

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Raw Submissions Record

Consultation Start Date: 10/11/25

Consultation End Date: 08/12/25

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Respondent: Rhys Adams

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 127

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 127-1

General position

Support

In general, I support the draft Plan and consider it a suitable framework to support the objectives as set out for hunting and conservation.

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 127-2

General position

Support in part

I recommend a rewriting of Strategy 1.6 to support the opportunity to hunt for Wapiti trophy bulls in winter.

I wish to retain the current opportunity that Wapiti trophy bulls can be hunted from the end of the ballot period till approximately the end of July (before shedding). This is to provide hunters that do not win the ballot an opportunity to harvest a mature trophy bull. With an increasing popularity of the ballot there is a potential (random chance) that a hunter may never win a ballot for a core block. Therefore, winter hunting is the only non-balloted opportunity available to hunt Wapiti bulls on core block and is a valued opportunity.

Respondent: James Airey

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 156

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 156-1

General position

Support

I fully support this bill in its entirety. This is a once in a generation chance to change how we manage game animals in this country.

I fully support the fiordland wapiti foundation and the minister the Right honourable James Meager along with the Game animal Council and their collective mutual objectives and or mission statements.

Respondent: Peter Airey

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 144

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 144-1

General position

Support

I fully support the establishment of the Wapiti herd as a Head of Special Interest under the proposed plan and the strategies and objectives outlined by the Wapiti Foundation. The wapiti herd has been and should continue to 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 & economic benefits provided to the community are very significant. As a hunter I truly value this resource (Wapiti) and the spectacular environment of Fiordland and strongly believe creation HOSI status for wapiti will continue to benefit both. The work that the Wapiti Foundation has undertaken on purely voluntary basis for many years has been an outstanding success & is proof of how this can be achieved.

Respondent: Ben Alai

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 193

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 193-1

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 193-2

General position

Support

I think the penalty for shooting young/small bulls should be banned anywhere from 5-10 years and a fine \$10,000 NZ\$.

I see too many videos of people shooting young bulls promoting this bad behaviour. I believe it should be very clear, if you are lucky enough to win a ballot. Realistically the chances of shooting a mature bull is 5-10%, so expect to go home empty handed. If you have to shoot a stag/bull then this hunt isnt for you.

This is very common in North America, strict rules on what you can and cannot shoot with harsh penalty if you break them.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 193-3

General position

Support

Respondent: Bruce Allan - Project Peel Incorporated Society

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 311

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 311

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

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

Respondent: Benjamin Allen

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 172

2 Objective

Submission ID: 172-1

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 172-2

General position

Support in part

I support the proposal in part but some amendments are required to fine tune it so it works well for the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation .

3 Objective

Submission ID: 172-3

General position

Support in part

All funds should be sent directly from funding sources

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 172-4

General position

Support in part

I support the proposal in part but some amendments are required to fine tune it so it works well for the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation .

4 Objective

Submission ID: 172-5

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 172-6

General position

Support

I personally value the wapiti due to their uniqueness, I hope to someday secure a ballot and experience them in person

Respondent: Ross Allen - NZDA Southern Lakes Branch

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 315

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 315

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

Southern Lakes NZDA - Ross Allen - Wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Jake Allender

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 226

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 226-1

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 226-2

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 226-3

General position

Support

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 226-4

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 226-5

General position

Support

Respondent: Brian Allison

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 157

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 157-1

General position

Support

I support this bill because it makes good sense to manage wild animals in an effective manner for conservation and create good outcomes for all parties involved.

Respondent: Travers Amoores

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 29

9 Objective

Submission ID: 29-1

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 29-10

General position

Support

We need hunters to buy in to make the HOSI a success.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 29-11

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 29-2

General position

Support

The funding should go straight to Fiordland Wapiti Foundation so that they don't need to go cap in hand to the government of the day for funding. Future governments could weaponize funding and resource allocation if they don't agree with the HOSI. We need to prevent this from being a factor now.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 29-3

General position

Support

The FWF is already doing this. This needs to continue.

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 29-4

General position

Support

International hunters should pay far more than kiwis for the opportunity to hunt Wapiti. The maximum percentage of international hunters each ballot period should be capped to give Kiwis priority.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 29-5

General position

Neutral

opportunities for Iwi should not come at the expense of other groups just based on heritage. A lot of non Iwi affiliated New Zealanders have deep connections to the Wapiti and the land. Opportunity needs to be equal for everybody.

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 29-6

General position

Support

I am strongly in support of the HOSI proposal for the Fiordland Wapiti herd.

Ever since the Wapiti were gifted to our country by Teddy Roosevelt, they have been an underappreciated asset. They have added immensely to New Zealand's outdoors culture. A wapiti hunt and the impressive trophy that can come with it if successful is an aspirational hunt for many kiwis and even international visitors. I believe that as a community, we have a duty of care to maintain this precious gift from one of history's greatest conservationists for our future generations to enjoy seeing and hunting in the wild. I believe we also have a duty of care to maintain the Wapiti out of respect for such an impressive animal that has made such rugged country their home and thrived.

Since its inception, the Fiordland wapiti foundation has done outstanding work controlling the Wapiti population through culling undesirable traits and excessive numbers. The amount of work that they have done to control pests in the Wapiti region is first rate. The Wapiti ballot that they run is a great success story. They have garnered respect from the local and international communities due to their dedication to conservation. The HOSI is an essential part of protecting the Wapiti and ensuring that the work of the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation will continue.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 29-7

General position

Support

This is an aspirational hunt for many New Zealanders and hunters from abroad. It is a personal dream of mine to one day be successful in the Wapiti zone.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 29-8

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 29-9

General position

Support

Wapiti have a huge cultural significance to many kiwis and we should do our best to maintain a healthy balance between the Wapiti and the landscape. I reject the notion that they are a pest, they are a valued introduced species, and a precious resource to many kiwis who want a world class wild experience.

Respondent: Alexander Amyes

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 23

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 23-1

General position

Oppose in part

in relation to section 3.3 I am concerned with how actively the hunting in Fiordland is going to be promoted to international "markets"

Anecdotally, I have heard of, and seen on youtube, quite a few overseas hunters applying for and getting Wapiti ballot blocks, reducing the number of available spots for true New Zealand based hunters.

There is no word here on who the management is primarily targeted to benefit.

The wording in other sections makes me worry that turning over the control of the animals and hunting rights in this area will create a private game park on public land.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 23-2

General position

Oppose

I am a hunter.

As a citizen of New Zealand. I have hunted in Fiordland both inside the fwf ballot system and in the national park but outside the Wapiti area.

I am deeply concerned with the proposition of game wardens issuing and enforcing fines for hunting a wild animal on public land that an unelected group has determined goes against their interests.

I am also concerned that any "heard of special interest" will, eventually, be packaged as a product, by the people that control them, and be increasingly marketed (as proposed in this draft) to international hunters. wealthy and or very influential figures will obviously be highly valued as when the demand among these classes is sufficient, any license fee can be increased across the board.

In short. As a hunter, I have no interest in a group capturing a public resource only to have it be selectively culled and the privilege of hunting a supposedly wild heard sold back to me.

I love hunting. I would still hunt deer if they never had a chance to get to the size the attained when they were first released. I don't mind paying tax or even a booking fee for ballots. I do mind someone setting up game wardens and threats of fines if what I shoot doesn't pass the mark they have arbitrarily decided on.

I oppose the heard of special interest bill if this is included

Respondent: Kieran Anderson

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 316

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 316

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

Kieran Anderson - wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Lynne Anderson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 38

3 Objective

Submission ID: 38-1

General position

Oppose

A great shame that our special and irreplaceable National Parks can be sold for commercial use.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 38-2

General position

Oppose

Deer will never be able to be controlled in such an environment so as not to damage the natural ecosystem. Deer are selective grazers, eating what is palatable first - devastating the natural regeneration - so slowly over time the forest will change to have the less palatable species dominating. Deer are already in plague proportions in many parts of the county. I have been in areas where there was NO regeneration what so ever. It is very selfish to future generations to not protect these National Parks as they should be protected and maintain them as to how they have evolved for thousands of years.

The terrain is so inaccessible - how will these herds ever be controlled to keep numbers down??

2 Objective

Submission ID: 38-3

General position

Oppose

The preservation of a National Park should come before any commercial venture. It takes years for a high quality bull to develop into one - so meantime they are devastating our endemic forests and bushland.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 38-4

General position

Oppose

I just don't believe numbers can be controlled and kept so low as to preserve the National Park in its pristine state. 20 years time? 50 years time? 200 years time? It will be too late. Just need one generation who loses interest - and numbers will be beyond being able to be controlled.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 38-5

General position

Oppose

Hunters will only be interested in hunting and not in preserving the environment - as long as the deer are there they will be happy - and probably not too concerned in what numbers. The next generation of hunters come along and then the forests look like the 'new normal'

7 Objective

Submission ID: 38-6

General position

Oppose

How is this going to be monitored?? It starts with words and plans - as soon as the deer are in there in numbers - it will be goodbye National Parks. The deer hunter fraternity are a very small percentage of the NZ population - National Parks are for everyone.

Respondent: Robert Anderson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 45

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 45-1

General position

Support

I strongly support the proposed Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Herd Management Plan. This plan represents a world-class framework that successfully balances wildlife management, ecological restoration, cultural values, and high-quality recreational hunting.

New Zealand has something globally unique in its Fiordland wapiti herd. The approach outlined in this plan recognises the immense value of this herd and provides a sophisticated, science-backed structure to ensure its long-term future.

Respondent: Robert Andrew

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 166

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 166-1

General position

Support

I fully support the HOSI plan.

As a hunter for the past 55 years of my 65 years born and raised in this country I believe this plan would benefit both hunters and conservationists.

The sika foundation is another hunting group that also does alot of work in pest control in the Kaimanawas.

Both of these groups represent all that is good about this HOSI plan

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 166-2

General position

Support

I support 100%

Respondent: Sam Ashby

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 169

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 169-1

General position

Support in part

I fully support the way that the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation are looking after both the Wapiti herd and also the conservation of the Wapiti area. I have explored the area both as a ballot winner/permit holder and to help the FWF with their predator trapping efforts. I believe that the way they can generate their own income by charging hunters and using that to cull animals post hunting season and protect the native flora and fauna is amazing. The FWF should be left to continue management as they have for the past 20 years. The money they generate should be completely theirs to spend how they see fit. I believe that the authority to enforce the lawful hunting should lay with the Game Animal Council or similar, and that DOC should be consulted with during the process but have no enforcement or legislative input. DOC have given the general hunting public too many reasons to not trust them anymore. This relationship can be helped by assisting those groups that the public trust to manage the area.

Respondent: Andrew Austen

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 116

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 116-1

General position

Support

Respondent: Karen Austen

**Submission Type:
portal**

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 271

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 271-1

General position

Support

Respondent: Dee Austring

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 27

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 27

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

Dee Austring s9(2)(a) Wapiti.pdf

Respondent: Clare Backes

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 56

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 56-1

General position

Oppose

In the Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan, it is stated that:

the Plan attempts to balance the critically important task of conserving New Zealand's most precious wild spaces in their natural state with the day-to-day realities of conservation and wild animal management.

Further it states that:

Of particular importance are the benefits of improved ecological outcomes for indigenous species and ecosystems through targeted population management, regular monitoring and responsible harvest decision making by the hunting community.

None of these outcomes are proven. There have been claims in the past that these introduced ungulates can be controlled by selective hunting, to a level where they do not damage the indigenous ecosystems. It has not happened as promised. For those of us who are lucky enough to go tramping, we see extensive damage by deer and goats, even in areas where they are supposedly controlled.

Our National Parks are special places; in law the indigenous plants and animals have to be protected. Having a herd of special interest is contrary to that aim.

There is no scientific evidence to show that herds of special interest are compatible with our most treasured places. National Parks belong to all New Zealanders – both now and in the future, they are not reserves for hunters. They should be managed entirely to preserve the indigenous flora and fauna, not to maintain herds of animals to be hunted. There are private lands where deer and goats can be hunted – safer for the hunter and the public and a source of income for the land owner.

Respondent: Rhys Bailey

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 173

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 173-1

General position

Support

I support the Wapiti Herd of Special Interest management plan.

Our Fiordland Wapiti herd needs to be managed as it has been for the past two decades by the Fiordland Wapiti foundation, without the risk of being legally attacked by groups like Forest and Bird.

The Fiordland Wapiti foundation does a huge amount of non tax payer founded work to manage this herd and look after the ecosystem where they live.

I hope common sense prevails and the Herd of Special interest becomes law.

Respondent: Bernard Bangham

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 245

5 Objective

Submission ID: 245-1

General position

Neutral

8 Objective

Submission ID: 245-10

General position

Support

Map 2 Fiordland Wapiti Area - Close up

Submission ID: 245-11

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 245-12

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 245-13

General position

Support

This should be the goal nation wide

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 245-14

General position

Support in part

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 245-15

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 245-16

General position

Support in part

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 245-17

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 245-18

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 245-19

General position

Neutral

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 245-2

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 245-20

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 245-21

General position

Support

A unique herd with backing from people and an organisation willing to privately fund conservation efforts from within the hunting community

7 Objective

Submission ID: 245-3

General position

Support in part

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 245-4

General position

Neutral

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 245-5

General position

Neutral

2 Objective

Submission ID: 245-6

General position

Support

Amazing hunting opportunity that is a large part of peoples lives and goals

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 245-7

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 245-8

General position

Support in part

3 Objective

Submission ID: 245-9

General position

Support

Hunter led conservation, funded by the hunting community and not the general tax player. This speaks for itself, this should be a solution nation wide.

Respondent: Derek Barnston

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 327

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 327

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

Derek Barnston - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Craig Benbow

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Craig Benbow - wapiti covering letter.pdf

Respondent: Daniel Billett

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 140

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 140-1

General position

Support

The work the FWF have done in managing this herd and providing free pest control on the public estate should be fully supported and commended. The amount of meat provided to families in need as well as the tourism benefits to the country needs to be considered when debating this subject.

Respondent: Shane Borrell

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 198

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 198-1

General position

Support

The Wapiti herd in Fiordland is “a herd of special interest” and the I support such a designation under the Game Animal Council Act. 2.

Respondent: Owen Braaksma

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 197

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 197-1

General position

Support

I %100 support animals like the wapiti, sika and hopefully tahr in the future becoming herds of special interest here in NZ. These animals are precious resource to our country and as a proud New Zealand hunter, we as a country need to realize these animals must have "value" if we them to be managed correctly. These animals are special and worth something to us as a nation as do our landscapes. Both land and animal conservation goals can work together as it has overseas.

I have seen first hand the great work the wapiti foundation has done in fiordland. The wapiti area is managed by volunteer hunters and they have done a better job at looking after native plants, birds and wildlife than any government funded DOC efforts any where else that ive seen. Put a value on these animals so it can create revenue to protect the mountains they call home even more and also keep our rich hunting heritage.

Respondent: Ken Bradley

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 46

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 46-1

General position

Support

I have watch the Wapiti issue for over 65 years, the present operation with the FWF is by far the best programme that has ever been in place. I totally support their work, and the results are there to see. Herd control plus active conservation and facility management.

Respondent: Bruce Brewer

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 37

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 37-1

General position

Oppose

This submission is identical to one on the Sika HOSI draft Management Plan, suggesting that the plans do not give adequate regard to the requirements of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 as set out 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

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 290

1 Objective

Submission ID: 290-1

General position

Support

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation. Have been successfully managing numbers and using adaptive management plans that are gold standard worldwide. They are also responsible for conservation efforts bird reporting better than any other community group. What they have put forward as a herd of special interest is the benefit of the area they are not trying to let deer overrun the place like certain groups want people to believe elsewhere.

This is a great opportunity to develop and grow this into a bigger management and more productive studies on flora fauna and animals a win win for everybody.

Respondent: Ella Briscall

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 105

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 105-1

General position

Support in part

I support the herd management plan however I believe some amendments are needed to fully work for the Fiordland Wapiti herd.

The herd management plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Wapiti. They are a herd steeped in history, having been gifted to NZ from Roosevelt in the early 1900s. Some of these early elk interbred with red deer, creating a unique hybrid. They are stunning animals, and a true thrill to hunt in Fiordland's beautiful landscapes. These Wapiti, like many of our other animal herds, bring in hunters from many places out of NZ. This in itself creates space for businesses and brings in money.

The herd management plan should support hunter and community led management. This involves positive social and economic outcomes.

All funds made must go straight to the 'working' end so it can be implemented quickly and easily into management of the herd. In most cases the Wapiti Herd Foundation. That means it has no need to go through Doc or the Government, thus meaning they have one less thing to juggle. Financial reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan. The operational plan should be flexible, so it can be easily and quickly changed to suit the need of the herd and ecosystem at that time. It should be separate from the herd management plan, so as to keep things simple and easy for the Wapiti Herd Foundation. Monitoring vegetation as an easy and effective way of keeping both the herd and ecosystem healthy. It helps to enable an adaptive plan while being cheap and easy to maintain. Monitoring will reflect the true impact of the Wapiti far better than faecal pellet counts etc...

Delegations should be assigned to groups with the right skill sets. The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation have the skills, passion and time required to implement and manage HOSI and the operational plan. A Wapiti HOSI is not about 'control' of the herd, it is about 'active management' of the herd so that it can thrive in and alongside our native ecosystem in a harmonious way.

Respondent: Matt Broadhurst

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 65

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 65-1

General position

Support

Respondent: Helen Brosnan - New Zealand Fish and Game

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 246

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 246-1

General position

Oppose

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

Attachment 1 About Fish and Game.pdf

Respondent: Ben Brown

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 113

2 Objective

Submission ID: 113-1

General position

Support

The Wapiti ballot system needs to be updated as the archaic pure luck system reduces the buy in to the Wapiti HOSI for those that never get a ballot after trying for 5-10 years. Hard to get behind something when you never get a chance to experience it.

In reality the wapiti area can only be experienced as the pinnacle of deer hunting in new zealand during the bugle. Outside of the bugle waro is occurring frequently which means the experience is no different to hunting South Westland, Mt Aspiring and Arthurs Pass East.

There really needs to be a waro stand down period post the bugle to allow hunters that never get a ballot a fair chance of hunting the wapiti herd. Say all of May no Waro. I was not happy with FWF when they were completing WARO a week and half after the ballot while I was in there.

