

Sika and Wapiti Herd of Special Interest designation process and timeline – Updated March 2026

Milestone	Timeline	Description
Commence conversations, engagement and process to develop a Herd Management Plan	April 2025, onwards	Initial conversations with Treaty Partners and engagement with key agencies, including as part of the development of a draft Herd Management Plan (HMP). Led by DOC on behalf of the Minister.
Minister's Review	September – October 2025	Minister reviews the draft HMP and associated materials. Decides whether to proceed to public submissions stage.
Public Submissions	10 November – 08 December 2025	Draft HMP released for public submissions and feedback.
Review Submissions and Post Summary	December 2025 – March 2026	Submissions are reviewed. Submissions and a summary of feedback is posted on the DOC website.
Update Herd Management Plan and related engagement	March – May 2026	Develop options to revise draft HMP based on submissions, ongoing conversations with Treaty Partners and follow-up engagement with key agencies.
Final Review and Decisions	June – July 2026	Options for revising HMP and supporting materials are considered and updated by the Minister. Final decisions are made on whether to approve the HMP and designate the HOSI.
Designation Complete ¹	July 2026	HOSI designation is completed. Announcements are made in the Gazette and media.
Operations Begin ¹	August 2026 onwards	HOSI operations begin. HMP reviewed at intervals of not more than five years.

¹ If the Minister for Hunting and Fishing decides to proceed with designating the HOSI.