

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submissions Record

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Respondent: James Airey

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 105

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 105-1

General position

Support

I fully support the bill in question.

I fully support both the sika foundation, the game animal council and the minister the right honorable James Meager with their collective mutually supporting objectives on the matter. We do not need to look very far into the past as to how poorly managed our game animals have been such as the Sika deer, so let's be pro active and not reactionary to the matter.

Respondent: Peter Airey

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 92

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 92-1

General position

Support

I fully support the establishment of the Sika herd as a Head of Special Interest under the proposed plan and the strategies and objectives outlined by the Sika Foundation. The sika herd should be managed in a way that supports the health (number and quality) of the herd and the health and biodiversity of the environment. The recreational (health, fitness, mental benefits) & food value provided to the community is very significant. As a hunter I truly value this resource (Sika) and the environment of the Kaimanawas & Kawekas and strongly believe creating a Sika HOSI will benefit both

Respondent: Ben Alai

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 140

1 Objective

Submission ID: 140-1

General position

Support

Yes the forest needs to recover. Hinds should be shot in high numbers. Stags should be left to grow bigger. Bigger stags for the hunters, less deer overall for the forest. Win/win

2 Objective

Submission ID: 140-2

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 140-3

General position

Support

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 140-4

General position

Support

We need to control hinds numbers. Stags should be left alone, shooting stags does nothing for the population. If we keep hind numbers to a minimum the hunters/conservation wins

3 Objective

Submission ID: 140-5

General position

Support

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 140-6

General position

Support

Respondent: Bruce Allan - Project Peel Soc Inc

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 235

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 235

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Project Peel Soc Inc - Bruce Allan - Sika covering letter.pdf

Project Peel Soc Inc - Bruce Allan - Sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Ross Allen - NZDA Southern Lakes Branch

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 244

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 244

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Southern Lakes Branch NZDA - Ross Allen - Sika submission.pdf

Southern Lakes Branch NZDA - Ross Allen - Sika covering letter.pdf

Respondent: Jake Allender

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 168

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 168-1

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 168-2

General position

Support

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 168-3

General position

Support

Map 1 Sika Herd of Special Interest Area

Submission ID: 168-4

General position

Support

Respondent: Brian Allison

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 103

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 103-1

General position

Support

The document has been very well balanced to achieve the outcomes required for all. There is the opportunity to create conservation, cultural, wellbeing and recreational activities. Access and Recreational hunting should be used to help create those better outcomes.

Respondent: Jesse Allpress

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 70

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 70-1

General position

Support in part

I am a hunter and conservationist. I love the NZ bush and wildlife, and hunt for food and to spend time in nature. Hunting as an activity has a significant positive impact on my well-being.

I support a management approach to game animals. I hunt in part to help maintain a balance in the ecosystem. My main point of submission is to request that any management plan should be focused on managing deer numbers so they do not get out of balance with the ecosystem, **not** to eliminate them, as elimination would reduce the wellbeing benefits to many hunters such as myself.

Respondent: Travers Amoore

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 22

3 Objective

Submission ID: 22-1

General position

Support

all funds raised should go straight to the Sika Foundation. Future governments may not be friendly to handing money to a hunter led organisation so we need to eliminate the option of withholding funding.

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 22-2

General position

Support in part

I support this as long as the recreational experience is not compromised and the cullers do not take big stags and do not operate in the more accessible areas.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 22-3

General position

Neutral

I am not affiliated with any Iwi but I have a deep connection with the land. I want everybody, regardless of race to have the same opportunities to be involved and participate in the management of Sika.

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 22-4

General position

Support

I am strongly in favour of establishing a HOSI for the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Sika.

The Sika Foundation has proven to be outstanding stewards of the land and have garnered huge mana and respect from both the local and international community. This bill will only improve the ability of the foundation to function as a world leading conservation organisation. It is my opinion that any funding raised through roar ballots or any other means should be given directly to the Sika Foundation to eliminate any funding concerns or political maneuvering.

I am also concerned that future governments could repeal or dilute this quite easily and undo any benefits in a cynical attempt to undermine the effectiveness of the HOSI management.

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 22-5

General position

Support

Ballots need to be 100% transparent and equal.

Recreational hunters should always have preference over professional cullers.

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 22-6

General position

Neutral

As long as everybody regardless of their race gets the same opportunities I can support this.

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 22-7

General position

Support in part

International hunters should have to pay for a tag per animal, similar to the system in the USA. They should also have to pay more for the ballot than citizens of New Zealand. the number of international hunters in the balloted roar period should also be capped at a percentage of total hunters- perhaps 10%.

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 22-8

General position

Support in part

The more accessible parts of the Sika area should not have aerial culling or venison recovery. Recreational hunters should always have priority.

Respondent: Lynne Anderson

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 44

1 Objective

Submission ID: 44-1

General position

Oppose

The Game Animal (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill

I find it hard to believe that any NZ government would curtail to the lobbyists and trophy hunters by selling something as unique and irreplaceable as our National Parks.

I'd like to make a few points:

- **Surely our National Parks are taonga, they are sacrosanct** and have far more natural and cultural significance than deer will ever have. What cultural significance can deer have? They have been in NZ less than 200 years.
- **Ungulate numbers are already out of control in much of NZ bushland** – if they can't be controlled in areas that aren't National Parks – numbers will not be able to be controlled within National Parks
- **Deer are selective grazers** – they will first graze on palatable plants and leave the least palatable – overtime, this causes a change in entire flora ecosystems. I have seen beech forests with no regenerating beech – it had all been grazed out by deer, the understory consisted predominantly of only *Pseudowintera colorata*, also known as mountain horopito or pepperwood (unpalatable to deer). In time, the beech would die out completely - maybe not in our lifetimes or in the lifetimes of the people perpetrating this bill – I doubt they would even care.
- If this bill goes ahead - **What will our National Parks look like in 50, 100, 200 years' time?** Surely we all have a responsibility to preserve our indigenous flora and fauna for future generations.
- **All ungulates (deer, thar, pigs etc) are introduced invasive species** that have no place in New Zealand's natural environment which has evolved without browsing animals. This is well known – they are a pest species – end of story.

- **All definitions of National Parks include protection and** conservation of natural flora and fauna – if this bill goes ahead, New Zealand will, in effect , have NO National Parks at all - as those areas will not meet the definition.
- To obtain 'trophys' ungulate numbers need to be high. Trophy hunters enjoy shooting animals for their own pleasure – these are the people this government is curtailing to. Surely they can find enough 'trophies' in areas that are not National Parks?
- **Please leave our National Parks with the full protection they deserve.**

Respondent: Robert Anderson

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 31

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 31-1

General position

Support

I am writing to express my full support for the proposed Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan. In my view, this plan represents a gold-standard framework for game animal and ecosystem management, not only within New Zealand but on a global scale.

The balance achieved between ecological protection, herd quality, recreational opportunity, and cultural engagement is exceptional. It demonstrates a modern and forward-thinking approach that many international wildlife agencies could learn from.

Respondent: Cam Armitage

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 6

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 6-1

General position

Oppose in part

1.4 - Is this a different permit system to the current DOC hunting permit required for hunting sika? Is it necessary? Who would authorize the hunter and what would it involve. Opportunities to hunt sika should be made as easily accessible as possible and worried this might be a step in the wrong direction if its an additional thing hunters have to do.

1.5 - Any reduction in times of the year sika can be hunted would reduce the number of game animals harvested and concentrate the number of hunters in the bush. This would not help with management of hunter safety

1.7 I am completely against any implementation of a ballot system in the Remote Experience Zone. As mention in the draft plan this area is prized as one of the only areas a real Remote Experience can be had in the North Island. Introduction of a ballot system unfairly impacts users who are looking for this experience and prepared to walk the 8-10hrs to access the REZ. A hunting ballot during the roar would have no impact on deer management as the hunters will be targeting stags and not willing to shoot hinds incase of disturbing that 'trophy stag'. It also creates a situation that the hunters who are prepared and have been for years accessing the REZ on foot to get away from the easy access country are now in a lottery as to whether they can or cannot hunt in the REZ any more. As it is one of the only Remote Experience Zones in the North Island I believe it should be left as foot only access and not balloted at any time, so it remains available to any one at any time whether it be hunters, trampers or fisherman.

1.9 - I agree with point a. Point b seems to be a step towards managing the sika herd as a 'Trophy Park' to appeal top trophy hunters. But not all hunters are trophy hunter and not all hunters have the same standard for a trophy. If this section of the Plan is used to control what age and antler quality of animal can be shot by a hunter I don't agree with it for the following reasons.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation runs the ballot for hunting wapiti during the rut in Fiordland. There is a cost involved to enter the ballot and if successful even greater cost in accessing the blocks. They also have rules about what animals you should shoot during the rut being an older bull with a certain length of antler. if you happen to shoot a younger bull with lower quality antler you are made to feel like a villain and potentially barred from further ballots. Which really has put me off from applying for the ballot for fear of shooting something not up to standard and then made to feel like a criminal. The cost of the ballot and access means that for a lot of people they can only afford to go once and their trophy of a life time might be a younger animal with smaller antlers which they will proudly hang on their wall. But when they take it out they are made to feel like a villain and it takes the gloss off that animal of a life time they harvested.

If this section of the plan is made to stop hunters from shooting young stags to benefit trophy hunters it seem to me that the Sika herd is now being managed as a trophy deer herd and not as a resource for all hunters some of which are happy with shooting anything to provide food for their families regardless of age and antler quality.

Respondent: Mike Arnold

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 109

7 Objective

Submission ID: 109-1

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 109-2

General position

Support

I support this plan

4 Objective

Submission ID: 109-3

General position

Support

Totally support this,all hunters need to be included in the betterment of this valuable resource and to help the environment equally

8 Objective

Submission ID: 109-4

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 109-5

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 109-6

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 109-7

General position

Support

Yes as hunters we need to know if we are doing any good in this management of the park or not,at present there is not enough feedback.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 109-8

General position

Support

We all need to work together, we all own this country

3 Objective

Submission ID: 109-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Sam Ashby

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 111

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 111-1

General position

Support in part

I believe that this herd management plan has the right idea in general. However, I think that more emphasis needs to be leant on that with the Sika Foundation and Game Animal Council have more control over the herd structure, monitoring and culling and also on habitat management and review. Each part of the Kaimanawas and Kawekas needs to be assessed as a separate entity for both her and habitat management. I think that there needs to be an allowance for engaging with hunters during the management process to make sure they are satisfied with the current density of deer also. I believe that DOC should be consulted with regarding current management but that authority sit with the GAC to enforce lawful hunting of the Sika herd as DOC have often given hunters a reason for mistrust.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 111-2

General position

Support in part

I believe that this herd management plan has the right idea in general. However, I think that more emphasis needs to be leant on that with the Sika Foundation and Game Animal Council have more control over the herd structure, monitoring and culling and also on habitat management and review. Each part of the Kaimanawas and Kawekas needs to be assessed as a separate entity for both her and habitat management. I think that there needs to be an allowance for engaging with hunters during the management process to make sure they are satisfied with the current density of deer also. I believe that DOC should be consulted with regarding current management but that authority sit with the GAC to enforce lawful hunting of the Sika herd as DOC have often given hunters a reason for mistrust.

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 111-3

General position

Support in part

I believe that this herd management plan has the right idea in general. However, I think that more emphasis needs to be leant on that with the Sika Foundation and Game Animal Council have more control over the herd structure, monitoring and culling and also on habitat management and review. Each part of the Kaimanawas and Kawekas needs to be assessed as a separate entity for both her and habitat management. I think that there needs to be an allowance for engaging with hunters during the management process to make sure they are satisfied with the

current density of deer also. I believe that DOC should be consulted with regarding current management but that authority sit with the GAC to enforce lawful hunting of the Sika herd as DOC have often given hunters a reason for mistrust.

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 111-4

General position

Support in part

I believe that this herd management plan has the right idea in general. However, I think that more emphasis needs to be leant on that with the Sika Foundation and Game Animal Council have more control over the herd structure, monitoring and culling and also on habitat management and review. Each part of the Kaimanawas and Kawekas needs to be assessed as a separate entity for both her and habitat management. I think that there needs to be an allowance for engaging with hunters during the management process to make sure they are satisfied with the current density of deer also. I believe that DOC should be consulted with regarding current management but that authority sit with the GAC to enforce lawful hunting of the Sika herd as DOC have often given hunters a reason for mistrust.

Respondent: Martin Askes

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 71

1 Objective

Submission ID: 71-1

General position

Support

I have spent over 40 years hunting, observing and studying Sika deer. They are such an asset to this country that they deserve preserving.

Respondent: Andrew Austen

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 74

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 74-1

General position

Support

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 74-2

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 74-3

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 74-4

General position

Support

I would like to acknowledge the Sika Foundation for the excellent research work they have been doing for years. The buy-in and assistance they receive from the hunting community is very strong.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 74-5

General position

Support

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 74-6

General position

Support

I have spent many years hunting Sika deer in the central North Island. It is my all time favorite pastime and I have enjoyed countless special times in the bush with friends and family. I want to ensure that the special opportunities we have as hunters in New Zealand continue to be enjoyed by all for years to come. I am involved in pest control trapping and shooting in my local area, as many other hunters are. I firmly believe the hunters are a key part of pest control in New Zealand.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 74-7

General position

Support

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 74-8

General position

Support

Respondent: Karen Austen

**Submission Type:
portal**

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 190

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 190-1

General position

Support

Respondent: Dee Astring

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 18

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 18

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Dee Astring s9(2)(a)

Respondent: Dean Baigent-Mercer

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 176

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 176-1

General position

Support in part

Fully support 1.13

Support 1.14

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 176-10

General position

Support in part

Basically, Kaimanawa and Kaweka native habitats are in crisis. It is known that invasive and introduced sika are a key contributor to ecological collapse in these areas and it is known what their diets are. Funding needs to prioritise getting sika numbers down low asap.

I support: 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 b and 2.7 as priorities. 2.6 a and c are not such a priority.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 176-11

General position

Support

Agreed.

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 176-12

General position

Oppose in part

I support 2.1 a, b, c, d - but not e which needs to be re-written as: Enable hunter suggestions within decision making to rapidly cull sika down to a level which will rapidly enable the most palatable native plant species to regenerate.

I support 2.2

I support 2.3

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 176-13

General position

Oppose

This proposal privatizes a pest on public land and I oppose this. Re: 1.9: All sika should be targeted because the habitats of Kaimanawa and Kaweka are in crisis.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 176-14

General position

Support in part

It is already known which native plant species are being scooped decade after decade by sika. It is known that sika need to be pushed down to the lowest possible numbers and held there for improvement of indigenous species and ecosystems.

However, monitoring the recovery of the most palatable native species (eg raukawa and kapuka/broadleaf) will be essential to prove the success (if any) of serious sika control.

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 176-15

General position

Oppose

These suggestions would likely keep sika levels high for commercial 'harvesting' to enable native habitat recovery. On this basis I would oppose

8 Objective

Submission ID: 176-16

General position

Support in part

It is monitoring rather than research that is needed. The most palatable species to sika are known already so we just need to get the job done.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 176-2

General position

Oppose

To ensure genuine environmental benefit this objective needs to be re-written as:

Recreational sika hunting is enabled as a tool to contribute to overall culling and management within the Sika Area.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 176-3

General position

Oppose

Firstly a HOSI is not necessary to "Engage the hunting community in the management of sika and the Sika Area so the community provide support for local conservation and social initiatives." Sika are not 'significant', they are a severely damaging invasive species.

Secondly, these areas are in crisis. Recreational hunting has not proved to bring down sika numbers nor prevent their expansion into new areas enough previously for the most palatable native plant species to recover.

Teh objective needs to be re-written as:

Engage the hunting community as part of co-ordinated management of sika and the Sika Area for local conservation benefit: rapidly bringing sika numbers low enough for the most palatable native plant species to recover.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 176-4

General position

Oppose

Appropriate iwi, hapu and Maori land trusts should have been involved before the beginning of this proposal. There hasn't been good faith discussion, planning and putting what native habitats need to recover at the heart of these proposals.

I don't believe this objective has integrity.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 176-5

General position

Oppose

To have successful environmental effect, the objective needs to be re-written as:

Sika are managed in a manner that allows for the rapid recovery of forest ecosystem processes, including regeneration of the most palatable native plant species to deer, canopy regeneration, and

protects threatened species and their habitats.

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 176-6

General position

Oppose

Sika must first and foremost be seen as a destructive introduced species. Much of this section is an oxymoron with genuine environmental stewardship.

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 176-7

General position

Oppose

This whole box needs to be condensed to: Hunts are co-ordinated to cull sika to a level where the most palatable native plant species can regenerate.

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 176-8

General position

Oppose

This should have happened preceding the announcement of HOSI. Actually the most important actions we can take is if we first ask, 'What do native habitats need in Kaimanawa and Kawera to rapidly recover?'... then take the actions necessary.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 176-9

General position

Oppose

Any "...in kind support, and revenue through partnerships and sponsorships..." needs to be vetted by DOC to avoid corruption and ensure there are no strings attached that would undermine the objectives to enable the rapid regeneration of the most palatable native plant species to sika and other ungulates.

I think this Objective is not necessary. DOC should not hand over responsibility to hunting foundations. DOC with relevant hapu and iwi must be the decisionmakers.

Respondent: Doug Bailey

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 73

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 73-1

General position

Oppose in part

I do not support the establishment of sika deer as a Herd of Special Interest (HOSI) on Public Conservation Land (PCL). I am ambivalent to the Minister of Hunting and Fishing establishing a Sika HOSI on non-PCL.

- 1) Fundamentally, the Sika HOSI is at odds with conservation principles because it prioritises a pest species over the conservation of indigenous species on PCL. Also, a HOSI Management Plan is at odds with Article 2 of Te Tiriti o Waitangi because it excludes Maori from exercising rangatiratanga over their lands and taonga, where taonga species are conserved on PCL;
- 2) The Sika HOSI Management Plan says that deer should be managed to a level of acceptable damage to the indigenous ecosystem. I argue that the ecosystem needs to be managed to a state in which it flourishes, at which point deer populations can be controlled so that healthy state is maintained. A DOC Management Plan rather than a Sika HOSI Management Plan should be the mechanism to do this;
- 3) When considering maximum deer densities, PCL should be partitioned by ecological value and deer population limits set by zone as determined by ecosystem health. That might mean a density of zero in heavily degraded zones for periods of time;
- 4) to avoid actual conflict of interest, PCL monitoring and pest management (including deer) should be conducted by DOC and not the Game Animal Council.
- 5) Should the HOSI progress and sika are designated as a game animal, rather than a wild animal, then the sport of game hunting on PCL should attract fees. This is in line with current thinking where the public and businesses are charged to access resources on PCL. Hunters would pay hut fees like other users, and would pay additional fees to harvest sika deer, which are subject to a management plan. These fees would help offset administration and operational fees for the HOSI Management Plan.

Respondent: Nigel Baker - Te Matai No1&2 Blocks Trust Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa

Submission
Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 20

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 20

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Nigel Baker Te Matai No1&2 Blocks Trust Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa s9(2)(a)

Respondent: Barbara Ball - Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 143

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 143

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust - sika submission.pdf

Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust - sika covering letter.pdf

Respondent: Tim Barke - Westervelt NZ

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 42

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 42

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Tim Barke sika.pdf

Tim Barke sika - attachment.pdf

Respondent: Ian Barraclough

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 250

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 250

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Ian Barraclough sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Leigh Bason

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 58

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 58-1

General position

Support

I support the intent of the Sika Herd of Special Interest plan to balance conservation, recreation and cultural values. However, it must emphasize inclusivity and equal access for all New Zealanders. While Maori values should be respected, the plan should make clear that no exclusive rights to land or hunting are created.

It is important to confirm that year-round hunting access to Sika deer will remain unchanged and that monitoring measures will not restrict hunting seasons for Sika or other species. At the same time, adaptive management should protect ecosystems while maintaining quality hunting opportunities, with hunters able to contribute data to support sustainable management.

The plan should explicitly recognize recreational hunters and the wider public alongside Maori ensuring all stakeholders are acknowledged. Collaboration through joint advisory groups or regular reviews would strengthen the plan and help to remain responsive to all communities.

In conclusion, I support the designation of the Sika Herd of Special Interest provided it remains inclusive, transparent and fair, respecting Maori values and the traditions of all hunters equally.

Respondent: Michael Bassett

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 200

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 200-1

General position

Support

I support HOSI and the recommendations made by the GAC for the HMP's

Respondent: Micheal Bates

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 211

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 211-1

General position

Support in part

I support the plan but hunters need to be considered even more. They play the biggest part in controlling the herd and the quality of the herd. Hunting sika is a big part of alot of kiwis culture.

Respondent: Craig Benbow

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 136

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 136

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Craig Benbow - Sika covering letter.pdf

Craig Benbow - Sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Jeffrey Benson - OSPRI

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 240

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 240

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

OSPRI - Jeffrey Benson - Sika covering letter.pdf

OSPRI - Jeffrey Benson - Sika Submission.pdf

Respondent: Daniel Billett

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 88

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 88-1

General position

Support

The Sika population of the central North Island brings with it a great resource for feeding families and pest control through the work done by the Sika Foundation. Without these special animals here many of the benefits that are happening free of charge to the government would disappear.

Respondent: s9(2)(a)

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 9

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 9-1

General position

Support

I do not want my private and contact details shared publicly as any part of this process or in future OIA requests etc

I support the creation of a herd of special interest as discussed in this document. For the following reasons:

Ungulate management to date in this country has been funded primarily through tax payer dollars and/ or from a commercial or destruction only policy. This boom and bust cycle has had a significant negative impact on biodiversity, through the lack of long term sustainable low densities, that has never given the environment and vegetation a sufficient chance to recover and stay that way. A stag centric harvest/ take regime has also allowed a higher survival rate of females, that then replace the population at a greater rate. Deer have a huge value socially as well and we need to balance that with the environmental needs. For too long, many conservation people have actively fought against any sort of deer management system, and this has often resulted in no management and a huge negative impact environmentally. The current National ungulate situation is a fair reflection of that ethos at work. My support is based on the following points:

1. We cannot afford effective, long term, sustainable deer management across this country. We simply do not have the money. A fact that is currently being ignored by many in conservation circles
2. Hunter groups such as the Sika Foundation, are offering and wanting to step in to this space in some areas and at almost no cost to the tax payer
3. The regime proposed does not mean the same number or more deer, it means less deer and less breeding hinds
4. This will potentially free up conservation money to target other less desirable pest species for the greater and wider good
5. Partnering with hunter groups, such as the Sika Foundation, will also mean a significant amount of self funded predator control can and will happen in the designated areas
6. Targets are being set and monitoring and science led initiatives are front and center of this project
7. A range of control options are being engaged and to ensure that targets are met.

8. In my mind, the Sika Foundation has already demonstrated that it can be effective. This and the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation are currently some of the most proactive deer management programmes happening in this country.

Respondent: Shane Borrell

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 148

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 148-1

General position

Support

The Sika herd in Central North Island is a “herd of special interest” and I support such a designation under the Game Animal Council Act. 2.

Respondent: Roland Brandsma

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 157

Map 1 Sika Herd of Special Interest Area

Submission ID: 157-1

General position

Oppose

The HOSI for Sika will in my opinion create another way for hunters to have to fork out more money to access hunting areas and participate in recreational hunting. The costs involved will some way for another have to be recouped as all organisations have a monetary value on things, regards of the purpose intended. Accessing lwi land will no doubt open up areas to hunt, but at what cost?? What are the long term gains of creating a HOSI apart from taking control and access over land which inturn will drive away hunters.

I don't believe it will be of benefit to New Zealand as a whole, as the problem of over population of Sika has already begun because of the limited access to areas of concern, with some businesses who have access to fly in hunters having a monopoly and charging what they like and in some cases putting money over the safety of hunters.

Will a duty of care, and proper auditing be implemented on the businesses who will transport hunters to ballot blocks and make profit?

In my opinion it will be a negative result, and due to the lack of submissions will still be passed through Parliament regardless of the minority. Will this just end up like another Sambar story, costing tax payers millions.

Respondent: Bruce Brewer

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 24

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 24-1

General position

Oppose

This plan fails to give adequate regard to the requirements of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 as set below.

Submission on Wapiti and Sika Management

Section 16 of The Game Animal Council Act 2013 (GAC Act 2013) allows the Minister to designate herds of special interest (HOSI) if the Minister has regard to matters including 'the purposes of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977'.

However, these plans show no evidence that any regard has been given to the purposes of the Wild Animal Control (WAC) Act. The purposes of the WAC Act are not included in the 'Objectives and Strategies' of the plans. Instead the HOSI plans claim misleadingly (P4 in each document) that 'the designation and Plan do not apply to wider conservation management activities provided for by the ... Wild Animal Control Act 1977' which 'continue[s] to apply alongside this Plan'. This obscures the fact that the WAC Act is **not**, being applied, since no national deer control plan, nor deer control plans relevant to the HOSI draft plans have been produced under that Act (an apparent abrogation of statutory function).

I will submit that it is not only a fantasy to claim that the WAC Act and planning documents 'continue to apply alongside' these plans, but also that it fails to meet the requirement to have regard to the purposes of the WAC Act as a *prerequisite* to designating herds of special interest (GAC Act 2013, Section 16 (1) (b) (i)).

The draft HOSI plans claim (P4 in each case) to be 'consistent with the overriding considerations identified in the Game Animal Council Act. They list the 'relevant' considerations, but omit an overriding consideration:

(f) any wild animal control plan made under section 5 of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977.
[Section (4) GAC Act 2013]

This is despite the fact that such a WAC Act plan is a requirement of the management of the Kaimanawa Recreational Hunting Area (RHA) (relevant to the management of the sika HOSI) [See Section 28 (1) WAC Act].

A relevant requirement of the WAC Act that appears to have been disregarded in these plans is Section 4 (2) (a), that the WAC Act **shall** be administered so as to 'ensure concerted

action against the damaging effects of wild animals on vegetation, soils, waters, and wildlife'. (My emphasis). This needs to be included in the Objectives and Strategies of the HOSI plans. The proposed monitoring programme needs to include monitoring of vegetation, soils, waters and wildlife to ensure that herd management is meeting that objective. It would also require monitoring of the combined effects of wild animals (including goats and pigs) along with the effects of deer.

The alternative would be to delay any HOSI management plans until a national deer management plan (and WAC plans for Recreational Hunting Areas) are in place.

Conservation Management Strategies and Plans are an insufficient substitute for the requirements of the WAC Act, since they do not include references to the requirements of the WAC Act. The Fiordland National Park Management Plan (for example) incorrectly states that the WAC Act '*enables* the Department of Conservation to control wild animals' (Section 4.5) (my emphasis). In fact the WAC Act *requires* the control of wild animals (Section 4 (2) (a)). No reference to that section of the WAC Act is included in any of the Conservation Management Plans or Park Management Plans relevant to the proposed HOSIs.

In summary, these draft HOSI plans do not include sufficient regard to the requirements and purposes of the WAC Act. They omit reference to an 'overriding consideration' to have regard to plans made under the WAC Act. These draft plans falsely claim that the WAC Act and its (non-existent) planning documents 'continue to apply alongside' the HOSI plans. They overlook the requirement for concerted wild animal control for purposes specified in Section 4 (2) (a) of the WAC Act, and the requirement for wild animal control plans under Section 28 (1) of the WAC Act (for RHAs). Failure to include these requirements in HOSI plans would leave those plans susceptible to judicial review.

Respondent: Craig Bright

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 116

1 Objective

Submission ID: 116-1

General position

Support

I agree with the plan. Determining what is acceptable canopy regeneration and making sure it is an achievable target. As has been described elsewhere the forest has multiple different areas that change growth ability and speed.

Lets not make this a setup to fail.