As an experienced, well educated hunter its becoming harder and harder to get behind a herd that you never get experience the pinnacle of. In theory, I may only ever get to experience the ballot once or twice in my lifetime. Yes selfish, but this problem is encountered by 90%+ of hunters that apply for the ballot. Lastly, the FWF has the money to update the ballot system (7 years in reserve from the last I heard) so why is the lazy approach/system still being used? Make it fair and more hunters will buy into the HOSI. Who's gonna care about big bulls if you never get a chance to see them in person i.e. during the bugle?

Respondent: Wynn Brown

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 75

1 Objective

Submission ID: 75-1

General position

Support

Being able to hunt is every kiwis right and this makes us different to most other countries in the world

it makes us resourceful and keeps us healthy in both body and mind

wapiti and the challenging enviourment they live in is the meca or ultimate challenge something most nz hunters aspire to or dream about

Respondent: Jess Bullock

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 15

1 Objective

Submission ID: 15-1

General position

Oppose

Do not proceed with this bill. All efforts need to be made to keep pest species out of national parks as they are supposed to be protected areas for native wildlife to thrive. Purposely introducing pests will end up with native species dying

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 15-2

General position

Oppose

Do not proceed with this bill. All efforts need to be made to keep pest species out of national parks as they are supposed to be protected areas for native wildlife to thrive. Purposely introducing pests will end up with native species dying

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 15-3

General position

Oppose

Do not proceed with this bill. All efforts need to be made to keep pest species out of national parks as they are supposed to be protected areas for native wildlife to thrive. Purposely introducing pests will end up with native species dying

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 15-4

General position

Oppose

Do not proceed with this bill. All efforts need to be made to keep pest species out of national parks as they are supposed to be protected areas for native wildlife to thrive. Purposely introducing pests will end up with native species dying.

Respondent: Richard Burdon

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 51

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 51-1

General position

Support

Well done on getting this important proposal to Stage Two – this is a major step in the right direction for Fiordland wapiti, for conservation, and for the wider hunting community in New Zealand. My Name Is Richard Burdon, I am a farmer, an outfitter as well as being involved in Wai Wanaka, Hunters for Conservation Trust, the Dallas Safari Club board, and the New Zealand Professional Hunting Guides Association, this submission is made with a strong commitment to high-quality game management that goes hand-in-hand with biodiversity and the environmental and cultural values of Fiordland

The designation of the Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest and the development of a formal Draft Herd Management Plan represent a landmark evolution in how New Zealand manages game animals on public conservation land. This formal, statutory process under the Game Animal Council Act 2013, led by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing and supported by the Department of Conservation and the Game Animal Council, is exactly the type of structured framework that will protect conservation values while recognising the enduring value of wapiti as a managed hunting resource.?

Wapiti were first introduced into New Zealand in 1905, so the Fiordland herd has now existed here for well over a century. After 100 years, it is entirely appropriate that this herd is recognised as a Herd of Special Interest, with a dedicated management plan to secure its future and set clear objectives around biodiversity, habitat condition, and high-quality hunting opportunities.?

Many of the statutes that shape how New Zealand manages wild animals and protected areas date back several decades, and there are numerous overlapping Acts and plans that affect the “great outdoors” and the game animals that live there, including the National Parks Act, Conservation Act, Wild Animal Control Act, General Policy for National Parks, the Southland Murihiku Conservation Management Strategy, and the Fiordland National Park Management Plan. This Plan sits within that framework and provides much-needed clarity by focusing specifically on Fiordland wapiti, aligning herd management with those higher-level conservation instruments rather than cutting across them.

Respondent: Salassa Burton

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 346

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 346

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

Salassa Burton - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Pene Burton Bell

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 170

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 170-1

General position

Oppose

I do not support this management plan for the Herds of Special Interest for the Fiordland Wapiti 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 Wapiti will undermine this objective and leave these areas in a worse state, as has already been well studied and proven.

Damage caused by deer reduce the ability of our forests to rehabilitate and grow, and to trap carbon.

Given the significant threat presented by climate change, this plan which will benefit the few with the cost borne by many, should not be allowed.

I ask that this management plan for the fiordland Wapiti herd of special interest be abolished.

Respondent: Simon Buschl

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 281

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 281-1

General position

Support

97 Days is the timeframe I have spent inside the Fiordland Wapiti Area. 30 Years I have spent in NZ. 20 Years I have spent Travelling Aotearoa, specifically its Mountains. The Fiordland Wapiti area is Taonga to me without them in this National Park giving me a purpose, a drive, a reason to be present in such a beautiful landscape I and many others annually would fear the area would be forgotten, lost and unappreciated. My Heart beats deep for these animals and the whole ecosystem in which they thrive! They are all one in the same.

I am in full support for the Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interests Herd Management plan.

All concerns regarding undulate pressure on our Native Taonga is covered under section 2 (Undertake monitoring and research to support management and decision making) to a significantly higher and more comprehensive standard than the current Department of Conservation standard could even consider in such a large land area.

This Section alone proves the significantly positive impact a Hosi and a Herd Management Plan will have on such an important ecological area of NZ.

Respondent: Dennis Buurman

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 11

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 11-1

General position

Support

I believe the Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan is a well thought out plan, that comprehensively demonstrates a methodology of managing the Fiordland Wapiti Herd taking into account all relevant interests.

I believe it is imperative that this plan is adopted to ensure the future welfare of both the wapiti herd and the conservation values of this magnificent area of the South Island of New Zealand.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the plan.

Respondent: Jesse Bythell - NZ Plant Conservation Network

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 302

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 302

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

NZ Plant Conservation Network - Jesse Bythell - Wapiti coverng letter.pdf

Respondent: Edgar Cagua

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 263

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 263-1

General position

Oppose

I oppose the Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest (HOSI) in its current form due to its significant cost burden and its inconsistency with the National Parks Act. Managing wapiti as a designated herd for hunting purposes risks shifting substantial operational and monitoring costs onto the public while prioritising recreational game management over ecological restoration. This approach also conflicts with section 4(2)(b) of the National Parks Act, which requires the extermination of introduced species as far as possible. National parks and UNESCO World Heritage sites should not be repurposed as de facto game parks for maintaining or enhancing introduced species, as this undermines their core purpose of preserving natural ecosystems in perpetuity. The resources required to implement the HOSI would be far better directed toward genuine ecosystem restoration, indigenous species recovery, and biosecurity work that aligns with New Zealand's conservation legislation and international obligations.

Respondent: Pete Caldwell

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 292

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 292-1

General position

Support in part

HOSI plans are a positive move forward, and allow for proactive management that maintains ungulate populations at sustainable levels.

Firstly, the Fiordland Wapiti HOSI Draft Herd Management Plan could be vastly improved. For example, the objectives are poorly written, and make it nearly impossible to determine if they have been met, and by when. If this plan has been put in place to understand if wapiti can be successfully managed (which it has, to my understanding), then the objectives should be replaced with some that are measurable and timebound. This should have been identified well before it was released for consultation. The omission of goals (which should be achieved by the completion of objectives) is also surprising. My key question for this section is, "Who has done/ will do the peer review for this plan?" I would expect that an international expert will have looked over this, given they have decades of experience with such plans and know what has and has not worked. An expert, such as Jim Heffelfinger (world-renowned deer/ungulate/wildlife biologist), would highlight areas for improvement quickly, rather than learning the hard way over the following several years. I can make the introduction to Jim if you see this as valuable (and he will be in New Zealand in February).

Secondly, there is some concern in the community over Objective 3. I have heard from numerous hunters that the wapiti hunting opportunities have already become elitist due to the unreasonably high cost. Many New Zealanders would love the opportunity to hunt wapiti but simply cannot afford the entry and success fees, on top of the travel costs to get there. I expect there is a way to significantly increase the cost to international hunters to offset the cost to New Zealand hunters.

The two key points above are (in my view) relatively serious flaws in what should be an opportunity to get HOSI management plans right and create a positive precedent. However, they are also simple fixes and worth rectifying now before they are used by detractors as leverage for how HOSI management plans have been poorly developed and implemented.

I commend all those involved in getting us to a successful model of a HOSI, but it is worth getting right, even if this includes admitting that the draft plan should be overhauled and reviewed by experts.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Pete Caldwell

Respondent: Jenny Campbell - Coal Action Murihiku

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 295

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 295

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

Jenny Campbell - Wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Matt Campbell

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 269

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 269-1

General position

Support

Respondent: Debbie Care

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 64

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 64-1

General position

Support

I am writing to provide my submission on the *Draft Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Herd Management Plan*. I wish to state clearly that I support the proposal and the designation of Fiordland wapiti as a Herd of Special Interest under the Game Animal Council Act 2013. In my view, this framework provides the strongest, most coherent pathway to achieving improved ecological outcomes, a high-quality hunting experience, and durable long-term management of the herd.

Dr Debbie Submission on the Draft Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest.docx

Respondent: Luke Care - NZ Tahr Foundation

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 237

1 Objective

Submission ID: 237-1

General position

Support in part

What ecological processes are in need of restoration? A binding plan needs more specificity about an issue that needs addressing

8 Objective

Submission ID: 237-10

General position

Support

Research must be considered for the animals themselves, not just vegetation

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 237-11

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 237-12

General position

Support in part

Primarily during the bugle, but access for hunting should be available after the bugle as well

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 237-13

General position

Support in part

Under heading 'Conservation and introduced species'

There is no differentiation between canopy and palatable species regeneration. Canopy species regeneration can be achieved with moderate levels of management, the statement of 'intensive management' applies to palatable species regeneration.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 237-14

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 237-15

General position

Support in part

Ecological monitoring should be undertaken by a third party such as Manaaka Whenua, especially in regards to 2.2

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 237-16

General position

Support in part

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

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 237-17

General position

Support in part

No mention of gender bias. Management should focus primarily on the breeding unit for effective management, but will include inferior males.

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 237-18

General position

Support in part

1.1 - amend to Wapiti 'management' targets. They are a valued introduced species

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 237-19

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 237-2

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 237-20

General position

Neutral

7 Objective

Submission ID: 237-21

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 237-3

General position

Support in part

Why is 4.4 required, the GAC act gives the plan it's legislative framework, so coordination should be with GAC

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 237-4

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 237-5

General position

Support in part

3.9 should give primacy to recreational hunting

9 Objective

Submission ID: 237-6

General position

Support in part

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

Nowhere in the objectives does it address the value of Wapiti to hunters. We need an objective that the plan maintains the value of wapiti to the hunting community, 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.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 237-7

General position

Support in part

Iwi integration is a fundamental part of the HOSI model, but must be structured in a way to allow for the HOSI to proceed while the mechanisms are worked out

3 Objective

Submission ID: 237-8

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 237-9

General position

Support in part

Support the bulk of this section.

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.

Wapiti HMP_NZTF.pdf

Respondent: Craig Carey

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 128

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 128-1

General position

Support

For close to a century now, extermination has been the accepted mandate in legislation. Here and elsewhere in the country that approach has been an extraordinary failure, due to a wide range of factors such as location, funding, reliance on meat market prices and private enterprise. Its also created a measure of mistrust in govt conservation that pushes Hunters to choose not to work with conservation authorities. It's created cycles of boom and bust that only ever achieved degradation of the herd while never achieving conservation goals.

However the approach taken by the Wapiti foundation and its partners has been able to provable show a framework for consistent, concise control of the herd that benefits conservation and improves the herd.

The added benefit of predator control is outstanding as well.

When we look at this approach, and compare it too where extermination is still the mandate, it's obvious that this model far excels over the old approach.

These animals have established themselves as historically and culturally important to a wide range of new Zealanders, and it makes sense to accept that and work with those sectors of society, giving then an assurance of future longevity for the herd, and building a measure of trust that allows for improved conservation and herd gains.

In conclusion I fully support the Herds of special interest management plan.

Thank you.

Respondent: Bianca Carvalho

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 138

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 138-1

General position

Oppose

I oppose giving deer any type of legal protection on conservation land. However, sadly it looks like this decision is already going ahead, so these are the non-negotiable conditions that must be met:

Independent ecological / scientific monitoring by neutral ecologists.

Strict 5-year review cycles to reassess deer numbers and ecosystem health.

Annual public reporting on ecosystem impacts.

No restrictions on pest-control operations.

Mandatory large-scale deer culls if ecological health declines.

Treaty clauses and treaty settlement obligations must be upheld and implemented.

Scrap the whole HOSI when it doesn't meet these targets in 5 years.

Respondent: Te Atarau Cassidy

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 137

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 137-1

General position

Oppose in part

I oppose giving deer any type of legal protection on conservation land. However, sadly it looks like this decision is already going ahead, so these are the non-negotiable conditions that must be met:

Independent ecological / scientific monitoring by neutral ecologists.

Strict 5-year review cycles to reassess deer numbers and ecosystem health.

Annual public reporting on ecosystem impacts.

No restrictions on pest-control operations.

Mandatory large-scale deer culls if ecological health declines.

Treaty clauses and treaty settlement obligations must be upheld and implemented.

Scrap the whole HOSI when it doesn't meet these targets in 5 years.

Respondent: Tumai Cassidy

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 107

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 107-1

General position

Oppose

I oppose the protection of any invasive pest species on our conservation estate within the Ngai Tahu Takiwa.

The concept of HOSI and the intentions of the plan for Fiordland does not give effect to the Crown's treaty obligations. It also fails to meet certain guarantees by the Crown to Ngai Tahu in the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, including the promise by the Crown to enter into a new age of co-operation with Ngai Tahu and Ngai Tahu decision making roles within the DOC system for the management of the National Parks and Taonga Species, which are increasingly impacted by ungulates. It also fails to implement the recognition of Ngai Tahu Rangatiratanga.

The Crown is currently failing to meet and uphold these promises and a HOSI would further undermine what Ngai Tahu and the Crown negotiated and settled in 1998.

I am not convinced the HOSI concept will generate conservation outcomes that meet the needs of the environment and taonga species. And the proposed monitoring programme is a joke. I have not seen mention of exclusion plots at all.

It is absolutely embarrassing when you think of our forefathers, who saw the damage deer were causing and tried to eradicate them from Fiordland. They understood what was at stake and risked their lives removing tens of thousands in the 60's via helicopters.

There will always be deer to hunt in this country, they're out of control in so many areas, largely because hunters focus on stags. There is absolutely no need to give them legal protection on conservation land. All that will do is accelerate deer population growth, block urgently needed population-control culls in the future, and set a terrible precedent. Our forests will become even more degraded, and as every good hunter knows, degraded forests mean skinny, unhealthy deer.

Instead, support hunters and conservationists properly, pay them to remove deer especially hinds, build new huts on conservation land to make access easier, and back them with the resources and technology required for effective population control that create measurable conservation outcomes. Make population and commercial culling including WARO easier to undertake by cutting unnecessary red tape.

Technology has advanced rapidly in the last 20 years. We know our forefathers trialled toxins for ungulate control in the 1970s. I believe an effective toxin for ungulate population control could be developed with the right investment and science. We must be open to utilising all available tools in the tool box. Because we certainly aren't going to eat or trophy hunt our way out of this problem.

Deer (and pigs) are already out of control and number well over 1 million nation wide. Creating privately managed protected deer-hunting blocks in Fiordland for trophy hunting and select commercial interests isn't good management, it's lazy politics. and lazy conservation.

Kati ake i konei,

Matamua ko te taiao, matamuri ko te tangata
kei unu taniwha.

Respondent: Tony Caudwell

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 187

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 187-1

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 187-10

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 187-11

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 187-12

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 187-13

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 187-14

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 187-15

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 187-16

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 187-2

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 187-3

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 187-4

General position

Support

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 187-5

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 187-6

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 187-7

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 187-8

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 187-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Trevor Chappell

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Trevor Chappell wapiti.pdf

Respondent: Daniel Chisnall

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 264

9 Objective

Submission ID: 264-1

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 264-10

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 264-11

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 264-12

General position

Support in part

This should be acknowledged, while also noting that dynamics between Fiordland Wapiti and Indigenous species do not need to be one where there can be "no" interaction allowable.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 264-13

General position

Support in part

There should be no commercial recovery by non-new zealand citizens.

Commercial recovery should remain controlled by hunters, and only be for the purpose of lowering numbers where supported by hunters. Shooting of any Bulls or Stags out of a helicopter by clients paying for the privilege should be absolutely prohibited.

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 264-2

General position

Support

The ability to hunt Trophy Wapiti Bulls has been a significant part of my heritage, and has grown my appreciation for the overall Fiordland area. It has made me realise that they are a necessary and integral part of Fiordland, and must be protected for the benefit of all users.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 264-3

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 264-4

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 264-5

General position

Support in part

It should be recognised that Wapiti (and other animals) do eat vegetation, and that this is acceptable, and consistent with biodiversity outcomes.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 264-6

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 264-7

General position

Oppose in part

The treaty partnership should not be mentioned, nor is it relevant to the management of Wapiti in this area.

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 264-8

General position

Support in part

Any recreational hunting by anyone who is not a New Zealand citizen, should be paying more than 10 times the fees of a New Zealand citizen.

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 264-9

General position

Support in part

Amendments are required to make it work better for the Wapiti and Sika herd

Respondent: Jonny Christie

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 77

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 77-1

General position

Support

I am in full support of the wapiti herd of special interest. I am along side NZDA and the wapiti foundation.

Respondent: Christopher Church

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 43

4 Objective

Submission ID: 43-1

General position

Oppose

To properly prevent the loss of indigenous species, the herd should be eradicated. There is a huge amount of pressure on our native flora and fauna by introduced browsing animals, predators and the increasing effects of climate change. With the current state of our conservation estate, I don't believe we should be protecting Wapiti at all. The hunting community would largely be against this, don't consult them, just get rid of the deer.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 43-2

General position

Oppose in part

To properly prevent the loss of indigenous species, the herd should be eradicated. There is a huge amount of pressure on our native flora and fauna by introduced browsing animals, predators and the increasing effects of climate change. With the current state of our conservation estate, I don't believe we should be protecting Wapiti at all.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 43-3

General position

Oppose in part

There should be no fine. They are a pest and should be treated as such. You should be paying people to hunt them, like what has been done in the past for other deer species.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 43-4

General position

Oppose

To properly prevent the loss of indigenous species, the herd should be completely eradicated. There is a huge amount of pressure on our native flora and fauna by introduced browsing animals, predators and the increasing effects of climate change. With the current state of our conservation estate, I don't believe we should be protecting Wapiti at all.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 43-5

General position

Neutral

Respondent: Harry Clarke

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 268

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 268-1

General position

Support

To whom it may concern,

My name is Harry Clarke. I'm a born-and-bred Kiwi who has spent the last 20 years hunting and tramping in New Zealand's backcountry. For me, the Fiordland wapiti herd and the wild country it calls home are an irreplaceable part of our national heritage.

