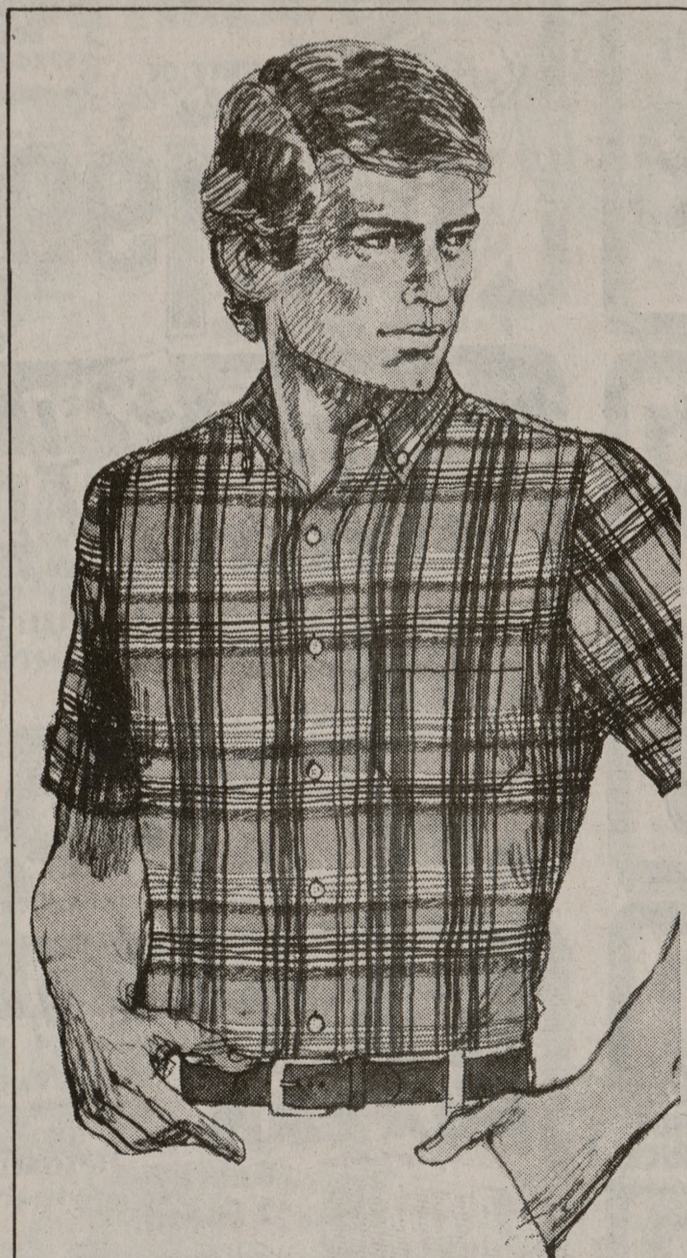
"They apparently tried to get to a less exposed area and then the bolt of lightning struck the instructor. She must have been hit directly. Approximately half the others were knocked to the ground and when they got to her she had no pulse and was not breathing."

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