Balloting the area should be a longer term plan let numbers and quality be improved first (ie reduced numbers). Then will create the demand and excitement for balloted hunting in certain locations not the whole area we do not want to detract recreational hunters from being part of the solution.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 116-2

General position

Support

Enhancing the experience while contributing to management. Do we need to think about how much of this is helped or hindered by the doc image.

Not always a friend to the hunting sector, Meaning that this can sometimes put people on the wrong side rather than working to an equal goal. We all want the same thing healthy bush and good quality animals to provide meat.

Groups like GAC and Sika Foundation have a better experience withthe hunting sector recreational and professional to work on hunting and managing herd numbers. These groups I feel should be responsible for the implementation of the management plan considering they put it forward in the first place

4 Objective

Submission ID: 116-3

General position

Support

I hope that we can improve access and costs related to this. Having more than one company flying in the area would be necessary to get access and community involvement. There is already plenty of local conservation efforts in the forests and should be acknowledged

3 Objective

Submission ID: 116-4

General position

Support

Money makes the world go round the same for a management plan. Some funding will be required but with a hunting sector valued over 50million per annum the full circle will be not much net loss.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 116-5

General position

Support

Research is the key to understanding.

IF we just go in and kill everything how do we know if efforts are being targeted in the right areas. gathering seedling growth reports to identify regeneration and if more efforts are required. learning more about habits of the animals to help productivity of culling.

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 116-6

General position

Support

I agree with the values and considerations being drafted.

I do feel that control needs to be removed as the purpose is management.

we cant control wild animals be it introduced or native animals.

This is a herd management plan not a herd control plan.

Due to restricted access into certain parts ie rez zone management must be done through other means.

Also with regards to the area being designated neighboring forest and farm land is also a place that will require attention and management planning. This is due to the nature of males ability to travel s

9 Objective

Submission ID: 116-7

General position

Support

Transparency is the key to gaining support from all sides.

For both sides.

Hunters want proof that it is improving the herd and creating value.

Conservationists want proof the time and money is improving the forest

Respondent: Helen Brosnan - New Zealand Fish and Game

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 172

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 172-1

General position

Oppose

See attached letter of support of Game Animal Council's submission.

Attachment 1 About Fish and Game.pdf

F&G Letter of Support GAC Sika HOSI.pdf

Respondent: Jack Bryant

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 32

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 32-1

General position

Oppose

Submission on the Proposed Designation of the Kaweka and Kaimanawa Sika Herds as a Herd of Special Interest (HOSI)

1. Introduction and personal context

I am writing as a recreational hunter with direct experience in the Kaweka and Kaimanawa Ranges. These areas are currently open public conservation land that require hunters to obtain a DOC permit and follow clear rules and safety expectations.

Under this system, hunters already play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. The Kaweka and Kaimanawa ranges are among the most heavily hunted public lands in New Zealand, with DOC describing the Kaimanawa Forest Park as “one of the highest-used recreational hunting areas in the country” and noting that these two parks record the highest number of hunting permits issued nationwide. This high level of activity translates directly into natural population control — thousands of hunter-days each year that effectively manage deer numbers without public cost.

Like most hunters, I have a deep respect for the environment, the forest, and our native wildlife. We are conservationists in practice: we leave only footprints behind and see ourselves as guardians of the land we hunt on.

2. Overall position

I oppose the proposed designation of the Kaweka and Kaimanawa wild sika herds as Herds of Special Interest under the current plan. The existing system is already working effectively, combining DOC oversight, voluntary hunter stewardship, and targeted pest-control where necessary. Adding new government layers — including a ballot system, access fees, and tighter regulation — will reduce hunter participation, limit population control, and harm both conservation outcomes and community trust.

3. Key concerns

a) Loss of access and decline in hunter-based management

Moving to a ballot or fee-based authorisation system will immediately discourage many hunters, who will instead hunt elsewhere on free public land. A drop in hunting effort will directly reduce the natural herd management that currently occurs through recreational activity.

Where the Plan anticipates that “other control measures” will be used when hunting is insufficient, this creates a dangerous precedent. According to the Department of Conservation, “the best tool we have to control these introduced predators over large areas is a biodegradable toxin known as 1080. It is proven to help protect populations of native animals and plants.” ([DOC – 1080 methods of control](#))

However, 1080 has no bias — it kills everything that consumes it, not just the intended target species. I can personally attest to this, having entered areas shortly

valued hunting and recreation areas undermines biodiversity, damages public confidence, and makes those areas unsafe for hunters for extended periods.

If poison becomes the default tool, the result will be:

- Deer numbers collapsing to unsustainable levels;
- Long-term avoidance of poisoned areas by hunters due to safety and contamination concerns;
- A self-perpetuating cycle where fewer hunters mean more poison use, and more poison use drives further decline in hunter activity.

b) Contradictory management approach – removing hinds and young stags

The draft plan's suggestion to remove hinds and young stags while leaving mature stags is confusing and counter-productive. It is unclear whether the goal is to maintain a sustainable herd or progressively eradicate it. Selective removal of breeding females risks collapsing herd structure and genetic diversity. If the aim is balance, this approach does the opposite.

c) Introduction of racial or exclusive elements in management

While partnership with iwi and tangata whenua is important, introducing race-based access or preferential rights on public land risks division and resentment. The proposal's language about giving iwi "more direct involvement in

Public conservation land should remain open and equal for all New Zealanders, regardless of ethnicity or affiliation. Introducing preferential systems would undermine unity and fairness.

d) Broader government overreach and flawed precedent

This proposal mirrors what has already occurred in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, where the 2025 Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Act introduced new High Protection Areas banning most recreational fishing, while allowing continued commercial and customary Maori fishing in some zones. ([DOC – New Marine Protections](#)) This shows how, in practice, government intervention can restrict public access under the banner of conservation while leaving politically favoured or commercial interests largely unaffected.

The same risk exists here: tighter regulation justified as “conservation” could primarily serve political, economic, or cultural agendas, not environmental outcomes.

e) Impacts on other park users – hikers, trampers, and campers

While the proposal focuses on hunters, its effects would inevitably spread to other public land users. The Kaweka and Kaimanawa Ranges are popular tramping, camping, and back-country recreation areas. Designating them as Herds of Special Interest introduces potential access restrictions, temporary closures, or new permit requirements tied to herd management operations.

freely accessible to all users. Even if their “public land” status remains unchanged in law, their practical accessibility could be significantly reduced.

New layers of bureaucracy risk discouraging both hunters and non-hunters who value these places for recreation, solitude, and connection with the land.

4. Preferred alternative and recommendations

1. Retain the current system. Continue managing sika herds under existing DOC permit conditions with voluntary hunter participation and targeted DOC control where necessary.
2. Reject any ballot or fee-based access. Public land hunting should remain freely accessible. Cost and bureaucracy will only reduce engagement and herd control.
3. Use hunters as partners, not barriers. Hunters provide thousands of hours of on-the-ground management annually — a free workforce supporting DOC’s goals. Formalise cooperation rather than replacing it with regulation.
4. Avoid poison-based control. Prioritise ground-based methods and coordinated professional culling when required, with transparency about methods and timing.
5. Ensure equal public access. Public conservation land must remain open to all New Zealanders, without preferential rights or exclusive authorisations.
6. Protect multi-use recreation. Ensure any management operations minimise disruption to tramping, camping, and other public use.
7. Maintain transparency. Publish monitoring data, ecological outcomes, and decision-making processes so the public can evaluate the programme’s success objectively.

5. Closing statement

There is nothing fundamentally broken in the current management of sika in these ranges. Hunters have proven themselves responsible stewards — actively managing populations in two of the country’s most hunted and well-monitored parks. Introducing ballots, fees, poison programmes, and exclusive access will only weaken the partnership that already works.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Department of Conservation reject the proposed Herd of Special Interest designation for the Kaweka and Kaimanawa sika herds and instead strengthen the current cooperative model that empowers hunters, supports biodiversity, and preserves open access for all New Zealanders.

Respondent: Pene Burton Bell

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 112

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 112-1

General position

Oppose

I do not support this management plan for the Herds of Special Interest for the Sika Herd.

DOC parks and reserves were created to protect native biodiversity - our precious fauna and flora, and a plan to allow or to encourage non-native animals - such as Sika deer will undermine this objective and leave these areas in a worse state, as has already been well studied and proven.

Damage caused by Sika reduces the ability of our forests to rehabilitate and grow.

Damage by Sika will also therefore reduce the ability of DOC lands to trap carbon. This should not be allowed given the significant threat presented by climate change.

This proposed herd management plan will benefit a few with the cost borne by many, and should not be allowed.

I ask that this management plan for a herd of special interest be abolished.

Respondent: Jesse Bythell - New Zealand Plant Conservation Network

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 231

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 231

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network - Jesse Bythell - Sika submission.pdf

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network - Jesse Bythell - Sika covering letter.pdf

Respondent: Edgar Cagua

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 185

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 185-1

General position

Oppose

I oppose the Sika Herd of Special Interest (HOSI) proposal in its current form due to the significant cost involved and the shift it creates away from core conservation priorities. The proposal establishes an expensive, ongoing management framework aimed largely at enhancing a recreational hunting experience and maintaining an introduced deer herd, rather than prioritising ecological restoration and reducing browsing pressure on already stressed indigenous ecosystems. Public conservation land should not be repurposed into a game management area for improving the quality or availability of introduced species. Managing deer for herd or trophy outcomes conflicts with the broader need for stronger deer control to protect native forests, threatened species, and long-term ecosystem resilience. The funding, staff time, and monitoring required to implement the HOSI would be far better directed toward ecosystem restoration, comprehensive deer-impact reduction, and supporting tangata whenua-led conservation initiatives. Until a cost-effective model is demonstrated and indigenous biodiversity is clearly prioritised over the enhancement of introduced species, the Sika HOSI should not proceed.

Respondent: Jenny Campbell

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 229

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 229

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Jenny Campbell - Sika submission.pdf

Jenny Campbell - Sika covering letter.pdf

Respondent: Debbie Care

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 55

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 55-1

General position

Support

I am submitting in support of the Draft Sika Herd of Special Interest (HoSI) Herd Management Plan. My comments reflect a technical perspective on ecological management, animal population dynamics, and field-level operational design.

Dr Debbie Care Submission on the Draft Sika Herd of Special Interest.docx

Respondent: Luke Care - New Zealand Tahr Foundation

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 175

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 175-1

General position

Support in part

No mention of kai and gathering value of valued introduced species in tangata whenua section, which replace traditional and now extinct species

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 175-10

General position

Support in part

Object to overriding consideration 'welfare and management of public conservation land and resources generally'. Legislation covers these goals well, it doesn't need an ill-defined statement.

Support GAC and Sika Foundation implementing plan

Sika HMP discussion.pdf

4 Objective

Submission ID: 175-11

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 175-12

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 175-13

General position

Support in part

What is public reporting? is this on-the-ground observations from hunters and trampers?

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 175-14

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 175-15

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 175-16

General position

Support

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 175-17

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 175-18

General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 175-19

General position

Support

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 175-2

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 175-20

General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 175-21

General position

Support in part

Ecological monitoring should be undertaken by a third party such as Manaaka Whenua, especially in regards to 2.2, while also allowing to utilise volunteers

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 175-22

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 175-3

General position

Support

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 175-4

General position

Support

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 175-5

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 175-6

General position

Support in part

Any roles of the Department of Conservation should be delegated to the GAC

2 Objective

Submission ID: 175-7

General position

Support in part

Maintaining the value of sika resource to the hunting community is critical, as this is what drives the flow on benefits for conservation. If it is managed in a way which disregards hunter values, there will be no hunters to fund the conservation work.

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 175-8

General position

Support

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 175-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Craig Carey

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 83

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 83-1

General position

Support

Wherever eradication has been the mandate on mainland NZ for ungulates, its failed miserably. Reasons such as cost and lack of community support, as well as reliance on commercial interests such as wild venison meat exports, have seen boom and bust cycles that have not benefited conservation.

It makes far More sense to work with communities and create a holistic management plan that looks after the wild animals such as the sika, that they value. While also ensuring conservation goals that they also value are being achieved.

These animals have huge cultural and historical places in New Zealand, as well as being very important food sources for wide ranging sectors of our communities. For a large section of the population they are the driving reason to visit and value our conservation public land estate.

Its extremely important that we get behind and support this plan as the future of co-operation between conservation and communities in this country, for better long term results.

Thank you.

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 83-4

General position

Support

These animals have huge cultural and historical places in New Zealand, as well as being very important food sources for wide ranging sectors of our communities. For a large section of the population they are the driving reason to visit and value our conservation public land estate.

Respondent: Trevor Chappell

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 41

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 41

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Trevor Chappell - Sika submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Shari Chase - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whitikaupeka

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 217

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 217

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

[Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whitikaupeka - Shari Chase - Sika covering letter.pdf](#)

[Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whitikaupeka - Shari Chase - Sika submission.pdf](#)

Respondent: Paul Clark

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 201

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 201-1

General position

Oppose in part

The biggest problem with controlling animals in the park is access. Briefly I started hunting in the Kaimanawas in 1970, and worked in the Kaweka Forest Park from 1980 until 1982 as a forest service deer culler and have been hunting for approximately 60 years.

The biggest problem that I have seen going back to 1970 is access, and from personal experience once helicopter access to KFP was discontinued in the late 1990s the animal numbers obviously exploded. It is not possible for the average person to carry a 50kg pack across rugged country easily therefore much more helicopter access is needed particularly in the KFP.

I would like to be able to submit to this proposal in person so that I can elaborate on the above and related matters

Respondent: Maureen Coleman - Thames Valley Deerstalkers Assn

Submission
Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 117

9 Objective

Submission ID: 117-1

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 117-10

General position

Support

Totally agree with this. The work to date has already seen significant recovery in areas where it had got out of control under previous management strategies. This vision and expertise of the likes of Cam Speedy and the team who could not only see the damage but see a way forward has been the savior of not the Sika Herd but the entire ecosystem in the area.

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 117-11

General position

Support

TVDA fully supports all that is being proposed in section 1.4 - 1.9. The work that has been done to date has been invaluable and expanding that as is set out here will continue to be a game changer for sika hunting and the entire ecosystem under the Sika Herd HOSI. All species will benefit from the wider umbrella of workstreams that the HOSI offers and will undertake. Conservation is front and centre for the biggest majority of hunters and we are delighted to be able to contribute to this on various fronts - and 1.4 - 1.9 are just some of the ways that we can do this.

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 117-12

General position

Support

TVDA fully supports and agrees with this. We feel that DOC should be a funder (not solely) in this project as it is still their area of the crown estate that is being benefitted massively by the volunteer input (that will only get expanded under HOSI) that is benefitting the entire ecosystem within the Sika Herd HOSI area. The Blue Duck revival that has happened so far under the Sika Foundation work over the last 10 years has been fantastic - none

of this would have happened like this had it not been for hunter based volunteer spearheading the work. So many other species have also had their chances of survival improved dramatically through this same work. It is not just hunters who benefit from these other species surviving; hence we feel it should be the wider community and DOC that helps with the funding of this work. We are more than happy to see the work being done by volunteers if that is what is needed but funding to purchase traps, equipment, telemetry, administration costs, flights in and out for trapping volunteers where this is appropriate etc.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 117-13

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 117-14

General position

Support

TVDA fully supports and the work that the Sika Foundation have been doing through their research and data collection that has enabled this comprehensive and future based application to be presented for HOSI. There will be ongoing learnings and some modifications as outcomes of those ongoing learnings but this is a massive bonus for the entire ecosystem to have this Sika HOSI in place and the sooner it commences the better. Great work to the whole team at the Sika Foundation for your work in making this happen

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 117-15

General position

Support

TVDA fully support what is being proposed under Strategy 1

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 117-16

General position

Support

TVDA fully supports this

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 117-17

General position

Support

Where this is deemed necessary and is required to keep the balance, then we support this.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 117-18

General position

Support

Hunting on public land as we know it is unique to NZ and we must retain that at all cost. It is the experiences that it provides to put kai on the table, to spend quality time in the hills as a family, it provides such incredible learning opportunities and it also cements in our DNA what it is to be a hunter in NZ and also an avid conservation leader. Hunting for deer is only part of why we go into the hills - it is the amazing flora and fauna that also bring us back time and again so this too must be recognised as part of the experience for hunters as well as those who hike the extensive track networks, stay in the huts and fish the rivers. Every NZ'er who has a desire to venture into the bush as a trumper, hunter, biker, photographer, fisher and more will benefit from HOSI and the complete package that it offers to all.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 117-19

General position

Support

We want to see all those involved in the relationship working cohesively for the betterment of the land and the valued flora and fauna of the area. This can be done and we look forward to seeing the positivity coming forward to yield the massive benefits this combined effort can achieve.

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 117-2

General position

Support

TVDA totally supports all forms of monitoring and data collection to support the successful and ongoing management of the Sika Herd HOSI. Everyone has a part to play in this - the hunters, the trampers, the trapping teams, the public as a whole. As a branch that is a bit further away, we are in the process of setting up a Jaw Aging training session with our members (and particularly the younger members) so that we can assist more but also cement in the mindset of our younger members that we all need to take on responsibility for our valued ecosystems that also offer us our recreation. As a club have a network of 1000+ predator traps over DOC and other Public Land (Hauraki Rail Trail) in our area so we fully understand the wider benefits of this work. Ironically none of this 'predator trapping work' benefits deer hunting - we do it for the overall betterment of the land and the precious and valued flora and fauna that we all want and need to protect.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 117-20

General position

Support

Keep growing the research and data collection into all aspects of the Sika Herd HOSI area - this will undoubtedly continue to improve the entire ecosystem.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 117-21

General position

Support

United we stand. The wider the funding and revenue net is thrown, the better the overall results will be for everyone who uses the Sika Herd HOSI areas of the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Forest areas. We fully support this.

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 117-3

General position

Support

Thames Valley Deerstalkers Assn (TVDA) fully supports the Sika Herd HOSI on all fronts. This will help to ensure that there is a healthy sika deer hunting opportunity for generations to come. When we say 'healthy' we mean lower numbers of deer in a ngahere that is recovering and it also filled with birdsong and other species of flora and fauna that have been allowed to recover through reduced deer numbers and the massive amount of predator pest control work being done. This HOSI is not about the 'now' for hunters, it is about hunters helping to make sure it is 'in the future' for everyone to benefit from.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 117-4

General position

Support

Same as our previous answer. The wider the net is cast, the better the results for everyone. This should only be the hunting community though; however this is not in any way that we disagree with this objective. We do concur that it is clearly the Hunting Community that needs to drive and manage this work as that is where the beneficial outcomes have come from right across the board. Success breeds success.

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 117-5

General position

Support

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 117-6

General position

Support

100% agree with all that is set out in 1.10 - 1.12. It is about us all working together for a healthy ecosystem all round, not just hunting.....but targeted hunting and all facets of making this happen in a healthy and sustainable way is a win/win for every NZer and the overall forest health as well

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 117-7

General position

Support

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 117-8

General position

Support

We absolutely want to be part of this education and promotional drive. As set out in previous comments, our branch is very proactive in getting particularly the younger members fully involved in all facets of hunting - and with that comes a strong emphasis on education around looking after the ecosystem and being safe and responsible hunters. For us, this also expands out into data collection, research and predator pest control. We believe in the complete package approach.

TVDA fully supports all that is covered in sections 4.3 - 4.8.

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 117-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Maureen Coleman

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 119

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 119-1

General position

Support

I fully support this where it is deemed necessary and to make sure that the Sika Herd HOSI is operating effectively.

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 119-10

General position

Support

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 119-11

General position

Support

I fully support the entire concept of the Sika Herd HOSI and all that is proposed within it. This will be the single biggest and best opportunity for the ngahere and the valued flora and fauna within the Sika Herd HOSI area to get protection and a chance to flourish again. This can be done in conjunction with a healthy sika deer hunting opportunity as well. Hunters are proven conservationists - through the current and ongoing volunteer model that the Sika Foundation and supporting entities have demonstrated over the last 10 years.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 119-12

General position

Support

The more the merrier. As the President of a local Branch of NZDA, I will do all that I can to help promote this work amongst our members but also the wider community. We all have to work together for the best outcomes and this is a golden opportunity to make and see that happen.

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 119-13

General position

Support

I totally support all that is set out in 1.10 - 1.12

Table 2.1 Monitoring **Submission ID: 119-14**

General position

Support

As stated previously; research, data and science are the key platforms for excellent management balance. Totally supportive of this

Table 1.1 General **Submission ID: 119-15**

General position

Support

I totally support all sections as set out here. We all need to work together to get the best outcomes on all fronts. Thank you so much to the Sika Foundation for their hard work and dedication to this project and for making hunting and over visitor values in the Sika Herd HOSI area a life changing opportunity for so many people.

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting **Submission ID: 119-16**

General position

Support

I totally support all sections as set out here.

Thank you so much to the Sika Foundation for their hard work and dedication to this project and for making hunting and over visitor values in the Sika Herd HOSI area a life changing opportunity for so many people. This is something that will surely traverse the generations to come and with buyin from the wider sector from all around Aotearoa and beyond; this special piece of paradise will thrive.

9 Objective **Submission ID: 119-17**

General position

Support

2. Values and key context **Submission ID: 119-18**

General position

Support

The entire Sika Herd HOSI is about protecting the entire ecosystem in a balanced manner - for heritage, conservation and recreational purposes. This Sika Foundation proposal covers this from all aspects and is based on sound scientific knowledge and connection to the land and all that happens within that spectrum.

I fully support what is proposed here

1 Objective

Submission ID: 119-19

General position

Support

Healthy ecosystem - healthy inhabitants. Managing the deer populations is only part of this - it is the wider spectrum that this application covers that will be the win/win for everyone. The Sika Foundation has set an excellent platform for the Sika Herd HOSI based on knowledge, science, research and data and it must be supported all the way. The real benefactors from this all will be the Ngahere and the native flora and fauna as they have been struggling under the weight of unmanaged deer numbers but particularly the rampant predator pest problems that abounded in this area. The results of this predator pest control work that will be enhanced under the Sika Herd HOSI will be an absolute game changer all round.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 119-2

General position

Support

Multiple funding sources will be essential to this being successful and I believe no stone should be left unturned (nor promoted) in achieving this goal. DOC and F&B should also be significant funders without a doubt as they will be reaping the benefits on all fronts so their input is a no brainer. F&B have made plenty of noise but they have generally been conspicuous by the absence when it comes to the volunteer work that has been put in to date to protect the native flora and fauna over the last 10 years (through the Sika Foundation trapping and predator control work).

8 Objective

Submission ID: 119-20

General position

Support

Research, science and data are absolutely key to all aspects of this. I am an avid promoter within our branch (and further afield) for getting all members but particularly the new and younger members to be fully involved with data collection when sika hunting, learning the jaw aging process (I have got plans for at least one training course in early 2026) and any other means of supporting this Sika Herd HOSI work on this or any front. We all have to be in this together.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 119-21

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 119-3

General position

Support

I 100% Support this as proposed in the Sika Herd HOSI application.

Can't wait to get it started please

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 119-4

General position

Support

Totally supportive of this

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 119-5

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 119-6

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 119-7

General position

Support

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 119-8

General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 119-9

General position

Support

No stone can be left unturned to achieve the best outcomes. Go for gold team

Respondent: Tony Coleman

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 108

2 Objective

Submission ID: 108-1

General position

Support

Hunters and the hunting fraternity are proven conservationists - the balance that is set out in the Objective is fully achievable under this proposition.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 108-10

General position

Support

Please all work together for a better tomorrow. This can be a win/win for those iwi involved.

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 108-11

General position

Support

I 100% support all that is covered in this proposal. Removal of the hinds is the key management tool - both for the flora and fauna and the sika herd quality as well

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 108-2

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 108-3

General position

Support

Yes for sure

3 Objective **Submission ID: 108-4**

General position

Support

Partnerships and sponsorships are a must given the massive amount of volunteer input that has made this all possible so far. DOC must also contribute financially as this work is what is enabling the land under their watch improve to a level that they could not achieve. Additional sponsors and funding opportunities must also be supported through HOSI

6 Objective **Submission ID: 108-5**

General position

Support

Keep up the research and data collection - this will be invaluable all round

2. Values and key context **Submission ID: 108-6**

General position

Support

The overall values of the HOSI will see continued massive improvements to the forest health and also the treasurers native flora and fauna while offering a good quality sika hunting opportunity. When I say a quality hunting opportunity - that is one that is in balance with the environment and the hunting fraternity helping to forge ahead with their strong conservation input. This level of predator control and related conservation work has been severely lacking until recent times - until the Sika Foundation picked up the mantle to see give back. Please ensure this keeps going

1 Objective **Submission ID: 108-7**

General position

Support

I totally agreed with this and the research and results that have led to seeing that this is all possible must continue. Keep up the great work guys

Table 1.1 General **Submission ID: 108-8**

General position

Support

General position

Support

I absolutely support this proposal to have a HOSI for the Sika herds as set out in this proposal. The value of this to opportunity is immense - while I am not a hunter myself; I see the huge benefits that it has been to several family members spanning 3 generations. There is the value of the hunting and the great outdoors is immeasurable. The conservation work is over and above again from our hunting fraternity - this must continue please

Respondent: Linda Conning

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 239

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 239

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Linda Conning - Sika submission.pdf

Linda Conning - Sika covering letter.pdf

Respondent: Lorraine Cook

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 223

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 223

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Lorraine Cook - Sika submission.pdf

Lorraine Cook - Sika covering letter.pdf

Respondent: Taina Cooper - Ngāti Tutemohuta

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 36

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 36-1

General position

Oppose

Ngati Tutemohuta oppose the establishment of a Sika Deer Herd of Special Interest and do not support the Draft Management Plan. Our hapu engaged in good faith with DOC, the Game Animal Council and the Sika Foundation, beginning with a hui at Pakira Marae where clear direction was set and later confirmed in writing. The engagement pathway outlined in this hui has not been upheld. Updates have been shared publicly before hapu were briefed, communications have been inconsistent, and DOC has continued to engage through iwi-level structures rather than through our mandated hapu delegates as required under Te Piringa.

The proposed designation is not aligned with the aspirations of Ngati Tutemohuta for the wellbeing of our taiao. Sika deer are an introduced species causing damage to native forest systems, and elevating their status privileges recreational hunting over ecological restoration and hapu authority.

We request that this proposal be withdrawn until hapu-led engagement is restored and consistent with Te Piringa.

A full written submission is attached to this form.

Submission- Proposed Sika Deer Herd of Special Interest.pdf

Respondent: Tipene Cottrell - Pā Environmental

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 191

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 191-1

General position

Oppose

We oppose the SIKa HOSI in its entirety. Sika deer are an introduced pest and should not be treated as a taonga. We oppose any type of HOSI and the HOSI process.

The SIKa foundation is a stakeholder and has not engaged with any Mana Whenua in the Eastern Kaweka. The relationship should sit with DOC and their treaty partner (Mana Ahuriri Trust PSGE).

Deer should not be protected and in our Kaweka range are one of the biggest environmental issues we have. They are not a taonga species and should not have any protection. The forest should have the protection.

We need a real plan for the whole Kaweka which involves deer management. A HOSI is not the way forward. There are many other ways to look after the Kaweka range and we are working on other plans. Not many iwi at all (if any) support the Sika Foundations HOSI proposal.

We do not agree or support any deer HOSI. Come and talk to us and we can give you solutions. Sika foundation is a stakeholder and they have not engaged on anything so far with mana whenua in our area. Not a great start.

Our PSGE has written a letter to the minister about the position of mana whenua (PSGE) on the matter and we support their letter of opposition in full.