I've been fortunate to hunt wapiti in several blocks over the years, including the Glaisnock area. On every trip I've been blown away not just by the hunting, but by the sheer amount of native wildlife thriving alongside the deer: kiwi calling at dusk and dawn, whio in every stream, kea overhead, and forest birds absolutely everywhere. That level of native birdlife doesn't happen by chance. It's the direct result of years of intensive predator control (stoats, rats, possums, cats) and careful deer management carried out by the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation and its volunteers and partners. The wapiti herd creates the incentive, the funding, and the manpower for landscape-scale conservation that simply wouldn't exist otherwise.

I therefore give my full support to the establishment of a formal Herd of Special Interest management plan. It is the surest way to protect this unique resource and the extraordinary conservation outcomes it delivers for future generations.

One point I need to make very clear:

I accept that a reasonable ballot fee is fair and necessary to help cover the costs of pest control and herd management. However, outside of the ballot system itself, New Zealand hunters must never be charged additional fees, permits, or levies simply to hunt wapiti on public conservation land. Keeping

I have absolutely no problem with overseas hunters paying full commercial guided rates. That revenue is critical for funding ongoing trapping work and for growing a world-class hunting tourism industry in Fiordland and Southland – an industry with massive economic potential for rural New Zealand, provided the herd remains healthy and the bulls stay trophy quality.

In summary, the Fiordland wapiti are far more than a pest species. They are a proven driver of real conservation gains, a magnet that gets New Zealanders into their wilderness, and an untapped economic asset. The HOSI plan is our best chance to secure all of those benefits long-term.

Please adopt the plan and make sure it explicitly protects free or ballot-only access for domestic hunters while enabling commercial opportunities for international visitors.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit.

Yours sincerely,

Harry Clarke

New Zealand hunter

Respondent: Noah Clarke

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 254

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 254-1

General position

Support

My name is Noah Clarke. I am a lifelong New Zealand hunter with a deep passion for our wild places, the recreation they provide, and the responsible management of both introduced and native species for the long-term benefit of our environment and our people.

Over many years I have been fortunate to hunt both sika and wapiti in their core ranges. These experiences have not only put food on my family tables but, more importantly, have given me and thousands of other New Zealanders a powerful reason to venture deep into some of the most remote and spectacular country we have. Without the draw of these animals, many of these areas would rarely, if ever, be visited or appreciated by the public. Well-managed herds of big-game animals are therefore a national recreational, cultural, and economic asset of immense value.

I have seen first-hand evidence of this in Fiordland National Park. In 2023 I hunted the Lower Glaisnock block and encountered more native wildlife – including kiwi, whio/blue duck, kea, and an abundance of smaller forest birds – than I have in almost any other part of New Zealand. This richness is no accident. It is the direct result of many years of intensive pest control (stoats, rats, cats, possums, etc.) carried out by the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation alongside careful management of wapiti numbers to prevent over-browsing. The presence of a valued game animal has created both the incentive and the funding mechanism for landscape-scale conservation work that benefits the entire ecosystem. This is a proven, practical model of how conservation and recreation can not only coexist but actively reinforce each other.

I therefore strongly support the adoption of a formal Herd of Special Interest management plan for the Fiordland wapiti herd so that this unique resource

can be secured and responsibly managed for current and future generations of New Zealanders.

One specific point I wish to emphasise:

While I accept that a reasonable ballot fee for access to certain blocks is fair and necessary to help cover management and pest-control costs, I am firmly opposed to any additional charges being imposed on New Zealand hunters to hunt wapiti on public land outside of the ballot system itself. Free or low-cost access for New Zealanders has always been a cornerstone of our hunting heritage, and it is critical that this remains the case if we are to maintain broad public engagement, volunteer effort, and ongoing political support for the herd's existence.

I have no objection whatsoever to overseas hunters being charged commercial rates for wapiti hunting. The revenue this generates is vital for funding ongoing pest control and habitat work, and international hunting tourism represents a major untapped economic opportunity for the region and the country – provided the herd is managed at a level that can sustain both recreational hunting by Kiwis and a high-quality commercial product.

In summary, the Fiordland wapiti herd is far more than a pest species; it is a driver of conservation outcomes, public access, and national identity. A well-designed HOSI plan that keeps core hunting opportunity free (or ballot-only) for New Zealanders while leveraging international hunters for funding will deliver the best possible result for the animals, the environment, and the people of New Zealand.

I fully support the draft plan proceeding, with the above principle of no extra charges for domestic hunters clearly enshrined.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit.

Regards,

Noah Clarke

New Zealand hunter and conservation supporter

Respondent: Sam Clarke

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 252

1 Objective

Submission ID: 252-1

General position

Support

My name is Sam Clarke and I am a New Zealander who has spent my life enjoying the recreation of hunting in our spectacular backyard. I am passionate about the outdoors and protecting the environment and managing both introduced and indigenous species in our country to create the greatest benefit to our country and our people. In my years of hunting in NZ I have been privileged to be able to hunt both the Sika and Wapiti deer in their respective homes in our country and have benefited hugely from the experiences. Not only have they provided food for my family but the fact that these animals reside in these wild places has given me and thousands of other people a reason to go and explore parts of our backyard that we would otherwise never see or experience. These animals and our ability to hunt them is a huge resource to our nation and when managed properly in conjunction with the rest of the plant and wildlife in the area makes for a far more beneficial opportunity than if they aren't present.

The financial benefits are obvious with regards to not only domestic spending by NZ's but also in the money that can come into our country from hunting tourism which has a huge potential to grow if these species are managed correctly like I have seen first hand in Fiordland National park. when I hunted the Lower Glaisnock block in 2023 we saw and heard more native species than I have ever seen in other parts of the country including kiwi, blue ducks, kea along with an abundance of smaller native birds. I believe this is largely due to the hard work of the FWF who have spent years not only controlling deer numbers to prevent over grazing and over population but also trapping culling a huge number of pests such as cats, rats, stoats, weasels and possums. This shows how a smart approach to balancing conservation with recreational activities is the best approach and how it can actually practically work. I understand there is pushback from parties and people who see deer only as a pest but this is a foolish way to see them. Because these animals are valued by hunters it gives them a reason to go into these areas, to experience this pristine environment and care enough about it to actually spend time and money to protect it.

I hope that the Herd management plan can go through so this priceless opportunity to hunt these species can be managed appropriately for myself and future generations of New Zealanders.

regards,

Sam Clarke

Respondent: Sam Clarke - PJ & JG Clarke Ltd

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 270

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 270-1

General position

Support

To the Game Animal Council and Fiordland Wapiti Foundation,

P.J & J G CLARKE Ltd is a North Island-based family company involved in agriculture, horticulture, contracting, and outdoor media production. Through our subsidiary brand, Clarke Boys Hunting, we operate one of New Zealand's largest independent hunting-focused YouTube channels and associated social media platforms, currently reaching several hundred thousand viewers worldwide each month.

The Fiordland wapiti herd is central to our business and to the rapidly growing hunting-content sector in New Zealand. High-quality, free-range wapiti hunting in spectacular scenery is among the most sought-after content we produce. Every video filmed in the wapiti blocks generates direct advertising and sponsorship revenue for our company and significant flow-on spending in Te Anau, Manapouri, and surrounding towns (fuel, accommodation, aircraft, groceries, and retail).

More importantly, this content serves as exceptionally effective international marketing for New Zealand as a hunting and adventure-tourism destination. Viewers in the United States, Europe, Australia, and beyond regularly contact us asking how they can book a wapiti hunt – enquiries we pass directly to local guides and operators. In 2024 alone, Clarke Boys Hunting content featuring Fiordland wapiti was watched for more than 4.2 million minutes by non-New Zealand audiences. This is free, authentic promotion that no government tourism campaign could buy.

A healthy, well-managed wapiti herd under a formal HOSI plan therefore delivers measurable economic benefits at multiple levels:

- Direct revenue and jobs for New Zealand-based content creators and media businesses such as ours.
- Increased bookings and higher per-client spend for Fiordland hunting guides and other NZ outfitters who rely almost entirely on international clients.
- Multiplier effects through regional tourism spending (hotels, restaurants, charter aircraft, rental vehicles, etc.).
- Export earnings from overseas hunters that far exceed what could be achieved if the herd were treated simply as a pest to be eradicated or minimally controlled.

We fully support the adoption of the draft HOSI management plan because it is the only mechanism that guarantees the long-term future of a herd large enough and of sufficient trophy quality to sustain both domestic recreational hunting and a viable commercial guiding and media industry.

We do, however, have one firm request:

While a ballot entry fee is reasonable and necessary to fund pest control and management, New Zealand residents must retain the right to hunt wapiti on public land without additional permits, levies, or user-pays charges outside the ballot system itself. Domestic hunters, including content creators like Clarke Boys Hunting, are the foundation of public and political support for the herd. Imposing extra costs on Kiwi hunters risks alienating that support base and would directly threaten the viability of New Zealand-owned media businesses that showcase the wapiti to the world. It also makes it harder for people on the lower end socioeconomic spectrum to source food. Although this may be relatively limited for Wapiti due to geographic location, it think this is important to be considered as this framework will set a precedent for any future HOSI.

International hunters, by contrast, should be charged commercial rates to generate income to go back into achieving conservation goals. That revenue stream is essential for the intensive predator control that keeps the ecosystem healthy and the bulls world-class – both of which are critical to the ongoing value of the Fiordland wapiti “brand” that businesses like ours market globally.

In summary, formal HOSI status with ballot-only fees for New Zealanders and commercial pricing for overseas clients represents the optimum model for maximising conservation outcomes, public access, regional economic development, and export earnings from hunting tourism and media.

We urge the Game Animal Council and Department of Conservation to adopt the plan and to explicitly protect low-cost access for domestic hunters and New Zealand-based businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on behalf of our company and the wider hunting-content and guiding sector.

Sincerely,

P.J & J G CLARKE Ltd

Directors: Peter & Janet Clarke

On behalf of Clarke Boys Hunting

Te Anau, New Zealand

Respondent: Ruth Clements

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 343

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 343

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

Ruth Clements - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Maureen Coleman - Thames Valley Deerstalkers Association

Submission
Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 180

7 Objective

Submission ID: 180-1

General position

Support

This has been proven to date by FWF - keep the ball rolling guys, you are doing an awesome job.

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 180-10

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 180-11

General position

Support

We fully support HOSI on all fronts. It is an absolutely unique opportunity to see dedicated and genuine conservation enthusiasts and the hunting fraternity working together for an even better 'outdoor and fiordland experience'. The Wapiti in this case as the HOSI will be the key that unlocks a lot more doors to see even greater benefits. The FWF have done an amazing job with limited resources over 20 years - so now is the time for everyone to get behind them and see the entire region and ALL of our valued species prosper in a healthy state. HOSI will enable balance across the board which is essential and this in turn will protect the treasured native flora and fauna that are so special to us all. Predator pest trapping and control has been such an unsung benefactor through all of the FWF work and it will continue for sure. The wider public need to realize that this HOSI is a multi pronged workstream and the excellent benefits on all fronts can only get better and expand significantly with the implementation of HOSI.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 180-12

General position

Support

Thames Valley Deerstalkers Assn (TVDA) fully supports this. While we are at the other end of the country, our members definitely hunt Fiordland and in the Ballot blocks and this is a life dream for many of them. Our

members also really understand and appreciate the huge amount of work that goes into any of these projects as we too have significant trapping programmes underway in our wider area for DOC and Public Land (Hauraki Rail Trail). While our 1000+ traps that the club programme monitors across various lines, locations and facilities is small in the scheme of what FWF are doing, we see the massive benefits on the ground, the public appreciation of what is being done by volunteers to improve their experience. PS: none of the predator trapping work done by TVDA is to enhance the deer hunting experience - it is about protecting valued and native flora and fauna in our region. This really does show the intent and commitment by hunters and the hunting fraternity for a better environment - hence we so fully believe in what FWF are doing and the outcomes they are getting.

3 Objective **Submission ID: 180-13**

General position

Support

We would like to see more partnerships and sponsors coming on board as the work that is being done is almost solely being funded by hunters and the hunting aspect. Forest and Bird as an example need to pay something for what they are getting out of this as they are doing almost zero work on the group but are seeing the benefits for them and their field of interest. There are many other entities that could certainly help out and we are sure that once HOSI is fully in place this will give confidence to the commercial and private sector to assist with funding.

2 Objective **Submission ID: 180-14**

General position

Support

Enhancement in the wapiti hunting experience is certainly not about taking more animals for the hunter - it is about being and such a magnificent place, getting the chance to see and/or get a top-quality animal. We are happy to see young wapiti bulls and leave them till maturity, even if that is for someone else to take the trophy at a later date. That young bull is only part of the wonderful experience that is Fiordland and the Wapiti Ballot. It is being in the majestic place that is Fiordland, the overall package of flora and fauna, the challenges on a daily basis and the amazing scenery.....and hunters want to make that keep happening. Already we would not be seeing the native species recovering and the current state of Fiordland if DOC had been left to look after it. The quality of the area was in decline in a serious and profound way but with vision, research and passion from the hunting fraternity over the last 20 years and DOC for being prepared to work with FWF; this is being reversed. This work and these results must be continued, and HOSI is the legal vehicle for that for sure.

Table 1.1 General **Submission ID: 180-15**

General position

Support

TVDA takes the lead on what the FWF sees as the correct process and ratios for a healthy Fiordland. The model they have been using to date in conjunction with their Plan with DOC is working so keep it going.

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 180-16

General position

Support in part

The model is working - keep it going and we fully support 1.3 -1.6.

We would however still like to see that there is a period (as set out in 1.6) to be able to hunt in Fiordland without having to pay ie ballot type fees as is currently the situation, but we totally support the ballot fee as it is currently applied.

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 180-17

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 180-2

General position

Support

Thames Valley Deerstalkers fully supports the proposal as put forward by FWF to achieve these goals.

9 Objective

Submission ID: 180-3

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 180-4

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 180-5

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 180-6

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 180-7

General position

Support

We fully support what FWF has been doing on this front to attain what they have so far and this will increase more under HOSI and the opportunities it offers. Keep up the great work

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 180-8

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 180-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Maureen Coleman

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 34

4 Objective

Submission ID: 34-1

General position

Support

Keep up the winning and successful model. When HOSI is up and running, this will be such a wonderful boost to those doing so much of the work. Already so much has been achieved under a year to year basis with the Department but having some solid plans and a model such as this to work with will create so many more successful outcomes. The hunting community will come together to continue our endless goodwill when it comes to conservation - Hunters are the boots on the ground and the volunteers who actually do the work and not the sector that just sit back and complain with a cup that is half full!!!

8 Objective

Submission ID: 34-10

General position

Support

This is a certainty. The research has already started and must and will be continued. I also foresee that it will be expanded and enhanced - such is the passion for conservation that this group has. The results will speak for themselves.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 34-11

General position

Support

It would be great to see a sponsor or sponsors come forward to help fund the meat that is being sent to food banks etc to just help ease this cost. The whole concept of this is great and there is such a social value put on this awesome product that is reaching the needy but perhaps there will be other opportunities under the new HOSI Model. Bring on the opportunities.

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 34-12

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 34-13

General position

Support

It is essential for Wapiti to be Managed correctly. As can be seen through the invaluable data hard work and dedication carried out by FWF over the last 20 years, this has proved to be the only chance that many native and valued species of flora and fauna in this area have got or had of surviving. Managing the Wapiti alongside the other valuable work has been a winner for sure and with this model and as set out in the HOSI application; there is now a future in Fiordland or all to work together and for there to be win/wins for sure

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 34-14

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 34-15

General position

Support

There is so much more to be learnt and gained from HOSI being involved in the whole spectrum in Fiordland. There is such a willingness to learn and to work together to make sure that the best outcomes happen - and this is an ongoing and ever evolving landscape. There is such a 'want' to make it happen for a better Fiordland so it must be encouraged and supported. F&B have done nothing except try and stand in the way of the help and hard work that is being done. HOSI will ensure that this topic is continued in the best way possible.

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 34-16

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 34-2

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 34-3

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 34-4

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 34-5

General position

Support in part

So long as the Treaty side of it does not derail all the good work. I absolutely support the relationship with Papatipu Runanga and TeRununga or Ngai Tahu being strengthened for sure for the overall betterment of the area and its species but I'd be disappointed if this was to be manipulated in the future for political gains, which could put us all back where Fiordland was before the FWF began their invaluable work. This outcome would be a train wreck it is was allowed to happen - one only has to look at how SOME within the TUT Board are destroying this beautiful part of our country through their self centered approach. So many of their own people, the ngahere and whenua in general are being 'abused' by this very poor decision making at the top. Please make sure we all learn from this.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 34-6

General position

Support

For sure - once again this has been proven and alongside education for hunters, this can only continue to improve. I do want to make sure though that this does not just become a playground for the overseas hunters to exploit. I would like to see a maximum percentage of ie 5% international hunters who are able to successfully hunt in Fiordland over the Ballot/Bugle period. As many as they like can enter into the Ballot but once the threshold of 5% success rate has been attained, then only NZ hunters can fill the rest of the ballot spaces. If there are not enough NZ Hunters to fill the remaining 95% of the ballots, then international hunters can then be considered to a higher percentage.

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 34-7

General position

Support

Let this expand - and it will encourage the funders to help cover costs of choppers, pest and predator control, education and so much more. The Wapiti and the Management of them are the key to the door for so many positives.

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 34-8

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 34-9

General position

Support

The successful platform has been set and worked towards very successfully so far. FWF have very successfully and professionally managed what DOC and F&B have not even made a dent in so a continuation of this current successful model must be continued. If there are opportunities to further enhance what is already being done via sponsorship and partnership and these are seen as viable under the day to day management of the Wapiti HOSI, then they have my full support.

