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Deer Population Management

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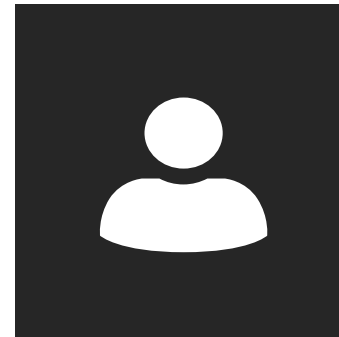
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Deer Population Management



PRESENTER:

Jack Mattfeld

Source Project: People, Politics, and the Environment

Background

An overpopulation of deer at Binghamton University is causing problems related to ecosystem health, driver safety, and insurers, among others. There is a scientific solution, but politics have not allowed the problem to be solved. This problem can be fixed once the policy catches up to the science.

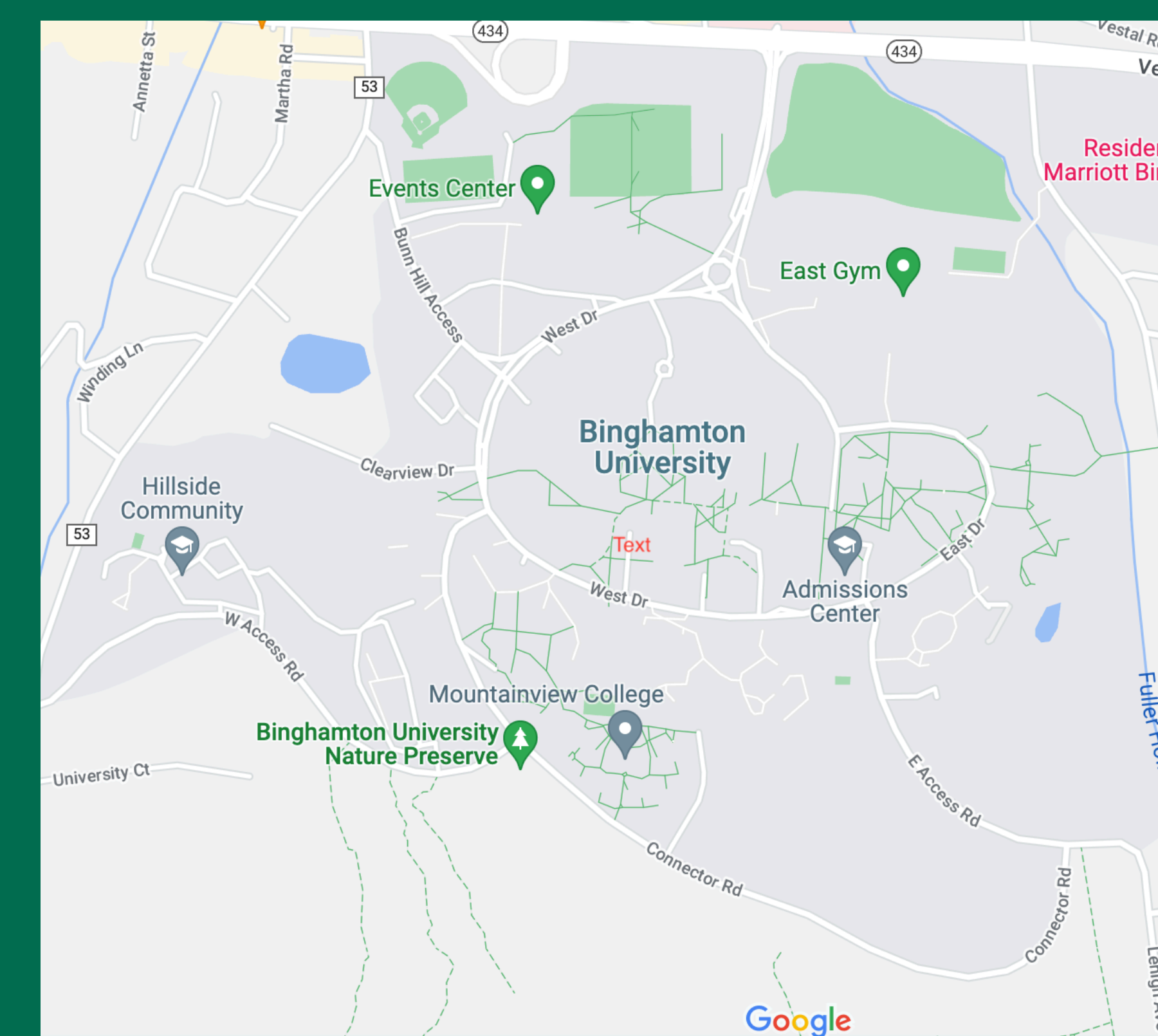
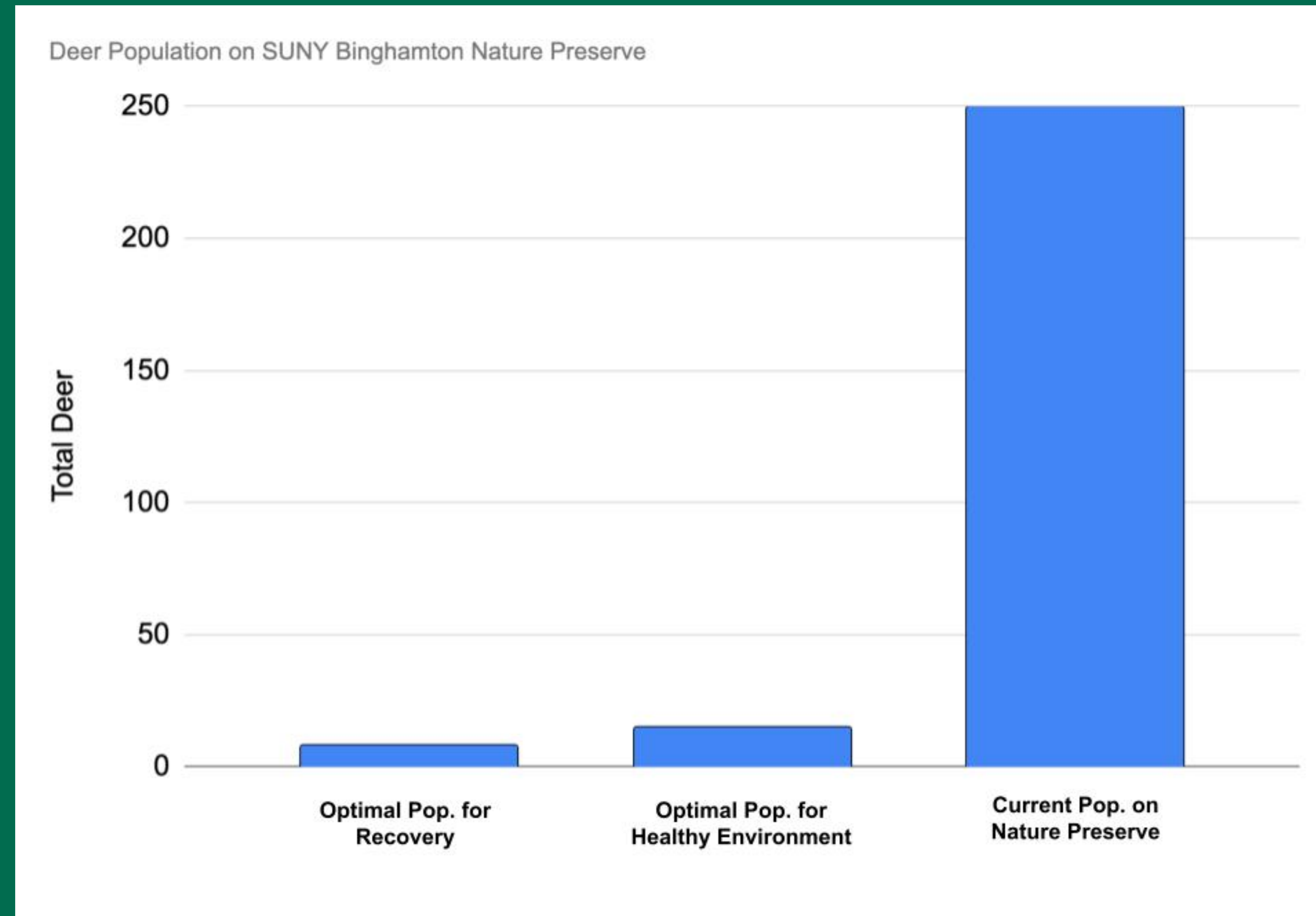
Methods

1. Collected data about the population of deer on campus at Binghamton
2. Compared that to the ideal population, as studied by Penn University
3. Discussed the current deer population with Dylan Horvath, steward of the nature preserve

Results

- Binghamton's nature preserve is dramatically overpopulated by deer
- Management strategies made in the past have been stopped for political reasons, including a lawsuit against the school

Deer are overpopulated on Binghamton's nature preserve, and it is harming the environment.



Facts and Figures

- Nature Preserve has roughly 17 times the amount of deer a healthy area of land the same size should have
- Preserve has nearly 30 times the number of deer it should have in order to recover from the current overpopulation damages

Solution

- Because humans have eliminated the natural predators of deer in this area, humans must make a controlled effort to eliminate deer and control the population.
- This is the correct way to handle the problem because other ways cause the deer to suffer. For example, with populations so high that the environment cannot sustain the deer, they are susceptible to dying by starvation, which causes a lot of undue suffering.
- Other methods have proven either ineffective, or to cause unintended suffering to the deer.

References

Dylan Horvath, Steward of the Nature Preserve