No to a HOSI

No to Sika foundation protecting sika deer

Yes to a Kaweka Forest plan. Putting the health of the forest first. Deer are one of the main reasons for the collapse of our forest ecosystem

Respondent: John Cruden

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 133

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 133

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

John Cruden - sika covering letter.pdf

John Crude - Sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Paddy Curtin

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 158

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 158-1

General position

Support

I support the creation of a Herd of Special Interest for the Central North Island Sika deer herd. This herd is an amazing resource for sport and recreation, mental wellbeing, and most importantly kai for families. This herd is hunted by people from throughout the North Island and some from the South and needs to be recognised and protected as the fantastic resource that it is.

Respondent: Paddy Curtin - NZDA North Taranaki Branch

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 161

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 161-1

General position

Support

NZDA North Taranaki supports the creation of a Herd of Special Interest for the North Island Sika herd. These deer were first liberated in 1905 as a gift from the Duke of Bedford and have survived there ever since. They are the only wild Sika deer herd in the Southern Hemisphere and currently managed by private hunters (free for the tax payer), DoC (Paid for by the tax payer), and more recently through a combined effort of the Sika Foundation and Private hunters (free for the taxpayer).

By designating the Sika a Herd of Special Interest it allows proper, robust, hunter led management to prevail with the inclusion of animal density targets to ensure that native plant species are not impacted. This is in the same way the Kaimanawa Horses are protected and managed.

Respondent: Paddy Curtin - NZDA HUNTS

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 199

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 199-1

General position

Support

NZDA HUNTS is a standalone course which is completely volunteer run for the purpose of teaching new hunters how to safely and successfully enjoy the bush and open country of NZ and how to ensure future generations can do the same.

NZDA HUNTS believes the Sika herd, which has existed in the Kaimanawa ranges since its liberation in 1905 should be managed as a resource for kiwis who wish to challenge themselves to harvest organic, free range Sika venison from the only free range Sika herd in the Southern hemisphere. This resource is already feeding thousands of people across the central North Island and beyond. The Sika Foundation have begun a program to not only reduce deer numbers in areas where they are having a detrimental effect on the forest, but to reduce numbers of vermin which predate on native birds, namely the Whio (Blue Duck). This Program is a joint effort between Doc, Volunteers and Iwi and has zero cost to the tax payer yet a massive impact on the forest and is truly a great example of 'paying it forward'. NZDA HUNTS would like to see the Sika deer given the same protection as the Kaimanawa Horses which are also an introduced mammal into the region, the only difference is the horses have been there some 30 years longer. By creating a Herd of Special Interest, this means the Sika deer resource can be managed in a way where the forest plants and birds can flourish, and also the deer herd can be healthy and continue to be a source of revenue and interest for local people and businesses.

The Sika deer will never be eradicated 100% on the PCL due to the vastness and ruggedness of the terrain, and also the large amount of private land which boundaries the Kaimanawa and Kaweka forest parks where the deer travel freely between. To try and eradicate will only chew up precious tax payer dollars forever in the name of chasing an impossible dream, the only logical solution is to manage the deer as a resource and continue to involve the people who are currently doing the work.

Respondent: Evan Davis-Goff

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 110

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 110-1

General position

Support

The central north island sika herd has the opportunity, through being given HOSI status, to become a world class example of a valuable economic hunting resource.

Not only does trophy sika hunting appeal to wealthy foreigners but also provides benefits to locals. From foreigners comes thousands of dollars per hunter, per annum. Benefitting guiding companies, heli operators, accommodation providers, hunting and outdoor retailers, etc etc. To locals the resource provides food at the very basic level. But for locals it also provides massive mental health benefits, countless hours of positive experiences for families, and for many is an ingrained part of their culture, with experience having been passed down through generations.

Organizations such as the North Island Sika Foundation are primed to spring into action and support government agencies to establish a protocol to manage the sika herd. Already they are involved with pest control aimed at supporting the native whio population, along with sika stag research and limited culling operations. This will only increase once they have the support of the government.

Lets face it. The deer population in NZ will never be eradicated. So lets embrace it as the valuable and treasured resource it is, but put in place conditions so that interested parties can play a better role in herd and population management

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 110-4

To locals the resource provides food at the very basic level. But for locals it also provides massive mental health benefits, countless hours of positive experiences for families, and for many is an ingrained part of their culture, with experience having been passed down through generations.

Respondent: Tim Day

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 53

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 53-1

General position

Support

Objectives:

I support all Objectives of the plan.

Specific comment:

Objective 2: The sika hunting experience is enhanced while contributing to overall management and regeneration of the Sika Area.

It is essential that the objective of 'the sika hunting experience is enhanced' relates to multiple values: ability to continue to harvest meat for food; increased animal quality due to a smaller but healthier population containing fewer breeding hinds; better trophy animals relating to a healthier herd; enhanced ecological processes making hunting environments healthier and more appealing to hunt in (e.g. more native wildlife encounters, increased palatable understory species etc.).

Strategy:

I support most strategies of the plan (except for Strategy 1.7)

Support specific comments:

Strategy 3 (all sub-points) and 4.8 are absolutely essential if the Herd of Special Interest is to be effectively managed.

Having hunted extensively on private land outside the Sika Herd of Special Interest Area, many of the most concerning ecological effects and sika population imbalances I have seen are evident in these private areas (e.g. very high deer numbers dominated by poor quality breeding hinds living in areas on the brink of ecological collapse). These private areas form a very significant part of the sika natural range, so a collaborative approach to sika management beyond the Sika Herd of Special Interest Area is highly desirable. While it should be up to the owners to manage their lands as they see fit, the Herd of Special Interest will probably only be successfully and sustainably managed in the long term if the 'whole' herd is actively managed. Therefore, it will be critical that owners and stakeholders in other parts of the sika natural range are engaged and part of the plan, so they can consider also managing their herds with similar objectives and strategies.

Oppose specific comments:

I oppose Strategy 1.7: Explore opportunities to establish a hunter ballot or booking system in the Kaimanawa Remote Experience Zone during the sika rut period.

A ballot or booking system for the Kaimanawa Remote Experience Zone during the roar is highly unlikely to achieve any ecological benefits desired in Objective 1. It is also counter to the aims of the Kaimanawa Remote Experience Zone – an area where those who are prepared to ‘do the hard yards’ can get a truly remote wilderness experience, including hunting sika. As an active user of and hunter/fisherman in the Kaimanawa Remote Experience Zone, Strategy 1.7 would significantly compromise Objective 2 of the plan, detracting from, rather than enhancing, the experience.

I acknowledge that the Kaimanawa Remote Experience Zone will require increased hunting effort beyond the current recreational hunter activity if it is to be managed in line with Objective 1 of the plan. I believe Objective 1 of the plan would be better achieved in the Kaimanawa Remote Experience Zone using a combination of Herd management hunts (Strategy 1.11a, but may be ineffective for ecological benefit if this is the only strategy used) and professional contractor hunting (Strategy 1.13).

Respondent: Steve Deeming

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 12

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 12-1

General position

Support

about time

Respondent: Nathan Dell

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 40

1 Objective

Submission ID: 40-1

General position

Oppose

Iwi involvement unnecessary and will create complications. All New Zealanders should be treated equally and a certain ethnic group should not have additional influence. The Treaty is not official law anyway.

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 40-2

General position

Support in part

I support, in principle, the formation of a HOSI for the sika deer. I do not support Iwi involvement in its management. Management should be between the government and relevant organisations representing hunter interests ie GAC, NZDA, Sika Foundation

Respondent: Allan Dittmer

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 138

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 138-1

General position

Support

- RECREATIONAL hunting MUST remain central to the management of all Herds of Special Interest.
- An annual survey of recreational hunters should be built into each management plan to ensure ongoing accountability and to confirm that the herds continue to meet the criteria for “special interest”.

Respondent: Peter Donaldson

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 207

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 207-1

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 207-10

General position

Support

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 207-11

General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 207-12

General position

Support

Map 1 Sika Herd of Special Interest Area

Submission ID: 207-13

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 207-14

General position

Support

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 207-15

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary

Submission ID: 207-16

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 207-17

General position

Support in part

Some concern as to if social initiatives only benefit selected people.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 207-18

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 207-19

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 207-2

General position

Support

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 207-20

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 207-21

General position

Support in part

Remove section 2.5

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 207-22

General position

Support in part

I do have some concern about how compliance and enforcement could be used. I still want to see good public access for the wider public to be able to hunt Sika without any unnecessary barriers.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 207-23

General position

Support

Table 3 Working closely with lwi

Submission ID: 207-24

General position

Oppose

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 207-3

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 207-4

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 207-5

General position

Oppose

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 207-6

General position

Support

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 207-7

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 207-8

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 207-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Greg Donnison

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 45

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 45-1

General position

Oppose

NZ's environment is unique. It is what we Kiwis love about this country. It is also the primary reason why the majority of overseas tourists choose to visit our conservation estate - they want to see native birds, native plant species, enjoy our forests unique characteristics.

Having seen first hand the effects of deer in the Kaweka ranges, and the contrast between the understory of unprotected areas and fenced off protected areas that exclude deer, it is absolutely critical that the integrity of DOC's strategy to control all pests (including deer) is not compromised. This strategy should, as its first principle, seek to minimise the deer population to a point where Aotearoa's unique environment is preserved.

Unfortunately, HOSI compromises this first principle position in that it would require DOC to consider the proposed HOSI legislation when determining appropriate levels of sika deer in the Kaweka and Kaimanawa Ranges.

For this reason I am opposed to HOSI.

Note: I am not against licenced hunters operating on the conservation estate, however, they must operate within an "environment first" framework.

Respondent: Judith Driscoll

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 81

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 81-1

General position

Oppose

Even a managed herd is going to be deleterious to the natural flora and fauna

Respondent: Paul Drury

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 25

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 25-1

General position

Oppose

Learn from history. Look at the result of the much vaunted introduction of the managed rabbit. An absolute disaster both environmentally and economically. Only criminal activity partially halted the havoc. The government efforts were dismal.

Similarly the wallaby, the goat and I could go on.

Let the hunters get their jollies some other way that want end up costing the taxpayer and the environment.

Respondent: Greg Duley

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 82

1 Objective

Submission ID: 82-1

General position

Support in part

The HOSI cannot be expected to "protect threatened species" that are not relevant to deer and deer browse. The objective of the HOSI conservation/biodiversity wise is to make it better than it was before the HOSI, but it cannot be expected to do the impossible.

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 82-10

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 82-11

General position

Support

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 82-12

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 82-13

General position

Support

Contribute to, but cannot be expected to cover all the costs.

9 Objective

Submission ID: 82-14

General position

Support in part

Public reporting is one of the measurables, but not the only one.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 82-15

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 82-16

General position

Support in part

So long as the ecological objectives are realistic and agreed to by the Sika Foundation.

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 82-17

General position

Support in part

The plan should not be based around counting/estimating sika numbers, nor setting control targets that have little relevance to the real objectives of improving ecosystem health, sika deer quality and the hunting experience.

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 82-18

General position

Support in part

So long as the objectives are realistic and agreed to by the Sika Foundation

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 82-19

General position

Support in part

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 82-2

General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 82-20

General position

Support in part

Do not support using FPIs, nor fenced plots. Neither are accurate.

It is impossible to count deer, the bio diversity objectives must be based on agreed to vegetation browse levels, not deer numbers. Deer objectives must be based on herd make up and condition, and hunter satisfaction.

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 82-21

General position

Oppose in part

The Department should not be the controlling body for the HOSI, the GAC should through its contractor the Sika Foundation.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 82-3

General position

Support

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 82-4

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 82-5

General position

Support

DOC has done a terrible job of consultation with IWI, and this relationship would be far better left to the Sika Foundation and the GAC.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 82-6

General position

Support in part

Overriding considerations make the HOSI unworkable and subject to unachievable ecological goals. This part of the legislation needs amending.

The GAC should be appointing enforcement officers etc, not the DG.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 82-7

General position

Support in part

Generally support this, but do not want to see all the money spent on navel gazing and little on actually doing stuff. We need enough science to be able to adaptively manage the herd.

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 82-8

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 82-9

General position

Support in part

Monitoring is not the only measure of whether we are achieving the objectives of this plan. Animal quality and hunter satisfaction are equally as important.

Respondent: Willie Duley - Heritage Red Deer Foundation

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 180

8 Objective

Submission ID: 180-1

General position

Support

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 180-10

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 180-11

General position

Support in part

Support provided the objectives are clearly defined and agreed to by the Sika Foundation and Game Animal Council.

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 180-12

General position

Support in part

We support using professional hunters provided they are targeting females/hinds and the local hunting communities are adequately consulted prior, to avoid any issues.

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 180-13

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 180-14

General position

Support

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan **Submission ID: 180-15**

General position

Support in part

We support the Sika HOSI plan provided it is managed by the Game Animal Council (GAC) and the Sika Foundation - not DOC as hunters cannot rely on DOC (hunters have long term trust issues with DOC) to best represent their interests (as DOC have conflicting goals with managing game animals and hunters, with preservation of natural state at their core principles).

Table 2.4 Research **Submission ID: 180-16**

General position

Support

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi **Submission ID: 180-17**

General position

Support

Table 4.3 Stewardship **Submission ID: 180-18**

General position

Support

3 Objective **Submission ID: 180-19**

General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring **Submission ID: 180-2**

General position

Support in part

We support monitoring, but only that as recommended by the GAC, game animal biologists and Sika Foundation's approved advisors - it needs to be carried out by an independent body such as Landcare Research - noting DOC have an inconsistent track record of game animal monitoring, and trust issues exist amongst the hunting community around DOC interpreting results to best suit the objectives and sway of the Government and Ministers of the day. We do not support Faecal pellet counts or permanent plots being used as an accurate method of monitoring, as proven by the issues of this inconsistent monitoring carried out in other areas of the country.

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 180-20

General position

Support in part

Yes we support, provided kiwis get preferential treatment over international hunters.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 180-21

General position

Support in part

We support Sika being managed in a manner to allow for agreed natural biodiversity/vegetation levels - but these levels need to be clearly defined/measurable and agreed upon by the Sika Foundation - so that the levels also support recreational hunter values.

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 180-22

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 180-3

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 180-4

General position

Support in part

Support provided recreational hunting values are enhanced at the same time.

Table 1.1 General**Submission ID: 180-5**

General position

Support in part

Support, provided recreational hunting values are enhanced with any activities that are carried out as part of the HOSI.

4 Objective**Submission ID: 180-6**

General position

Support**Table 5.2 Annual report****Submission ID: 180-7**

General position

Support in part

We support the Sika Foundation working with GAC on the annual report, not DOC as we don't believe they should be involved with managing game animals in NZ for reasons previously outlined (conflicting interests, lack of trust, poor track record and understanding of game animal management).

4. Compliance, review and enforcement**Submission ID: 180-8**

General position

Support in part

We believe the review of the plan should be carried out by the GAC (not DOC as their report could be influenced by the Govt. of the day) and GAC should then report to the Minister of Hunting & Fishing with any findings/suggestions.

2. Values and key context**Submission ID: 180-9**

General position

Support in part

We support a Sika HOSI and the Sika Foundation (SF) continuing their programme in Kaweka and Kaimanawa forest parks, as Sika in the central North Island are hugely valued by hunters (carrying immense recreational, commercial, and social well-being benefits), as well as providing critical food for the table for many families and local communities. The SF have a proven track record of consistently carrying out deer control in the likes of the remote experience zone when no other aerial deer management has been happening. The SF are undoubtedly

the best organisation to look after and preserve the values of Kaweka/Kaimanawa going forward into the future, to be overseen by the Game Animal Council.

Respondent: Kevin Dunn

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 128

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 128

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Kevin Dunn - Sika covering letter no text.pdf

Kevin Dunn - Sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Matthew Durham

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 202

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 202-1

General position

Support in part

I agree in part to this proposal. I hope the Recreational Hunting Areas within the HOSI proposal are kept. I believe management of hunter activities will be very difficult to manage due to the large amount of access areas to the proposed HOSI. I would not want to see costs to permits or balloted blocks. Scientific methods must be used for the measuring of deer numbers and vegetation surveying. I believe deer fecal pellet counts are not scientific, they have been used for years yet still don't provide any real accuracy of deer numbers.

Keep in mind that not all hunters are interested in shooting stags for their antlers, a vast proportion of hunters just want to shoot a deer for venison. If the main driver of deer management is to increase the average antler size in the herd, then this is not taking into hunters who have no real interest in antlers and shooting stags.

Respondent: Glenn Dyer

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 11

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 11-1

General position

Support

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Submission in Support of the Sika Management Plan

I am writing to express my strong support for the Sika Management Plan and the continued protection and responsible stewardship of the Sika Herd of Special Interest.

As someone who has spent many years hunting in the Kaweka and Kaimanawa ranges, I have experienced firsthand the immense value this herd brings to our country, not only ecologically, but socially and culturally. The time spent in the bush with friends, the shared stories around campfires, and the meat that we bring home to our families are all part of a tradition that strengthens community bonds and fosters a deep respect for the land.

The hunting community is united by a common purpose: to protect and preserve our slice of paradise. We are not just users of the land, we are active managers. Through pest control, herd monitoring, and ethical hunting practices, we contribute directly to the health of the ecosystem and the sustainability of the sika population.

I would also like to acknowledge the vital contributions of our Treaty Partners, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ahuriri Hapu, Ngati Hineuru, Heretaunga Tamatea, Ngati Whitikaupeka, and Ngati Tamakopiri, whose deep connection to the land are essential to the success of this plan. Their leadership, cultural knowledge, and stewardship are foundational to the long-term wellbeing of the Sika Area and its ecosystems.

Equally, the tireless efforts of the Sika Foundation and its champions John Cook, Cam Speedy, the Duley Family, Mike Penn, and Allan Jackson deserve recognition. Their dedication to conservation, education, and community engagement has been instrumental in building a collaborative model of game animal management that benefits both people and the environment.

The Sika Herd is a unique and valuable resource. It supports recreational hunting, provides food, and brings people together in a way that few other activities can. The management plan rightly recognizes the role hunters and Treaty Partners play in conservation and the importance of maintaining a balanced and thriving herd.

I urge you to continue supporting this plan and to recognize the contributions of all those who work tirelessly to safeguard both the sika and the environment they inhabit.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my views.

Sincerely,

Glenn Dyer

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Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan - Submission.pdf

Respondent: Mark Elliotte - NZDA Upper Clutha Branch

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 232

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 232

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Upper Clutha Branch NZDA - Mark Elliotte - Sika submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Mark Elliotte

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 236

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 236

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Mark Elliotte - Sika submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Beth Endres

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 2

6 Objective

Submission ID: 2-1

General position

Support in part

There's limited discussion of how climate change might affect deer behaviour, forest health, or management logistics.

International plans increasingly factor in climate adaptation, especially in alpine and montane ecosystems.

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 2-2

General position

Support in part

The plan doesn't yet specify clear ecological thresholds (e.g. acceptable levels of seedling browse or forest canopy recovery targets).

In Europe, deer management plans often include quantitative biodiversity indicators to trigger action.

Respondent: Kevin Fewtrell

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 80

1 Objective

Submission ID: 80-1

General position

Support

I fully support the proposal to make the Sika Herd of the Central North Island, Kaimanawa/Kaweka State Forests a Herd of Special Interest. It will ensure the best outcomes for all involved. I cannot really add anything myself that is not adequately covered in the Proposal or more qualified people than I can make. As a Hunter with many many trips into both Parks this has to be win win situation for everybody. Again I am 100% in Support.

Thank You.

Kevin

Respondent: Timothy Fletcher

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 96

1 Objective

Submission ID: 96-1

General position

Oppose

I acknowledge there is a crisis in the management of wild deer in Aotearoa. It is my opinion that making an exception for one type of deer in one region is an unmanageable plan for the long term goal of restoring and protecting Aotearoa's natural habitats and restoring / protecting our biodiversity. If this exception is made then further exceptions will be applied for and the goal of keeping deer numbers down to manageable levels will be lost. Urgent action is required to tackle the estimated 1.8m wild deer in Aotearoa. Making exceptions is a distraction to the task ahead of us

Respondent: Greg Flintoff

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 113

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 113-1

General position

Support

As an avid conservationist and hunter I fully support the sika hosi. I am actively involved in hunting sika in these mountain ranges and support the sika foundation and am also a member of nzda. I care very deeply (as do most hunters) about the health and wellbeing of these forests we spend so much of our time in and are a huge part of our soul and mental wellbeing.

The excellent work that has been carried out by the sika foundation volunteers in collaboration with doc is of very high value to the forest and its ecology. There is in place already the people, skills, experience, expertise, passion and proven results that make designating a sika hosi and approving this plan a safe reliable bet that WILL provide great sustainable ecological and conservation outcomes and benefit the entire community and native ecosystem as well as managing the sika herd in a responsible manner with much fewer animals and a lot more monitoring of herd and forest health and adaptive management.

It absolutely cannot be understated the value of having a organisation managing the sika deer in these 2 forests and only in these 2 forests which provides very consistent focus on just these areas day in day out, every month of the year, year after year. Vs the current system of doc trying to do everything across the whole country all at one with no where near the resources required which just results in massive areas being completely neglected due to resource restraints.

Respondent: Gerald Fluerty

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 210

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 210-1

General position

Support

I fully support the initiatives of the sika foundation.

Respondent: Karen Forno

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 46

6 Objective

Submission ID: 46-1

General position

Oppose

we know what the relationship is. Sika browse native plants. They have a negative effect on biodiversity and resilience.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 46-2

General position

Oppose

The only way to achieve this objective is to eliminate sika. They are not native, they do not need protection, they need to get out of our conservation land.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 46-3

General position

Oppose

I do not support the hunting of sika. Get them out of conservation areas.

Respondent: Barry Foster

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 169

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 169-1

General position

Oppose

Submission on sika deer Herds of special interest draft management plan.

There are two important aspects in this proposed plan that concern me as to their potential to fail to record and adapt management practices and goals on changing impacts on biodiversity in the Kawaka's and Kaimanawa's. These impacts will most likely be the result of sika deer herds growing in numbers of animals over time and prior to management and funding catch up on them. The result will be a degraded environment that fails to recover sufficiently before successive growth in numbers of sika deer further degrade an already degraded environment. The result will be a steady decline in biodiversity and environmental resilience over time.

1. My first concern is about monitoring techniques their scale and reliability.

- **Established methods** (already in use):
 - Seedling ratio index
 - Permanent 20 × 20 metre plots
 - Alpine deer browse assessments
 - Faecal pellet counts
- **New monitoring techniques mentioned:**
 - *Exploring the use of new monitoring methods, tools and technologies*
 - Specifically, the plan says these will be trialled **with input from tangata whenua, the Tongariro Taupo Conservation Board, the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board, and the Department of Conservation** before being applied in the Sika Area.

Answer in brief: Modern wildlife monitoring technologies include drones, camera traps, acoustic sensors, satellite imaging, and AI-based analysis. These tools provide real-time, large-scale, and precise data that go far beyond traditional field methods.

Examples of Modern Wildlife Monitoring Technologies

- **Drones (UAVs)**
 - Used for aerial surveys of forests, rivers, and remote terrain.
 - Provide high-resolution imagery and thermal detection of animals.
 - Helpful in monitoring deer populations, nesting birds, or poaching activity.
- **Camera Traps**
 - Motion-triggered cameras that capture images or videos of wildlife.

- **Acoustic Monitoring**
 - Devices record animal calls (e.g., birds, bats, frogs).
 - Useful for nocturnal or elusive species that are hard to observe visually.
 - AI can analyse recordings to identify species automatically.
- **Satellite Remote Sensing**
 - Tracks habitat changes, vegetation health, and migration corridors.
 - Detects illegal logging, fires, or climate-driven shifts in ecosystems.
- **GPS Collars & Biotelemetry**
 - Track individual animals' movements, home ranges, and dispersal patterns.
 - Provide insights into how species interact with landscapes and human activity.
- **AI & Machine Learning Analysis**
 - Automates identification of species from images, sounds, or drone footage.
 - Speeds up data processing and reduces human error.

Considerations & Trade-offs

- **Cost & Accessibility:** Advanced tools like drones and satellite imagery can be expensive, limiting use by smaller conservation groups.
- **Community Involvement:** Some technologies risk excluding local communities if not paired with participatory approaches.
- **Data Management:** Large datasets require robust storage, analysis, and ethical handling.

How This Relates to the Sika Plan

The **Draft Sika Herd Management Plan** mentions exploring *new monitoring methods and technologies* but doesn't specify which. Based on global conservation practice, the tools above are the most likely candidates. For example:

- **Thermal drones** could improve hind-focused culling efficiency.
- **Camera traps and acoustic sensors** could track biodiversity recovery in Kaimanawa and Kaweka forests.
- **AI analysis** could streamline reporting on hunter harvests and ecological outcomes.

Mapping Modern Technologies to Sika Plan Objectives

Technology	How It Supports Sika Plan Objectives
Drones (thermal & aerial imaging)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helps achieve Objective 1 (ecosystem processes & canopy regeneration) by detecting deer browsing hotspots and vegetation stress. - Supports Strategy 1.13 (professional control operations) by locating hinds more efficiently.
Camera Traps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contributes to Objective 6 (knowledge of sika–ecosystem dynamics) by recording deer activity and predator-prey interactions. - Enhances Strategy 2.1(c) (monitoring hunter harvest and herd age structure) with photographic evidence.

Acoustic Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Supports Objective 1 (protect threatened species) by tracking bird calls (e.g., kiwi, whio, kaka).- Aligns with Strategy 2.4 (research) by providing data on biodiversity recovery.
Satellite Remote Sensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Strengthens Objective 7 (monitoring enables adaptive management) by detecting forest canopy changes over large areas.- Useful for Strategy 2.1(a) (ecological monitoring) to complement ground plots.
GPS Collars & Biotelemetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Directly supports Objective 6 (understanding sika dynamics) by mapping movement patterns and habitat use.- Informs Strategy 2.6(b) (research on sika movement patterns).
AI & Machine Learning Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Enhances Objective 9 (public reporting) by automating data processing for annual reports.- Supports Strategy 2.3(c) (monitoring herd age structure) by analyzing jaw samples, antler photos, or camera trap data.

Why This Matters

The draft plan emphasizes **adaptive management** and **new monitoring methods**. These technologies would:

- Make monitoring more **efficient and precise**.
- Provide **real-time ecological data** to guide hunting quotas and habitat restoration.
- Strengthen **partnerships with iwi and communities** by integrating matauranga Maori with modern science.

2. My second concern is around long-term funding of these adaptive monitoring techniques to purchase and implement them. Where is the long-term funding coming from?

Funding is not solely government driven. It relies on a co-management model where hunters, iwi, DOC, and conservation boards all share costs and responsibilities. This reflects the plan's philosophy: if hunters want sustainable herds and iwi want restored forests, both must invest in the system.

the Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Plan are most dependent on **external funding** (beyond DOC's baseline support). This shows where financial pressure points are likely to arise:

Objectives with High External Funding Needs

- **Objective 1 – Ecosystem processes & canopy regeneration**
 - Requires large-scale ecological monitoring, forest restoration, and professional deer control.
 - Funding pressure: **High**, because these activities are resource-intensive and need external grants or iwi/community investment.
- **Objective 6 – Knowledge of sika–ecosystem dynamics**
 - Involves research projects (movement patterns, herd dynamics, ecological impacts).

- Funding pressure: **High**, since research often depends on external grants, universities, or sponsorships.
- **Objective 7 – Monitoring enables adaptive management**
 - Calls for new technologies (drones, acoustic sensors, AI analysis).
 - Funding pressure: **High**, because innovation requires upfront investment and ongoing technical support.

Objectives with Moderate Funding Needs

- **Objective 2 – Hunter satisfaction**
 - Relies on harvest reporting systems, trophy monitoring, and hunter education.
 - Funding pressure: **Moderate**, as hunters and the Sika Foundation are expected to contribute directly.
- **Objective 9 – Public reporting & transparency**
 - Requires annual reports, public dashboards, and communication tools.
 - Funding pressure: **Moderate**, since this can be supported by DOC but enhanced with external sponsorships.