Respondent: Tony Coleman

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 130

2 Objective

Submission ID: 130-1

General position

Support

Yes this is correct for sure as has been proven the FWF work over the last 20 years BUT it is the massive side benefits for the flora, fauna and area as a whole that this work has enabled that is absolutely undeniable

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 130-10

General position

Support

I will completely follow the lead FWF lead and direction on this - they know what they need!!

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 130-11

General position

Support

This is a given and has been done up till now and will continue for sure

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 130-12

General position

Support

This has enabled FWF to identify and focus on key areas in the 'rebuild' of this part of Fiordland. Keep up this work; Government/DOC should be funding this for sure as this flora and fauna part of it is part of their 'baby' so they need to do something to help make it work.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 130-13

General position

Support

100% - keep the ball rolling. The current model is working so let's keep up the momentum and pull in as many volunteers and hunters as possible to really show the world what we can do here in NZ. Expand the area too in time - Fiordland needs it.

Table 1.1 General **Submission ID: 130-14**

General position

Support

FWF have a proven model and know what works best for that area - keep it up

Table 2.4 Research **Submission ID: 130-15**

General position

Support

9 Objective **Submission ID: 130-16**

General position

Support

This is a win/win and hopefully it will let everyone see the benefits and see the HOSI area expanded or used in other areas of NZ.

3 Objective **Submission ID: 130-2**

General position

Support

DOC and additional partnerships must also get on board with this. Fiordland; has long been the jewel in the DOC crown but less and less was being done to look after it properly re the species that were in there.....and particularly the predator pests. With this work now being done by hunters and volunteers to the largest extent; other entities must also come on board to assist how it is deemed best. When I say that; I mean as deemed best by those who know what they are talking about (particularly FWF) through having navigated the turbulent waters left by failed DOC activities and have turned this around to a fantastic opportunity that is now heading in the right direction

1 Objective **Submission ID: 130-3**

General position

Support

The current model being undertaken by FWF has been an absolute game changer for all aspects of Fiordland within the Ballot area. The flora and fauna have improved to the extent that many now 'have a chance' and others are thriving - this speaks for itself. Hunters managing conservation is a proven model and must continue to be supported

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 130-4

General position

Support in part

This is for the Minister and the Government in general - please don't burden this project with unnecessary red tape. This HOSI opportunity needs to be undertaken asap for the benefit and betterment of ALL valued species in Fiordland and beyond. Please do NOT make it such a hurdle to climb that we will lose all of what we have gained due to unrealistic bureaucracy, red tape and compliance matters that are just keeping a 'pen pusher' in a job. What is needed is to ensure that all the help possible is given to those that KNOW what they are doing and promoting from time spent in the hills for the right reasons (FWF in this case) boots on the ground doing the work, communities coming together for a common goal and please keep the unnecessary red tape and financial burdens out of it.

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 130-5

General position

Support in part

I absolutely support all of the points in this topic however I am not sure that I want to see a fee to hunt Fiordland Wapiti outside of the bugle ballot. I think that there needs to be a chance to still hunt these areas without a fee due to it being public land. Perhaps there is a chance that if people applying have done volunteer trapping and predator control, hut maintenance or other valued work to support the HOSI project; that they get their fees waived (only for time outside the bugle).

5 Objective

Submission ID: 130-6

General position

Support in part

most definitely work with the treaty partners - and I hope that they are and/or will contribute financially to this work. I just do not want to see a repeat of what DOC did with Tuhoë and what has ended up being such a damaged relationship in one sense but also a very negative impact for the flora and fauna in the area. Skinny deer (where you are now able to hunt them), no chopper access to the remote areas, predator pests going completely unchecked in many areas which will wipe out the precarious species that had been getting supported up until things went pear shaped. I also must add that there are many people within Tuhoë who are doing great work, they are thwarted at every endeavour to do more to protect their valued native species and worst of all, some of those at the top of the TUT board have lost the trust of their own people through their greed and

shortsightedness. It is bad enough that this damage and loss is happening to Tuhoe and TeUrewera so please don't let this happen elsewhere.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 130-7

General position

Support

This is essential. I cannot support this more as it will surely bring about even better gains for every aspect of the HOSI area in Fiordland but also enable these learnings to be used elsewhere.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 130-8

General position

Support

The model is working - keep it up

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 130-9

General position

Support

Definitely get partnerships expanded and enhanced. This has already proved to be a game changer with the local partnerships that are happening in the Southland regions and nationally (ie heli operators, burger king etc) so make sure Central Government helps to have this expanded. Ways that this could be accomplished is to reduce Red Tape, make consent processing more realistic when dealing with a model such as what FWF have been operating under and getting proven outcomes. Get all of NZ behind this - Go Fund Fiordland.....perhaps a public campaign. Keep up the great work guys

Respondent: Linda Conning

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Linda Conning - wapiti covering letter.pdf

Respondent: Mike Corkery

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 313

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 313

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

Mike Corkery - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Nada Cottrell

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 344

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 344

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

Nada Cottrell - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: John Cruden

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

John Cruden - wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Paddy Curtin

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 208

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 208-1

General position

Support

I support this bill. The current example of hunter lead management proven by the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation is to be commended for its simplicity, practical hands on approach, success and zero cost to tax payers. Te Anau is well supported through the hunting community through the money they spend there as part of their Fiordland hunting journey, and the appointment of a Herd of Special Interest is a move to secure the future of Te Anau, and Fiordland National Park.

Respondent: Paddy Curtin - NZDA North Taranaki Branch

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 213

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 213-1

General position

Support

The North Taranaki branch of NZDA consist of 130 members. Our branch supports the creation of a Herd of Special Interest within Fiordland National Park. The Wapiti herd within Fiordland was first liberated in 1905 as a gift from President Theodore Roosevelt and have lived there ever since. In more recent times the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation have taken on the management of this herd including the culling of many thousand animals to maintain a balance both for recreational hunting and for the conservation efforts within the national park. It is estimated the deer are at low enough levels that they only replicate the grazing which the Moa used to do. By designating the Wapiti a Herd of Special Interest, it is recognising the amazing work which has already been done at zero cost to the government and will continue to be done in the future. If we lose the great work the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation are doing through not recognising the common sense of this bill, we risk having Fiordland National Park resort back to higher animal numbers with management solutions which are very costly to the tax payer.

Respondent: Paddy Curtin - NZDA HUNTS

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 277

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 277-1

General position

Support

NZDA HUNTS is a Volunteer led training group with the purpose of teaching inexperienced people how to enjoy the great forests and back country we have on offer in New Zealand.

NZDA HUNTS supports the creation of a Herd of Special Interest within Fiordland National Park for the Wapiti deer. The Wapiti in Fiordland are the only free range Wapiti (Elk) herd in the Southern Hemisphere and have lived there for 120 years. Wapiti hunters flock to Te Anau every year to test their skill in this unforgiving country against these majestic animals, spending money as they go with domestic travel and local businesses. The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation currently manage the herd through a proven culling regime which ensures the animal density is kept low which allows the forest to flourish, while promoting the resource that is the Wapiti deer. This program is completely volunteer run meaning it has zero cost to the tax payer which is especially important in a time like now when money is tight across the board. The animals culled are processed and donated to food banks or utilised elsewhere which only highlights how much of a resource these deer truly are. By making the Wapiti in Fiordland a Herd of Special Interest, it means they can continue to be managed in a way which is beneficial to all parties. If the current model was not protected and ended up being dropped, we would see deer numbers increase to the point where other more expensive control measures were needed. So far in NZ we have seen deer eradicated in zero national parks, despite many millions of dollars being spent on control over the years. Fiordland is unique that the deer cannot spread due to the topography, but the vastness and ruggedness of the terrain mean total eradication would be an impossible task which would only cost time and money for no desirable outcome. Instead a Herd of Special Interest would mean the resources can be spent on management which is completely achievable as has been proven by the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Respondent: Linda Dale

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 125

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 125-1

General position

Oppose

The idea of any plan, other than eradication, for introduced animals in our National Parks is completely contrary to the purpose of these parks which is to protect what is indigenous to this country.

it is clear that the status quo does not protect indigenous vegetation in the specified area and this proposed plan will only serve to increase this deterioration.

The supposed 'historical significance' of the wapiti does not seem supported by any evidence and seems more related to individuals strong personal memories.

There are hunting opportunities on private, non-conservation land for those that want them. Allowing conservation land to be used to compete with these businesses puts them at a major disadvantage.

Respondent: Matt Dale - Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 310

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 310

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

Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki - Matt Dale - Wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Ben Dare

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 207

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 207-1

General position

Support

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

Both Fiordland (the Wapiti area and beyond) and the Fiordland Wapiti herd are important to me, and I would like to see both managed effectively. This will allow for the preservation of one of the most beautiful areas in the country, while also maintaining the value that the Wapiti herd adds to recreational hunters and their families.

In addition, I would like to add the following comments:

Social and community outcomes

That the Herd Management plan should support hunter and community-led management and positive social and economic outcomes.

Funding

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group. In this case the Wapiti Foundation.

It should not be routed through DOC or GAC or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

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 wapiti 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 Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring enables adaptive management and demonstrates whether the management of Fiordland wapiti 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 Fiordland Wapiti Foundation possesses the expertise required to implement and manage the HOSI and operational plan, having demonstrated consistent success in this area over the past two decades.

Clear guidance is needed on whether HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation.

Setting the correct tone for HOSI

A Wapiti HOSI is not about “Control” of Wapiti; it is about “Active Management.”

I would like to see all reference to the term ‘control’ removed from the HMP in preference for the term ‘management,’ to reflect the reality of what a Wapiti HOSI HMP is trying to achieve.

The ‘control’ narrative and that style of language reflects previous failed approaches to managing deer in New Zealand.

Respondent: David Darling

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 112

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 112-1

General position

Support

General observations of the Document and specific content

1. This plan should be very specific in the allocation of opportunities to hunt animals defined under the HOSI. Primarily this should relate to NZ Nationals. With a small allocation of opportunity made for other non-nationals. This is needed to recognise national heritage and the right to national assets, albeit not exclusive.
2. We should look closely at ballot/draw/tag/units/block systems that are successful in other countries particularly those countries where there is an increasing population burdon but limited or diminishing opportunities to hunt.
3. Some time ago the government of NZ sponsored the removal of 'pure'Wapiti strain animals for incarceration on special farms. There was a promise of these animals being part of a genetic improvement programme with potential return to the Fiordland national park. This did not happen and these animals have disappeared into obscurity. The Government needs to make good and return these animals. This will significantly impact the quality of this herd.
4. The Plan for the Wapiti HOSI does not define the opportunity to upgrade the genetics with new Elk genes/genetics. This is a significant shortcoming. To upgrade the genetics of the Wapiti Herd with only blunt tools of culling Red deer and Red x Wapiti hybrids has a long time horizon and will never fully replicate the genetic structure of the original population. T fully recognise this HOSI we should include this as an element of our strategic plan.

More specific content

1. Strategy 1.7 is not consistent with Objective 3. Obj 3 does not specifically recognise Hunting Fees as a source of revenue. Edit either S1.7 or O3
2. As outlined above, we need to learn from successful and not successful features of other game and hunting management plans tghat have been developed in other countries/geographies and that have been proven over many years.
3. The government should make reparation for the 'pure' Wapiti types that were removed from the park with explicit plans to improve and return to Fiordland improved genotypes. Lets do this 'right'
4. Strategy 1.2 defines a very specific sex ratio of 1.1 Bulls /cow. However the annual plan allows for this to be changed. Why would we want to specific a target of 1.1 B/C. How do we know this is the correct ratio for this area and this herd structure? We definitely need to take into account supplementation of pure breed types of Elk/Wapiti to ensure our goals are met in a shortler and more realistic timeline.

5. S1.4 states publication and notification by Gazette. Surely that would be a minimum level of communication? I don't know of anyone who checks and reads the Gazette. This would have to be a very weak communication and engagement strategy. If it is published in the Gazette, then we would ideally like to have a commitment from the GAC that this will be picked up and notified through modern and more effective comms channels.

6. S1.9 a) and C0 look to say the same thing??

7. We need to have a separate section that defines 'Participation in Hunting/Opportunity' not just as a sub-section to Partnerships. As I have outlined above, there are very few opportunities to hunt Wapiti in New Zealand and an ever growing number of NZ Nationals who would like to hunt them. It would be important to provide a majority of these opportunities being made available to NZ Nationals. In most US states approximately 80% of all Big Game hunting is made available to Residents of that state. With 20% available to all other non-residents. This seems to be a well validated process that puts the economic 'right' in the hands of those who legally live in that state.

Respondent: Brittany Davies

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 54

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 54-1

General position

Support

Advice on submitting to the Herd Management Plan for the Wapiti Herd of Special Interest.

Funding Herds of Special Interests. (Wapiti)

Objective: 3-Generate sufficient revenue through partnerships and sponsorships, seek to recover costs from the hunting community, and in-kind support is increased to ensure the delivery of this Plan is wholly or largely self-funded.

- All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group. In this case the Wapiti Foundation.
- Funding should not be directed to a stationary or government body (Doc/GAC) for discretionary distribution to the Wapiti Foundation.
- Hunters must maintain the status quo. Decisions regarding deer management in the future may be made by an unsupported government entity, potentially disrupting established hunter-led management efforts. The FWF current funding system helps with future proofing Wapiti as a HOSI from an unfavourable Government.
- The Wapiti Foundation currently operates a user-pays system that has successfully transformed hunter-led deer management in New Zealand over the past 20 years. Changing the current system could weaken the trust the Wapiti Foundation has established with its users and supporters.
- The Wapiti Foundation must keep its autonomy so hunters remain in control of their futures.

The operational plan should serve as a flexible management tool that inspires innovation, and this HOSI presents an opportunity not only to manage wapiti 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 this is case the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

The Wapiti Foundation will be held accountable for not meeting the terms of the Herd Management plan. The operation plan will be an adapted tool and needs to be.

Vegetation Monitoring.

Objective-7 Monitoring enables adaptive management and demonstrates whether the management of Fiordland wapiti is achieving the objectives and strategies of this Plan.

Management including monitoring should relate back to these objectives and be efficient and effective ie 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.

Vegetation monitoring should align with what is feasible and financially sustainable for the HOIS. The group responsible for implementing the HOSI should not be placed in a position where they are expected to accomplish unrealistic goals.

Annual Report: Sponsorship and commercial partnership.

Reporting should acknowledge that disclosing sponsorship and partnerships may be commercially sensitive and could discourage sponsor involvement.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation is a charity, and its sponsors or commercial partners may also collaborate with it on activities outside of Fiordland.

Respondent: Alan Davis

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 143

4 Objective

Submission ID: 143-1

General position

Support

Big supporter of the NZ hunter working alongside Doc to manage NZs Parks

We tend to get used for information and intel but left out when its decision time and suitability

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 143-2

General position

Support

Hunting is

Herd management under hosi needs to reflect the values of the wapiti herd which for me are the hunting package that Fiordland and hunting bring as a whole...to hunt these trophies in such a beautiful untouched landscape

3 Objective

Submission ID: 143-3

General position

Oppose

Hunter lead management will already have a cost to the hunter and save DOC time and resources....If the herd is managed properly to reflect park values and requirements then we are doing DOCs job with no cost to them...Otherwise its a double down.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 143-4

General position

Support

So important to have a balance and keep our natural indigenous Fauna and flora/species

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 143-5

General position

Support in part

I support the plan but feel amendments are required

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 143-6

General position

Oppose in part

Think there needs to be some control and responsibility with repercussions but should be monitored and controlled by the wapiti foundation....If they are not doing a good job of it then that gets taken away.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 143-7

General position

Support

Father and son trips of a lifetime

Respondent: Evan Davis-Goff

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 168

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 168-1

General position

Support

The Fiordland Wapiti herd has the opportunity, through being given HOSI status, to become a world class example of a sensibly managed, valuable economic hunting resource.

Not only does trophy Wapiti hunting appeal to wealthy foreigners but also provides benefits to locals. From both foreigners and kiwis 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 also provides food at the very basic level. But for locals it also provides massive mental health benefits, countless hours of positive experiences and bonding for mates and families, and for many is an ingrained part of their culture, with experience having been passed down through generations.

Organizations such as the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation are primed to spring into action and support government agencies to establish a protocol to manage the herd. In fact, they have already been doing it voluntarily. And for years they have been involved with pest control aimed at supporting the kiwi population by extensive trapping, along with Wapiti bull research and annual culling operations. This will only increase once they have the support of the government.

Let's face it. The deer population in NZ will never be eradicated. So let's 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. The FWF is the only organisation that has done anything positive toward managing the herd, so why not get on board and utilise their experience and expertise.

Respondent: Tom Dawson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 84

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 84-1

General position

Support

The fvf are doing such a good job. The wapiti are special. Keep them safe!

Respondent: Steve Deeming

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 24

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 24-1

General position

Support

about time

Respondent: Nathan Dell

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 18

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 18-1

General position

Support

I support in principle the Wapiti becoming a HOSI. Management should be between the FWF and DOC only.

Respondent: Cornelius den Haring

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 32

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 32

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

Submission on HOSI wapiti plan nov 2025 Cornelius den Haring.pdf

Respondent: Nicolas Desmonts

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 280

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 280-1

General position

Support

Classing the Fiordland wapiti as a heard of special interest is somewhat vital for the long term economy and biodiversity of the area and of great interest for the country in general when probably more foreign hunters will come and spend their hard earned coins in our country.

Respondent: Trevor Dibben - NZDA Marlborough Branch

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 167

3 Objective

Submission ID: 167-1

General position

Support

Any revenue should go straight to the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation for use as they see fit. It should not be used to fund bureaucracy like GAC or DoC.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 167-2

General position

Support

Good monitoring is key to achieve good outcomes for Herd quality and Conservation

2 Objective

Submission ID: 167-3

General position

Support

Many of our members have hunted Wapiti, with a broad range of reasons. The most significant is for the chance to get a large quality trophy animal. This is a key objective.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 167-4

General position

Support

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation is best placed to fulfil the HOSI Management Plan.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 167-5

General position

Support

Research is critical to understanding the impacts on herd quality and conservation objectives. For too long NZ has not put effort into surveys and research and just relied on anecdotal evidence. We support science based and factual reporting.

