



2 October 2025

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai /  
Conservation House  
18 Manners Street  
Wellington 6011  
doc.govt.nz  
Ref: OIAD-5639

Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 5 September 2025, in which you asked for:

*Official Information Act 1982 Request – Vote Conservation Funding to Game Animal Council, Sika Foundation, Fiordland Wapiti Foundation. In relation to: Vote Conservation funding allocations to the Game Animal Council, the Sika Foundation and the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation during the last five years (2020 to 2025).*

*Please provide the following information:*

- *All allocations of Vote Conservation funding between January 2020 and September 2025 to:*
  - *New Zealand Game Animal Council*
  - *Central North Island Sika Foundation*
  - *Fiordland Wapiti Foundation*
- *Please provide individual, itemised allocations for each year, if there were multiple allocations to any of these organisations in any one year.*
- *Please provide the reason for each allocation.*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA).

The Department of Conservation provides funding to the Game Animal Council to support its statutory role in improving the management of game animals and hunting across Aotearoa New Zealand. The largest portion of funding to the Game Animal Council is the baseline funding, which has increased from \$200,000 in 2019/20 to an allocated \$1,200,000 in 2025/26 as a result of Budget 22 initiative Ramping Up Deer Management and Goat Control. Additional funding has supported the development of a sustainable funding strategy, additional policy advice, and targeted initiatives like deer management research and the Fiordland wapiti area venison project.

The Department of Conservation did not directly fund the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation in this period. The Central North Island Sika Foundation received grants to support Adaptive Deer Management, particularly for vegetation monitoring and management in the Kaimanawa Remote Experience Zone (REZ).

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

*1. All allocations of Vote Conservation funding between January 2020 and September 2025 to*

- *New Zealand Game Animal Council*
- *Central North Island Sika Foundation*
- *Fiordland Wapiti Foundation*

Allocations to New Zealand Game Animal Council (Vote Conservation only, does not include Jobs for Nature funding):

Allocation	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Baseline funding	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$600,000	\$800,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,200,000
One-off increase in baseline funding	\$130,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funding for additional policy advice	\$0	\$0	\$36,417	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funding for deer management research	\$0	\$0	\$7,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funding for Fiordland Wapiti area venison	\$66,236	\$104,764	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funding for sustainable funding strategy	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Payments for expense reimbursements	\$1,990	\$5,254	\$475	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Vote Conservation Funding</b>	<b>\$398,226</b>	<b>\$360,018</b>	<b>\$443,892</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,200,000</b>

Allocations to Central North Island Sika Foundation (Vote Conservation only, does not include Jobs for Nature funding):

Allocation	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Operational delivery of Adaptive Deer Management	\$42,600	\$93,600	\$200,000	None as of 5 September

Allocations to Fiordland Wapiti Foundation: Nil.

*2. Please provide individual, itemised allocations for each year, if there were multiple allocations to any of these organisations in any one year.*

Please see the detail in the tables provided above.

*3. Please provide the reason for each allocation.*

Please see the detail in the tables provided above.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on DOC's website.



Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Reddiex".

Ben Reddiex  
Director National Programmes  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*