Objectives with Lower Funding Needs

- **Objective 3 – Tangata whenua values**
 - Focuses on iwi involvement, matauranga Maori integration, and cultural stewardship.
 - Funding pressure: **Lower**, as this is more about governance and partnership than expensive technical inputs.
- **Objective 4 – Community involvement**
 - Relies on volunteer labour, local partnerships, and shared stewardship.
 - Funding pressure: **Lower**, since much of the contribution is non-financial.

Key Insight

The biggest financial stress points are around forest regeneration, advanced monitoring, and ecological research. These will likely need external grants, sponsorships, and iwi/hunter co-funding. In contrast, objectives tied to community and cultural values depend more on participation and governance than money.

Quick answer: The Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Plan could realistically draw funding from major New Zealand conservation charities, research councils, iwi partnerships, and corporate sponsors. Key players include WWF-NZ, the NZ Nature Fund, Auckland Zoo's conservation arm, and government agencies like the Ministry for the Environment.

Potential Funding Partners for the Sika Plan

1. Charities & NGOs

- **WWF-NZ Conservation Fund** Provides grants for habitat protection, biodiversity monitoring, and innovative conservation projects. *Relevance:* Could support new monitoring technologies (drones, acoustic

- **NZ Nature Fund** A leading charity that bridges the gap between government funding and urgent conservation needs. *Relevance:* Ideal for large-scale forest regeneration and biodiversity recovery in the Kaimanawa and Kaweka ranges.
- **Forest & Bird / Auckland Zoo Conservation Projects** Both organizations run community-based projects, predator control, and species monitoring. *Relevance:* Could co-fund deer impact monitoring and community engagement programs.

2. Government & Research Agencies

- **Ministry for the Environment (MfE)** Runs biodiversity data improvement projects and collaborates with DOC, Crown Research Institutes, and universities. *Relevance:* Could provide technical and financial support for ecological monitoring and data analysis.
- **Department of Conservation (DOC)** Already a core funder, but external partnerships can extend DOC's baseline support. *Relevance:* DOC's Biodiversity Strategy aligns directly with the plan's objectives.
- **Universities & Crown Research Institutes** Likely partners for research grants, postgraduate projects, and ecological modelling. *Relevance:* Could fund Objective 6 (understanding sika–ecosystem dynamics).

3. Community & Iwi Partnerships

- **Tangata Whenua (iwi/hapu)** Contributions may be financial, but more often involve matauranga Maori, governance, and stewardship. *Relevance:* Strengthens Objective 3 (cultural values) and ensures co-management legitimacy.
- **Local Conservation Boards** Provide governance and sometimes small grants for regional projects. *Relevance:* Could support hunter education and community monitoring.

4. Corporate & Philanthropic Sponsors

- **Tourism operators, outdoor gear companies, and hunting outfitters** May sponsor monitoring programs or contribute to hunter satisfaction initiatives. *Relevance:* Aligns with Objective 2 (hunter satisfaction) and Objective 9 (public reporting).

Funding Pressure Points

- **High-cost areas:** canopy regeneration, professional deer control, and advanced monitoring technologies.
- **Moderate-cost areas:** hunter harvest reporting, trophy monitoring, and public dashboards.
- **Low-cost areas:** iwi governance, community involvement, and cultural stewardship.

Key insight: The plan's success depends on weaving together government baseline funding, NGO grants, iwi partnerships, and corporate sponsorships. Without external partners like WWF-NZ or the NZ Nature Fund, the most ambitious goals (forest regeneration and tech-driven monitoring) will struggle to be realized.

For these reasons I oppose the sika deer herds of special interest draft management plan

Respondent: Gerald Freeman

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 17

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 17

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Gerald Freeman s9(2)(a)

Respondent: Tim Gale

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 221

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 221

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Tim Gale - Sika covering letter.pdf

Tim Gale - Sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Tim Gale - Hunting & Fishing Napier

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 222

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 222

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Hunting and Fishing Napier - Tim Gale - Sika covering letter.pdf

Hunting and Fishing Napier - Tim Gale - Sika submission.pdf

Respondent: David Gant

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 26

1 Objective

Submission ID: 26-1

General position

Support

The sika herd is a valuable resource for recreational hunters; it is necessary as a balance in an increasingly busy working life for many enthusiasts. Managing this herd can be achieved if all those interested parties work together for solutions that encompasses conservation and herd health. We have the science and technology to do this without the threat of outdated extermination methods.

Please do not destroy what is a valuable asset to many.

Respondent: Douglas Gordon

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 23

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 23-1

General position

Support

This is a Win, Win, Win Situation.

The environment wins from reduction and control of Deer numbers.

The New Zealand recreational hunters win by better quality hunting.

The Department of Conservation wins as it is spared the cost of the deer control operations that this plan is designed to achieve. Something they tell us they can ill afford.

I also support the submissions of the National Office and various Branches of The New Zealand Deerstalkers Assn on this plan. They have more detailed knowledge than me living in Southland

Quality hunting of Game in New Zealand needs to be encouraged, our youth are better learning to hunt and enjoy the outdoors than burn rubber on our streets etc. I wish Herds of Special interest existed when I was younger and more able to take advantage of the opportunities they can present.

Respondent: Douglas Gordon - Southland Branch New Zealand Deerstalkers Assn

Submission
Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 60

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 60-1

General position

Support

We feel that the establishment of the Sika Herd of Special interest is a win for conservation, providing better outcomes for the environment than has occurred in the past. While providing a win for those who want to hunt trophy Sika. A move that is good for all of moderate views about conservation and hunting.

Something that will encourage the Southland Branch members to travel north and hunt Sika. Something that must be good for the travel and hospitality industry.

Respondent: Trev Gratton - Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation **Submission Type: manual**

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan **Submission ID: 220**

Submission Attachments **Submission ID: 220**

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

- Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation - Trev Gratton - Sika covering letter.pdf
- Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation - Trev Gratton - Sika Submission.pdf

Respondent: Trev Gratton - NZDA Hutt Valley Branch

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 243

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 243

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Hutt Valley NZDA - Trev Gratton - Sika covering letter.pdf

Hutt Valley NZDA - Trev Gratton - Sika Submission.pdf

Respondent: Michael Greaves

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 43

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 43-1

General position

Support

I support the Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan.

Respondent: Ross Green

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 93

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 93-1

General position

Support

Hi There

It is long overdue for a more professional outlook and management of wild deer populations in New Zealand. It is impossible to eradicate them, and they are a hugely important resource to many hunters, their families and to the economy.

Management of the Sika Herd needs to be all encompassing with regard to improving the Sika herd quality but not at the expense of the environment. There must be parallel improvement to natural habitats and ecosystems with an adaptive management approach. This is not a 'one size fits all', and it must be supported and measured through appropriate research, monitoring & testing.

The Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan is an important legislative & a more professional approach to managing Sika with a large emphasis on better environmental outcomes.

The Sika Herd and the environment they frequent is far too important to thousands of New Zealanders to not recognise that this HOSI should be implemented.

Respondent: Kane Grundy

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan	Submission ID: 79
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4 Objective Submission ID: 79-1

General position

Support

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting Submission ID: 79-10

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research Submission ID: 79-11

General position

Support

5 Objective Submission ID: 79-12

General position

Oppose in part

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting Submission ID: 79-13

General position

Support in part

I would not like to see a ballot system established

3 Objective Submission ID: 79-14

General position

Support

6 Objective Submission ID: 79-15

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 79-16

General position

Support

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 79-17

General position

Support

Map 1 Sika Herd of Special Interest Area

Submission ID: 79-18

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 79-19

General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 79-2

General position

Support

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 79-20

General position

Oppose in part

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 79-21

General position

Support in part

I would be careful of the cost to do this annually every 2-3yrs would be enough

2 Objective

Submission ID: 79-22

General position

Support

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 79-23

General position

Support in part

I feel that more access points to the Kaweka and Kaimanawa's should be made available to the public. There are a number of areas that the boundrys are close to public roads and tracks but it is hard to gain access to the park due to the farmers land and even public access across this land denied. One example is off Pakaututu rd, there is an easement here but the farmer makes it difficult to cross this for hunting. Also more landing sites for helicopters and fixed wing would make it easier for hunters to access more blocks. 4x4 & motor bike access should be made more available to users even if keys were issued under license to eliminate joy riders. The use of pack horse to carry loads in and out of the park would help encourage hunters to harvest more venison thus helping maintain balance in the heard.

Thank you

7 Objective

Submission ID: 79-24

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 79-3

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 79-4

General position

Support

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 79-5

General position

Support

1 Objective **Submission ID: 79-6**

General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring **Submission ID: 79-7**

General position

Support

8 Objective **Submission ID: 79-8**

General position

Support

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts **Submission ID: 79-9**

General position

Support

Respondent: Richard Guest

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 47

2 Objective

Submission ID: 47-1

General position

Support

I support this, but request hunting access is available all year

1 Objective

Submission ID: 47-2

General position

Support

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 47-3

General position

Support in part

1.5 - Whilst I agree there may be some areas where time restrictions are placed on hunting, there should always be some easily accessible areas available to hunting year round with few, if any, restrictions. Some hunters, such as myself, use the resource to put food on the table as opposed to trophy hunting.

1.7 - I DO NOT support ballot or booking systems within any part of the Sika area.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 47-4

General position

Support

Respondent: s9(2)(a)

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 56

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 56-1

General position

Oppose in part

I do not want my personal information shared publicly.

See attachment for comments

Submission.docx

Respondent: Donovan Hall

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 142

4 Objective

Submission ID: 142-1

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 142-10

General position

Support

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 142-11

General position

Support

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 142-12

General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 142-13

General position

Support

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 142-14

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 142-15

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 142-16

General position

Support

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 142-17

General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 142-18

General position

Support

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 142-19

General position

Support

I fully support the Sika HOSI Management Plan and wish to make several comments.

First, Hunting is integral to New Zealand culture and must remain part of it for any successful wild animal management plan to succeed.

Second, recreational hunting (individuals or groups hunting wild animals on public land) must be a part of any wild animal management plan from the start. Further recreational hunters must be included in the on-going consultation related to hunting Bills, Plans, regulations, etc. Finally, while there is nothing wrong with Estate or Guided hunting, it is the average Kiwi hunter heading into the bush that will provide the biggest impact in regards to game management.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 142-2

General position

Support

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 142-20

General position

Support in part

Recreational hunters able to access typical Sika areas on foot should not be disadvantaged or discouraged from hunting.

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 142-21

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 142-22

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 142-23

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 142-3

General position

Support

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 142-4

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 142-5

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 142-6

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 142-7

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 142-8

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 142-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Susan Hall - Upper Waimakariri and Rakaia Group

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 126

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 126

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Upper Waimakariri and Rakaia Group - Susan Hall - sika covering letter.pdf

Upper Waimakariri and Rakaia Group -Susan Hall - sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Susan Hall

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 59

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 59

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Susan Hall covering letter sika.pdf

Susan Hall submission sika.pdf

Respondent: Annette & Michael Hamblett

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 139

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 139-1

General position

Oppose

Submission on Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

We are opposed to designating a sika deer Herd of Special Interest (HOSI) in the Kaimanawa and Kaweka forest parks and Kaweka Conservation Area.

Currently we are hearing reports from across the country of the critical problem introduced browsing animals are having on our indigenous ecosystems. Proposing to give special status to some of these browsers, with a short time frame for consideration and on Public Conservation Land is unwise.

We saw proof of this when we farmed for 15 years in the Buller region. The damage from introduced species to the bushland surrounding our land, including from browsing and trampling, was clear to see.

Allowing an introduced species like sika deer to be considered of a Herd of Special Interest, when it is actually a pest species, sets a concerning precedent.

We want to see sika controlled to a level where they are not having a detrimental impact on the composition of our forests.

We are not convinced the Plan will achieve this. It seems to prioritise hunting over environmental protection. This is risky and could have unintended consequences.

We agree with Forest and Bird's statement that "...If designated, any herd of special interest management plan for a species that is managed for hunting purposes on public conservation land must, as a bottom line, have a robust, achievable, and time-bound ecological goal to protect, preserve, and restore our native ecosystems and clear actions if this is not achieved".

This plan is currently inadequate and should not be rushed through.

Comments on the Draft Management Plan

The plan as it stands does not provide the means to adequately protect the indigenous ecosystems, and their composition, and enhance natural biodiversity and forest regeneration.

It does not clearly and strongly state how the environment will be protected and how progress (or failure) will be measured). It needs to.

Lacking in the Plan is explanation of how:

- indigenous biodiversity will be improved

- loss of native species from their current range will be halted.
- the hunting experience and opportunities will be 'enhanced'
- healthier animals will be produced for hunters

Without more specific environmental targets the Plan must not be finalised. This is essential on public conservation land.

Clear strategies require good data. We understand this is lacking.

Without knowing how many feral deer are in the area, any success or failure of the Plan cannot be properly assessed. Before the Plan is finalised there needs to be full feral deer count done, followed up by the setting of density targets.

The plan lacks thorough and comprehensive monitoring and enforcement provisions. included. These should be included and paid for by the hunters.

The public needs to know if the Plan is achieving its stated objectives. Monitoring information should become publicly available within a year of monitoring.

Other park and conservation area activities and uses, such as other essential work in the areas, like additional landscape-scale pest control work, and recreation activity, should not be restricted by the Plan.

It is not clear what this will all cost and who pays.

Actions sought:

Within the Plan:

Include ecological objectives and strategies that firmly state how the environment will be protected.

State how progress or failure will be measured.

Explain clearly how:

- indigenous biodiversity will be improved
- loss of native species from their current range will be halted
- the hunting experience and opportunities will be 'enhanced'
- healthier animals will be produced for hunters

Add thorough and comprehensive monitoring and enforcement provisions, to be paid for by hunters. (We are opposed to taxpayers funding this.)

Include requirement for monitoring to become publicly available within a year of monitoring.

Make clear other essential work in the parks and conservation areas, like additional landscape-scale pest control work, and recreation activity, will not be restricted by the Plan.

Provide more detail on costs and who pays.

Before the Plan is finalised:

Carry out a full feral deer count, followed up by the setting of density targets.

Respondent: Craig Hammond

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 114

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 114-1

General position

Support

Sika and hunting are synonymous with nz and our history going back centuries. Sika should be managed as an asset. It would be impossible to eradicate deer from the central North Island, a better approach would be to manage the herd for the benefit of the animals and the environment. With the help of deer hunters the numbers can be kept in check. Sika and deer stalking generates a huge amount of revenue to the nz economy. Doc and the government would do well to include hunters and the contribution they make to conservation in the management of sika deer as a herd of special interest. I spend a lot of time hunting sika deer and it makes a big difference to my mental health to be in the bush hunting. And the meat is greatly appreciated by my wife and I and those we choose to share the organic meat with. Meat prices in nz are expensive so for us to include good healthy and lean red meat in our diets keeps us healthy and happy. The pipe dream of nz being a utopia without introduced species is brainless. We are fortunate to have had them introduced, the best we can do is manage them. And with modern culling methods if numbers explode then culling can drop them back to more manageable levels. Thank you for your time. Craig

Respondent: Deb Harrington

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 98

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 98-1

General position

Oppose

The Kaweka Forest is nearing canopy collapse due to ungulate and possum browse and needs to be managed as a whole.

I oppose giving legal protection to an introduced pest.

The proposal relies heavily on management of the herd by recreational hunting. The sika population is out of control, there has been nothing stopping the hunting fraternity from managing the sika herd to date. A hunter lead management will not work.

Respondent: Derek Hartley

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 165

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 165-1

General position

Support

Maximising the available resources & offsetting costs.

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 165-10

General position

Support

Realistically to date this has been essential in some areas.

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 165-2

General position

Support

Statutory Requirement

5.1c Carcass recovery will require very careful management or will lose the support of many people .

Being seen as a return to the period when RHA's were established to exclude commercial activity.

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 165-3

General position

Support

Knowledge is not static And Must be expanded.

However it also must be Robustly established and Challengeable.

Otherwise it can become Dogma and Stifling of Innovation.

Costs must be well managed to prevent Operating Budget suffering.

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan **Submission ID: 165-4**

General position

Support

I Strongly Support the proposed Herds of Special Interest for Sika.

The basic foundations existed from circ 1986 with the Gazettal of the Recreational Hunting Areas in Kaimanawa / Kaweka Forest Parks.

After the disestablishment of the NZ Forest Service the idea lapsed.

The Sika Foundation has expanded that concept and proved that it is Viable & Practical.

Especially with improvements in technology.

The involvement with Iwi is critical.

Politically and especially practically as their adjoining lands provide significant reservoirs of animals .

Able to reinfest control areas if they become desirable feed sources.

Sika especially Stags travel great distances during the year.

See Sika Foundation animal mapping trials.

Submission_Comments (1).pdf

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting **Submission ID: 165-5**

General position

Support

Ideally Recreational hunting can be used to management aims.

Access will need improvement for some areas. Possibly limited Heli Insertions or similar.

1.5/6 Ensure widely advertised. People are unused to restrictions in this area. So will take time to become accepted.

Table 4.3 Stewardship **Submission ID: 165-6**

General position

Support

Table 3 Working closely with lwi

Submission ID: 165-7

General position

Support in part

A juggling act between Core Functions and lwi

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 165-8

General position

Support

Essential.

How can you know what has been achieved with out Accurate Records.

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 165-9

General position

Support

Realistically the money has to come from somewhere.

Conflicting Interests will require careful managing.

Respondent: Garth Haylock

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 51

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 51-1

General position

Support in part

costs should be minimal, noting that in the absence of such a plan all management costs would be covered by DOC. If these costs are reduced that funding should be re allocated to support the plan

6 Objective

Submission ID: 51-2

General position

Support

meaningful research, open to the public

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 51-3

General position

Oppose in part

recreational hunter access should be improved to enable wider range to be covered on foot before control operations are utilised.

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 51-4

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 51-5

General position

Support in part

It needs to be recognised that deer are now an established part of the ecosystem and undertake some valuable browsing activity as well.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 51-6

General position

Support

Hunting should still be freely available to recreational hunters

2 Objective

Submission ID: 51-7

General position

Support

Sustainable herd size, management of numbers and distribution improving overall animal quality and reducing excess foraging outside established ranges

Respondent: Stephen Michael Healy

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 101

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 101-1

General position

Support

I have read the full Sika HOSI Draft Management Plan by the Department of Conservation and the Sika Foundation Sika HOSI draft HMP Submission. I very strongly support the whole concept for a variety of reasons which I have listed below 1) I am 55 years old , and have hunted the Kaimanawa and Kaweka ranges for over 40 years introducing my passion for hunting Sika deer to my three sons all of whom continue to hunt Sika and enjoy the hills and the hunting as much as I ever did. We took my 8 year old grandson for his first hunt to the Harkness Hut in March last year . There were seven family members on the trip which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We are already planning next years trip.

2) I obviously want to see this passion continue into the future for coming generations as the benefits in terms of well being , good mental health , appreciation of time and benefits of being in our awesome back country , assisting in controlling deer numbers , to maintain a balance of protection to the environment and the continued hunting of Sika Deer as a sustainable resource and not a pest.

3) I fully support the Sika Foundations HOSI Draft HMP Submission which does have some concerns with the process which are adequately explained in their 4 page document which I have attached for clarity . I have been a member since their inception in 2015.

4) Rather than repeat their views I have attached a copy of their draft submission which embodies and reflects my values

SIKA Foundation Draft HOSI Submission.pdf

Respondent: Nick Hekkens

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 4

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 4-1

General position

Support

This Sika heard is of utmost importance to the Central North Island and 100% behind this protection

Respondent: Snow Hewetson

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 94

5 Objective

Submission ID: 94-1

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 94-10

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 94-11

General position

Support

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 94-12

General position

Support

Map 1 Sika Herd of Special Interest Area

Submission ID: 94-13

General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 94-14

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 94-15

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 94-16

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 94-17

General position

Support

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 94-18

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 94-19

General position

Support

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 94-2

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary

Submission ID: 94-20

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 94-21

General position

Support

The Sika herd in the central north island is the only herd in the southern hemisphere, they represent a unique hunting opportunity and incentive to manage both the deer and the natural environment to protect and enhance both.

The Sika Foundation are the best placed organisation to manage sika in the sika area, they have a proven track record and the confidence of hunters to undertake this role.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 94-22

General position

Support

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 94-23

General position

Support

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 94-24

General position

Support

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 94-25

General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 94-3

General position

Support

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 94-4

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 94-5

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 94-6

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 94-7

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 94-8

General position

Support

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 94-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Natalie Hinke

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 33

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 33

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Natalie Hinke_sika Submission support doc.pdf

Natalie Hinke sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Tom Hollings

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 144

1 Objective

Submission ID: 144-1

General position

Support in part

The plan has the usual green advocacy and pseudo science. You presume you know what is the Control status of the flora but that evolved under 20M years of herbivorous ground grazing pressure (eg Moa) and so Deer act to replicate that.

Your words are revealing as to your inherent bias eg "Maintaining the sika population at low levels reduces the environmental impacts on flora, leading to an increased availability and diversity of preferential browse plants. This, in turn, improves the health of sika, which increases fawn survival, body size, body fat content and antler growth, leading to an improved quality and quantity of venison and antlers." Actually I say you can't have it both ways by claiming low levels of sika increases the quantity/yield of venison. Ie your inherent bias is evident.

I seek that in this RHA that of all the many areas of NZ that hunters' interests in this area be allowed a greater priority for game management than the pervasive privileged partisan green lobby. Sika abundances are important and highly valued.

Respondent: Jane Howden

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 77

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 77-1

General position

Oppose

I oppose this plan as it proposes to welcome and support the maintenance of Sika deer in the Kaweka and Kaimana Forest Park. These deer are an invasive species that have to date caused vast amounts of damage to these areas and the plan proposes to cause further damage and prevent any future chance to overcome the existing damage caused. I am very familiar with both these areas having tramped in both these parks over the last 40 years.

The deer have been introduced and caused substantial damage to the forests causing canopy collapse, removal of undergrowth spreading weeds and outcompeting native fauna. By vegetation being removed it opens areas up to the spread of wandering pines which are a highly invasive problem in these parks. It will remove any opportunity for canopy regeneration. Sika deer are currently out of control and hunter management hasn't worked and will not work if Sika are declared a special interest herd. These animals eat tonnes of vegetation every day.

The deer remove any chance of the bare tops regenerating making erosion more of a problem which leads to rivers being overwhelmed in an extreme weather event impacting on downstream communities. This will exacerbate with global warming.

The current bill will scrap the fundamental protections provided for by S4(2)(b) of the National Parks Act requirement to preserve native plants and animals as far as possible as this would not apply to herds of special interest.

There is a potential loss of access to other park users if trophy hunters are encouraged and access to certain areas restricted. I personally do not want more guns in the hills. It is certainly dangerous enough at times. This legislation legitimizes trophy hunting.

These animals are not a valued species and any supported retention of them conflicts with New Zealand's predator free goals.

I have not seen any ecological evidence supporting this plan and therefore oppose it in its entirety.

Respondent: Barbara Hughes

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 241

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 241

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Barbara Hughes - Sika submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Struan Hurley

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 100

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 100-1

General position

Support

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 100-10

General position

Support in part

Need to make sure there is hunting opportunities for everyone year round and leave some open areas if a ballot is introduced

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 100-11

General position

Neutral

Think we should keep our hunting for the majority of nz hunters there are plenty of safari type places for these people to contribute to the nz economy and not a do it yourself hunt with minimal benefit for nz it's not like

5 Objective

Submission ID: 100-12

General position

Support

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 100-13

General position

Support in part

As long as they aren't targeting males for heavier body weight and are reducing female population

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 100-14

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 100-15

General position

Support

Yes this is essential for people to have an overview of what's

3 Objective

Submission ID: 100-16

General position

Support

Any chance to make the program more cost effective is desirable

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 100-17

General position

Oppose in part

Not sure heading down the American path of game wardens is the way forward how is this all going to be paid for and do the benefits outweigh

6 Objective

Submission ID: 100-18

General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 100-19

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 100-2

General position

Support

The targeting of females for population control is essential part of a management plan and the cheapest and most effective way is aerial shooting from helicopter with no animals

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 100-20

General position

Support

Great idea to get people out there and controlling the population out of peak times

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 100-3

General position

Support

I think we need sika management for these areas where a low density healthy herd and ecosystem is the desired result

1 Objective

Submission ID: 100-4

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 100-5

General position

Support

Yes need to make it desirable for people to go hunting otherwise we are defeating what they are trying to achieve

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 100-6

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 100-7

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 100-8

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 100-9

General position

Support

Respondent: C D Hutton

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 155

1 Objective

Submission ID: 155-1

General position

Support

1. This submission is in support of the HOSI proposal and Herd Management Plan for the Central North Island Sika herd.
2. I have been an active trumper and hunter in the Kaweka and Kaimanawa Forest Parks for 48 years. The ability to hunt Sika in these areas adds significantly to the experience in these areas. Hunters comprise the largest user group in the subject areas.
3. Sika hunting is highly valued by a large number of people in the central North Island specifically and from across NZ generally, along with international visitors also.
4. In addition to the recreational benefits from Sika hunting, significant commercial enterprises are supported by the herd. These include helicopter operators, accommodation providers, and commercial guiding.
5. Importantly, Sika hunting along with backcountry fishing provides the sole income to the Maori owners of large land blocks that lie within the Sika range.
6. Given the large Maori land blocks that border the proposed HOSI area are managed for conservation and hunting purposes, the ability of the Crown (DoC) to effectively limit the Sika population (if resourcing allowed) would always be compromised by the management objectives of the neighbours. Trying to do something different from these important neighbours would be futile as the lands are physically contiguous with indistinguishable boundaries on the ground.
7. With respect to deer control, it is unlikely that commercial operators will choose to target Sika.... Their small size and smarts would render commercial recovery operations mostly unviable. Previous large scale WARO and live capture activity on the private Kaimanawa and Kaweka lands in 1970's and 1980's targeted red deer, which were the dominant species in large parts of that range then. Sika have largely displaced Red deer across the landscape since.

Accordingly, in the absence of the HOSI, any control would almost certainly have to be Crown funded 'search and destroy'.

8. The HOSI proposal explicitly details habitat monitoring and animal control programs, which is more than what DoC currently does. The habitat improvement and attendant biodiversity gains that the HOSI offer appear to be excellent value for money, and in my view highlight one of the many benefits of the Crown partnering with competent community stakeholder organisations. Currently pretty much none of this type of work is being undertaken by DoC across the Sika herd range.

9. The Sika Foundation and the Game Animal Council are clearly best placed to lead and manage this project and should be mandated to do so.

Respondent: Stewart Hydes - NZDA Rakaia Branch

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 218

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 218

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Rakaia Branch NZDA - Stewart Hydes - Sika submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Allan Jackson

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 16

9 Objective

Submission ID: 16-1

General position

Support

Currently both the foundations produce a Year in Review information book detailing all their work.

They are a very informative read.

When the HOSI are formalized the Foundations can expand their work and produce even more pages detailing their conservation work.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 16-2

General position

Support

I've been ageing jaws from both the Kaimanawas and Pureora forests for over 20 years.

There are similar patterns of deer harvest in both forests.

Generally 50/60% of the hind and stag harvest occurs before 36 months. This means over 50% of Hinds are shot before they drop their first fawn! [very few bush deer conceive at 16 months]

In a natural world predators would achieve a similar result.

A well managed [suppressed] hind herd results in a healthy forest and a reproductive herd. Which results in more young naive, easily harvested deer. They are better eating too.

Take the hunter out of the equation and within 5 years you will have a serious forest damage and the herd productivity will have plummeted.