Respondent: Reuben Dibble

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 106

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 106-1

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 106-10

General position

Support

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 106-11

General position

Support

Only with direct involvement with the fwf

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 106-12

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 106-13

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 106-14

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 106-15

General position

Support

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 106-16

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 106-17

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 106-18

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 106-19

General position

Support in part

I would leave these responsibilities to fwf and have them continue there successfully run current program.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 106-2

General position

Support

The current herd management plan by the fwf is controlling deer numbers to low level in most areas.this is resulting in better genetics abundance of feed and better potential for troph potential for wapiti bulls.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 106-20

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 106-21

General position

Support

Correct Management is this to happen currently

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 106-22

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 106-3

General position

Support

Map 2 Fiordland Wapiti Area - Close up

Submission ID: 106-4

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 106-5

General position

Support

After being part of this hunter lead reporting system run by the FWF and spending time in the area i truly believe that the data and numbers reported are factual and current.

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 106-6

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 106-7

General position

Support

I believe that the current way that they fwh are managing the wapiti heard is providing the adequate protection for flora and fauna in the wilderness area.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 106-8

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 106-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Bruce Dickison

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Bruce Dickison - wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Allan Dittmer

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 191

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 191-1

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

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 282

5 Objective

Submission ID: 282-1

General position

Oppose

4 Objective

Submission ID: 282-10

General position

Support in part

Some concerns at to what social initiatives might be.

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 282-11

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 282-12

General position

Support

I am concerned that Ngai Tahu will see this as another money making venture which I believe is damaging to the wider community.

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 282-13

General position

Support in part

I am concerned at any matauranga Maori with unscientific basis being considered.

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 282-14

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 282-15

General position

Support in part

Section 3.5 and 3.6 should be removed.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 282-16

General position

Support in part

I am concerned at unreasonable costs being imposed on the hunting community who freely provide so much free volunteer hours to conservation.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 282-17

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 282-18

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 282-2

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 282-3

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 282-4

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 282-5

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 282-6

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 282-7

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 282-8

General position

Support

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 282-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Mike Douglass

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 42

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 42-1

General position

Support

I support the Fiordland Wapiti HOSI management plan.

I believe that the concept is good and that with the long track record of success that the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has, they should be supported and encouraged to continue their work.

It is important to me that there are clear boundaries to the extent of the Wapiti herd area and that the herd is contained within this area.

There also needs to be a quantifiable measurement of success for each outcome that can be checked against on a yearly basis. This needs to be very clearly defined so that there are no grey areas for interpretation.

The Wapiti are important to hunters and give benefit economically, environmentally, physically and mentally.

Respondent: Tony Doy

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 347

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 347

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

Tony Doy - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Judith Driscoll

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 123

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 123-1

General position

Oppose

Conservation land has been set aside to conserve our native species. Even a managed herd will be detrimental to the local flora and fauna

Respondent: Greg Duley

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 223

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 223-1

General position

Support

So long as these tools have been chosen by the FWF.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 223-10

General position

Support in part

Again, so long as these don't become an obstacle to continuing existing management.

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 223-11

General position

Support

All research must be related to sensible and archivable goals agreed to by the FEWF and the GAC.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 223-12

General position

Support

This is essential so that the ballot hunters are prepared to contribute financially to ensure the FWF can continue its herd management and conservation programs.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 223-13

General position

Support in part

The Department must work with the FWF and GAC with the appointment of any enforcement officers.

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 223-14

General position

Support

Map 2 Fiordland Wapiti Area - Close up

Submission ID: 223-15

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 223-16

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 223-17

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 223-18

General position

Support in part

Setting numbers to be removed is fine, but don't waste time and money trying to estimate remaining population.

e. The entities must be the FWF and the GAC. That does not need to be readdressed every year!

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 223-19

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 223-2

General position

Oppose in part

Maintenance of existing natural biodiversity is fine, but you cannot put unrealistic goals like "restoring ecological processes and communities" as an objective. The Department is not attempting any management in any other area of FNP except for the relatively small Takaha Area, and it is a very hard to quantify and measure goal that a different overseer could interpret quite differently.

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 223-20

General position

Support in part

So long as any consultation and opportunities to work with and engage with Ngai Tahu don't hold up implementation of the HOSI and HMP.

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 223-21

General position

Support in part

2 a. SRIs and RIA alpine deer browse indices are what should be used. Definitely not Fenced plots or FPIs, as they are very poor indicators of browse and deer numbers. All management must be based on acceptable browse indices, not deer numbers that are impossible to measure accurately.

2.2 The Department is not necessarily the expert on these processes, and is not seen as impartial by the hunting sector. These need to be set by an independent authority like LandCare Research with agreement with all parties.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 223-22

General position

Support in part

And support the hunting objectives.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 223-23

General position

Support in part

Support so long as it doesn't hold up progress getting the HOSI across the line. These things can be worked on and included as they become possible.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 223-3

General position

Support in part

So long as the objectives and strategies are realistic and achievable. We must not just keep shifting the biodiversity bar higher and higher to the extent that the hunting objectives are overridden. We must not kill the goose that's laying the golden egg!

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 223-4

General position

Support in part

There is not enough comment on the cultural, heritage, social, physical and mental wellbeing and commercial benefit of the Fiordland Wapiti Herd - especially to the local economy.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 223-5

General position

Support in part

These are all tools and processes best managed by the FWF

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 223-6

General position

Support in part

Agree so long as these decisions are made by the FWF and the GAC.

9 Objective

Submission ID: 223-7

General position

Support in part

Again, so long as the objectives are sensible and achievable and not just ideological.

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 223-8

General position

Support in part

4.4 The FWF and GAC should not be working with the department in regard to its annual report. The department should just be receiving it.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 223-9

General position

Support in part

If the goals are sensible the program will be largely self funded as it is now. The hunters have to feel they are getting value for money or they will not continue to fund the program as they do now.

Respondent: Willie Duley - Heritage Red Deer Foundation

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 218

3 Objective

Submission ID: 218-1

General position

Support in part

We support the FWF generating income from any of their own self-funding models, commercial and fundraising activities, while we also support the FWF or GAC receiving additional Government funding (via the GAC) to support this HOSI - whether that is short or longer term.

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 218-10

General position

Support in part

We support a Wapiti HOSI and FWF continuing their programme in Fiordland National Park (FNP), as Wapiti in Fiordland are hugely valued by hunters (carrying immense recreational, commercial, and social well-being benefits), the FWF have a proven track record of consistently carrying out deer control when no other deer management was happening in Fiordland National Park. The FWF are undoubtedly the best organisation to look after the values of FNP going forward into the future, to be overseen by the Game Animal Council.

9 Objective

Submission ID: 218-11

General position

Support in part

We support public reporting, as long as the objectives are clearly defined and agreed to by the FWF and GAC.

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 218-12

General position

Support in part

We support the FWF developing any partnerships that they think will benefit the Wapiti HOSI. We also support iwi involvement as long as it does not unnecessarily halt progress or limit potential gains to the FWF. We support

promoting the Wapiti hunting experience, as long as international hunters face greater restrictions and limitations (fees, less ballot opportunities) than kiwi hunters.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 218-13

General position

Support

The entire success of the Wapiti HOSI relies on high quality bulls being produced, so that hunters are enticed to enter and pay for a ballot, which then self-funds deer management and conservation/predator trapping work. A low population of high-quality animals is a win-win scenario for hunting and conservation goals.

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 218-14

General position

Support in part

We support any strategies that the FWF and GAC believe will enhance the Wapiti herd and hunting experience.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 218-15

General position

Support in part

We support Wapiti 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 FWF - so that the levels also support recreational hunter values.

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 218-16

General position

Support in part

We support this HOSI plan provided it is administered and managed by the Game Animal Council (GAC) and the Fiordland Wapiti 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 as their core principle).

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 218-17

General position

Support in part

We support research being carried out as it deemed fit for purpose by the FWF and GAC (not DOC as they have conflicting motives in regards to enhancing game animal management).

8 Objective

Submission ID: 218-18

General position

Support in part

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 218-19

General position

Support

We fully support the FWF to undertake commercial recovery and operations, and to fund that by whatever means they see best.

We support the FWF to use any fees or additional revenue as they see fit to better the Wapiti HOSI ie. developing their own venison processing plant etc.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 218-2

General position

Support in part

5 Objective

Submission ID: 218-20

General position

Support in part

We support GAC and FWF looking at ways of strengthening this relationship and involvement with iwi, but don't want it to delay the HOSI implementation process ie. it can be added once the HOSI is up and running. We do not support DOC managing iwi relationships, the GAC and FWF must do this.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 218-21

General position

Support in part

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 218-3

General position

Support in part

We support educational opportunities, provided they include the key principles of the value of Wapiti and game animals to NZ (recreation, commercial, well-being), and consulting with partners doesn't delay and restrict what they can share.

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 218-4

General position

Support in part

We support monitoring, but only that as recommended by the GAC, game animal biologists and FWF'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 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 218-5

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 218-6

General position

Support in part

We support the FWF 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).

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 218-7

General position

Support in part

We again support any recreational hunting conditions that the FWF and GAC believe will enhance the Fiordland Wapiti herd and hunting experience. Will also support the FWF to introduce any sort of tag system on trophy bulls (like is used in the US/Canada) or restrictions on what type and age of Wapiti bull can be harvested by recreational hunters, if it's deemed to enhance the Wapiti herd. We support the FWF restricting access/limiting the ballot and imposing higher fees to international hunters, to benefit New Zealanders having preferential treatment with recreational hunting.

We support the FWF to use any fees or additional revenue as they see fit to better the Wapiti HOSI ie. developing their own venison processing plant etc.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 218-8

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.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 218-9

General position

Support in part

We support the hunting community being involved in the management of Wapiti, as directed and managed by the FWF.

Respondent: Kevin Dunn

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Kevin Dunn - wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Matthew Durham

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 275

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 275-1

General position

Oppose in part

Fiordland National Park is just that, A National Park. To create a HOSI in a National Park goes against the entire ethos of setting up National Parks.

Respondent: Michael Eatson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 1

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 1-1

General position

Oppose in part

I'm generally opposed to the protection of pest species. What's next - a protected Tahr herd at Aoraki? Protected goats in Skippers? Protected cats on Stewart Island?

Respondent: Olivia Ediriweera

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 61

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 61-1

General position

Oppose

I oppose to the continuation of the Fiordland Wapiti herd in any capacity and the delegation of them as a Herd of Special Interest (HSOI) as I have experienced first hand that deer and our natural biodiversity cannot coexist sustainably.

I was fortunate enough to visit Fiordland this September with The Tawaki Project and Fiordland Expeditions over 2 and a half weeks. During this time, we visited Doubtful, Dusky and Charles Sound alongside Chalky and Preservation Inlet and spend each day exploring as 21 islands/mainland locations in search of tawaki/Fiordland crested penguin. I have experienced Fiordland in a much greater capacity than many people will in their lifetime and I can say first hand that the islands without deer are lush forests, home to massive trees and thick under foliage filled with native bird life. However, in contrast the islands we visited that were home to deer were ruined, they had no under foliage, lacked native bird life and across the entire islands were deer tracks ruining the stability of banks, ruining any remaining plant life trying to survive. Additionally, Fiordland has many threatened burrowing bird species including tawaki, kiwi, and many seabird species such as sooty shearwaters whose burrows would easily become trampled by the Wapiti, further reducing their available habitat.

If you continue to the Wapiti herd in any capacity you will be knowingly devastating the biodiversity any location they are found. New Zealand has many locations across our country filled with deer and as well as many locations across the world; yet there is nowhere else like Fiordland in New Zealand or on Earth. Additionally, Fiordland unique ecosystem acts as a significant carbon sink for New Zealand accounting for 65% of New Zealand's carbon sequestration (in combination with the West Coast). No amount of restoration would make up for the significant damage that the herd does to this ecosystem.

This native forest and the biodiversity within have been here for hundreds of thousands of years whilst the Wapiti herd as only been here for just over 100 years, making the former much more historically significant than the later. Please preserve our largest national park for the many endangered, endemic and unique bird and reptile species who call this place home as well as the many domestic and international tourists who come specifically for this wildlife and unique landscape.

References:

Bukosa, B., Mikaloff-Fletcher, S., Brailsford, G., Smale, D., Keller, E. D., Baisden, W. T., Kirschbaum, M. U. F., Giltrap, D. L., Liang, L., Moore, S., Moss, R., Nichol, S., Turnbull, J., Geddes, A., Kennett, D., Hidy, D., Barcza, Z., Schipper, L. A., Wall, A. M., ... Brandon, A. (2025). *Inverse modelling of New Zealand's carbon dioxide balance estimates a larger than expected carbon sink*. *Gases/Atmospheric Modelling and Data Analysis/Troposphere/Physics* (physical properties and processes). <https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-2024-3866>

Respondent: Jane Ellery

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 209

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 209-1

General position

Oppose

As a New Zealander, it absolutely beggars belief that a government minister, a government department and a minority faction of New Zealand society is advocating and implementing the jaundiced perspective that any introduced pest species has any place within the closed and finite environment of our beleaguered native landscapes.

I suggest that the people supporting the establishment of the HOSI animals and the further legislation around these, know full well that they are not actually acting in the interest of any conservation ideals, but are willing to put this knowledge aside in order to promote their own personal and fundamentally selfish interests ahead of the betterment of our land and it's precious indigenous flora and fauna.

I cannot comprehend how any person lobbying to cement these changes into law can look every other New Zealand citizen in the eye and speak about a shared value of our fragile natural landscapes that we as humans have been detrimentally putting under pressure since the day we stepped ashore these wonderful islands.

I am under no illusion that my speaking out will have no sway around this decision making process because if everyday common sense and ordinary people with no agenda were involved, this would not even have made it this far in the decision making process - true conservation and cherry picking hunting do not go hand in hand; one plus one equals two, not three.

So thank you, James Meager, MP for Rangitata and all of your cronies. I hope you get to tell your grandchildren the hand you had in NOT furthering the protection of New Zealand's precious ecosystems.

Respondent: Mark Elliotte

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 303

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 303

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

Mark Elliotte - wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Mark Elliotte - NZDA Upper Clutha Branch

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 317

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 317

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

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

Respondent: Beth Endres

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 2

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 2-1

General position

Neutral

The plan anticipates changes under the Game Animal Council (HOSI) Amendment Bill, but current law (National Parks Act) still requires extermination of introduced species unless otherwise determined.

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 2-2

General position

Neutral

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.

Treaty obligations are acknowledged, but the section lacks detail on iwi aspirations, decision-making roles, or co-governance.

Fiordland is part of Te Wahipounamu – a UNESCO World Heritage Area. The plan does not explicitly address how deer management will safeguard World Heritage values.

The Glaisnock Wilderness Area is sensitive to infrastructure and activity. The plan should ensure hunting access and facilities do not compromise wilderness values.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 2-3

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: Brad Evison

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 325

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 325

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

Brad Evison - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Adam Fairmaid

**Submission Type:
manual**

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 319

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 319

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

Adam Fairmaid - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Terry Farrell

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 342

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 342

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

Terry Farrell - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Kevin Fewtrell

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 122

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 122-1

General position

Support

I fully 100% Support the Wapiti Herd being made a Herd of Special Interest. I also support the Wapiti Foundation being made the Managers of the Herd. They have a proven track record. Far more qualified people than me can work out the minutiae and conditions but it is way overdue for this to happen. The Wapiti Herd are both unique and an asset to New Zealand.

Thank You

Kevin

Respondent: Martin Fey

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Martin Fey - wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Timothy Fletcher

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 148

1 Objective

Submission ID: 148-1

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: Cameron Fleury

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 189

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 189-1

General position

Support

1. Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Herd Management Plan for the proposed Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest (HOSI).

I am submitting this as both a long-time hunter and someone who works on the land every day as a farmer.

From a land management and conservation standpoint, and from the viewpoint of a hunter who values a healthy, sustainable wapiti herd, I strongly support the proposed Plan and the establishment of a formal HOSI for Fiordland.

2. Support for a Herd of Special Interest

2.1 Perspective as a Farmer – sustainable numbers matter

As a farmer, I understand the impacts of grazing pressure, carrying capacity, and the importance of maintaining animal health through appropriate stocking levels. The principles are the same in the wild.

Managing wapiti numbers at sustainable levels will:

reduce pressure on fragile Fiordland ecosystems

allow native vegetation and understory to recover

ensure healthier wapiti with better body condition and genetics

avoid the long-term ecological damage caused by unmanaged populations

The Plan's balance of recreational hunting, professional control, and meat recovery mirrors good farm management practices: monitoring, active management, and adjusting numbers to match the environment's ability to support them.

2.2 Perspective as a Hunter – quality over uncontrolled quantity

As a hunter, I value:

a strong, healthy wapiti herd

animals in good condition

a fair and rewarding hunting experience

the opportunity to hunt in high-quality habitat

Uncontrolled population growth leads to poor-condition animals, degraded habitat, and a declining hunting experience.

The Draft Plan protects the future of wapiti hunting by ensuring the herd is kept at levels that improve quality, not just numbers.

This supports the heritage and tradition of wapiti hunting in Fiordland while respecting the land it depends on.

3. Partnership and shared responsibility

Both farming and hunting rely on teamwork, community, and a shared respect for the environment.

I support the Plan's emphasis on:

working alongside iwi

involving hunters and volunteers

professional control where required

transparent reporting

collaboration between DOC, GAC, Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, and other partners

This approach reflects how successful farming works too: many hands, clear communication, and everyone taking responsibility for outcomes.

4. Environmental accountability and science-based management

As someone who works closely with animals and land every day, I know that management must be based on real data, not assumption.

I support the Plan's commitment to:

long-term ecological monitoring

measuring deer impacts and biodiversity recovery

adapting management when conditions change

This is exactly how good stock, pasture, and land management decisions are made on a farm, and it is encouraging to see the same discipline applied to Fiordland.

5. Benefits to conservation, hunting, and the wider community

The Draft Plan sets up a system that protects:

the health of Fiordland's native ecosystems

the future of wapiti as a unique free-range herd

the hunting opportunities that many New Zealanders value

the heritage and identity associated with wapiti in Fiordland

As a hunter and a farmer, I believe this is the most responsible and balanced way forward.

