

effort, deer underpasses and fencing connecting the existing patchwork of preserve natural greenbelt corridors addressing the reasonable investmentagencies and private conservation ensure a viable population. Land is depends mainly on the acquisition and Survival of the Key deer in the wild killed by vehicles. thoroughfare without risk of being to allow the deer to transit the busy were constructed on U.S. Highway 1, publicly-owned lands. As part of this A major goal of land acquisition is to backed concerns of property owners groups from willing sellers, thus being purchased by government preservation of sufficient habitat to

## How you can help:

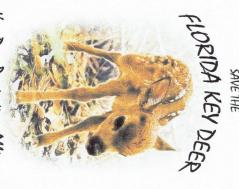
- Obey posted speed limits;
- Refrain from feeding the deer and encourage others to do the same;
- Keep dogs leashed or confined;
- Minimize fencing to allow freedom of movement for the deer;
- Remove exotic pest plants and plant native trees and shrubs;
- Discourage development in critical greenbelt corridors;
- Urge elected officials to support laws benefiting the deer; and
- Volunteer at the National Key Deer Refuge and with environmental groups.

viewed as a food source, a tourist attraction, a pest, a traffic hazard and even a political pawn. But, most importantly, they are a fellow creature that has likewise been recognized as a national treasure. Protection of the still-endangered Key deer is a major part of efforts to save what remains of the unique Florida Keys environment.

Prepared by Key Deer Protection Alliance, an all-volunteer, grassroots, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of the Key deer.

www.keydeer.org

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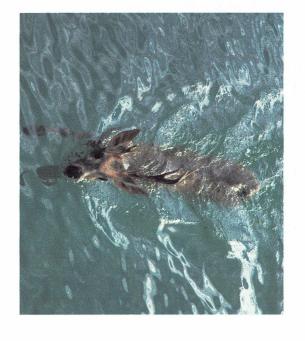
What are Key deer? They are the smallest of all North American deer (Odocoileus virginianus clavium), a subspecies of the white-tailed deer, found only on a few islands of the lower Florida Keys. No bigger than a large dog, an adult doe stands about 24" at the shoulder, weighing about 60 pounds. Bucks are slightly taller and weigh about 80 pounds. At birth, fawns weigh only two to five pounds.

Stranded by a rising sea level about 4,000 years ago, they evolved in a subtropical setting with vegetation of West Indian origin. Evolution produced a distinct, diminutive subspecies, well-adapted to its island home.

poaching and development reduced the Key deer population to less than eighty by 1949. Extensive protection efforts, by the federal government as well as those of local environmental groups and individual activists, have helped the herd to recover to its current population. The National Key Deer Refuge was established in 1957. The Key deer has been a federally-listed endangered species since 1967.

Sugarloaf Key. survival, a number of deer have been improve the species' probability of dry up on many nearby islands, the total deer. Since water sources often supply of fresh water, is thought to plants and accessible year-round time resident populations. Big Pine enough of their needs to support fullhowever, only a few islands fulfill widely through many islands; social interaction, Key deer trave needs for food, water, breeding, and Needs of the Key Deer: To meet translocated to Cudjoe Key and In an effort to diversify the herd and Key deer's future is closely linked to provide home to about 65% of the Key, because of its size, diverse land-use practices on Big Pine Key.

> Space and habitat requirements go opportunities variability, it is dispersal. One is the breeding season addition, there are two periods each a part of their normal behavior. In beyond just food and water, since the survival of the Key deer greatest long-term threat to Key to Key West. Habitat loss is the the Key deer extended from Big Pine Big Pine Key. The historic range of dispersal are available, both on and off inbreeding and to enhance genetic prepare for fawning. units break up and pregnant does year of extensive movement and Key deer use different habitats daily as peaks in April and May when family (September-December), and the other for movement and essential that To discourage





Human impact: Key deer have very few natural predators, but unfortunately we, as humans, fill that role all too well. Negative factors include:

- Habitat loss from development;
- Road kills by vehicles;
- Supplemental feedings by some humans which tame the deer, leading to congregations near roads and in residential areas, malnutrition and diseases.
- Killings and maimings by freeroaming dogs; and
- Poaching and wanton killing

Realizing the negative impact of these factors, local and national wildlife organizations, working with state and federal agencies, have taken major steps to try to preserve and protect the Key deer.