These figures also dismiss Forest And Birds, trophy hunting only, claims.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 16-3

General position

Support

The political decision to make access to the Remote Experience Zone difficult was a mistake. The proposers of the concept effectively excluded hunters and failed to manage the zone.

During the Last 5 years the Foundation have removed some 1300 Hinds.

Many of these animals were recovered and postmortems carried out

We know their condition, size, age and very importantly their reproduction[a very difficult measure on a wild deer herd]

Couple this with the vegetative surveys we have a brilliant forest management model which is applicable to the other 8 management zones proposed in the HOSI management Plan.

This model will certainly have applications across NZ [I've used indices to commenting on a deer cull in Pureora recently]

I doubt that there is a comprehensive model of this size on a wild deer herd anywhere else in the world.

Brilliant work by the Sika Foundation.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 16-4

General position

Support

This is occurring now and has been doing so for some 10 years now.

The foundation is positively engaged with NZDA, GAC, DOC, OSPRI, local land owners and Iwi.

Nearly 11 tons of mince has gone into food banks.

Speaking engagement around NZ to promote the Sika Foundation.

Mutual support with local businesses. Helicopter, butchers, hunting retailers Game Parks, Regional Councils. Trap manufactures and Professional Hunters.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 16-5

General position

Support

Covered in previous comments.

Hopefully the HOSI will enable more government funding to assist the continuation of the current Foundations research initiatives

5 Objective

Submission ID: 16-6

General position

Support

I am a Member of the Local Turangi/Taupo Conservation Board and have found the Maori Representative to be supportive of the Sika Foundations efforts.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 16-7

General position

Support

The Foundation has 14+ landing sites within the park. A vast improvement on the original 2.

This gives us an oversight that enables us to identify stressed areas caused by drought, insect and cyclone damage.

Both recreational and helicopter culls can be focused on those areas to ensure regeneration.

The REZ is an example of this happening right now and has resulted in a 50% increase in seedling survival.

The foundation organized hunts on the 14+ sites require hunter to report on wildlife.

Several Wheo and kiwi populations have been confirmed.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 16-8

General position

Support

We have been encouraging Hunters to submit their jaws to aged and measured for some 40 years now. Cam Speedy kicked this off in the last century.

There is a well accepted culture now in the hunting community of submitting jaws for measuring.

Jaw size and the average age of Hind harvest are key indicators' of the herds interaction with the forest and the subsequent forest health.

This is a very cost effective way of constantly monitoring the the forest health of the proposed 9 management zones.

Couple this with the less frequent and more expensive vegetative surveys enables the management plans to adapted to ensure forest health.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 16-9

General position

Support

Taupo has two mountain ranges either side of the district. The contrast between the Kaimanawas and the Pureora forests management couldn't be more distinct.

An obvious example of this is the two Hunting Competitions which have been running for a similar number of years.

The Pureora competition is held in an old shed in the deserted Pureora village. a About 50 people turn up and it is slowly dying.

The Sika Show at Mystery Creek had some 10,000 people through the door and 230 + exhibitors and made a very substantial financial contribution to the funding of conservation in the Kaimanawas.

This an excellent example of what partnerships and sponsors, mainly from the Hunting community, can achieve

Respondent: Linda Johnson

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 104

1 Objective

Submission ID: 104-1

General position

Oppose

Scientific evidence does not support this proposal. Our native flora and fauna evolved in the absence of browsing ungulates. Research shows that low levels of these animals (deer and goats) are required for our ecosystems to flourish, and that recreational hunting is unlikely to get the numbers low enough because most hunters only take stags. It is of concern that any maximum densities of these animals will be set too high, and that we don't have a well researched method for determining densities of these animals.

Our national parks and forest parks were set up to protect our native flora and fauna. This proposed legislation gives pest animals a higher priority than our native taonga.

Herd of Special Interest can be managed on private land, and these areas will need to be monitored to ensure that the boundaries are secure so the herd or individual animal does not escape.

Our forests are degraded and this legislation will make that worse. Possums chew the tops of the trees, ungulates prevent regeneration of the trees. Forest collapse will result in further endangerment of our birds. Look what happened when the Government allowed stoats, weasels and ferrets into this country. Don't make the same mistake with browsing ungulates.

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 104-3

General position

Oppose

It is of concern that any maximum densities of these animals will be set too high, and that we don't have a well researched method for determining densities of these animals.

Respondent: Sam Johnston

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 186

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 186-1

General position

Support

I believe that the Sika should be a herd of special interest in New Zealand because they are a beautiful animal, they bring a lot of people out into nature, they are a good sustainable food source that is 100% organic, they bring friends and family together, and they also bring money into the country from tourists around the world.

Respondent: Shane Johnston

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 184

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 184-1

General position

Support

This has been a great advancement in time for our game animals of New Zealand. To be recognised for the status they deserve, the Sika deer has given us hunters a reason to venture into the beautiful NZ we all know. It is more pleasurable knowing that we have the creatures that attract hunters the world over to pursue. For the excitement of sport hunting with family and friends, the physical and mental health benefits are huge. The value of the organic meat for families and the trophy hunting potential for local and International hunters has to be recognised.

Respondent: Mark Jones

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 8

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 8-1

General position

Support

I support Hunter lead management and conservation of the Sika Herd of the Central North Island.

Respondent: Corina Jordan - Game Animal Council

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 228

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 228

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

GAC - Corina Jordan - Sika submission.pdf
GAC - Corina Jordan - Sika covering letter.pdf
GAC - Corina Jordan - Requested changes table_Sika.pdf
GAC - Corina Jordan - Marked up version_draft Sika HMP.docx

Respondent: Kārena Joyce-Paki

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 234

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 234

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Karena Joyce-Paki - Sika -submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Chris Keeling - Te Uru Kahika Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 125

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 125

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Te Uru Kahika - Chris Keeling - Sika submission.pdf

Te Uru Kahika - Chris Keeling - sika covering letter.pdf

Respondent: Carl Kettlewell

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 146

4 Objective

Submission ID: 146-1

General position

Support

Agree fully on this, Hunting opportunities for all Recreational with restrictions on commercial .. All meat to be farmed and used rather than disposed

6 Objective

Submission ID: 146-10

General position

Neutral

Lets live in the what we have now, and learn to live and manage that, not to eradicate based on who was here first.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 146-11

General position

Support in part

7 Objective

Submission ID: 146-12

General position

Support in part

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 146-13

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 146-14

General position

Support

Can be supported via NZDA membership app also with submissions made on Animals taken

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 146-15

General position

Support

Fully support this and to facilitate hunter and club access into remote parts to manage numbers

1 Objective

Submission ID: 146-16

General position

Support

This should be by Hunting only, I condone the use of Poisons and their use in the forests in order to protect native wildlife and fauna.

The cost of these poisons should be directed into providing Hunting Access and rights to maintain numbers and used to create local jobs for people

2 Objective

Submission ID: 146-17

General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 146-18

General position

Support in part

Focus on the Domestic Hunting sector and how this can reduce the current cost of throwing toxic chemicals all over the forest, International markets should be approached as we can do with the tourism and to boost the economy

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 146-2

General position

Support

1.7 / 1.8 Can be done via NZDA and their huge membership base

Recreational Hunting should not be extorted for cost in ballots

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 146-3

General position

Support

NZDA is one of the most organised, trained and ethical Hunting Clubs established in New Zealand and ensures that its members legally covered in terms of insurance, why not use and approach these to manage the Herds via use of its Club and member reach, allowing NZDA access and Huts would not only enhance opportunity but ensure that activities are under taken by ethically trained and supportive hunting groups, who can support taking of animals for food source but also supporting local foodbanks and charities .. Hunters hate waste and like to contribute ... a 4 day hunt allocation could include 3 days hunting and 1 day wider conservation activities such as planting, track / hut maintenance. This would be warmly welcomed by the NZDA Hunting community

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 146-4

General position

Support in part

Game Animal council should work in Conjunction with NZDA to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing

3 Objective

Submission ID: 146-5

General position

Neutral

No 1080, use the cost of not using that to fund this initiative, partnership and sponsorships should be just that and not have any hinderance of control or access to recreational hunting and management of this Herd Management Plan

5 Objective

Submission ID: 146-6

General position

Oppose

NZDA, Department of Game Animal Council and the Sika Foundation should have the say on this ... not sure why there always has to be an over involvement of Maori and their trusts or say, there is never a good outcome unless they want to make money or use this an an opportunity to exhort money, You only have to look at the mismanagement and how Ngai Tuhoie have declined Te Urewa hunting and left tracks and Huts to shamble with no accountability for its mismanagement of diversion / loss of funds

Appendix 2: Glossary

Submission ID: 146-7

General position

Support

I believe in this appendix that Recreational Hunting should be a first priority followed by commercial operation should only be used if using an amalgamation of Hunting focused groups such as NZDA, Animals should not be left to rot and meat harvesting done to contribute to the costs, Hunting for Food has always been the key drive and focus and can be done more ethically than pest control poisons which are inhumane and cruel, and the byproduct of using such toxins is dangerous to the indigenous species which habit the forest as well

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 146-8

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 146-9

General position

Support

In reference to 1.3 this has to be in consultation with invested parties like GAC and NZDA to improve objectives before "other management options" are used

Respondent: Allan Kircher

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 84

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 84-1

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 84-10

General position

Support

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 84-11

General position

Support

I support the plan for the conservation outcomes that can be achieved, hunters providing for conservation.

Appendix 2: Glossary

Submission ID: 84-12

General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 84-13

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 84-14

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 84-15

General position

Support

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 84-16

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 84-17

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 84-18

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 84-19

General position

Support

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 84-2

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 84-20

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 84-21

General position

Support

Table 3 Working closely with lwi

Submission ID: 84-22

General position

Support in part

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 84-23

General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 84-24

General position

Support

Remove the faecal count from the monitoring process as it is too subjective. Monitoring of browse, seedling ratio's and permanent "pots"/ plots is way more valuable.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 84-25

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 84-3

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 84-4

General position

Support

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 84-5

General position

Support

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 84-6

General position

Support

Map 1 Sika Herd of Special Interest Area

Submission ID: 84-7

General position

Support

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 84-8

General position

Support

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 84-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Hori Kire

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 159

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 159-1

General position

Support

I support the idea of labelling Sika Deer as HOSI.

i believe hunters can assist in managing numbers for Sika heard as part of conservation, as well as providing a range of benefits for the communities.

Hunting courses, field days and teaching and training our youth in this field help us to raise more quality minded and responsible kids. Let us be apart of helping to conserve our homeland :)

Thanks team.

Respondent: Johan Kok

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 1

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 1-1

General position

Support

I have formatted my full comments in the attached document.

Submission on the Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan.pdf

Respondent: Teresa Konlechner

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 149

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 149-1

General position

Oppose

I have over 25 years of experience working in the fields of restoration ecology. Much of this work has been in the native forests, grasslands and other environments of New Zealand.

The impact that deer has on the ecological function and integrity of New Zealand's native plant communities is undeniable. I oppose any protection given to any pest-animal or plant that threatens native plant and animals - especially given the ongoing decline of biodiversity in this country. The designation of a Herd of Special interest provides Sika deer herds stronger protections than do many of our native flora and fauna. A situation which makes a mockery of our biodiversity protection plans, policies and strategies.

Given this government has shown no interest in listening to science and is centered on pandering to their voters, I doubt any opposition to this management plan will be acted on. As a bare minimum independent monitoring of the impact of deer populations on the function., structure and integrity of the impacted ecosystems must be added. This needs to be funded outside from DOCs already stretched resources - resources that should not be devoted to protecting a pest animal at the expense of vulnerable native plants and animals.

Respondent: Scott Kunac - Hunting & Fishing Dunedin

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 13

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 13-1

General position

Support

Although I live in the Southern part of New Zealand I hunt Sika deer almost every year.

The Central North Island Sika Foundation are doing an excellent job not only for animal control but also for conservation.

No other organization has had the results that they have shown especially with the increase in numbers of the native Whio (Blue Duck)

Their trapping of predator's is a very successful program and has shown everyone that hunters are some of the conservationists we have.

I fully support the Sika deer to become a Herd Of special interest knowing that the Sika Foundation have a track record of herd management controlling numbers and undertaking effective pest control.

The Sika deer of the Kaimanawa and Kaweka forest parks represent millions of dollars in revenue for not only Central North Island businesses but the whole New Zealand hunting and travel industry.

To give protection to the Sika deer in the Central North Island will be a win for all involved.

Respondent: 'Ema Latu

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 102

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 102-1

General position

Support in part

I support the Herd Management Plan in principle, but believe amendments are needed for it to work well for the Sika herd in the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Forest Park and Kaweka Conservation area.

The herd management plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the herd, and contribute to a healthy Sika hunting resource, thriving in resilient natural habitats, valued by stakeholders.

The Herd Management Plan should support hunter and community led management and positive social and economic outcomes.

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Sika) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group - in this case, the Central North Island Sika Foundation. It should not be routed through DOC or GAC or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

Keep Financial Reporting Simple

Financial Reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan

Operational plan

The operational plan should serve as a flexible management tool that inspires innovation, and this HOSI presents an opportunity not only to manage Sika but also to advance deer control techniques in New Zealand.

This plan must remain separate from the Herd management plan. This document needs to be an adapted management plan that is developed by the implementer of the Herd of Special Interest, in this case the Central North Island Sika Foundation.

Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring enables adaptive management and demonstrates whether the management of Sika is achieving the objectives and strategies of this Plan.

Management including monitoring should relate back to these objectives and be efficient and effective i.e. they should not be costly and provide little value. They should inform management responses aligned with an adaptive management framework. Overdue bureaucracy and draconian approaches should be avoided as they are not efficient and do not result in tangible outcomes.

Monitoring should only reflect the impact deer have on the environment. Faecal pellet counts should not be included. They are subjective and do not truly reflect deer impacts.

Roles and responsibilities

Delegations should be assigned to groups with the right skills. The Central North Island Sika Foundation possesses the expertise required to implement and manage the HOSI and operational plan, having demonstrated consistent success in this area. Clear guidance is needed on whether HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation.

Setting the correct tone for HOSI

A Sika HOSI is not about “Control” of Sika; it is about “Active Management.” I would like to see all reference to the term ‘control’ removed from the Herd Management Plan in preference for the term ‘management,’ to reflect the reality of what a Sika HOSI Herd Management Plan is trying to achieve. The ‘control’ narrative and that style of language reflects previous failed approaches to managing deer in New Zealand.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 102-6

General position

Support in part

Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring enables adaptive management and demonstrates whether the management of Sika is achieving the objectives and strategies of this Plan.

Management including monitoring should relate back to these objectives and be efficient and effective i.e. they should not be costly and provide little value. They should inform management responses aligned with an adaptive management framework. Overdue bureaucracy and draconian approaches should be avoided as they are not efficient and do not result in tangible outcomes.

Monitoring should only reflect the impact deer have on the environment. Faecal pellet counts should not be included. They are subjective and do not truly reflect deer impacts.

9 Objective

Submission ID: 102-7

General position

Support in part

Keep Financial Reporting Simple

Financial Reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan

Respondent: Shaun Lee

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 246

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 246

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Shaun Lee - Sika submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Adrian Leigh

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 7

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 7-1

General position

Oppose

Deer have a long history of requiring control of numbers to prevent total collapse of Virginia forest habitats.

Despite eras of professional culling, WARO, and meat hunting populations persist in all established areas.

History shows us that elimination is difficult costly to impossible and even keeping numbers under control is an ongoing issue.

There are no deer herds in New Zealand that require and form of protection or restriction on hunting them by special interest groups.

In contrast we know that there are many endangered and at risk species of plants and animals with the habitats of these "special" deer that are negatively impacted by increasing numbers of "special deer".

Any person should not only have right to harvest these animals for meat, they should be encouraged especially to shoot does, rather than cultivating a trophy herd of a pest species.

Respondent: Ron Lenzen

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan Submission ID: 85

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting Submission ID: 85-1

General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring Submission ID: 85-10

General position

Support

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan Submission ID: 85-11

General position

Support

I support this because as hunters we spend the most time in th bush we care about the bush and we want to see the environment and the deer thrive so future generations can do so also.

5 Objective Submission ID: 85-12

General position

Support

7 Objective Submission ID: 85-13

General position

Support

8 Objective Submission ID: 85-14

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 85-15

General position

Support

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 85-16

General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 85-17

General position

Support

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 85-18

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary

Submission ID: 85-19

General position

Support

Map 1 Sika Herd of Special Interest Area

Submission ID: 85-2

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 85-20

General position

Support

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 85-21

General position

Support

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 85-22

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 85-23

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 85-24

General position

Support

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 85-25

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 85-3

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 85-4

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 85-5

General position

Support

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting **Submission ID: 85-6**

General position

Support

1 Objective **Submission ID: 85-7**

General position

Support

2. Values and key context **Submission ID: 85-8**

General position

Support

6 Objective **Submission ID: 85-9**

General position

Support

Respondent: David Liddle

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 87

1 Objective

Submission ID: 87-1

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 87-10

General position

Support

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 87-11

General position

Support

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 87-12

General position

Neutral

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 87-13

General position

Support in part

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 87-14

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 87-15

General position

Support

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 87-16

General position

Support

Hunters need to be given information on where the high numbers are.

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 87-17

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 87-18

General position

Neutral

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 87-19

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 87-2

General position

Support

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 87-20

General position

Support

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 87-21

General position

Support in part

6 Objective

Submission ID: 87-22

General position

Support in part

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 87-3

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 87-4

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 87-5

General position

Neutral

8 Objective

Submission ID: 87-6

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary

Submission ID: 87-7

General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 87-8

General position

Support in part

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 87-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Allen Lindsay

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 64

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 64-1

General position

Support

I fully support this , volunteer based boots on the ground conservation work and predator control and protecting our valued Sika at the same time for future genrations

Respondent: Steven Lowther

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 163

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 163-1

General position

Support

I am supportive of creating the status of HoSI for Sika.

two overall points

1. The deer were released for recreational hunting, Recreational hunters must be central to the management plans and execution.
2. Monitoring costs should be shared by all parties that benefit from the ecological management of the herds. Which includes DoC and Forest and Bird.

Hunter led management is important, but its important that recreational hunting remains available to all New Zealanders not just the well off.

Respondent: Machiel Ludick

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 28

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 28-1

General position

Oppose in part

No Support for Fees on Public Land: I do not support any associated costs, such as permit fees or booking charges, for accessing public land. These areas are Crown-owned for the benefit of the public, not for revenue generation. Introducing financial barriers would disproportionately affect everyday Kiwis, local communities, and families, while potentially favoring those with deeper pockets. This runs counter to the Plan's recognition of the "day-to-day realities of conservation and wild animal management" (Foreword, p. 3) and the Treaty principles of equitable access embedded in the Game Animal Council Act 2013

Utilise the Central North Island Sika Foundation for Inclusive Initiatives: Expand the Foundation's role (as outlined on p. 6) to include subsidised or free fly-in trips for public groups, targeting remote access points. This could involve iwi partnerships to align with Treaty obligations (pp. 5–6) and get diverse community members involved in herd care, such as monitoring and controlled harvests. By focusing on education and coordination (Foundation Objective 4), it would build stewardship while addressing overcrowding through guided, non-exclusive events.

These approaches would better achieve the Plan's benefits, such as "improved ecological outcomes for indigenous species" (Foreword, p. 3) and "greater participation of the sika hunting community" (p. 3), while keeping public land truly public.

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 28-2

General position

Oppose in part

Risk of Increased Use of 1080 Poisoning and Professional Culls: By limiting recreational hunting through ballot measures, the Plan could inadvertently reduce hunter participation during key periods, potentially leading to herd overpopulation in targeted zones. This would enhance the chances of justifying broader interventions, such as aerial 1080 drops or professional culls (as referenced in Strategy 1.13, p. 14), which I oppose due to their environmental risks, impacts on non-target species, and cultural concerns for iwi (e.g., effects on taonga and mahinga kai, as noted in the Foreword). Recreational hunters already contribute to responsible harvest management; why risk shifting to more invasive methods when community involvement is a stated benefit?

Maintain Open Access with Enhanced Reporting: Rely on the required hunting authorisations (Strategy 1.4) and monitoring (Strategy 1.2) to track usage, only intervening with temporary measures if data shows genuine safety or ecological risks. Promote apps or simple reporting tools via the Game Animal Council to encourage self-regulation by the hunting community.

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 28-3

General position

Oppose in part

Favoritism Toward Professional Guides Over Recreational Hunters: In practice, ballot systems often favor organized groups, such as professional hunting guides or commercial operators, who can enter multiple applications or secure blocks of spots for clients. This would leave recreational hunters with access to "above normal" hunting areas only once in a blue moon, exacerbating overcrowding elsewhere and diminishing the quality experience the Plan aims to deliver (Objective 2, p. 13). It could prioritise economic tourism (Strategy 4.1-4.2, pp. 15-16) at the expense of grassroots participation, contrary to the collaborative ethos with the hunting community and Sika Foundation (pp. 6-7).

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 28-4

General position

Oppose in part

Restriction on Recreational Access and Spontaneous Trips: The introduction of a ballot or booking system during the rut, the prime time for sika hunting, would eliminate the spontaneous, accessible nature of hunting on public land. As a recreational hunter, I value the ability to make last-minute decisions based on weather, work, or personal circumstances. This system would create administrative hurdles, requiring planning and potentially excluding individuals without reliable internet access or sufficient time to enter ballots. It contradicts the Plan's emphasis on "open access" as the default (Strategy 1.6, p. 13) and the broader recreational opportunities fostered under the Conservation Act 1987. Public conservation land belongs to all New Zealanders, and any move toward restricted access feels like a step toward privatisation rather than shared stewardship.

Respondent: s9(2)(a)

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 205

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 205-1

General position

Neutral

Sounds great in principle - but sounds massively expensive and highly risky for the enforcement personnel.

Actually finding hunters to check their compliance will be very time consuming and expensive.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 205-10

General position

Oppose in part

I do not want my name / contact details published.

I support collaborative management and improved working relationships however I see potential for conflicts of interest and abuse.

The IWI and other land surrounding the proposed HOSI area needs to be similarly managed

The managing of conflicts of interest will be vital - reducing the level of deer in the HOSI to a level that is too low to encourage hunters into the area will increase the value of hunting in adjoining areas - which I suggest carries a strong incentive for over culling, potential abuse and bias in recommendations from conflicted parties.

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 205-11

General position

Support

Encourage recreational hunter involvement -

DOC and Sika Foundations "Sneaky Northern Kaweka Cull" is the exact opposite of this idea - How can we trust either party

1 Objective

Submission ID: 205-12

General position

Support in part

I do not want my name or contact details shared .

There are in my opinion too many vague, undefined aims and outcomes in this proposal and the DOC/ Sika foundations processes recently have lost the trust of the hunting community, an example of this was their proposed cull of the Northern Kawekas when many of the stags would have just dropped their antlers, there was no consultation and as hind cull I suggest they wouldn't have been able to tell the difference between hinds and stags so there would have been a high percentage of stags shot by mistake.

As a result of examples like this most hunters I believe will be apprehensive of the proposal.

I support the concept of a HOSI in principle, but have many reservations.

First and foremost who sets the "acceptable level" deer population and how? What safeguards are there to maintain a viable hunting opportunity for hunters.

Additional thoughts / suggestions below.

A/ I recommend we keep the Kaweka recreational hunting area - if we will loose the recreational hunting area and if Labour/ Greens reverse the HOSI agreement as they have threatened, we the hunter/ harvesters will be much worse off.

B/ The sika area supports a high proportion of "recreational Hunting" where the target is venison to eat, inclusion of novice hunters and family trips - I do not want it all to become an entry by ballot, trophy hunting area only like Fiordland - It is on Taupo and Hawkes Bay's doorstep and access is totally different to Fiordland.

C/ I am concerned that the "target deer levels" will be so low that hunting opportunities for most will be limited, to the point that many will give up.

D/ I fear the Sika HOSI will just become a vehicle for DOC to have a massive hunter subsidised cull.

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 205-2

General position

Support in part

I am not that keen on a license system

I am however all for encouraging recreational hunters to be a part of the solution - if deer, particularly hind numbers need to be reduced- Start with DOC eliminating or minimising landing fees for hunters, and promoting/ brokering organised group Helicopter flights to minimise costs.

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 205-3

General position

Oppose in part

Where ever possible encourage and help recreational hunters to provide the solution - paying for cullers in helicopters to cull and waste should be a last resort.

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 205-4

General position

Support in part

I do not want my name / contact details published.

I would like to see actual measures - eg a target percentage reduction or a target Stag to hind ratio.

I believe in the adage - If you can't measure it how can you manage it? .

Most importantly to get hunters on board they need to see this won't just be used as an excuse to kill deer until the funds run out.

Ideally a plan should provide reassurance to all involved and we won't get unpleasant surprises. Hopefully with a published plan we will see that DOC isn't doing a hind cull when the stags have just dropped their antlers and they can't tell if it's a hind or not!

4 Objective

Submission ID: 205-5

General position

Support

Maybe DOC could reduce or waive landing fees and actually encourage more hunters to fly into distant areas.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 205-6

General position

Support in part

I do not want my name/ contact details shared.

Provided the primary aim of the plan is to **maximise the hunting opportunities** whilst reducing negative environmental impacts - I support it.

However **if the primary aim** is to **eliminate any actual or perceived negative environmental impacts** and DOC or the Sika foundation's environmental expert will do this by eliminating the majority of the Sika deer - I oppose it.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 205-7

General position

Support in part

I do not want my name or contact details shared .

Provided there is a good balance between maximising deer numbers, whilst minimising actual or perceived damage, I support the proposal.

I fear that some parties might have an idealistic approach where **any actual or perceived damage is considered too much**, and the HOSI is used as an excuse to virtually eliminate all deer, and when the hunting community objects we will be told - "Well you asked for the HOSI and all it stands for"

8 Objective

Submission ID: 205-8

General position

Neutral

Sounds good on face value - But who pays?

As long as we have an appropriate balance of maximising hunter opportunity and quality of experience, with acceptable environmental outcomes, I support it.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 205-9

General position

Support in part

I do not want my name / contact details published.

I like the idea of sponsorship and partnerships because, as a hunter I am concerned that I will pay far too much to support a massive DOC driven cull of our Sika deer.

I believe in user pay - user say, however the historical attitudes of DOC makes me nervous.

Respondent: Matt Macaskill

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 203

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 203-1

General position

Support in part

Provided the licence or permit to hunt is an appropriate cost for public, then this is okay. If the cost is too high, you're excluding a huge portion of NZ hunters from harvesting food for their family

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 203-2

General position

Support in part

I support monitoring, however why is the Sika Foundation not listed here? They do an incredible amount of work in the Kaimanawa Forest and should be involved

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 203-3

General position

Support

I am in support of a Sika herd of special interest and Wapiti herd of special interest because this is the core foundation of how we harvest food for our family. Not only does this generate a huge amount of revenue for our country from overseas hunters, these animals provide an enormous amount of food for our whanau.

Respondent: Phil Maddox

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 188

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 188-1

General position

Support

Dear Minister for Hunting and Fishing and Department of Conservation,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposals to designate the sika deer herd in the Kaimanawa and Kaweka ranges and the wapiti deer herd in Fiordland National Park as New Zealand's first Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) under the Game Animal Council Act 2013. As a concerned citizen [or insert your relevant affiliation, e.g., recreational hunter, conservation enthusiast, etc.], I believe these designations represent a forward-thinking approach to balancing conservation, sustainable management, and recreational opportunities in our unique natural environments.

The draft management plans for both herds demonstrate a collaborative effort involving key stakeholders, including the Department of Conservation (DOC), the Game Animal Council, Treaty partners, and community groups such as the Central North Island Sika Foundation and the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation. This inclusive process ensures that the plans are well-informed and address the needs of both the environment and the people who value these herds.