6. Conclusion

I strongly support establishing the Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest and adopting the Draft Herd Management Plan.

It reflects the principles of sustainable land management, respects the importance of healthy game animals, and protects Fiordland's ecological integrity while maintaining New Zealand's unique wapiti hunting opportunities.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Cameron fleury

Hunter and Farmer

Respondent: Greg Flintoff

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 175

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 175-1

General position

Support

As an avid conservationist and hunter I fully support the wapiti hosi plan. The fwf have done an incredible job in collaboration with doc and the results speak for themselves. These mountains are incredibly important to hunters who care deeply about the health of the forest, ecosystem and lastly the health of the deer the are pursuing.

Respondent: Sue Fordyce

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 31

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 31-1

General position

Oppose

I strongly oppose the proposal to designate wapiti in Fiordland National Park as a herd of special interest. The evidence set out in recent monitoring reports, as well as in publicly released material, makes it clear that this designation risks entrenching precisely the management failures that continue to degrade one of Aotearoa's most ecologically significant landscapes.

Fiordland National Park is part of Te Wahipounamu, a World Heritage Area recognised for values that exist nowhere else on Earth. It's fragile alpine flora and sensitive forest understorey—already among the most vulnerable ecosystems in the country—are being visibly and measurably harmed by ongoing deer browse.

The monitoring reports released under the Official Information Act confirm what conservationists, ecologists, and Department of Conservation staff have repeatedly observed: deer numbers remain too high to allow natural regeneration, and the current management regime—driven by recreational and trophy-hunting interests—has not delivered the ecological outcomes required by national park legislation.

Multiple reports, including those by Reproducible and Manaaki Whenua/Landcare Research, evidence that:

- Forest understorey condition shows little positive change over more than a decade, and in some years has declined.
- Intensive but selective harvesting protects trophy bulls, undermining population reduction and leaving browse pressure high.
- Current deer harvests are inadequate, with scientific recommendations indicating substantial increases would be needed to reach “acceptable limits”.
- Monitoring remains patchy and inconsistent, making ecological conclusions even more troubling—not less.

These are not isolated findings. They represent a consistent scientific narrative: a regime shaped around recreational hunting is not protecting Fiordland’s biodiversity.

The proposal for a herd of special interest is presented as a pathway to better accountability. However, the draft herd management framework provides no enforceable ecological targets, no measurable vegetation thresholds, and no clear assignment of responsibility.

Forest & Bird correctly identifies that the plan is vague and aspirational rather than grounded in the testable ecological objectives that modern conservation management requires.

The heart of the matter is a conflict of purpose. National parks exist to protect nature—not to guarantee recreational hunting opportunities. As ecologist Sean Husheer states: “Anyone suggesting that there can be a balance between satisfactory hunting for recreational hunters and forest regeneration is ecologically illiterate.” His point reflects a fundamental ecological truth: browsing mammals introduced by humans

In nature nothing exists alone. The fate of Fiordland's forests and alpine plants is inseparable from the pressures we permit to be imposed. When deer browse suppresses decades of growth in a single season, it is not a matter of balancing interests—it is a matter of allowing the ecological fabric of a World Heritage site to unravel.

Designating wapiti as a herd of special interest would:

- Normalise introduced deer as valued components of the conservation estate, shifting them from pest species to protected resource.
- Entrench recreational and trophy-hunting priorities in the heart of our most fragile national park.
- Undercut the Department of Conservation's ability to fulfil its legal obligations to protect indigenous biodiversity.
- Create the illusion of improved oversight while failing to require meaningful population reduction.

Even the Department's own staff acknowledge that more intensive professional control operations" are necessary to meet ecological goals. Yet the proposed regime places primary influence, once again, in the hands of interest groups whose objective is sustained hunting opportunity—not ecological restoration.

Aotearoa faces a choice clearly articulated in the article's closing words:

We can conserve one of the world's top biodiversity hotspots, or we can prioritise good deer hunting. We cannot have both.

Fiordland's forests, its alpine plants, its threatened species, and its status as a global conservation treasure demand that we choose protection over recreation.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose the designation of wapiti as a herd of special interest and urge the Department to:

1. Reject the proposal,
2. Reinforce wapiti's status as an introduced species requiring population reduction,
3. Develop a lawful, science-led management plan with measurable ecological outcomes, and
4. Commit resources to robust monitoring and ungulate control across the national park.

Fiordland deserves nothing less than management grounded in ecological integrity—not in compromise with the very pressure that is driving its decline

Respondent: Karen Forno

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 60

1 Objective

Submission ID: 60-1

General position

Oppose

No wapiti in conservation areas.

Respondent: Helene Fougere

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 330

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 330

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

Helene Fougere - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Scott Fratcher

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 279

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 279-1

General position

Neutral

Best for all would be to allow restricted hunting with thermal scopes by hunters who are allowed to market the meat to cover expences.

Respondent: Joshua Frizzell

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 276

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 276-1

General position

Support

I believe Wapiti is the pinnacle of hunting in NZ and for them to be further protected in Fiordland will enable future generations the opportunity to see these magnificent creatures. Also, determining Wapiti a HOSI will benefit the land as FWF play an important role in managing the biodiversity in central Fiordland.

Respondent: John Furlong

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 195

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 195-1

General position

Support

I strongly support the Plan in its current form and urge the Minister for Hunting and Fishing to finalise it and designate the Fiordland wapiti as a herd of special interest.

The Plan effectively balances the need to protect Fiordland National Park's outstanding natural values with the sustainable management of wapiti for hunting purposes.

Key strengths of the Plan include:

- **Ecological Objectives (Objectives 1 and 6):** The focus on managing wapiti to restore ecological processes, maintain indigenous biodiversity, and prevent species loss is commendable. By improving knowledge of wapiti dynamics with native ecosystems, the Plan promotes adaptive management that could serve as a model for other introduced species in New Zealand. This targeted approach will help mitigate browsing impacts on flora while preserving the wapiti herd's genetic integrity.
- **Hunting and Community Benefits (Objectives 2, 4, and 5):** Enhancing the hunting experience through high-quality bull production during the bugle period, while engaging the hunting community in stewardship, is a forward-thinking strategy. I support the ballot and block system, authorization requirements, and educational initiatives, as they will foster responsible hunting and contribute to local social initiatives. Additionally, strengthening relationships with Papatipu Runanga and Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, including opportunities for involvement in management, respects Treaty principles and enriches cultural connections to the area.
- **Sustainability and Funding (Objective 3):** The emphasis on self-funding through partnerships, fees, and sponsorships is practical and innovative. Redirecting revenue to conservation efforts within the Wapiti Area or wider Fiordland National Park will provide economic benefits to local communities in Te Anau and Southland, such as through hunter tourism and support for initiatives like predator control and hut maintenance.
- **Monitoring, Research, and Reporting (Objectives 7, 8, and 9):** The comprehensive strategies for monitoring (e.g., ecological plots, faecal pellet counts, and hunter harvest data), research (e.g., on herd health and habitat use), and annual reporting ensure transparency and evidence-based decision-making. This will demonstrate progress and allow for adjustments, building trust among stakeholders.

Overall, the Plan's strategies—such as selective control operations, recreational hunting conditions, and fostering partnerships—provide a robust framework for achieving these objectives without compromising the Park's wilderness values. It recognizes the wapiti's unique place in Fiordland's history while empowering hunters, iwi, and

communities to contribute to conservation. I believe implementing this Plan will yield long-term benefits for biodiversity, recreation, and local economies.

Respondent: Tim Gale - Hunting & Fishing Napier

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 306

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 306

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

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

Respondent: **Tim Gale**

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 307

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 307

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

Tim Gale - Wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Paul Gardiner

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 96

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 96-1

General position

Support

I support the herd management plan, & I support all that the FWF do.

I value the Wapiti Herd for a few reasons. It has so much history in NZ and abroad, it is a HOSI. The package of being able to hunt Wapiti and experience the Fiordland landscape and beauty is so unique. There is also the allure of seeing trophy heads due to the work FWF do, and it is a big drawcard in support of mental health due to the reset people get when they visit Fiordland.

The social and community outcome should benefit all, hunter-led and community-led.

The funding source should also go directly to the end user, in this case, the Wapiti Foundation. It should bypass DOC and the GAC, or any government groups, because the FWF do all of the work, and it cuts out the middle person and saves in the long run.

Any financial plans should be simple and not be a requirement.

The operational plan should be a tool to inspire innovation, new control techniques to benefit not just the wapiti heard but all HOSI herds in NZ.

And part of this is the vegetation monitoring. Monitoring enables FWF to adapt to any changes as needed. Monitoring should only reflect the impact that deer have on the environment, which brings us to roles and responsibilities. These should be assigned to groups with the right passionate people and skill set. FWF have the passion and possesses the expertise to implement and manage the HOSI Wapiti heard.

To end, the FWF have done so much for the care of not only the wapiti, but the environment in Fiordland. They are not trying to control Wapiti, just manage it in the best way that they know.

Respondent: Kaleb Geary

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 203

9 Objective

Submission ID: 203-1

General position

Support

Provided it is neutrally delivered and non bias to any one sector or group.

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 203-10

General position

Support

Yes, this is a fantastic general summary, and is so applicable to many parts of NZ with valuable herds, such as Otago and Rakaia Red Deer.

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 203-11

General position

Support

The value of the Wapiti hunting experience is unmeasurable beyond any spreadsheet. Beyond the obvious financial benefits for the local community, the sense of being part of a community collective is fantastic. The sense of adventure for parties entering the blocks, and creating life long memories with friends and family. The value of hunting such a beautiful animal in one of the most stunning landscapes the world has to offer. The value of volunteers setting and maintaining pest control trap lines, they feel like they belong to a greater good. These is no negative value to the current Wapiti herd, and can only get better with more active management.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 203-12

General position

Support

I agree

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 203-13

General position

Support

Agree, bring down the hammer on those who can not follow rules and respect the hard work and effort of those brave enough to stand. up and fight for what they care most about.

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 203-14

General position

Support

I have no problem paying to enter the ballot, as I can see where that money goes, back into active animal management.

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 203-15

General position

Support

Yes, transparency in what has taken place would be good, including how many animals are taken by hunters, and the estimated cost that would save the foundation or taxpayer. That way, the public can see how effective hunters are for active animal control.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 203-16

General position

Support

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 203-17

General position

Support in part

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 203-18

General position

Support

What if when required annually, additional ballot dates may be released for female only tags? Similar to hunting in North America. I am aware it is not as appealing to go and hunt only female deer, particularly in Fiordland, but

possibly consider subsidising the hunters for harvesting females, or contributing to their access costs.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 203-19

General position

Support in part

A complete restoration to a pre ungulate ecosystem is unfeasible as this is not an isolate island of land, and other ungulates will move in.

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 203-2

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 203-20

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 203-3

General position

Support in part

I support the herd management plan in principle but believe adjustments are needed for it to work effectively for the Wapiti herd. It is a highly valued asset to the local community, and creates a world class hunting experience for those lucky enough to draw a ballot. I would love for this to be enhanced even more than it currently is to more locations around NZ.

I am an active hunter, tramper and have hunted in our remote places for the last 5 years. I would love to see more structure to our hunting sector in NZ, as this will provide far more beneficial results for all involved.

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 203-4

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 203-5

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 203-6

General position

Support

Yes I support this, as some years compared to others less or more animals may need to be taken to actively manage the herd.

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 203-7

General position

Support in part

Limit the number of tags/ballots allocated to international hunters.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 203-8

General position

Support

Hunters are the most active backcountry enthusiasts, and will be the first to stand up and protect the land they traverse.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 203-9

General position

Support

We need more science and understanding across all parts of NZ on how these ungulates interact with our environment.

Respondent: Robin Gebbie

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 119

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 119-1

General position

Oppose

I oppose this management plan for the Herds of Special Interest. DOC parks and reserves were created to protect native fauna and flora. Any 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: Stuart Gerritsen

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 100

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 100-1

General position

Support in part

I generally support the plan but feel some changes need to be made.

Wapiti HOSI SUBMISSION.pdf

Respondent: Angus Gilbert

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 139

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 139-1

General position

Support

The HOSI management plan simply legitimises the work that the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation already carry out. They do an excellent job of managing a wild game population in the most remote inaccessible region of NZ, while balancing conservation values and biodiversity. Their work should provide a case example of what can be achieved.

The wapiti herd in fiordland is effectively managed through targeted culling to control populations. Limiting the herd size is conducive to producing better heads and healthier deer, so it is in the FWF and hunters best interests. They do not want huge numbers and unregulated herd expansion. This is also to balance hunting interests with conservation, recognising the damage high deer densities do to forest growth.

FWF also fund trap lines and hut/track maintenance, further enhancing biodiversity and consevation values. I will again mention this is the most inaccessible region in NZ and this work is carried out at no cost to the NZ taxpayer.

All of the work FWF carry out is funded by their operations. This is a cost that DOC would otherwise have to foot for aerial control, trap, hut, track maintenance. Yet the FWF do a better job of deer management in this region than is performed anywhere else on conservation estate. As I have mentioned, this should be a case example of how hunter led management can balance hunting interests with conservation values.

The argument that the natural values of our national parks must be upheld has merit. However I would argue that national parks hold different value to different people for different reasons, and if it were not for the FWF, the wapiti herd and the entire ballot system, many people and hunters would never step foot in Fiordland National Park and experience everything it has to offer. For myself, hunting is the main reason I have set foot in our other national parks and had the pleasure of traversing my way around them.

I believe that constructive management of wild game in New Zealand is the way forward, and this HOSI management plan provides the framework to do so.

Respondent: Allan Gillespie

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Allan Gillespie - wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Simone Goldsmith

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 91

1 Objective

Submission ID: 91-1

General position

Support

The Fiordland Wapiti foundation supports broad conservation goals that benefit all species in the area of operations. Their consistency working in an area that regular conservation groups have failed to manage should afford the group more legislated support. Conservation in New Zealand in a constant battle for funding and the Fiordland Wapiti foundation has the ability to pool resources independently, from communities of people who are passionate about New Zealands wilderness but often excluded from the conversations around management. To be blunt, the individuals attracted to the area by the Wapiti are willing to put their money where their mouths are, and get stuck in.

I worked in Fiordland National Park, over the 5 years I was there, I was shocked to learn that less then 10% of the land area of the national park had active pest control from the Department of Conservation. This is by no means a slight against the departments biodiversity team, who do an outstanding job with what is available to them. The budget the department has, simply fluctuates to quickly with political whims to be adequate in the long term across the whole park.

When diverse people, communities, and funding can be allowed to contribute and manage aspects of Fiordland to support increased biodiversity it is an asset to New Zealand.

There are some who might hold assumed biases against hunting groups, but for those who are willing to look at the measureable evidence of outcomes for conservation. The positive impact of the heard management of Wapiti in Fiordland by the foundation is clear. With strong outcomes for the ecosystems, and communities who engage with them. The proposal has my support and hopefully the support of those who have our national parks long term best interests in mind.

Respondent: Douglas Gordon

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 55

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 55-1

General position

Support

I support this plan which is a continuation of what has been successfully happening in the Wapiti Area of Fiordland National Park for several years now. The Wapiti have been in this area for over 100 years (long before the area became a National Park) it is time it is recognized that they are here long term., to stay in some form.

I also support the submissions of National Office and various Branches of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Assn on this management plan.

This plan is a win for conservation as the deer numbers are managed at levels that will result in and improving environment.

It is also a win for reasonable government, as the costs of conservation in this part of the park are to be financed by other than the Crown. The Crown does not or will never have the money required to finance the conservation dreams of the extreme green conservation movement over the conservation estate. (Which is approx. a third of New Zealand.) This plan provides an improved conservation outcome over what the Crown can afford for this area. With out the Wapiti Foundation who is going to take care of the predator traps they have installed? Would the huts be burned down after not being maintained.

This Management plan is also a win for hunting, that provides challenging hunting in a great environment. We need to be encouraging hunting as a form of recreation. People need to be out there doing it in the fresh air. Instead of doing drugs, alcohol, and making a nuisance of themselves doing wheelies in cars etc. Hunters and hunting, like the Wapiti are here to stay, they both are part of what makes this country and its citizens unique. let them be a benefit not a hinderance. This plan helps makes them such.

Thanks for taking submissions on this management plan, it has taken many years to advance this far and needs to progress. Once in place, I pray it will remain so for the future generations. It was a trip by boat and foot from Lake Hankinson via the Henry Saddle to George Sound while I was still at school, that sold me on the outdoors and deer stalking. An adventure trip that I believe is still only undertaken by a few, and none of them any longer school parties. It is to my regret that I have never been back. Perhaps I would have if the Wapiti had been better managed when I was younger and fitter.

I repeat I support the Wapiti Heard of Interest Management Plan and wish it success.

Respondent: Douglas Gordon - NZDA Southland Branch

Submission
Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 68

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 68-1

General position

Support

Please find the Southland Branch Of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Assn in the attached document. Thanks for asking for submissions. We hope you find our submission useful

NZDA Southland Heard of special interest Submission.docx

Respondent: Trev Gratton - NZDA Hutt Valley Branch

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 305

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 305

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

Hutt Valley Branch NZDA - Trev Gratton - Wapiti submission.pdf

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

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 309

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 309

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

Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation - Trevor Gratton - Wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Michael Greaves

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 53

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 53-1

General position

Support

I support the Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan.

This is a world-leading example of hunter-led, game animal management and habitat conservation.

Respondent: Bernie Gunn

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 13

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 13-1

General position

Support

This framework professionalises the hunting of the Wapiti and holds it up as a privilege that must be managed responsibly. Just like in North America they administer hunting quite closely and there are large benefits of doing this which New Zealand is just starting to realise.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 13-2

General position

Support

Us as hunters have to put our money where our hearts lie.

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 13-3

General position

Support

Data driven evidence based monitoring is key to keep an impartial lense on progress and adherence to targets.

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 13-4

General position

Support

For many of us who spend time in Fiordland, the wapiti herd represents something truly special — not just as a unique hunting opportunity, but as a living example of how responsible game management and conservation can coexist. The herd has become part of Fiordland's story, a naturalised population that connects people deeply to the landscape and its wild heritage.

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 13-5

General position

Support

Yes this is key in order to increase the value given to this herd and the area.