For the sika deer proposal, I commend the focus on managing high deer populations to protect forest structure and prevent ecosystem degradation in the Kaimanawa and Kaweka forest parks and conservation areas. Sika deer, with their origins tracing back over 100 years to animals gifted from Japan, hold significant heritage value and provide unique hunting experiences, particularly during the roar season. The ongoing adaptive management efforts, such as the Jobs for Nature project that has already removed over 1,000 deer to reduce browsing pressure, show that targeted interventions can safeguard native vegetation while maintaining a viable herd for recreational purposes. Designating this as a HOSI will enable long-term monitoring and sustainable practices, benefiting biodiversity and supporting the local economy through hunting and tourism.

Similarly, the wapiti deer plan for Fiordland National Park aims to enhance recreational hunting while improving natural biodiversity and preventing the loss of native species. By incorporating actions like professional deer control, meat recovery, and community stewardship, the plan promotes a balanced ecosystem where wapiti—another iconic introduced species—can thrive without overwhelming conservation values. This approach will foster healthier animals for hunters and strengthen partnerships that build public engagement in wildlife management.

Overall, recognizing these herds as HOSI offers numerous benefits:

- **Environmental Protection:** Controlled deer numbers will help preserve native forests and species, mitigating risks like canopy gaps and habitat conversion in sensitive areas.
- **Economic and Recreational Value:** These herds attract hunters and tourists, contributing to regional economies and providing world-class opportunities for sustainable recreation. The sika herd is the only place in the southern hemisphere for legal public-land sika hunting, adding to New Zealand's global appeal.

- **Cultural and Heritage Significance:** Both sika and wapiti represent part of New Zealand's hunting heritage, and HOSI status ensures their legacy is managed responsibly for future generations.
- **Community-Led Conservation:** The plans emphasize partnerships, empowering local groups and iwi to participate in decision-making and implementation.

I urge the Minister to proceed with these designations following the public consultation period. The timelines outlined—culminating in final decisions by June 2026 and operations starting in July 2026—provide a clear path forward, with five-year reviews ensuring adaptability.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my views. I am available for further discussion if needed and can be contacted at [insert your email/phone].

Yours sincerely, Phil Maddox s9(2)(a)

Respondent: Sharon Mariu - East Taupō Lands Trust

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 141

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 141

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

East Taupo Lands Trust - Sharon Mariu - sika covering email.pdf

East Taupo Lands Trust - Sharon Mariu - Sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Reece Martin - Owhaoko B & D Trust Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 230

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 230

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Owhaoko B&D Trust - Reece Martin - Sika covering letter.pdf

Owhaoko B&D Trust - Reece Martin - Sika submission.pdf

Respondent: s9(2)(a)

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 115

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 115-1

General position

Oppose

Please do not disclose my name, contact information, or any other PII.

See my comments as a supporting document attached.

Although consultation is being taken on both Sika and Fiordland Wapiti plans separately, my submission encompasses both drafts.

HOSI sub.docx

Respondent: Carlos McDonald

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 214

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 214

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Carlos McDonald - Sika submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Cameron McDougall

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 76

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 76-1

General position

Oppose

I am submitting to express my disagreement with establishing herds of national significance, including the Sika herd in Kaimanawa Forest Park, Kaweka Forest Park and Kaweka Forest Conservation Area. First and foremost, deer are a well know group of large mammals that cause very significant defoliation of native plants. This then leads to patchiness in native ecosystems that allows for the establishment of further invasive pest species and an irreparable shift in the community composition of our native ecosystems, causing a decline in the ability of our native bush to resist invasive pests and maintain the quality of their ecological assets. Currently there is no direct active management of deer herds by DoC and so while the bill maintains that it would not lead to an increase in deer populations, it would restrict any future significant reductions in deer populations. These reductions in population sizes are sorely needed to preserve our struggling conservation estate.

There is also no risk of the proposed herds being eradicated. Not only has no established pest species ever been eradicated from large land masses such as the North and South Islands, attempts to eradicate deer from areas of native bush in New Zealand have failed. An example of this can be seen in the failure of Landcare Research to eradicate a sika deer heard in the Russel Forest in 2019/2020. This reinforced the redundance of this bill to actively preserve these herds as even when legitimate attempts to eradicate deer are enacted, they fail. Instead the bill will only hamstring conservation.

Currently DoC manages deer populations by consulting and supporting community groups, so this risks shifting these community-based conservation efforts onto DoC, reducing community funding and involvement with conservation and increasing the workload on an already stretched-thin DoC. Already only half of the budget of DoC goes to actively managing natural heritage so the management of pest species populations (an act which goes directly against the ethos of ecological conservation) would either cut into this aspect of the budget or cut into areas of the budget such as community conservation or recreational maintenance.

Finally, wild deer herds are a significant risk to local economies and local health. Wild deer populations are known sources of disease transmission. They can transmit disease and parasites to local deer farms and are also known to be vectors for the transmission of tuberculosis and toxoplasmosis to humans. Both diseases are found in New Zealand. Without the ability to reduce deer herds the transmission of these diseases to farms and people cannot be addressed, and as the climate continues to warm the spread of disease in New Zealand's typically temperate conditions is predicted to increase. Maintaining these herds which are known to be sources of diseases that can infect humans is also the maintenance of an easily foreseeable disease outbreak.

Respondent: Don McErlich

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 215

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 215

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Don McErlich - Sika submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Steve McFall - NZ Pighunting Association

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 181

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 181-1

We strongly support the submission and recommendations of the Game Animal Council

Respondent: Ailsa McGilvary-Howard

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 170

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 170-1

General position

Oppose**Kia ora tatou****Thank you for the opportunity to submit on this legislation.**

I have received a QSM for wildlife conservation. I strongly oppose this initiative. Our precious endemic spaces are compromised because of poor legislation and under investment in our conservation space. This results in major issues through incursion by pest species. These species should NEVER be given priority over our endemic species, and the idea of protected herds of 'special character is a nonsense'. It benefits a select few, while legitimising these invaders which are incredibly destructive to our endemic communities.

In this legislation, introduced biodiversity is enabled to explode to the detriment of other species within our most precious ecosystems. Some people believe that these rogue species should be afforded protection and their status elevated above the natural species that only exist on our isolated island. Let's never do this!

Ungulate invasion is a particular issue for NZ whose unique endemic species evolved in isolation from other landmasses over millennia and have few intrinsic adaptations that enable them to bounce back, particularly from the impacts of the waves of mammalian introduction. It is essential that we do not give protection to invasive pest species, ever!

The National parks of NZ have been put aside as the places where NZ's endemic species can thrive. Mammalian browsers and predators are foreign to NZ's natural ecosystems and without the climatic or predation checks present in their country of origin, they are able to selectively browse, trample and predate our unique biodiversity pushing it in the direction of extinction. Providing "special character" protection for herds which can be demonstrated as highly destructive to the flora and fauna of our most precious river valleys, grasslands and forests is non-ethical, outside the purpose of National Parks and the value of wider life and is totally abhorrent to the values of endemic natural systems.

It's quite some years (decades) ago now, but at some point in time, possums were recognised as a pest species for the impact they have on NZ forests and grasslands, eating an estimate of 21 000 Tonnes of vegetation each night. Amongst other things that are also known for predated Kaka on the nest. What became apparent was that possums had a particular partiality for related the tree species of Rata and Pohutukawa, and dead emergent canopy trees could be easily spotted in many of our native forests. Their browsing and targeting have killed many ancient trees. Fortunately, once their impact was recognised, despite their coat being a valued fibre which was the reason they were introduced, they now have pest status, and keeping their numbers as low as possible is now a valued national activity. Removing possums has enabled significant tracts of bush and forest to regenerate.

Possoms are comparatively small but their impact is highly significant. Deer are several orders of magnitude bigger, and the amount of biomass they must eat to grow and thrive is profound; almost unimaginable. Like Possoms they target specific selective species and each individual deer is an eating machine, requiring significant vegetative matter to build its strong, large and muscular body, foraging heavily and, preferring a diet of soft and young palatable shoots. They are active movers and feeders and this activity requires the ingestion of significant nutrition. Their habit destroys the regenerating understory, and our endemic species become unable to reproduce with this level of disturbance and grazing. When a species cannot reproduce, this species is unable to survive.

An ecosystem, particularly one which has been developed over long isolation, is a complex and interconnected system. A recent form of preferential browsing not only weakens a plant species, but weakens the web of life that depends on it – perhaps it is an insect pollinator that loses essential food, or a bird that requires nutrition from a specific berry for successful nesting. The species interactions within a stable ecosystem are poorly understood because of their complexity and when the bones of the ecosystem become compromised, the web of life follows breaks down accordingly.

Deer, as well as forest dwellers, also have the capacity to live at altitude – moving through and foraging on subalpine and alpine plants that grow only slowly because of the impact of snow and freezing winter temperatures. As a Trustee of the endemic seabird in the Kaikoura Ranges, the Hutton's Shearwater, deer and other ungulates are a threat to breeding of the species as they cause burrow collapse in their 2 remaining mountain colonies.

If foreign species are awarded "special character" protection, this is at the detriment of the ecosystem as a whole. It determines if, where and when 1080 can be laid, which is currently our most effective tool to protect avian species from severe decline or extinction, and used till better and more environmentally friendly alternative methods can be trialled and implemented.

Issues of pest management have been unresolved because of underinvestment in our natural ecosystems. NZ's political system has prioritized business and profit interests, neglecting care for the conservation space and the value it provides to life, both human, and the endemic wonders that exist within.

In many of the local conservation projects we are familiar with, deer are a very significant threat to those who work and volunteer to revegetate the land. This requires stands of remnant bush to be deer-fenced at the catchment level for success. It is incredibly costly to provide this protection and the cost is not borne by those who have benefitted from the introduction and lack of responsible management of these species, and have enabled their footprint to expand limited restraint.

It is important not to dilute the quality of endemic space and to fund it sufficiently and ongoingly. Our nation's failure to do so leads to this situation where nature is compromised, and some people can see personal profit from within the commons space and are attempting to use it to their advantage.

Respondent: Rick McGovern-Wilson - New Zealand Conservation Authority

Submission
Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 213

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 213

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

NZCA - Rick McGovern-Wilson - Sika submission.pdf
NZCA - Rick McGovern-Wilson - Sika covering letter.pdf

Respondent: Bruce McGregor - Ospri Farmer Committee - Hawke's Bay

**Submission Type:
manual**

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 132

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 132

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

[Ospri Committee - Bruce McGregor - Sika covering letter.pdf](#)

[Ospri Committee - Bruce McGregor - Sika submission.pdf](#)

Respondent: Glen McNeilly

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 166

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 166-1

General position

Support

I support the Herds of special interests bill and full support the non extermination of these herds. It's great to see parliament & Doc finally recognising our animals, their value to hunters and the role hunters play in controlling them.

The economic benefits to the community are massive from providing meat to the table, number controlling and retail spin offs

It's great to see hunters, Fiordland wapiti foundation and the Seeka foundation working with Doc to manage herds in these areas a win for conservation.

Respondent: Henry Melville

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 204

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 204-1

General position

Support in part

Hi I am Henry Melville a 5 year old rec hunter from Napier. Sika have a huge value to me in terms of wild meat the hunting experience of getting outdoors . I support the HOSI and the recommendations made by the GAC for HMP,S.

Thank Henry

Respondent: John Menneer - East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board

Submission
Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 127

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 127

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board - John Menneer -sika submission.pdf

East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board - John Menneer - sika covering letter.pdf

Respondent: Andrew Mentor

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 245

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 245

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Andrew Mentor - Sika submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Robin Miller

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 206

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 206-1

General position

Support

I strongly support this proposal that manages the herd, provides recreational hunting opportunities and enables the best option for forest and birdie

Respondent: Ashleigh Mitchell - Tamatea Pōkai Whenua

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 216

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 216

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Tamatea Pōkai Whenua - Ashleigh Mitchell - Sika covering letter.pdf

Tamatea Pōkai Whenua - Sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Andrew Morrison - Hunters for Conservation Trust

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 52

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 52

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

[Andrew Morrison Hunters for Conservation Trust - submission Sika.pdf](#)

[Andrew Morrison Hunters for Conservation Trust - Scan of GAC Amendment Bill submission.pdf](#)

[Andrew Morrison Hunters for Conservation Trust - covering letter Sika.pdf](#)

Respondent: Mike Nankivell

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 37

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 37-1

General position

Support

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 37-10

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 37-11

General position

Support

I support the stated proposal.

9 Objective

Submission ID: 37-12

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 37-13

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 37-14

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 37-15

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 37-16

General position

Support

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 37-17

General position

Support

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 37-18

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 37-19

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary

Submission ID: 37-2

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 37-20

General position

Support

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 37-21

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 37-22

General position

Support

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 37-23

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 37-24

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 37-3

General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 37-4

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 37-5

General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 37-6

General position

Support

Map 1 Sika Herd of Special Interest Area

Submission ID: 37-7

General position

Support

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 37-8

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 37-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Brian Neilson

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 106

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 106-1

General position

Support

Respondent: Dennis Neuts

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 182

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 182-1

General position

Support

I don't think the maori side matters as far as including them in this. These are wild deer from overseas. The main thing is that poisons aren't used.

Respondent: Jason Nitschke

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 197

9 Objective

Submission ID: 197-1

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 197-10

General position

Support

Love hunting Sika deer in the Kawekas. Just started taking my son with me and hope to do so for many more years to come. Hunting in the Kawekas teaches life skills while enjoying the special place that the Kawekas and Kaimanawas are.

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 197-11

General position

Support

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 197-12

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 197-13

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 197-14

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 197-15

General position

Support in part

Hunters should not be fined - A person who hunts or kills any animal in a designated area for a herd of special interest without the appropriate authorisation, licence or permit is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.⁽¹²⁾

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 197-16

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 197-17

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 197-18

General position

Support

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 197-19

General position

Support

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 197-2

General position

Support in part

2 Objective

Submission ID: 197-20

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 197-21

General position

Support

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 197-22

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 197-23

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 197-24

General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 197-25

General position

Support

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 197-3

General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 197-4

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary

Submission ID: 197-5

General position

Support

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 197-6

General position

Support

Map 1 Sika Herd of Special Interest Area

Submission ID: 197-7

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 197-8

General position

Support in part

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 197-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Jonathan Norris

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 156

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 156-1

General position

Support

Dear Sir / Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft management plan for the Central North Island sika herd (Kaimanawa / Kaweka), proposed for designation as a Herd of Special Interest (HOSI). As a recreational hunter and long-time outdoors person, I strongly believe that this plan — if implemented with care — provides a workable balance of sustainable hunting, community involvement, and ecological stewardship.

1. Support for the Hosi designation and structured management

I support the proposal to designate the sika herd under the Hosi framework. This framework adds long-term clarity, predictability, and accountability to herd management — much better than ad-hoc or reactive control. For a high-value game species like sika, which supports many hunters over many decades, Hosi status gives legal and management certainty.

The draft plan's mixture of regulated recreational hunting, meat recovery, formal harvest reporting and environmental monitoring matches what the sika herd needs: structured and sustainable management that respects both game and native biodiversity.

2. Hunting as a central tool, combined with conservation goals

Recreational hunting remains the most effective and practical tool to manage the herd — especially when combined with meat recovery, controlled culls (if needed), and harvest limits.

I support a regime that recognises hunting as central — but only as part of a hybrid approach: management must include ecological safeguards, regular monitoring of population, browse impact, and habitat health. This balance helps ensure that sika deer populations are maintained at sustainable levels and that native vegetation and biodiversity are protected.

3. Annual hunter feedback and data collection

I encourage inclusion of a formal **annual survey of recreational hunters** as part of the plan. Such a survey should gather:

- harvest numbers and locations,
- hunter effort and access / use patterns,
- observations on deer densities, health, distribution, and signs,
- any perceived issues (over-use, access limitations, safety, environmental concerns),
- feedback on management, access, and plan effectiveness.

This data will improve transparency, help detect over-hunting or under-utilization, and allow adaptive management to ensure the herd and habitat remain healthy in the long run.

4. Environmental safeguards, monitoring and adaptive review

Because deer — even game deer — can have significant impacts on native ecosystems, I believe the plan must include non-negotiable ecological safeguards:

- regular vegetation and regeneration monitoring (browse impact, native-plant recovery, forest understorey condition),
- habitat-health assessments (flora and fauna, predator/prey balance, regeneration progress),
- population monitoring (deer density, age/sex composition, health),
- clearly defined “trigger points” for intervention (if browse pressure becomes too high, or if native vegetation fails to regenerate), and
- scheduled reviews (e.g. every 3-5 years) of management effectiveness, with public reporting.

If the plan remains flexible and adaptive, the Hosi model can protect both sika as a legitimate game resource and the integrity of the Kaimanawa / Kaweka natural environment.

5. Recognising cultural, recreational, social and economic value

This sika herd is deeply important to many recreational hunters — including first-time hunters, families, and communities. It supports outdoor traditions, provides quality venison, and supports associated activities (gear, guiding, accommodation, local services) that benefit the wider region.

A Hosi that preserves access, maintains healthy game numbers, and encourages responsible hunting ensures that these social and economic benefits continue — without sacrificing ecological responsibility.

6. Transparency, community trust and future-proofing

For this plan to succeed in the long term, trust from all stakeholders is essential: hunters, conservation groups, DOC, and the public. I encourage DOC to commit to:

- publicly available annual reports on harvest numbers, population status, ecological monitoring data, and plan adjustments;
- clear, accessible communication channels with hunters and stakeholders;
- an open feedback process for hunters, locals, and conservation groups;
- and adaptive management: adjusting harvest limits, access, or even pausing hunts if environmental indicators show risk.

This ensures the Hosi remains more than just a “hunting permit” — it becomes a shared stewardship commitment.

Conclusion

I support the designation of the Central North Island sika herd as a Herd of Special Interest under the draft plan — provided that:

- the plan enshrines ecological safeguards and monitoring,
- hunting remains regulated, transparent, and sustainable,
- community and hunter involvement (feedback, data-sharing) is built-in, and
- management remains adaptive to environmental realities.

In my view, this balance — between sustainable game management, hunter access, and conscious conservation — gives us the best chance of protecting sika for future generations, while respecting the forests, native species, and ecological integrity of Kaimanawa / Kaweka.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Kind regards,
Jonny

Respondent: Rhys Nowacki

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 68

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 68-1

General position

Support

Respondent: Patricia Nuku - Te Piringa Hapū

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 242

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 242

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Te Piringa Hapu - Patricia Nuku - Sika submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Ryan O'Connor

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan	Submission ID: 89
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Table 1.13 Professional control operations	Submission ID: 89-1
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General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring	Submission ID: 89-10
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General position

Support in part

This should follow active management strategies where these can be exceeded they should, and where these metrics do not lead to improved outcomes they should be changed

Table 4.3 Stewardship	Submission ID: 89-11
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General position

Support

8 Objective	Submission ID: 89-12
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General position

Support

And other Game Animal Species

Table 5.2 Annual report	Submission ID: 89-13
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General position

Support

Financial Reporting should not be a condition of the Management of the HOSI

9 Objective	Submission ID: 89-14
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General position

Support

Transparency drives collective achievement

6 Objective

Submission ID: 89-15

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 89-16

General position

Support

Adaptive game animal management allows the HOSI to achieve outcomes and move towards and change strategies that are less or non-effective

2 Objective

Submission ID: 89-17

General position

Support

Sika are one of the worlds highly palatable Venison species, and harvest of hinds whilst the challenges in hunting them make for a truly special experience outside the Roar. They are also what drew me to the Makino area and Oamaru and Clements Mill areas and whilst there clear trapping lines at the same time to protect other species and the incredible bush

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 89-18

General position

Support in part

On the Ballot system, I think Heli exclusions for nearer REZ blocks should be maintained, to have affordable options for the REZ, I have walked the Southern Access with great enjoyment, and have other friends walk in the northern Access. Deeper blocks should have heli landing sights to encourage a truly wilderness hunting experience

5 Objective

Submission ID: 89-19

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 89-2

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 89-20

General position

Support

Adaptive management helps to move towards outcomes and provides information to better manage other parts of the country

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 89-21

General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 89-3

General position

Support

Funding should remain within the Sika foundation to administer the HOSI

1 Objective

Submission ID: 89-4

General position

Support

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 89-5

General position

Support

Sika are a Taonga presented by the Duke of Bedford, and their management helps to protect and foster other Taonga of indigenous significance within the Sika Area, Not only that Sika provide nourishment to the community.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 89-6

General position

Support

The Presence of Sika brings people into the area especially remote areas, and fosters the areas protection and the ongoing support to infrastructure

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 89-7

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 89-8

General position

Support

The Sika HOSI should continue to be organisation funded.

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 89-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Tom O'Neill

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 152

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 152-1

General position

Support

I support the sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan in its entirety, and would like to see greater decision-making power over this special space given to the Game Animal Council.

Respondent: Ari Overmars

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 61

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 61-1

General position

Support

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 61-10

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 61-11

General position

Support

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 61-12

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 61-13

General position

Support

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 61-14

General position

Support

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 61-15

General position

Support

Table 5.2 Annual report	Submission ID: 61-16
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General position

Support

Table 1.1 General	Submission ID: 61-17
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General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring	Submission ID: 61-18
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General position

Support

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi	Submission ID: 61-19
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General position

Support

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan	Submission ID: 61-2
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General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship	Submission ID: 61-20
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General position

Support

Table 4.3 Stewardship	Submission ID: 61-21
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General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 61-22

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 61-23

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 61-3

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 61-4

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 61-5

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 61-6

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 61-7

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 61-8

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 61-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Darren Parlato

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 145

1 Objective

Submission ID: 145-1

General position

Support

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 145-10

General position

Support

Table 3 Working closely with lwi

Submission ID: 145-11

General position

Support

We have must have support of the local lwi

2 Objective

Submission ID: 145-12

General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 145-13

General position

Support

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 145-14

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 145-15

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 145-16

General position

Support

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 145-17

General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 145-18

General position

Support

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 145-19

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 145-2

General position

Support

Sika Foundation does an awesome job

8 Objective

Submission ID: 145-20

General position

Support

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 145-3

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary

Submission ID: 145-4

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 145-5

General position

Support

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 145-6

General position

Support

I am a recreational NZDA Manawatu Branch Hunter, I fully support the HOSI management plan. Hunting Sika deer in the Kaweka's and Kaimanawa's is one of my favorite pastimes. I enjoy challenge and fitness aspect. Its also good for me to "De Stress" from my job.

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 145-7

General position

Support

I still want to protect the natural environment

Map 1 Sika Herd of Special Interest Area

Submission ID: 145-8

General position

Support

agree with the DOC area

3 Objective

Submission ID: 145-9

General position

Support

Stoney Creek and Helisika are great supporters.

Respondent: Mitch Pascoe

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 65

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 65-1

General position

Support

I support the plan to establish a sika herd of special interest in accordance to plan described in the accompanying document for the future of this unique hunting opportunity .

Respondent: Trent Paterson

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 78

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 78-1

General position

Support in part

Fund hunting co

Respondent: Ivan Pavich

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 212

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 212-1

General position

Support in part

I support establishment of a sika Herd of Special Interest.

Respondent: Mike Penn

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 187

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 187-1

General position

Support

I support the Central North Island Sika herd being gazetted as a Herd of Special Interest.

I support the HMP as amended by this submission.

Final-Sika Foundation Sika HOSI Draft HMP Submission-7Dec2025.pdf

Respondent: Neil Philpott

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 167

4 Objective

Submission ID: 167-1

General position

Support in part

I am a professional hunter and have been since leaving school in 1974. Learnt to hunt in Clements Mill rd and from early 1980,s hunted the Poronui area and still do to this day. Sika being my passion. Been a hunting guide on mainly sika for close on 40 years. Have farmed sika for 40 years. The only farming operation in NZ that specialises on breeding big sika stags for safari parks.

There wouldn't be anyone in NZ that has spent more time with sika than I have or have better knowledge of this highly sort after species than I do - no-one!!

In the last couple of years I have, along with my son, culled approx 3500 sika deer off Poronui station. That's not a typo (3500). That is probably more than the rest of the sika hunting fraternity put together. We do it for no paid remuneration whatsoever. I have a desire to improve the quality of the sika deer in that area (Poronui) shooting all hinds seen and any cull stags. Unfortunately you can't have quality and quantity in the same area.

It seems that the more we shoot the more sika turn up. Things look not so bad in winter when most of the hinds are back in the bush eating all those beech seedlings but come spring they arrive from everywhere. I suspect the bush is being eaten out further afield and they head for the grass come spring. A lot of those animals are coming from the adjacent DOC land to the west and the Maori land to the south and east.

So what is the answer? Well the recreational hunter has no show of controlling the burgeoning numbers.

I think put a price on their head. Either a bounty on a per tail basis or allow the selling of meat. At the moment over zealous regulation by MPI prevents selling the meat but ironically the same meat can be given away as is done by the sika foundation with their mince.

It costs me to recover animals but its a travesty to waste such beautiful venison. Sika is arguably the best eating of all our deer species.

I could go on here but have probably given a reasonable insight to my credentials as an "expert" on sika deer. I am available if further input is required

Respondent: Marcus Pinney - SCI NZ

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 137

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 137

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

SCI NZ - Marcus Pinney - Sika covering letter.pdf

SCI NZ - Marcus Pinney - Sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Tom Pinney

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 154

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 154-1

General position

Support

- I fully support the Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan as a member of the NZDA, and want to see greater powers given to the Sika Foundation to manage Sika for recreational hunters.
- Recreational hunting should remain central to the management of all Herds of Special Interest.
- An annual survey of recreational hunters should be built into each management plan to ensure ongoing accountability and to confirm that the herds continue to meet the criteria for “special interest”.

Respondent: s9(2)(a)

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 57

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 57-1

General position

Support

I do not wish my name, or any other personal information, to be disclosed in any summary of submissions or external disclosure.

I support the Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan.

s9(

Respondent: Joanna Pollard

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 183

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 183-1

General position

Support

Independent, ongoing, ecological scientific review and discussion of individual HOSI plans, methods and achievements is very desirable. This function might be carried out within the Game Animal Council.

Access to up-to-date technology for monitoring and culling animals is likely to improve the effectiveness of hunters' wildlife management.

Respondent: Nick Powis

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 195

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 195-1

General position

Oppose in part

Respondent: Carl Prenter

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 121

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 121-1

General position

Support

I support the Herd Management Plan in principle but believe amendments are needed for it to work well.

Respondent: Kim Prenter

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 120

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 120-1

General position

Support

I support the Herd Management Plan in principle but believe amendments are needed for it to work well for the Sika Herd.

Respondent: Josh Quartermaine

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 135

1 Objective

Submission ID: 135-1

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 135-10

General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 135-11

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 135-12

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 135-13

General position

Support

The Sika herd is spread across public and private iwi land. This presents a huge challenge in the management of a HOSI to be effective. There must be 100% agreement from all party's in a management plan and it must cross all boarders including private blocks. There is no point doing all the work on one side of the river and not the other.

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 135-14

General position

Neutral

In public land areas the management should be held only by Sika Foundation and government organizations. There is a strong need for the management principals to be adopted by Iwi in the private blocks within the wide rangers, but if those areas are not going to have some form of management plan then there can not be road blocks created in public areas.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 135-2

General position

Support

Who is going to police this? You need to really think hard about how archivable this. The area has so many public access areas *which you can not let be closed of like the possible case of Waipaki Road*. If there is a possible fine of upto \$5000, then we need to see results of this and I just find it very hard to see this being successful.

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 135-3

General position

Support

1.4 - Who and how are you going to manage with so many public access areas in the proposed areas for the HOSI?

1.6 - How will this look in conjunction to 1.4? Do we not have this with the open hunting permit from Doc?

1.9 - Need more details as to how this will be archived to get hunter buy in to the right approach.

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 135-4

General position

Support in part

Yes needed, however I would suggest first action be to reach out to recreational hunters and offer them a chance to "earn" and manage, similar to Management hunts but pay rec hunters on a bottom jaw system in targeted areas like the \$150 that was being offered a few years back for TB research. This means rec hunters will focus efforts in problem areas. Do this along side professional operations.

General position

Support in part

2 Objective **Submission ID: 135-6**

General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship **Submission ID: 135-7**

General position

Support

3 Objective **Submission ID: 135-8**

General position

Support

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts **Submission ID: 135-9**

General position

Support

Agree, we all have seen the "hard to get to" areas are in a bad way and we need to have a really heavy focus on these areas to make this proposed HOSI a success for both hunting and ecological impacts

Respondent: Michael Quest

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 30

2 Objective

Submission ID: 30-1

General position

Neutral

The animal numbers can be of varying opinions, most hunters shoot for meat and will shoot the first available animal, regardless of sex age and conditions

Map 1 Sika Herd of Special Interest Area

Submission ID: 30-2

General position

Neutral

Will the free open permit system be operating?. Animal density variable, depending on location and area, will the front easy country be left for recreation hunters?

Respondent: Mary Ralston

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 122

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 122

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Mary Ralston - Sika submission.pdf

Mary Ralston - Sika cover letter.pdf

Respondent: M Rameka - Ngāti Hinerau and Ngāti Hineure Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa

Submission
Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 19

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 19

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

M Rameka Ng ti Hinerau and Ng ti Hineure Te Kotahitanga o Ng ti T wharetoa

s9(2)(a)

Respondent: Brad Ramsay

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 174

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 174-1

General position

Support

I support the proposal for the HOSI for sika and wapiti, I have a deep connection with sika especially. Growing up hunting with my grandfather and using this resource for food and to get out and share time in a beautiful country. These are resources that we should be protecting but managing also.

Respondent: Nicolas Ranger

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 198

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 198-1

General position

Support

I fully support the proposed Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan for the following key reasons:

Everyone benefits from better-managed deer populations. If this is hunter-led (and funded), at no/minimal cost to the Department of Conservation, this can achieve better quality hunting/animals while protecting key ecological values at the same time (e.g. mountain beech regeneration).

The Sika Foundation also provides highly valued predator control to protect key taonga species (whio, blue duck), which would otherwise would not be occurring under the Department of Conservation, due to funding/budgets. It is hunters, and their whanau that deliver this predator control work in a volunteer capacity, supported by local, and not so local, sponsors. My wife and I have volunteered and really value being able to put back into the areas I like to hunt.

As an ecologist, I see sika deer as an important resource (to individuals, as well as the wider hunting economy) as well as a pest animal. It is how we manage the population that determines the real benefits for both people, the economy and conservation.

Respondent: Felicity Rashbrooke

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 123

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 123-1

General position

Oppose

New Zealand has created forest parks including the Kaweka Forest Park to ensure that conservation values in those areas are preserved.

These natural areas did not suffer from browsing animals such as deer until they were introduced by humans in the last 800 or so years.

In order to preserve the native ecosystem Kaweka Forest Park especially the Kaweka Forest Conservation Area all browsing deer (as well as pigs, goats possums etc) should be eliminated - not "managed" as this Herd management plan proposed. The presence of sika deer does and could continue to create untold damage in this area of very special ecological value.

We need to do all we can to protect our native biodiversity and therefore I oppose this draft plan.

Respondent: Moira Raukawa-Haskell - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Tamakōpiri

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 233

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 233

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

[Ng ti Tamakopiri - Moira Raukawa-Haskell - Sika covering letter.pdf](#)

[Ng ti Tamakopiri - Moira Raukawa-Haskell - Sika submission.pdf](#)

Respondent: Kieran Reeve

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 69

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 69-1

General position

Support

My family are committed conservationists. My partner s9(2)(a) and I regularly take our children, friends with their children, and clients including corporates from overseas companies into the backcountry, who all share a passion for the New Zealand environment and the opportunities the Sika Herd have to offer.. When empowered through a strong, values-based HMP, hunters and communities help achieve measurable conservation improvements.

Sika HOSI submission.pdf

Respondent: Richard Reynolds

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 21

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 21-1

General position

Oppose

Iwi never had deer - never a cultural hunting experience - that is something Europeans gave hunting willingly to Iwi through the introduction of land mammals to NZ. 3.2 looks like you are going to allow Iwi to control access to hunting - that was promised never to happen back in the 1990s when this whole treaty stuff started. So now we will need to pay Maori to go hunting on what used to be public land, if Iwi even allow us.

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 21-2

General position

Oppose in part

This plan sounds like you are going to:

- 1: Reduce hunting access by special ballots and other means, culminating in less hunting opportunity for the general public, especially someone who is feeding their family.
- 2: Provide opportunity for increased cost to the hunters in the form or opportunity for long-term commercial fees, probably from the Iwi or DoC
- 3: give more ability to the Maori to reduce access to NZ Citizens and residents, that is already happening all over the country

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 21-3

General position

Oppose

4.2 yet more Doc commercialization of hunting with collaboration by Maori to likely reduce access to ordinary NZ folk while gaining large fees from wealthy overseas hunters. These herds were established for all of us here in NZ. When do the high fences start to appear? This is just a hidden long-term plan to turn this area into the South Island where all the good hunting land (the "leased" Stations) are now high-fenced and access is not available unless you pay \$1000s to get there.

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 21-4

General position

Oppose

So Doc is going to award valuable contracts to contractors to hunt deer that could be managed instead by providing better access to hunting lands to ordinary NZrs, providing better managed firearms laws that also provide better access to land with firearms. Rats and possums could be controlled much better if DoC allowed .22 silenced rimfires onto National park and DoC land to hunt at night with thermals - why not make a new permitting system, even with training involved, and that would better manage the truly destructive species. Allow access to vetted members of the public (I promise I won't shoot any native birds) to undertake low-cost (to me) control of predators. Also avoids the use of 1080.

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 21-5

General position

Oppose in part

Looks like Doc and Maori are yet again trying to fleece the average NZ Hunter/Outdoorsman with reduced access to the outdoors. E.g c implies authorizations will be required to hunt.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 21-6

General position

Oppose

Now you are fining average hunters because you are going to limit access

Respondent: Michael Richardson - Tongariro Taupō Conservation Board

Submission
Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 177

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 177-1

General position

Support in part

The Kaimanawas are seen as an Ark of Biodiversity for the central plateau, where fauna and flora should be existing that can provide regeneration to nearby areas should future events like volcanic eruptions occur. Currently the environment is being steadily degraded and impacted by invasive species, both predators and wild animals. Hunting has had a strong history in the area, but also must take responsibility for the degraded environment and impacts on the forest. While the beech dieback poorly understood, the impact on browsing animals has clear significant impact on the ability of the forest to heal itself. While recreational hunting is attempting to turn a corner and reduce the impacts on the ecology, it must also put its hand up as being the primary reason the majority of the damage is occurring. In addition, the value of putting hunting first also impacts on the ability to manage other invasive species, such as possums, rats and mustelids.

The cores value must be maintaining the native ecology conservation values. Only when that value is met should there be consideration for other values such as recreational use.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 177-10

General position

Support in part

The management principles must actually include the wishes of iwi for protecting a wider view of the health of the land. This approach is coming through from Sika Foundation but is not so reflections in teh actual plan proposal. There must be a mountain to sea approach to land and water health, to show we can be stewards on the land.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 177-11

General position

Support in part

More resarch is always a[ppropriate but the relationship between overpopulation and impact should be first and foremost.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 177-12

General position

Support

Ultimately the management of a recreational activity such as hunting should be self funding if it is already using a significant public resource. It should not be long term reliant on public funds for private recreational outcomes.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 177-2

General position

Neutral

The hunting experience should be secondary to achieving positive ecological and sika health outcomes.

9 Objective

Submission ID: 177-3

General position

Support in part

The reporting first and foremost should be to DOC and Iwi partners as managers of the land, with responsibility to the wider land health rather than with a particular bias towards hunting outcomes.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 177-4

General position

Support in part

Maintenance should be specified to a given level that is well above a collapse level. It should allow for the majority of native flora and all native fauna to be doing well. This includes both direct impacts like deer browse, and indirect impacts such as impacting on pest control operations.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 177-5

General position

Support in part

Monitoring outcomes will be very important, along with seeing the appropriate outcomes to target the results the wider area needs to heal the land.

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 177-6

General position

Support in part

This submission is being made on behalf of the Tongariro Taupo Conservation Board following multiple workshops and presentations from both Sika and DOC representatives. The Conservation Board has visited sections of the Kaimanawas as a group, and has a core responsibility to the area, both through iwi representation and personal connection from members. The Board aims to represent the views of the wider community, and therefore presents a relatively broad view point.

The primary consideration from the Board is the health of the land. It is clear that the larger Kaimanawa area is struggling with multiple issues, including climate change, invasive predators, and the impact of ungulates, mainly deer, on the flora. Quite clearly a successful herbivore with no nature predators will be naturally out of balance and therefore impact significantly on the native ecology. The Board on the whole considers the approach to deer management across the country has led to significant negative impacts on the state of our natural environment, for the benefit of a few. While we don't look to ignore the benefit that hunting has for recreationists and as a source of food, it is also seen by many as an inefficient means of achieving these outcomes with a high environmental footprint, along with ongoing management costs to be borne by the general public.

Ultimately there should be areas within the Kaimanawas that are pristine wilderness, representing the best native ecology possible. Any management strategy to be used within the forest park should be looking through the lens of achieving such a goal.

The Board realises that in order to attain improvement across the area, that pragmatic solutions should be explored. Sika have presented their view of developing improved outcomes for both Herd management and ecological outcomes. This represents the interests of some of the community in maintaining a viable Herd for hunting, and the rest of the community in gaining environmental wins through better Herd management.

The key concerns with the plan as it stands are as follows:

1. The proposals are focus on developing legal protection for the Herd, and then the assumption that Herd management improved will then eventuate from that enhanced status. This approach puts the focus on the Herd as the main purpose of plan. The Land is treated as secondary or not at all. This is not representative of the proposals Sika Ltd originally put forward, or the common goal of achieving better all-round outcomes. The Board has a strong wish to see the health of the Land as the primary focus on the legislation. If the Land is healthy, then it can support a healthy Herd, and provide the outcomes the Hunters are looking for. In addition, a focus on land first also supports a strong healthy environment for the forest. This is the key outcome that the broader community is looking for and should not be sacrificed for a more simplistic management strategy.
2. Prioritising Herd Management with limited outcome requirements places wider areas at risk of a continued treadmill of expensive management strategies with high carbon footprint and limited benefit to society. As summarised in the plan, there are significant sections of the community that do not think we should have deer species everywhere in the forest park. There is a strong desire to have areas free of deer, and any plan that proposes to manage deer population should also consider the impact of a managed population on surrounding environments. That includes both private landowners who do not want wandering deer populations impacting on their land, and remote zones where there is little interest in recreational access on foot. Currently the proposals cover the entire forest park and make no suggestion for aiming for deer free zones i.e. eradication. If the HOSI concept cannot control deer from selected areas within a core hunting area of the North Island, then it questions the long term viability of deer control using current methods.

3. This is the first time the HOSI legislation has been used in New Zealand. The Conservation Board has commented previously that a forest park should be considered a more appropriate area to test out this management approach than a National Park. National Parks should have the highest level of protection, and should not be used for trialling new management processes. Likewise, the Kaimanawa Forest Park is a significant ecological ark for the area, and is in need of restoration. There is still a serious concern that trialling new legislation may not have the desired outcomes, and may have negative consequences of 'locking in' past damage of an invasive species. We consider the application of the HOSI legislation should be seen as a trial, with a higher level of review and mechanisms for ending the legalisation and trial if the positive outcomes are not forthcoming. Optimistically this legislation may provide positive outcomes, but in the event of negative outcomes, there should be built in measures to retreat from the HOSI status.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 177-7

General position

Support in part

Research should have an independent oversight, and focus on ecological outcomes.

Map 1 Sika Herd of Special Interest Area

Submission ID: 177-8

General position

Neutral

There is a strong wish to have different management outcomes for different areas, such as the REZ not being reliant on helicopter access as this is against the goals for those areas. The preference is to start small so a strategy can be demonstrated in the highly accessible areas, while allowing the more remote zones a chance to recover. Likewise, reference areas (not just exclusion lots) are needed to show the impact of lower or higher numbers on the underlying forest regrowth.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 177-9

General position

Support

This should be drawing on the wider hunting community to demonstrate it can sustainably support a dedicated hunting zone. If not then the model is unlikely to be viable in other locations with more diluted recreational hunter resource.

Respondent: Nikki Riley - Horizons Regional Council

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 237

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 237

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Horizons Regional Council -Nikki Riley - Sika submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: s9(2)(a)

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 131

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 131

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document
- Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

s9(2)(a) - Sika covering letter.pdf

s9(2)(a) - Sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Karla Rix-Trott

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 247

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 247

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Karla Rix-Trott - Sika submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Mahuru Robb

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 194

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 194-1

General position

Oppose in part

I support the close relationship and inclusion of mana whenua in identifying objectives and management tools to ensure that both cultural and ecological values are upheld. I would suggest the inclusion of a monitoring tool to track impacts from an iwi and hapu perspective. I encourage the inclusion of a cultural health indicator similar to that used by Lyver and Timoti (2019) in Te Urewera.

Respondent: Nigel Robinson

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 192

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 192-1

General position

Neutral

I am not iwi or hapu, they should be the same as other new zealanders.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 192-10

General position

Support

Knowledge is power. Science based decisions are beyond reproach.

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 192-11

General position

Neutral

depends on the opportunities. international (including aussies) visitors should be paying a lot more.

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 192-12

General position

Support in part

should focus on the ecosystem. this is needed for the current and future state.

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 192-13

General position

Support

Should target meat and breeding animals, and not trophies

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 192-14

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 192-15

General position

Support

Knowledge is power.

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 192-16

General position

Support

sounds reasonable

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 192-17

General position

Support

Map 1 Sika Herd of Special Interest Area

Submission ID: 192-18

General position

Support in part

I think the area is too large for DOC to manage effectively under this proposal.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 192-19

General position

Support

Ecosystem has to be protected for the health of the forest and the sika.

9 Objective

Submission ID: 192-2

General position

Support

Public resource should be managed on behalf of all new Zealanders. Accountability of any plan is essential.

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 192-20

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 192-21

General position

Support in part

Unfortunately hunting is an individual activity. So some hunting organisations have their own agendas of the few that contribute their time and effort. Need to consult ALL hunters and well as other users of the area.

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 192-3

General position

Support

looks good

2 Objective

Submission ID: 192-4

General position

Support

Best of both worlds, healthy ecosystem with native birds/forest and sika deer hunting.

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 192-5

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 192-6

General position

Neutral

The plan will cost money as will any management plan would. Need to consider everyday kiwis versus high paying individuals. Don't want to see a situation of hunting decent sika for a few. Need to ensure access for all who wish to hunt.

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 192-7

General position

Support

looks good

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 192-8

General position

Support in part

These take time and maintenance otherwise useless.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 192-9

General position

Support

The bush should take priority over the introduced animals. The forest is needed for all and a balance should be achievable to ensure that hunting sika is maintained alongside a healthy ecosystem.

Respondent: Morgan Rogers - NZDA Hastings Branch

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 171

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 171-1

General position

Support

Morgan Rogers HAS NZDA HOSI sub.pdf

Respondent: Andrew Rowland

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 196

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 196-1

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 196-10

General position

Support

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 196-11

General position

Support

Table 3 Working closely with lwi

Submission ID: 196-12

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 196-13

General position

Support

not rocket science

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 196-14

General position

Support

Big part of it. Good for all feeding family good for mental Health plus costs money to do so add to the governments coffers in tax

4 Objective

Submission ID: 196-15

General position

Support

all those need to be on the same page

3 Objective

Submission ID: 196-16

General position

Support

we all have a invested interest for the future

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 196-17

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 196-18

General position

Support

Hunting has been huge part of my life wellbeing and mental well being.

now in my 60's i enjoy giving bake by hut and track maintaince plus predator control as i fell its time to give back to something i have enjoyed and help ake me the person I an today and I want to encourage my grandchildren to follow in my foot steps.

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 196-19

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 196-2

General position

Support

Table 5.2 Annual report **Submission ID: 196-20**

General position

Support in part

not annually maybe every 3 years. money wasted every year, different if government are putting money in than yes.

5 Objective **Submission ID: 196-3**

General position

Support

This is a must

4. Compliance, review and enforcement **Submission ID: 196-4**

General position

Support

Table 4.3 Stewardship **Submission ID: 196-5**

General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring **Submission ID: 196-6**

General position

Support

8 Objective **Submission ID: 196-7**

General position

Support

n

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting **Submission ID: 196-8**

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 196-9

General position

Support

The Sika management are on a great path to support every one in NZ at no cost the the government , resources form cull feeding those in need while reducing numbers .

Respondent: Pryor Rowland

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 63

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 63-1

General position

Oppose

Sika deer are currently causing major problems in wetland and other areas. They should be eliminated not protected.

They certainly don't belong in our national parks. Dumb crazy stuff.

Respondent: James Russell

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 208

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 208-1

General position

Oppose

Forest parks and conservation areas exist for all New Zealanders and management of the parks and species within them should follow the majority view of New Zealanders.

The negative impacts of sika on the social and ecological values of the park are not outweighed by their positive impacts.

Designating sika as a special herd is not socially or ecologically supported by evidence balancing the positive and negative impacts.

Designating sika as a special herd would represent regulatory capture by a small minority. This would not be democratic legislation.

Respondent: Lawrence Ryder

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 91

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 91-1

General position

Oppose

This is a setup for co-governance. What has the principles of the treaty got to do with the sika herd?

Respondent: Nigel Sanderson

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 147

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 147-1

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 147-2

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 147-3

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 147-4

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 147-5

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 147-6

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 147-7

General position

Support

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 147-8

General position

Support

I support the proposal

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 147-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Gavin Sears

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 48

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 48-1

General position

Neutral

Please give hunters more access to the Kaimanawa forest park. Clements Rd Kiko Rd and access 10 is simply not enough, many catchments have no access at all unless you have some sort of tribal affiliation. Preventing access and then poisoning because animal numbers are too high makes no sense.

Respondent: Anaru Shadbolt - Te Tira Whakamātaki

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 238

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 238

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Te Tira Whakamātaki - Anaru Shadbolt - Sika covering letter.pdf

Te Tira Whakamātaki - Anaru Shadbolt - Sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Grant Sheridan - Hunting & Fishing NZ

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 225

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 225

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Hunting and Fishing NZ - Grant Sheridan - Sika submission.pdf
Hunting and Fishing NZ - Grant Sheridan - Sika covering letter.pdf

Respondent: Russell Silcock

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan	Submission ID: 50
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2 Objective	Submission ID: 50-1
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General position

Support

6 Objective	Submission ID: 50-10
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General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research	Submission ID: 50-11
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General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement	Submission ID: 50-12
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General position

Support

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting	Submission ID: 50-13
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General position

Support

Table 5.2 Annual report	Submission ID: 50-14
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General position

Support

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts	Submission ID: 50-15
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General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 50-16

General position

Support

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 50-17

General position

Support

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 50-18

General position

Support

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 50-2

General position

Support

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 50-3

General position

Support

I fully support the Sika HOSI Draft Herd Management Plan

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 50-4

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 50-5

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 50-6

General position

Support

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 50-7

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 50-8

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 50-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Scott Silsbee

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 153

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 153-1

I support the new provisions to make the sika herd a herd of special interest. The sika deer are very special to New Zealand. The Sika Foundation has been doing a good job, but they could do even better if we change the designation of the sika herd. Hunters have the will and ability to manage the herd. We need to give them the right tools to manage. However, the current rules need updating to make this happen. Please listen to the Animal Councils recommendations. I'm a member of Deerstalkers. We regularly enjoy the Kaimanawas. We can treat the sika deer

Respondent: Murray Sim

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 90

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 90-1

General position

Support

All New Zealander's are extremely lucky & privileged to have this small herd of Sika.

They should be managed & kept in balance with all other nature & wild plants , fora. .

Thousands of NZ citizens & overseas visitors come to see this Sika herd in the wild , be it hunting , photography or tramping in the back country , forests on NZ.

The Sika Herd is a \$\$ valuable resource that need to be kept & managed.

All Visitors to our forests & back country have a extra special visit & experience if they happen to see any of our large wild mammals both Native & Introduced species.

I know fist hand as i have asked & talked to many many others while i am to in the mountains & forests who have experienced this it encourages myself & al others to return again.

Lets do the right thing & protect / manage the NZ Sika Herd.

Respondent: Shane Simpson

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 3

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 3-1

General position

Support

I agree with the draft that the sika heard should be of special interest

Respondent: Ray Singer

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 54

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 54-1

General position

Support

- I support the overall direction of the draft Sika HSI Management Plan. It provides a practical framework that protects conservation values while recognising the importance of this herd for hunting.
- The focus on protecting priority ecological areas is sensible. As a hunter who cares about healthy habitats, I support targeted management that balances conservation with maintaining good hunting opportunities.
- Regular monitoring and transparent reporting are important. Clear data helps hunters, volunteers, and the public understand progress and where effort is needed.
- Overall, the plan strikes a fair balance and sets the groundwork for long-term, sustainable management of sika in the Kaimanawa and Kaweka ranges.

Respondent: Nicholas Singers

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 39

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 39-1

General position

Oppose in part

See submission

Nick Singers Submission to the Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan.docx

Respondent: Agamjot Singh

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 248

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 248

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Agamjot Singh - Sika submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Rodney Smillie

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 97

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 97-1

General position

Support

I fully support the proposed HOSI for sika deer in the "Sika Area". It will allow for all stakeholders to see the impact of sika deer on the forest fauna and will eventually arrive at a sika deer population level that allows for regeneration of palatable fauna species in the sika area. The appropriate level of sika deer population will no doubt be much less than the population is currently and will also need to involve a sustained education process to report the results of fauna monitoring and the logical interpretation of the reported monitoring information.

I wish to make several points for consideration that in my view require to be added to the draft plan.

- 1) The sika area as described in the plan and in appendix 1 is a discrete area that has sika deer populations on both sides of the boundary, that is, in public and private land tenures. The boundary is in description only and sika deer freely move between both tenures. The monitoring sites for collecting data as described on page 14, section 2.1(a) namely seedling ratio index, permanent 20x20 plots, alpine deer browse, and faecal pellet counts, should not occur inside a buffer area that is 500m inside the "sika area" boundary. As most female deer social units have much smaller and discrete home ranges than their male counterparts, this will help mitigate any influence the unmanaged deer outside of the management area have on the actual results for the total area. Any monitoring sites that fall in the buffer should be disregarded and not used to keep the data set relevant and unbiased.
- 2) In section 2.1 (b) the stakeholders noted should also include the Game Animal Council and the Central North Island Sika Foundation. This then satisfies the requirement for unbiased decision making.
- 3) The annual report should also record the number helicopter assisted hunting trips into the sika area and estimate the expenditure by private hunters as part of the contribution they make to control of the herd.

Respondent: Nicky Snoyink - Forest & Bird NZ

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 227

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 227

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Forest and Bird - Nicky Snoyink - Sika submission.pdf
Forest and Bird - Nicky Snoyink - Sika covering letter.pdf

Respondent: Rosalie Snoyink

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 124

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 124

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Rosalie Snoyink - sika covering letter.pdf

Rosalie Snoyink - sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Andy Somerville

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 151

9 Objective

Submission ID: 151-1

General position

Support

Transparency is the cornerstone of maintaining a 'social license to operate' on public land. By publicly reporting on whether objectives are being met, the management regime invites scrutiny and builds trust with the wider New Zealand public, not just hunters. It proves that the privilege of management is being treated with the seriousness it deserves and that the outcomes are genuine.

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 151-10

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 151-11

General position

Support

The evidence of canopy regeneration and protected habitats proves that we can move beyond the 'eradication' mindset to a modern 'impact management' model. It validates that hunters, who are motivated to preserve the habitat for the herd, are effective custodians of ecosystem health, ensuring native flora and fauna thrive alongside the game resource.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 151-12

General position

Support

A collaborative framework represents the future of conservation in New Zealand. By formally aligning the interests of Mana Whenua, the Department, the Game Animal Council, and the hunting sector, we move beyond fragmented management to a unified, cohesive strategy. This inclusion ensures that Sika management is not only ecologically sound but culturally robust, benefiting from the combined wisdom (maturanga) of local Iwi and the practical dedication of the Sika Foundation. It ensures the 'social license' for the herd is grounded in mutual respect and shared goals

4. Compliance, review and enforcement**Submission ID: 151-13**

General position

Support**Map 1 Sika Herd of Special Interest Area****Submission ID: 151-14**

General position

Support

Recognizing the demographic reality of an aging hunter base is essential for the long-term viability of this management plan. Increasing helicopter temporary landing permissions is not just a matter of convenience; it is a critical safety and accessibility measure that keeps experienced hunters active in the system. By facilitating easier access to remote areas, we ensure that this vital segment of the community can continue to contribute to harvest goals and funding, rather than being excluded by the physical demands of backcountry travel. This pragmatic approach safeguards both the hunters and the continuity of the management effort.

2 Objective**Submission ID: 151-15**

General position

Support

This highlights the powerful synergy between recreational value and ecological health. An enhanced hunting experience—characterized by healthier animals—motivates the consistent hunter effort required to control population numbers. This dynamic turns the hunting community into an effective, free-of-charge management workforce that directly facilitates forest regeneration, proving that high-quality recreation and robust conservation are not mutually exclusive but mutually reinforcing.

8 Objective**Submission ID: 151-16**

General position

Support

Integrating ongoing research into the Sika management framework is critical for long-term sustainability. It moves conservation beyond guesswork, allowing for decisions that are backed by hard science and empirical evidence. This commitment to learning not only optimizes the health of the herd and the forest habitat but also reinforces the credibility of the entire operation, demonstrating that hunter-led initiatives can be at the forefront of modern, evidence-based conservation.

Table 2.4 Research**Submission ID: 151-17**

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 151-18

General position

Support

This provision ensures that Sika management remains dynamic and accountable. By committing to adaptive management based on rigorous monitoring, the Plan guarantees that conservation outcomes are verified, not just promised. It allows the management strategy to pivot as needed to protect forest ecosystem processes, proving that the hunter-led model is transparent, results-oriented, and capable of delivering on its ecological objectives.

Table 1.13 Professional control operations

Submission ID: 151-19

General position

Support

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi

Submission ID: 151-2

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 151-3

General position

Support

This proactive funding strategy ensures the long-term resilience of the management plan by reducing reliance on taxpayer funding. By leveraging commercial partnerships and sponsorships, the hunting sector demonstrates its willingness to financially back its conservation values. This diversified income stream creates a stable financial foundation, allowing for consistent, uninterrupted management operations regardless of fluctuations in government budgets

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 151-4

General position

Support

6 Objective**Submission ID: 151-5**

General position

Support

This commitment to improving our understanding is the foundation of credible, long-term management. It transitions Sika management from a broad-brush approach to one based on specific ecological evidence. By quantifying the actual interactions between the herd and indigenous species, we can prove that sustainable hunting and flourishing ecosystems can coexist, ensuring that future decisions are driven by facts rather than historical prejudice.

Table 1.1 General**Submission ID: 151-6**

General position

Support**Table 1.4 General recreational hunting****Submission ID: 151-7**

General position

Support**4 Objective****Submission ID: 151-8**

General position

Support

This fosters a deep sense of custodianship at the grassroots level. By actively involving the hunting community in decision-making and management, we transform them from passive users into invested stakeholders. This engagement secures a dedicated volunteer base for local conservation projects and ensures that the social and economic benefits of the Sika herd are directed back into the local community, strengthening the social license for recreational hunting.