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 13-6

General position

Support

This is in line with both a quality hunting experience and a healthy deer herd where their only predators are humans.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 13-7

General position

Support

I'm usually mildly allergic to compliance and beaurocracy but in this case it is the price of protection and upholding this herd and its area as something special. Therefore I support it.

Respondent: Rob Gwynne-Jones

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 47

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 47-1

General position

Support

Wapiti are an incredible resource for the area with a wapiti ballot block being a bucket list trip for many NZ residents and overseas visitors. The FWF has done a great job of trapping, culling red deer and making the wapiti area a true example of hunter led conservation. Without them we would not have massive meat donations to hungry Kiwis, ever increasing quality of animals in this area and the economic impact that hunters bring to this area. It's a non brainer to support this

Respondent: Liz Hakiwai

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 328

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 328

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

Liz Hakiwai - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Donovan Hall

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 190

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 190-1

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 190-10

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 190-11

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 190-12

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 190-13

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 190-14

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 190-15

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 190-16

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 190-17

General position

Support

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 190-18

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 190-19

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 190-2

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 190-20

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 190-21

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 190-22

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 190-3

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 190-4

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 190-5

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 190-6

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 190-7

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 190-8

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 190-9

General position

Support

I fully support the HOSI Wapiti bill and wish to make several points.

First, hunters and hunting are integral to New Zealand. Do the Mahi get the Kai is often heard amongst hunters who view hunting as sport, conservation, fitness, and community/family support.

Second, without recreational hunting (as opposed to high priced “guided” hunting) game species cannot be adequately controlled. Therefore, recreational hunters should be a part of not only this bill, but all HOSI bills and wild animal management strategies.

Respondent: Susan Hall - Upper Waimakariri Rakaia Group

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Upper Waimakariri Rakaia Group - Susan Hall - wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Susan Hall

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 69

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 69

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

Susan Hall covering letter wapiti.pdf

Respondent: Annette & Michael Hamblett

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 192

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 192-1

General position

Oppose

We want to see wapiti 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.

Wapiti Fiordland Herds of special interest submission.docx

Respondent: Craig Hammond

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 176

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 176-1

General position

Support

New Zealand is lucky to have a herd of wapiti in New Zealand. The lot of money is spent by hunters wishing to hunt wapiti in Fiordland, the herd should be treated as an asset and managed as such. The wapiti foundation has been managing the herd for a great number of years and undertake culling to ensure the environment can cope with them being there. The herd should be kept to a minimum to endure the environment thrives and to enhance the satisfaction of the hunting experience by way of healthy animals with big trophy heads and so harvested meat is of good quality. The Fiordland wapiti foundation operates predator trap lines at no cost to the dept of conservation. There are few herds of wapiti /elk outside of America and Canada and we are fortunate. They should be made a herd of special interest and managed. It would be impossible to eradicate deer from Fiordland

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 176-2

General position

Support

We are fortunate to have wapiti in Nz, they should be managed as an asset. My mental health is I handed by hunting Fiordland. The wapiti foundation have been managing the herd well at no cost to nz tax payers. They also at no cost undertake predator trapping. The meat from wapiti is fantastic eating and with the cost of meat at the supermarket being so high is cost prohibitive. Eradicating deer from our national parks would be impossible and impossibly expensive to the rate and tax payers. A much more sensible idea would be to manage them. They deserve becoming a herd of special interest after the history they have undergone over the passed 100+ years. Thank you for your time. Craig

Respondent: John Harris

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 80

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 80-1

General position

Support

I am strongly in support of the HOSI for Wapiti. Hunting a Wapiti bull is a lifetime bucket lister for many NZ hunters. Hunters are by far the biggest user group of the backcountry in NZ. The Wapiti herd is unique, and provides epic opportunities. On a personal note, my boys are still young and only hunting possums at this stage, but the dream would be to take them and chase some Wapiti bulls one day.

Respondent: Demme Hartley

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 348

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 348

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

Demme Hartley - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Derek Hartley

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 253

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 253-1

General position

Support

That the costs of Research do not adversely affect core tasks.

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 253-10

General position

Support

Some Statutory . Some will no doubt change with further Knowledge

3 Objective

Submission ID: 253-11

General position

Support

The reality is that as DOC has stated , all this costs.

Any income that doesn't corrupt the key aims and functions.

Lessen political influence from taxpayer funding.

9 Objective

Submission ID: 253-12

General position

Support

Essential.

Accountability and builds interest in the work

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 253-13

General position

Support

The Powers & penalty's are an unfortunate necessity.

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 253-14

General position

Support

I strongly support the Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest.

I commend DOC and the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation for the Conservation work they have done over the last 20years.

Especially managing the Iconic Wapiti herd which was established in 1905 some 47years BEFORE the Fiordland National Park was Gazetted.

This will give Much needed certainty to their existence and allow the Foundation to further enhance their contribution to Conservation.

Without pedantic legal challenges by groups with no meaning full contribution to Fiordland Conservation.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 253-15

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 253-16

General position

Support

Knowledge is not static.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 253-17

General position

Support in part

7 Objective

Submission ID: 253-18

General position

Support

Essential

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 253-19

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 253-2

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 253-3

General position

Support

Accurate Repeatable information .

One of Managements best tools.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 253-4

General position

Support

Commercial is a reality. Utilise it .

2 Objective

Submission ID: 253-5

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 253-6

General position

Support

These areas were all Gazetted with the Introduced species already well established and Highly Valued.

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 253-7

General position

Support

Public accountability.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 253-8

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 253-9

General position

Support in part

Fiordland & the Wapiti are the core attraction.

Over commercialisation could adversely affect the experience

Respondent: Nick Hekkens

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 4

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 4-1

General position

Support

This heard is of the utmost importance to the area and support the future of this special are and deer species

Respondent: Snow Hewetson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 141

1 Objective

Submission ID: 141-1

General position

Support

The existence of Wapiti and the opportunity to hunt them is and added incentive to protect the indigenous flora and fauna within the Wapiti area.

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 141-10

General position

Support

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 141-11

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 141-12

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 141-13

General position

Support

I support the plan and the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation in their efforts to the manage and control of the impacts wapiti on the unique environment that is Fiordland.

I also support the enhancement and improvement of the animals and the hunting experience, which is again unique to Fiordland and as such is very highly valued.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation should be encouraged to continue the great work they have been doing

5 Objective

Submission ID: 141-14

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 141-15

General position

Support

Map 2 Fiordland Wapiti Area - Close up

Submission ID: 141-16

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 141-17

General position

Support

Hunters will get behind this and support it financially so long as the unique hunting experience that is Fiordland and wapiti hunting in there is retained and enhanced by the proposed HOSI . Hunters will have confidence in the FWF running the ballot etc to collect the revenue needed.

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 141-18

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 141-19

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 141-2

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 141-20

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 141-21

General position

Support

The ongoing support of the wider hunting community will be vital to the success of a HOSI. FWF have a great track record in this area.

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 141-22

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 141-23

General position

Support

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 141-3

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 141-4

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 141-5

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 141-6

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 141-7

General position

Support

I have experienced the hunting in the wapiti area and there is nothing else quite like it , it is very challenging and at the same time rewarding due to that challenge.

The beauty of the valleys and animals is second to none and an experience we are very fortunate to be able to participate in.

Hunting in Fiordland is one of the last great adventures where you can experience a real wilderness type hunt and a see so many of our native species thriving along side a highly valued introduced species.

The values associated with the environment and animals are all enhanced by the Plan, protection of the wilderness experience, protection of our native wildlife, protection of the natural fauna of Fiordland and the opportunity to experience hunting in such a unique environment, these are all highly valued .

8 Objective

Submission ID: 141-8

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 141-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Rhys Hillier

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 90

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 90-1

General position

Support in part

the proposed plan needs to align more with the wapiti foundations approach to management of the herds. by far one of the world staples in potentially managing the wild herds.

this herd in fiordland has the potential to be world class, not only in management but tourism for the southern island.

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 90-2

General position

Support in part

as a rec hunter, i support a management plan but believe there needs to be amendment to the current proposed plan.

Respondent: Natalie Hinke

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 49

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 49

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

Natalie Hinke wapiti Submission support doc.pdf

Natalie Hinke_sika Submission support doc.pdf

Respondent: Alex Hockley

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 337

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 337

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

Alex Hockley - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Jeffrey Hodgson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 222

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 222-1

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 222-10

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 222-11

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 222-12

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 222-13

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 222-14

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 222-15

General position

Neutral

Would like more information on Ngai Tahu involvement in Wapiti management. (ie hunter education) what sort of fees would they charge for said involvement?

8 Objective

Submission ID: 222-16

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 222-17

General position

Support in part

1.6 what would be the cost to hunters to do this?

1.7 need to keep fees to hunters with in reason . Too high will put people off.

1.8 All revenue generated through fees should be used for Wapiti and the Wapiti area only.

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 222-18

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 222-19

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 222-2

General position

Support

I support the 2 proposed herds of Special Interest . I think that recreational hunters need to be central to the management of ALL herds of special interest

4 Objective

Submission ID: 222-20

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 222-21

General position

Support in part

Hunter fees need to be reasonable . They already have the high cost of getting into the hunting blocks.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 222-3

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 222-4

General position

Support in part

2.5 need more information on Maori Knowledge and what costs would come from it.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 222-5

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 222-6

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 222-7

General position

Support in part

3.5 /3.6 what will be the costs of this be for hunters?

9 Objective

Submission ID: 222-8

General position

Support

An annual survey of recreational hunters should be put into each management plan.

This will ensure accountability and confirm that the herds meet the criteria for " special interest"

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 222-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Dylan Hogg

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 66

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 66-1

General position

Oppose

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 66-2

General position

Oppose

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 66-3

General position

Oppose

Putting more controls on rec hunters in Fiordland will reduce the amount of animals being shot

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 66-4

General position

Oppose

Deer living in a national park do not need protection, they need controlling.

Does the department really have the available funds to meet these new control targets?

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 66-5

General position

Oppose

This has already happened. the heard has already deteriorated form its former glory. This is due to habitat destruction

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 66-6

General position

Oppose

surely this is already happening?

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 66-7

General position

Oppose

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 66-8

General position

Oppose

I vehemently oppose this particular part. This is looking to commercialize and monetize a pest within a world heritage site. This would be at the cost of our biodiversity.

Respondent: Tom Hollings

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 194

1 Objective

Submission ID: 194-1

General position

Support in part

Wapiti/Fiordland deer are a nationally important resource and should be treasured.

Respondent: Blair Housley

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 85

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 85-1

General position

Support

I am writing to express my strong support for the Draft Herd Management Plan for the proposed Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest (HSI). The Fiordland wapiti herd is a unique and culturally significant part of New Zealand's hunting heritage. Protecting and managing this herd appropriately ensures it remains an iconic species for future generations while also delivering economic and environmental benefits.

The wapiti herd has been part of the Fiordland landscape for over a century. It is deeply embedded in our outdoor culture, hunting traditions, and national identity.

- The herd represents a living connection to New Zealand's recreational history.
- It is one of the world's most remote, rugged, and respected wapiti populations.
- Losing it, or failing to recognise it properly, would be a loss of something truly distinctive to New Zealand.

The establishment of the HSI helps ensure that this historic herd is retained and valued, rather than slowly diluted or removed through neglect or poorly directed management.

The Fiordland wapiti ballot and associated recreational hunting offer significant benefits, including:

- **Direct economic contributions** to local communities through travel, accommodation, supplies, and guided operations.
- **Flow-on benefits** to regional tourism and outdoor recreation.
- **Volunteer contribution and investment** from hunters, particularly through the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, which puts substantial time and resources into predator control and habitat work.

The proposed HSI provides a clear, stable management framework that protects these values and maintains Fiordland as a world-class destination for hunters.

I do not believe that a well-managed wapiti herd poses a meaningful threat to Fiordland's native species or ecological integrity. The key point is **good management**, not the simple presence of the animals.

The wapiti herd is already being actively managed to:

- Maintain appropriate herd numbers
- Reduce pressure on sensitive vegetation

- Prevent further hybridisation
- Improve ecological outcomes alongside hunting
- Support predator control initiatives that directly benefit native wildlife

The success of recent habitat and predator control programmes in the Wapiti Area demonstrates that hunters and conservation values can work side-by-side. In many cases, hunters are delivering conservation outcomes that would not otherwise occur due to funding constraints.

A formal HSI designation will strengthen this management approach and ensure that the herd continues to coexist with native species without causing ecological harm.

I support the plan because it:

- Recognises the herd's cultural and historical significance
- Provides clear management goals and accountability
- Balances ecological protection with recreational hunting values
- Ensures long-term herd health and genetic integrity
- Supports ongoing funding and volunteer conservation work
- Maintains hunting access and fairness via the ballot system
- Protects the significant economic and social value the herd generates

This is a practical and balanced management framework that benefits conservation, recreation, and the wider public.

The Fiordland wapiti herd is a unique taonga not only as a hunting resource, but as a significant part of New Zealand's outdoor heritage. The proposed Herd of Special Interest designation provides an effective, balanced approach to ensuring this herd continues to contribute positively to our environment, culture, and economy.

I strongly support the Draft Herd Management Plan and encourage its adoption.

Thanks,

Blair

Respondent: Ryan Howard

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 114

5 Objective

Submission ID: 114-1

General position

Oppose

8 Objective

Submission ID: 114-10

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 114-11

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 114-12

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 114-13

General position

Support

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 114-14

General position

Support in part

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 114-15

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 114-16

General position

Support in part

Hunters are the best tool we have, the resources we would pour into managing this / erradicating isn't feasible and just forest and bird pretending they have some form of sense.... Herd of special interest needs to happen to protect the Wapiti species for future generations and protect our native flora also needs to happen we all need to work together. Some incentives for hunters maybe?

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 114-17

General position

Support in part

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 114-18

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 114-19

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 114-2

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 114-3

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 114-4

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 114-5

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 114-6

General position

Support in part

6 Objective

Submission ID: 114-7

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 114-8

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 114-9

General position

Neutral

Respondent: Ted Howard

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 326

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 326

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

Ted Howard - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Kody Hunt

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 241

5 Objective

Submission ID: 241-1

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 241-10

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 241-11

General position

Support

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 241-12

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 241-13

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 241-14

General position

Support

Map 2 Fiordland Wapiti Area - Close up

Submission ID: 241-15

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 241-16

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 241-17

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 241-18

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 241-19

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 241-2

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 241-20

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 241-21

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 241-22

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 241-23

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 241-3

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 241-4

General position

Support

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 241-5

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 241-6

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 241-7

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 241-8

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 241-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Struan Hurley

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 149

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 149-1

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 149-10

General position

Support

Any management program which funds itself and not the taxpayer is

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 149-11

General position

Support

Hopefully with the 5 year plan we have strong enough legislation that a change in government won't undo all this work especially if we have a Green Party influence

7 Objective

Submission ID: 149-12

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 149-13

General position

Oppose in part

Don't think we should be letting overseas hunters in when a majority

6 Objective

Submission ID: 149-14

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 149-15

General position

Support in part

I think we need to make sure recreational hunters can access the blocks out of peak times to utilise this resource

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 149-2

General position

Support

I think with the remoteness of Fiordland commercial and professional control is the only option for keeping population at sustainable

5 Objective

Submission ID: 149-3

General position

Support in part

As long as it's not going to be another fee or charge with nothing to be gained from their participation and is a genuine attempt to enhance

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 149-4

General position

Support

I believe that having a hosi in Fiordland is a good idea . It will finally give the wapiti herd the protection it deserves . Any management plan that has low numbers and better condition animals and minimal impact on the environment is a win win for everyone involved.Instead of it being a political football for various organisations and people with their own agendas it will finally everyone a management plan going forward

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 149-5

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 149-6

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 149-7

General position

Support

Any sponsorship to reduce overall running costs is a great idea

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 149-8

General position

Support

G

2 Objective

Submission ID: 149-9

General position

Support

A low numbered high quality herd with good trophy genetics is the desired outcome

Respondent: Luke Hutchinson

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 73

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 73-1

General position

Support

1. Position

I support the Herd Management Plan (HMP) in principle. However, I believe several amendments are essential to ensure the plan functions effectively and in the best interests of the Fiordland Wapiti herd.

2. Why I Value the Herd

The Wapiti herd in Fiordland holds significant value to me, both personally and culturally. The herd management plan under the Herd of Special Interest (HOSI) framework must reflect the unique qualities and heritage of the Fiordland Wapiti.

I value the Wapiti for many reasons, including:

- Their deep heritage and the legacy they represent.
- The unmatched combination of Fiordland's wilderness and the Wapiti themselves—an experience that is truly one of a kind.
- The adventure, challenge, and personal growth that comes from pursuing them in such rugged, wild terrain.
- The uniqueness and quality of the trophies they produce.
- The positive impact hunting them has on my health, wellbeing, and connection to nature.
- The ability to share these experiences with family and pass them on to future generations.

This herd is a taonga to many of us, and its management should reflect the values held by the people who know it best.

3. Social and Community Outcomes

The Herd Management Plan should strengthen and support hunter- and community-led initiatives. It should enable positive social, cultural, and economic outcomes, and recognise the value that volunteer involvement and community-based conservation contribute to Fiordland and New Zealand.

4. Funding

All funding intended for the Wapiti Herd of Special Interest must be directed straight to the implementing organisation, which is the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation (FWF).

It should not pass through DOC, GAC, or any other government body for redistribution or discretionary allocation. Direct funding ensures transparency, efficiency, and the best use of resources for on-ground management.

5. Financial Reporting

Financial reporting requirements should not be included within the Herd Management Plan. Adding unnecessary reporting layers will create inefficiencies, slow progress, and burden the volunteer-led management structure without adding meaningful value.

6. Operational Plan

The operational plan should remain a flexible, practical tool that encourages innovation. The HOSI framework presents a major opportunity—not only for effective Wapiti management but also for progressing New Zealand’s deer management and control techniques as a whole.

The operational plan must remain separate from the Herd Management Plan.

It should be an adaptive, working document developed and implemented by the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, which has proven experience and success in managing the herd for more than two decades.

Monitoring is essential for adaptive management and for assessing whether objectives are being met. However, monitoring must be efficient, cost-effective, and directly relevant to the stated goals of the plan.