Table 2.1 Monitoring**Submission ID: 151-9**

General position

Support

Respondent: Walter Speck

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 27

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 27-1

General position

Support

Submission Game Animal Council HOSI 2025_07_24.pdf

Respondent: Cam Speedy - Central North Island Sika Foundation

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 95

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 95-1

General position

Support

The Sika Foundation supports the Central North Island Sika herd being gazetted as a Herd of Special Interest.

The Sika Foundation supports the HMP as amended by this submission.

Final-Sika Foundation Sika HOSI Draft HMP Submission-7Dec2025.pdf

Respondent: Cam Squires

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 99

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 99-1

General position

Support

Hello. I think this is a great opportunity for the iconic Sika Deer Herd to be maintained, and with hunter led and involved in the conservation process can have multi level positive outcomes for all who enjoy our backcountry environment. hunters are already contributing alot for conservation with mustelid, rat and possum trapping programs all over NZs back country DOC Land, using their own time and energy and resources with minimal or in most cases no cost to the taxpayer.

There recently was a sika hind culling competition run by a local outdoor clothing and equipment brand which generated alot of interest and participation for its first time, Competitions like this can and most probably will be run in the future with great results and benefits for the forest health, game animal health and trophy potential, and free range organic meat for families and communities in need. We need to get past this idealistic "exterminate" mentality and step into the real world and manage that

Nothing but positive outcomes for all involved.

Cheers Cam

Respondent: Wayne Stachurski

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 35

9 Objective

Submission ID: 35-1

General position

Support

This is an important function since it will presumably be science based and not emotive in content

6 Objective

Submission ID: 35-10

General position

Support

Table 5.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 35-11

General position

Support in part

Reporting should not create a further administrative bureaucracy in it's own right. This is generally a waste of money, so reporting should be succinct and just that and not requiring of additional "research"

Reporting should definitely include the number of volunteer hours and activities. It should also include and estimate of the expenditure and input of volunteers and hunters.

The focus should be on alignment of population numbers towards scientifically established targets, not on "Sika control" A HOSI is about management, not control.

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 35-12

General position

Support

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 35-13

General position

Support

Creating a Sika HOSI will bring an increased scientific focus to the management of the herd than is currently the case.

Sika deer are spreading to new ranges where they are probably not wanted. Creation of a designated HOSI area will more clearly identify boundaries beyond which more intensive culling might be appropriate while preserving the herd at ecologically sustainable levels within the management area

7 Objective

Submission ID: 35-14

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 35-2

General position

Oppose in part

While it is important to respect local Maori and support tangata whenua involvement, I do not believe that they are required to participate in the management. The prime management function must be driven by sound science around sustainable population levels

8 Objective

Submission ID: 35-3

General position

Support

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 35-4

General position

Support

For annual plans to have longer reaching time frames which is an essential component for outcomes relating to populations, ecology and diversity the proposed HOSI legislation needs long term protection. Having it open to be overturned by a Labour/ Greens etc government on nothing more than emotional grandstanding will leave the intent around creating HOSI's quite meaningless.

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 35-5

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 35-6

General position

Support

Creating a HOSI is not protecting the herd for the sole benefit of hunters.

Hunters contribute actively to management, actively as volunteers supporting other conservation efforts, especially with predator control within the home range of Sika. If population levels are set too low then hunting activity will reduce and that input will need to be taken up by much more expensive options

1 Objective

Submission ID: 35-7

General position

Support in part

Establishing population levels must be supported by peer reviewed science

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 35-8

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 35-9

General position

Support

This function is already alive and well. Formal recognition of a HOSI will only intensify the volunteer activities, largely driven and supported by hunting groups. It is often noted that other conservation groups, eg. Forest and Bird are usually absent from these initiatives bringing into question what mandate they have in the current proposal.

Respondent: Ines Stager

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 129

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 129

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Ines Stager - sika covering letter.pdf

Ines Stager - sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Eric Stevens

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 150

Table 4 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 150-1

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 150-10

General position

Support

as long as a viable huntable herd is also maintained

4 Objective

Submission ID: 150-11

General position

Support

strongly support

Table 2.1 Monitoring

Submission ID: 150-12

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 150-13

General position

Support

Table 4.3 Stewardship

Submission ID: 150-14

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 150-15

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary

Submission ID: 150-16

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 150-17

General position

Support

Table 5 Annual planning and reporting

Submission ID: 150-18

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 150-19

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 150-2

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 150-3

General position

Support

transparent, honest reporting is critical

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting **Submission ID: 150-4**

General position

Support

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts **Submission ID: 150-5**

General position

Support

3 Objective **Submission ID: 150-6**

General position

Neutral

so long as recreational access and harvest is not negatively impacted in any way

Table 3 Working closely with Iwi **Submission ID: 150-7**

General position

Support in part

6 Objective **Submission ID: 150-8**

General position

Support in part

acknowledge that we cannot "turn back the clock" we sustainably manage what we currently have both native and introduced species.

Table 5.2 Annual report **Submission ID: 150-9**

General position

Support

Respondent: Callum Stins

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 29

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 29-1

General position

Oppose

Stop government over reach and over regulations, its every new Zealanders deer not the government they dont get to control our food sources

Respondent: Andrew Stroud

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 249

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 249

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Andrew Stroud - Sika submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Murray Sulzberger

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 86

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 86-1

General position

Support

I am in support of this proposed plan - as long as DoC do not use this as another weapon in its self-professed policy of extermination against deer species in the area.

If funding is used on the ground as opposed to disappearing into the black hole of business expenses then I am happy to support the policy

Respondent: Benjamin Swale

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 219

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 219

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Benjamin Swale -Sika submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Benjamin Swale - Sika supporting document -Greenwashing instructions.pdf

Respondent: Chris Thompson

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 10

1 Objective

Submission ID: 10-1

General position

Support

It is important to recognise that climate change will undoubtedly impact this ecosystem - through fires, habitat stress, new pests and diseases etc. - and the plan will need to be adaptive to this new reality.

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 10-2

General position

Support

Enhancing access opportunities for recreational hunters to overpopulated areas is important and may be more cost effective

7 Objective

Submission ID: 10-3

General position

Support in part

It is important to note the increasing impacts of climate change on this ecosystem, and a "steady state" based on historical data may be impossible to achieve. The plan will need to be highly adaptive, and not incorrectly attribute all impacts to Sika.

Map 1 Sika Herd of Special Interest Area

Submission ID: 10-4

General position

Support

How will Sika outside these areas be included?

2 Objective

Submission ID: 10-5

General position

Support

It would be great to recognise the value that non-hunters also attach to Sika. Viewing and photographing wildlife for example. The herd is special to many.

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 10-6

General position

Support

Hunter education needs to be part of this plan.

Respondent: Damian Thompson

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 162

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 162-1

General position

Support

Submission in Support of the Bill

I wish to express my full support for the Bill and the amendment to implement Herds of Special Interest (HOSI). I strongly agree with the Bill's intent to manage and protect these herds, and I support the proposed amendments that will ensure herds in National Parks are not subjected to statutory extermination obligations. Such obligations conflict with the management goals of these herds as special interest populations and hinder effective management strategies.

Importance of Game Animals in National Parks

Many of the potential 'special herds', such as sika, wapiti, tahr, and whitetail, are located within National Parks. These herds are a valuable resource for both recreational hunting and conservation efforts, making their management crucial. The presence of these animals in National Parks contributes to the overall biodiversity of these areas, and their careful, controlled management supports the broader goals of wildlife conservation.

Benefits of HOSI to Hunting and Conservation

The implementation of HOSI will provide significant benefits to both recreational hunting and conservation outcomes. By focusing on quality herd management, we can ensure that hunting experiences are improved through better-managed herds and animal densities. This, in turn, will reduce the negative impacts on the habitat and contribute to the preservation of native species. Effective management of these herds under the HOSI framework will help strike a balance between conservation goals and the enjoyment of our national parks and natural environments.

Suggestions for Legislative Improvement

While I fully support the proposed amendments, I believe the changes do not go far enough to achieve the purpose outlined in the Bill's statement and explanatory notes. I urge the Select Committee to consider addressing the existing conflicts of laws and the potential for legal challenges, which may undermine the Bill's effectiveness. There is concern that organisations like Forest & Bird may seek to challenge the management of these important game animals through legal action.

I suggest the following additional amendments to strengthen the Bill and better align it with the stated objectives:

1. **Exempt HOSI from the National Parks Act extermination policy** – By amending the National Parks Act, we can ensure that herds managed as special interest populations are not subject to automatic extermination policies that do not align with their long-term management and conservation.

2. **Amend Section 19(4) of the GAC Act** – To provide greater flexibility in herd planning, I suggest an amendment to this section, which would allow for more adaptive and responsive management strategies.
3. **Allow HOSI to be gazetted before herd management plans are approved** – This would streamline the process and ensure that the herds are recognised and managed as special interest herds prior to the finalisation of herd management plans, which can be time-consuming.

I believe these amendments will clarify the intent of the Bill, resolve any conflicts with existing legislation, and ensure the long-term success of managing herds of special interest in National Parks.

Respondent: Gwyn Thurlow - New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 226

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 226

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

[New Zealand Deerstalkers Association - Gwyn Thurlow - Sika covering letter.pdf](#)

[New Zealand Deerstalkers Association - Gwyn Thurlow - Sika submission.pdf](#)

Respondent: Lynda Topp

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 160

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 160-1

General position

Support in part

The Sika are an introduced species and is the only wild herd of of sika in the Southern Hemisphere. The HMP puts in place a management approach which recognises their value to hunters, which supports a wide range of values, physical and mental wellbeing, connection to the natural environment a sustainable source of food for communities and families, supports social connections, engages communities and hunter led conservation.

So the Herd and all these hunting values should be incorporated into the Objectives The plan must recognise hunter and community led management, hunting and conservation and economic outcomes.

Hunters must be recognised as conservationists who have a passion for the outdoors and their boots on the ground approach is integral to management of game animals, and the safe guarding of native species and their habitats. The proven example is the work of the Central North Island Sika Foundation, through game management, monitoring and trapping, which leads me to the importance of why the Game Animal Council provide advice to the Minister to establish HOSI and also prepare, review and implement herd management plans, that the Central North Island Sika Foundation are allowed to continue their day to day running of game management and conservation with the agreement from DOC that the Sika Herd is designated within the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Forest Parks.

Important that all Iwi involved in the designated area are consulted.

An amendment also to monitoring so that it directly relates to the impact the deer are having on the environment.

Thank you

Respondent: Gary Trow

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 107

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 107-1

General position

Support

Bring it on real deer management instead of the old school slaughter that hasn't worked

Respondent: Sef Truyens - Friends of Maara Roa

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 62

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 62-1

General position

Oppose

I do not support this management plan for the Herds of Special Interest. DOC parks and reserves were created to protect native biodiversity - our precious fauna and flora, and a plan to allow or to encourage non-native animals - such as Wapiti/Sika deer will undermine this objective and leave these areas in a worse state, as has already been well proven. I ask that this management plan for a herd of special interest be abolished.

Respondent: Patrick Turner

Submission Type: manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 224

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 224

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Patrick Turner - Sika submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Simon Upton - Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

**Submission
Type: portal**

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 164

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 164-1

PCE Feedback on Draft Herd Management Plan for Sika HOSI 8.12.2025.pdf

Respondent: Rob van Duivenboden

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 38

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 38-1

General position

Oppose in part

1.2 should promote road-end harvest for meat and not strategise solely for roar hunting of males.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 38-2

General position

Oppose in part

The objective is unclear.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 38-3

General position

Oppose in part

Local Conservation Management Plans should not be allowed to be incongruent with the Herd Management Plan.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 38-4

General position

Support in part

Sika should not be targeted for management unless they are demonstrated to be the key species in an identified problem. Threatened species are everywhere and threatened by many factors. unless they are shown to be directly responsible, Sika should not be managed or disproportionately targeted. e.g. for climate change relate vegetation changes/ drought effects on forest canopy.

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 38-5

General position

Oppose

1.4 Authorisations should be no more restrictive than currently.

1.5 Do not restrict year round meat hunting

1.6 "a restriction is otherwise required for management purposes" is ambiguous and unconstrained. Who decides and on what criteria will "substantial safety risks" be judged? the strategy lacks clarity.

1.7 would be supported if safe road end parking and better access was provided for. Otherwise the objective will be benefit only the wealthy.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 38-6

General position

Support in part

Access to the Sika herd must be improved. Sika management must not be for the benefit of local land owners, companies and commercial guides. Without safe and improved foot access, the objective may not be met. The herd should not be managed for just helicopter hunters and associated industry.

Table 1.10 Herd management hunts

Submission ID: 38-7

General position

Support in part

1.10 supported

1.11 a) should be provided and supported by DoC.

1.12 recovery should not be subject to efficiency and effectiveness criteria. A minima % for recovery should be required. Set that at 80%, or greater wherever practicable.

Respondent: Grant Vincent

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 189

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 189-1

General position

Oppose

I oppose the idea of protecting a destructive introduced species such as sika deer by creating this proposed Sika Herd of Special Interest in the Kaimanawa & Kaweka Conservation Parks.

As an aside, why do you keep calling them Forest Parks? I understand that they are both Conservation Parks under Section 61 of the Conservation Act 1987 and prior to this they were Forest Parks under the Forests Act 1949.

Being named correctly as Conservation Parks leads me happily to the main reason why these areas of Public Conservation Land exist - for the conservation of our planet-unique ecosystems and the special indigenous species that they contain.

The reasons why I oppose the creation of a protected, extensive herd of sika are mostly contained within the Draft Herd Management Plan as well as in other publications and ecological studies.

In 1982 a Recreational Hunting Area was gazetted in the northern part of the Kaimanawa Forest Park.

In 1986 an RHA was gazetted in the eastern part of the Kaweka Forest Park, both under the Wild Animal Control Act.

Sika deer numbers have increased since then (except perhaps during 1998 - 2015 when there was a DOC-led aerial deer control program, the Kaweka Mountain Beech Project) and I have no confidence that creating a HOSI will be any improvement at controlling sika deer numbers to a level that will enable decent ecological recovery in the Kaimanawa/Kaweka ranges.

In the Draft Plan it is stated that in areas of current deer damage that has created open areas, if deer are removed to low enough levels (which I have major doubts about) sapling growth to canopy closure can take up to 40 years. Everywhere in our country recreational hunting has never achieved decent ecological recovery because there are just not enough hunters killing enough deer. Unfortunately.

To quote from the Draft Plan (referring to the 1998-2015 aerial operation); "The use of other, less intensive methods in isolation was shown to be significantly less effective, with far longer recovery times." [for seedling/sapling growth to canopy closure]

From: Mountain beech forest dynamics in the Kaweka Range and the influence of browsing animals; Science For Conservation No.44 by Rob Allen & Cathy Allan (incl. 15 references to back up their research), published by DOC, April 1997 - Exclosure plots provide compelling evidence that sika seriously limit the regeneration/recruitment of mountain beech + some other native shrub species that have been growing much better within said exclosure plots.

In the Proposed Draft Herd Management Plan under the sub-heading; Hunting and managing for hunting purposes - "Even a low density sika population is likely to affect the regeneration of highly preferred palatable species...Highly preferred palatable species can be found throughout the forest parks in locations that are inaccessible to deer, such as on stream banks, bluff systems and stumps and beech buttresses in windfall areas, as well as on other plants as epiphytes."

So we are already starting from a very low bar (over 100 years of red and sika deer browse) where many (most) of the palatable species only survive in scattered refugia as detailed above.

And I will state again, that going by past (& recent) history, deer numbers will only ever be controlled down to low enough levels to allow decent ecological recovery, by large scale operations i.e. DOC and regional councils, not recreational hunting. Even a plan under the auspices and oversight of the Game Animal Council.

The Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan seems to be very light on detail as to the methodology and robustness of how these sika on Public Conservation Land will be "managed". Seems to me to be management for trophy animals with widescale ecological recovery a bit of an afterthought come tack-on.

I was looking in the Draft Plan for an actual figure of either total animals or animals per hectare for the Sika HOSI but I can't recall seeing that. I'm sure I would have written that down in my copious notes as I read through said Plan. Apologies if I've overlooked that, because I may be wrong. I've been wrong before!

Because this proposed HOSI covers almost the totality of both the Kaimanawa (77,348ha) & Kaweka (59,000ha) Conservation Parks (except for the small Kaimanawa southern outlier and the two southern outliers of the Kaweka C.P.) my thought is, there should be some figures regarding total numbers of a number that existing research and data shows would enable significant ecological recovery across the total of approximately 136,000ha.

I also don't recall seeing in the proposed Sika HOSI Management Plan how many hunters that the Sika Foundation has available to implement said Plan. Apologies if I'm wrong again!

This is from the Kaweka Forest Park Management Plan, 1991; "In terms of protection of natural values, eradication of deer, possums, goats, pigs and hares is highly desirable...The Department's stance [on deer] is quite clear...While it has a mandate to provide for recreation [including hunting?] this is subject to the overriding objective for management of the Park, which is protection of natural [i.e. indigenous/native/endemic] and historic resources. Therefore while recreational hunting is a useful method of animal control, if deer numbers increase to a level that is undesirable in terms of the ability of the native vegetation to regenerate and retain its diversity, further controls will be implemented to supplement this basic control."

Goes on to state under 5.1.5(i) on p.29; "The Park will be managed to ensure the protection of indigenous vegetation as far as possible in it's natural state.

Despite what may be the best intentions of the GAC and the Sika Foundation in making significant gains for conservation, I disagree for the reasons stated above.

Objective 1 of the Sika HOSI Draft Herd Management Plan states that; "Sika are managed in a manner that allows for the maintenance of forest ecosystem processes, including canopy regeneration and protects threatened species and their habitats."

Bearing in mind that the Kaimanawa/Kaweka is a vast expanse of native forest, shrublands, tussock grasslands and alpine areas, shouldn't these other ecosystems and habitats also be mentioned in Objective 1? I certainly

think so.

Which brings me to my final point. Bear with me...

Sika now range over 9,000 square kilometres of the Central North Island. Perhaps hunters could go trophy hunting there, while the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Conservation Parks could live up to their name and be for the full protection & conservation of our very special indigenous species and ecosystems.

Thank you. That's all from me.

Unless...is there a hearing? I'm sure I could add some details and expand on what I've written here. There may be something I've forgotten at this late stage of the process.

That's it, thank you again.

Grant Vincent,

Gisborne. Not too far from the Kawekas!

Respondent: John Voorend

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 118

1 Objective

Submission ID: 118-1

General position

Support

The Central North Island Sika herd plays an extremely important role to the social and economic "wellbeing" of the Central North Island region. It provides an important focus to a large population both centrally and nationally / internationally and proper management of the herd ensures a sustaining and ongoing "industry"

With proper management comes the need to ensure that firstly the sika herd is managed such that the sika population is healthy and that over population doesn't occur and secondly the environment is well maintained and healthy to sustain a managed sika population with the aim to achieve a balanced sika number / environment.

Respondent: s9(2)(a)

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 209

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 209-1

General position

Support

I would like my name and identifying information kept confidential. I consent to my statement being otherwise published.

In general I support the Sika Herd of Special Interest Plan.

I do not believe costs for managing the Sika herd or the plan should be born by hunters to any degree more than they are already done so in 2025. Any additional costs should come from public money.

The plan should encourage increase in Sika numbers, range, and genetic diversity.

Respondent: Gillian Ward

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 179

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 179-1

General position

Oppose

New Zealand's native ecosystems have evolved in the absence of introduced browsing animals like wapiti and sika deer, and even in low numbers they cause incredible damage to our native ecosystems by eating and trampling native plants and outcompeting native fauna for food. I have tramped in the Kaweka Ranges and am aware that sika deer eat silver beech seedlings, the canopy species in much of the ranges. Sika deer should be eradicated from the Kawekas. The natural forest, subalpine, and alpine ecosystems cannot tolerate browsing by sika deer. There is no justification for allowing browsing ungulates to remain in the conservation estate. Instead of perpetuating a "herd of special interest" there needs to be a plan to eradicate. or manage browsing ungulates to very low levels. throughout Aotearoa New Zealand so ecosystems can recover. The current exploding populations of deer, goats and pigs prevent regeneration and trash the ecosystems' ability to be effective carbon sinks.

Respondent: Tim Watson

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 178

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 178-1

General position

Support

Hello,

I'm writing in support of the draft management plan for the Sika Herd of Special Interest in the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Forest Parks. Having hunted both the Kawekas and Kaimanawas many times over the years, I've seen first-hand just how special this sika herd is, and how important it is that we manage it properly for the long haul.

The plan does a solid job of balancing healthy deer with healthy forests. The central North Island backcountry is a place I've returned to again and again, and it's clear that a structured, long-term plan is needed to protect both the herd and the unique habitats they live in. This draft strikes the right tone—practical, balanced, and future-focused.

As someone who's spent plenty of days in these hills, I know how much recreational hunters contribute—not just through hunting itself, but through the hours of unpaid work, the reporting of what we see on the ground, and the genuine care we have for the herd and the wider ecosystem. Keeping recreational hunting at the heart of herd management is the most realistic and effective approach. It respects the long history of sika hunting in the region and supports the ongoing stewardship hunters have always shown.

I strongly support the inclusion of an annual hunter survey. Hunters are out there season after season, noticing changes in behaviour, pressure, herd condition, and overall forest health. Building this information into the management framework helps keep things accountable and ensures the herd continues to meet the criteria of being a Herd of Special Interest.

The Sika Foundation has done exceptional work across the Kaimanawa and Kaweka landscapes. Their predator control, habitat projects, and collaboration with DOC have produced real gains that I've noticed myself over multiple trips into the area. Having them continue as a key partner makes complete sense—they've proven their commitment and capability time and time again.

For hunters like me, the central North Island sika herd is something truly special. The terrain, the challenge, the culture around sika hunting—it all contributes to why so many of us feel strongly connected to this part of the country. The herd also supports local communities and draws people from all over New Zealand. This plan provides a strong, sensible path to make sure sika remain part of our backcountry heritage without compromising the health of the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Forest Parks.

I fully support the draft management plan. It's balanced, practical, and recognises both the value of the herd and

the importance of protecting the wider environment. Continuing to involve recreational hunters, backing the Sika Foundation, and building in ongoing hunter feedback are all essential to ensuring this herd stays healthy and well-managed for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit.

Respondent: Karen Weatherhead

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 15

Table 1.4 General recreational hunting

Submission ID: 15-1

General position

Support in part

Do not support 1.7 Ballot system into Rez, Many people walk in there and hunt, so we do not want a cut and paste from the WaipitiHosi. Recreational hunters should have free access 365 days of the year,

The same goes for section 1.8, if it ensures 365 days access. If DOC assist with the Managed hunts for landing rights, keen. But there should be unlimited access for all recreational hunters 365 days of the year so fulfill the objectives of a healthy forest will generate a healthy eco system.

Respondent: Nic Weatherhead

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 5

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 5-1

General position

Support

It is imperative that all impacted groups have active participation and acceptance of the hosi objectives including GAC,Doc, lwi, conservationists, recreational hunters and CNSF.

The goal of the hosi is to provide a thriving forest that can be utilise and benefit all users of the park.

The downstream benefits of whio, kiwi kaka, a vibrant ecosystem balanced out by utilising the sika herd individual dynamics, data which has been collected over a number of decades enabling a healthy environment.

Imperative that lwi are consulted and participate in this process as at the end of the day, we are all NZ'ers that will ensure the hosi will work.

Down stream benefits will provide our youth will a greater opportunity of ensuring our future generations can maintaining a healthy forest that can sustain and all can

Respondent: Liz Weir - Mackenzie Guardians

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 130

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 130

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Mackenzie Guardians - Liz Weir - sika covering letter.pdf

Mackenzie Guardians - Liz Weir - sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Danette Wereta - Animal Justice Party

Submission Type:
manual

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 134

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 134

Please see submissions linked below. Note: The submissions linked below are available in the separate document - Sika Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Animal Justice Party - General Secretary Danette Wereta - sika covering letter.pdf

Animal Justice Party - General Secretary Danette Wereta - Sika submission.pdf

Respondent: Paul White

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 72

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 72-1

General position

Support

Respondent: Stefan Wiese

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 14

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 14-1

General position

Support

I support the intent of the Draft Sika Herd of Special Interest Management Plan and ask that the final plan continues to recognise the significant value of the Central North Island sika herd to Aotearoa. Sika are not only an important game species but also a meaningful cultural, social and food resource for many communities.

1. Cultural, Community and Heritage Values

The sika herd has become part of the modern cultural landscape of the Central North Island. For over a century, generations of hunters, whanau, and local communities have built traditions, relationships and identity around sika hunting. Managed well, sika can coexist with native biodiversity while continuing to provide opportunities that strengthen community wellbeing and outdoor heritage.

2. Food, Sustainability and Ethical Harvest

Sika provide healthy, free-range kai that supports household food security and local foodbanks. Ethical wild harvesting—particularly hind-focused population management—aligns with the plan's goals while ensuring a sustainable and humane source of venison. A well-managed herd reduces the need for wasteful aerial kill operations by engaging motivated hunters in conservation-focused harvesting.

3. Research and Conservation Gains Through Hunter Involvement

The hunting community contributes thousands of voluntary hours to conservation, monitoring and predator control. Maintaining the sika herd supports ongoing citizen-science data collection on herd dynamics, forest health, behaviour, genetics and long-term ecological interactions—research that is only possible because hunters are present and engaged.

4. Economic, Recreational and Social Benefits

Sika hunting drives domestic tourism, supports local businesses and gear suppliers, and fosters outdoor skills, fitness and intergenerational connection. A well-managed herd is a valuable national asset with real positive economic and social impacts, particularly for rural communities.

5. Support for a Balanced, Science-led Management Approach

I support the plan's emphasis on:

- maintaining low overall densities,
- focusing harvest on hinds to protect the ngahere,
- monitoring ecosystem health, and
- fostering partnership with iwi, DOC, the Game Animal Council and the Sika Foundation.

This balanced approach recognises the reality that sika are now an established part of the environment but can be managed to reduce impacts while retaining their significant recreational and cultural value.

In summary, I ask that DOC ensures the final plan:

- explicitly recognises the cultural, food-gathering and social importance of the sika herd,
- maintains the herd as a valued asset for future generations,
- continues to prioritise ethical hunting and community stewardship, and
- maintains strong collaboration with hunters, iwi and conservation groups.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important plan.

Respondent: Monty Williams

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 49

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 49-1

General position

Support

I support the proposal for a herd of special interest for Sika deer within the Kaimanawa and Kaweka forest parks/ Kaweka conservation area.

Having a herd of special interest is vital for proper management of deer within New Zealand - rather than the ad hoc, boom and bust of control that has occurred in the park.

Having no deer within this landscape is unrealistic, unfeasible at present and does not have social licence from a large amount of society. Managing deer to lower numbers to reduce their impact whilst also allowing for food collection and recreational hunting should be seen as a pragmatic, win/win conservation efforts and hunting - which is a way of life for many.

Respondent: Rodney Williams

Submission Type:
portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 66

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 66-1

General position

Support

I strongly support the plan.

Recreational deer hunting is a major resource for the country. It has both financial and social benefits for the community as a whole.

A plan which manages the herd as a valued resource is essential. A boom and bust deer population is of no benefit to the community, forest or deer. Sustainable management is essential for a healthy forest and deer population.

I believe that Sika deer should be managed with plans similar to those for trout within the area.

I sincerely hope that this unique and valuable resource will be managed to ensure a sustainable future for the forest, community and sika herd.

Respondent: Grant Wilson

Submission Type: portal

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 75

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 75-1

General position

Support