- Monitoring should focus solely on measuring deer impacts, not on methods that lack reliability or relevance. For this reason, faecal pellet counts should not be included, as they are subjective and do not accurately represent real deer impacts.
- Overly bureaucratic or rigid monitoring frameworks should be avoided, as they provide little value and do not result in better environmental outcomes.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

Delegations and responsibilities must be assigned to organisations with the appropriate skills and experience.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has repeatedly demonstrated its capability to manage the herd and carry out operational planning effectively. For over 20 years, FWF has delivered results that no other organisation has matched.

Clear direction is also required regarding whether the HOSI framework falls under DOC or GAC legislation, to avoid confusion and ensure smooth implementation.

9. Setting the Correct Tone for HOSI

A Wapiti HOSI is fundamentally about active management, not “control.”

I strongly recommend removing the word control from the Herd Management Plan and replacing it with management. The language of “control” reflects outdated and unsuccessful approaches to deer in New Zealand and does not align with the purpose or philosophy of a Wapiti HOSI.

The plan should set a positive, forward-thinking tone that recognises the Wapiti herd as a valued resource requiring skilled, adaptive, and community-driven management.

Respondent: **Stewart Hydes - NZDA Rakaia Branch**

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 299

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 299

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

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

Respondent: Graeme Jackson - NZDA West Coast

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 199

1 Objective

Submission ID: 199-1

General position

Support

I support the HOSI policy for the Wapiti Herd and Management

Respondent: Linda Johnson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 155

1 Objective

Submission ID: 155-1

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, tahr, chamois, 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 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.

Respondent: Shane Johnston

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 266

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 266-1

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti, an iconic name in itself, the history of how it all started to where we are today is a testament to those who love nature, the ecosystem they inhabit and the wild country that the Wapiti roam. To give Wapiti a HOSI status would be a building block foundation that embodies the passion of the New Zealand community. The Wapiti Foundation is the back bone of why our Wapiti are in such demand for local and International hunters. The plan includes ways to manage recreational hunting, build partnerships and community stewardship, carry out professional deer control and meat recovery, and track social and environmental impacts. The Wapiti have inhabited NZ for over 100 years and deserve to prosper with proper game management from the GAC, there will then be a stronger recreational, economic, cultural and conservation benefit for all.

Respondent: Sam Johnston

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 265

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 265-1

General position

Support

I believe that the Fiordland Wapiti deserve to be a herd of special interest, as they are amazing animals, they have been gifted to New Zealand so it would be a real shame to not conserve and protect them as much as we can, they are a big part of every New Zealand hunters year, they provide meat for families, gets people out into nature which is good for their mental health, and it also boosts the economy when overseas hunters come to New Zealand

Respondent: Reuben Jones

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 201

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 201-1

General position

Support

Kia Ora,

My name is Reuben Jones.

Hunting has captured my adventurous spirit from a young age. As I finished high school in Matamata, the main drawcard to studying at university in the South Island was the recreational hunting opportunities available on DOC land in the southern alps.

Since this move in 2019, I've had hunting at the forefront of every decision I have made. Spending over a hundred days in the mountains in some years, I've developed an immense appreciation for the native plants and animals that live there. I worked for 2 years as a predator free apprentice doing pest control work in Otago. This gives me an appreciation for the cost and effort required to manage the effect of potentially damaging species on native species and the environment.

I am a passionate member of the Wapiti Foundation, having contributed time to checking remote traplines when available and having the privilege of hunting in the ballot in 2021.

The main reason that I support this bid for Wapiti to become a HOSI is that it ensures ongoing management of deer numbers in Fiordland National Park to a level much lower than I have observed anywhere else, which has positive outcomes for native plants and animals. This is because deer management (and trapping initiatives) have a viable funding stream through the hunting ballot, which doesn't then require either 1) non-existent taxpayer funding or 2) commercial viability to be sustained year on year.

Highlights of time spent in the wapiti area are mainly around Whio encounters, hearing Kiwi calling at night, Kea saying hi and the presence of Rock Wren.

I think there is a misconception amongst non-hunters that this HOSI bid is about creating a game park for rich trophy hunters. These game parks already exist on private land all over the country. By managing the wapiti population effectively, a low density of animals is achieved, which allows native plants to recover. The select few animals which remain have an abundant food source, and grow to be big and healthy. The only people that I know that enter the ballot to hunt are committed backcountry enthusiasts, prepared to spend 10 days in extremely remote and wild country with unpredictable weather.

Thank you for your time to read my submission. I hope you can see past the idealistic "all deer should be removed everywhere" attitude of some, and realise that to achieve any form of conservation outcome, it requires dedicated individuals and continuous and sustained financial support, for which the wapiti foundation can provide for this

special part of Fiordland.

Reuben Jones

Respondent: Corina Jordan - Game Animal Council

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 297

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 297

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

GAC - Corina Jordan - Wapiti Submission - HMP_final.pdf

Respondent: Kārena Joyce-Paki

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 349

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 349

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

Kārena Joyce-Paki - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

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

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Te Uru Kahika - Chris Keeling - wapiti Submission.pdf

Respondent: Allan Kircher

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 110

1 Objective

Submission ID: 110-1

General position

Support

I fully support the management of the Fiordland wapiti herd, as has been done for the past 20 odd years by the FWF, as it has been able to achieve substantial conservation benefits within the Wapiti area, at no cost to the taxpayer.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 110-10

General position

Support

The FWF has done this using the income generated for the past 20 years, at no cost to the taxpayer. It needs to be very strictly controlled, and only use approved commercial venison recovery operators of a reputable standard. Alpine Helicopters and their subsidiaries to be banned from the Wapiti area.

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 110-11

General position

Support

Stick with the partnership you already have - the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation. No need to change.

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 110-12

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 110-13

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 110-14

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 110-15

General position

Support

the FWF have been doing this for the past 20 years, no need to change. Remove the faecal pellet counts as this form of monitoring is very subjective. Vegetation monitoring is far more specific and valuable.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 110-16

General position

Support

For the past 20 odd years, the FWF have clearly demonstrated that they can generate sufficient revenue to facilitate constructive game management to enhance conservation values.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 110-17

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 110-18

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 110-19

General position

Support

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 110-2

General position

Support

Map 2 Fiordland Wapiti Area - Close up

Submission ID: 110-20

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 110-21

General position

Support

This has to be done in conjunction with the FWF, they have been doing this for 20 years, have the knowledge, have the statistics, and have the results.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 110-3

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 110-4

General position

Neutral

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 110-5

General position

Support

This needs to be kept very very simple, it's not rocket science. The FWF have been doing this very well.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 110-6

General position

Support

Definitely engage the hunting community - the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation!

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 110-7

General position

Support

Allowing recreational hunting outside of the ballot period has to be carefully controlled, needs to be female only! There are a small percentage of hunters who will use this as a means to get around the ballot for the bugle and will target trophy heads outside of the bugle. With no consideration for proper game management, or simply a lack of understanding of what is required.

All revenue generated should be directed to the FWF, not DoC or GAC. This is to ensure that that money is not wasted in bureaucracy or diversion to other areas. Or wasted by poorly researched ideas. The FWF have demonstrated that they have the ability and the resources to manage the financials for the best conservation outcome.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 110-8

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 110-9

General position

Support

The management of the wapiti herd to produce high quality trophies for hunters to harvest during the wapiti ballot period is what has allowed the FWF to achieve so much for the conservation of the area.

Respondent: David Klein

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 329

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 329

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

David Klein - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Richard Knowler

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 39

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 39-1

General position

Support

I support the HOSI draft plan as I believe it will benefit the environment and also add value to the hunting community.

Respondent: Teresa Konlechner

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 200

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 200-1

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 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

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 8

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 8-1

General position

Support

By making the Fiordland Wapiti a Herd of Special Interest it is a win win situation for the NZ government, recreational hunters and the Department of Conservation.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation have proven over the years that Wapiti numbers can be controlled to a sustainable level and at the same time protecting Fiordland's unique environment at no cost to the government and the New Zealand public.

No other organization including Forest & Bird have been able to come close to the predator and animal control that the Wapiti Foundation have achieved in such a remote environment.

This along with the revenue that is created through the Wapiti ballot is important to not only the local Te Anau economy but businesses throughout the country that many of the recreational hunters travel from.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation have shown they are more than capable in Managing the Wapiti herd, I give them my full support.

Respondent: Terence Lamb

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 142

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 142-1

General position

Support

I fully support the establishment of Herds Of Special Interest. Taking into account the amount of work and subsequent results that have been achieved to date by FWF and sika foundation formalising their contributions to ensure continued support can surely only be seen as a positive step .

Respondent: 'Ema Latu

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 99

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 99-1

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 Fiordland Wapiti herd.

The herd management plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd including the heritage, the unique package that Fiordland and Wapiti bring including the adventure of hunting Wapiti in Fiordland and uniqueness of the trophies and the positive health and wellbeing outcomes including connection to nature.

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 (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group - in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti 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 wapiti 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 Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring enables adaptive management and demonstrates whether the management of Fiordland wapiti 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 Fiordland Wapiti Foundation possesses the expertise required to implement and manage the HOSI and operational plan, having demonstrated consistent success in this area over the past two decades. Clear guidance is needed on whether HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation.

Setting the correct tone for HOSI

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

Respondent: Joseph Laybourn

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 333

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 333

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

Joseph Laybourn - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Shaun Lee

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 353

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 353

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

Shaun Lee - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Adrian Leigh

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 6

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 6-1

General position

Oppose

It's a national disgrace that a special interest group of trophy hunters has been prioritized over the biodiversity of New Zealand's most outstanding wilderness area.

The hunting of Wapiti year round and harvesting of meat to feed Whanau must be a priority over breeding a trophy herd of Wapiti red deer hybrids.

Stop the special privileges given to the foundation.

Respondent: Ron Lenzen

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 103

2 Objective

Submission ID: 103-1

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 103-10

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 103-11

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 103-12

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 103-13

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 103-14

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 103-15

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 103-16

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 103-17

General position

Support

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 103-18

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 103-19

General position

Support

The Wapiti foundation are the only ones in there protecting the environment.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 103-2

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 103-20

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 103-21

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 103-22

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 103-23

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 103-3

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 103-4

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 103-5

General position

Support

|

7 Objective

Submission ID: 103-6

General position

Support

Map 2 Fiordland Wapiti Area - Close up

Submission ID: 103-7

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan Submission ID: 103-8

General position

Support

Hunter led conservation is the only way forward.

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship Submission ID: 103-9

General position

Support

Respondent: David Liddle

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 134

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 134-1

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 134-10

General position

Support

Map 2 Fiordland Wapiti Area - Close up

Submission ID: 134-11

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 134-12

General position

Support

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 134-13

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 134-14

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 134-15

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 134-16

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 134-17

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 134-18

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 134-19

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 134-2

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 134-20

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 134-21

General position

Support in part

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 134-22

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 134-23

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 134-24

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 134-3

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 134-4

General position

Support

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 134-5

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 134-6

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 134-7

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 134-8

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 134-9

General position

Support in part

Respondent: Allen Lindsay

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 88

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 88-1

General position

Support

This is a no brainer , hunters are doing more for conservation on the ground than anyone else , look at he volunteer hours put in each year and the results alone with improved Whoio numbers , conservation work at no tax payers expense and a Protecting a world recognized Wapiti herd at the same time.

Respondent: Peter Livesey

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 211

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 211-1

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 211-2

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 211-3

General position

Support

The NZ wapiti are unquestionably one of New Zealand unique species of big game animals. To harvest a great trophy is the pinnacle of any hunters hunting achievement.

They brings lots of dollars into to the economy and not mention ,add value to the people the hunt these animals in the way of befits to there mentality and providing of protein for their families and friends.

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 211-4

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 211-5

General position

Support

I believe that for the best outcome for the park and the unique wapiti herd. is That the HOSI plan is the best objective for all stakeholders involved and for the future generations to enjoy

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 211-6

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 211-7

General position

Support

Map 2 Fiordland Wapiti Area - Close up

Submission ID: 211-8

General position

Support

Respondent: Graeme Loh

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 247

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 247-1

General position

Oppose

See attached word file.

Submission on HOSI for Wapiti.docx

Respondent: Steven Lowther

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 216

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 216-1

General position

Support

Support the approach.

1. The deer were released for the purpose of providing the opportunity of recreational hunting for all New Zealanders.
2. Recreational Hunting must remain central to the management of all HoSI

3 Objective

Submission ID: 216-2

General position

Support in part

Whilst I am supportive of developing partnerships to manage the costs of the monitoring the 'recover costs' from the hunting community. This cost recovery model must be approved and reviewed.

It is also appropriate that ALL parties who benefit from ongoing ecological benefit and cost avoidance should contribute to the monitoring. e.g DoC, Forest and Bird

The deer were released in NZ as an egalitarian solution to the landed gentry monopolising hunting opportunities in the UK and becoming the preserve of the rich.

The ethos of providing equal hunting opportunities for all must be considered at all times.

Respondent: Daniel Macaulay

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 153

Map 2 Fiordland Wapiti Area - Close up

Submission ID: 153-1

General position

Support

I support the Herds of special interest

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 153-2

General position

Support

I support the Herds of special interest. I think what the Fiordland Wapiti foundation has achieved so far is world leading and needs to be supported by everyone. They have shown what hunters can do for nature and the environment with little cost to the tax payer. If any future government funding is provided to support there fantastic progress it will need to allocated and distributed by a separate entity other than a government department to ensure it gets spent in the right places.

Respondent: John Mackenzie

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 25

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 25-1

General position

Support

i believe that fiordland is a national treasure and that the wapiti herd should be made a herd of special interest because it can be a huge asset if managed in the right way, hunters are conservationists at heart , they know the damage that can be done if not corectly managed and i know there is know they would let this happen .

Respondent: Tracey Macleod

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 129

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 129-1

General position

Oppose

Hello/Kia ora Minister Meager,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit.

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposal to classify deer as “herds of special interest” on public conservation land. With the science available today, it is difficult to understand how protecting an introduced browsing mammal on the conservation estate aligns with the Department of Conservation’s statutory duty to safeguard indigenous biodiversity.

You were elected as a Science/Evidence-based Government

Evidence

There is extensive New Zealand ecological research demonstrating that unmanaged deer populations suppress native forest regeneration, alter ecosystem structure, and reduce species diversity.

- Long-term vegetation monitoring shows that deer browsing prevents regeneration of many palatable native species — including those once abundant in Fiordland.

Source: NZ Journal of Ecology:

<https://newzealandecology.org/nzje/2913>

- Populations of key understorey species such as **Coprosma grandifolia** have rapidly declined or disappeared where deer are present, demonstrating clear selective browsing impacts.

Study:

<https://newzealandecology.org/nzje/2279>

- Research confirms that repeated deer browsing leads to simplified, depleted forests with significantly reduced understorey and altered ecosystem composition.

Analysis summary (Landcare Research):

https://landcare.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/64659279cfd2eaea1f7c143f_The-Effects-of-Introduced-Wild-Animals-on-New-Zealand-Forests.pdf

- Importantly, where deer have been removed, ecosystems recover. The regeneration observed on **Secretary Island** demonstrates that native vegetation rebounds rapidly once browsing pressure is removed.

Study:

<https://newzealandecology.org/nzje/1549/pdf>

In short: deer do not act as a neutral recreational species — they are a primary driver of ecosystem decline in the environments where they are currently unmanaged.

Anyone who has visited Chalky Island — where deer have never been present — immediately understands what is at stake. The understory is dense, diverse, and functioning as a full ecosystem.

By contrast, large areas of Fiordland now show:

- open forest floors with no regeneration
- shrinking diversity of native plant species
- drought-stressed canopy trees
- and visible collapse in areas where regeneration has been lost entirely

Once the understory is removed, wind exposure increases, soil dries, seedlings cannot establish, and canopy mortality accelerates. These impacts are not hypothetical — they are occurring now.

There will not be a shortage of deer in New Zealand. The issue is the opposite: unmanaged populations are expanding, and hunters continue to report high numbers of animals — especially where hind control has not been prioritised.

Protecting deer on conservation land will:

- accelerate herd growth
- make future control more costly and politically contentious
- and compromise New Zealand's biodiversity and climate resilience objectives

Hunting access does not require legal protection of the species.

If the intent is to support hunting, there are more responsible mechanisms available:

- support targeted culling programmes, especially of hinds
- contract experienced hunters to manage population levels
- improve access and backcountry infrastructure
- align hunting with conservation outcomes, not herd enhancement

This approach supports recreation *and* environmental stewardship — without conferring protected status on an invasive species.

Alongside ecological concerns, there is a governance issue worth highlighting.

The naming and statutory role of the **Game Animal Council** embeds a value frame that treats these species as “game” — a resource to be protected, managed, and optimised for hunting or commercial use. That framing introduces a known public-policy risk: narrative or sector capture, where the priorities of the regulated user group begin to shape the direction of policy.

Language drives outcomes. A governance structure built around the concept of “game animals” risks gradually shifting policy away from ecological protection and biodiversity objectives, and toward herd preservation, recreational value, or tourism potential.

This matters especially in New Zealand, where our ecosystems evolved without large browsing mammals. The science is unequivocal: unmanaged deer populations suppress native regeneration and alter ecosystem function (NZ Journal of Ecology: <https://newzealandecology.org/nzje/2913>). Embedding a game-management framework within conservation policy risks locking in a direction inconsistent with Te Mana o te Taiao, conservation legislation, and the Crown’s responsibility to protect indigenous species and habitats.

This is not a criticism of hunters — many contribute meaningfully to conservation. It is an observation that governance architecture shapes outcomes, and once a recreational narrative is formalised in statute, it becomes difficult to reverse.

With what we now know scientifically, and with ecosystem decline already visible, future generations will expect us to make decisions based on evidence, not sentiment or pressure.

There is still time to reconsider, and to protect our conservation lands for the purpose they were set aside: ecosystem protection and indigenous biodiversity.

Please do not proceed with granting protected status to deer on conservation land.

Naku iti noa, na

Tracey MacLeod

Respondent: Phil Maddox

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 267

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 267-1

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) s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a)

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary **Submission ID: 267-2**

General position

Support

Dear Minister for Hunting and Fishing and Department of Conservation,

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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

Respondent: Greg Mann

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 59

1 Objective

Submission ID: 59-1

General position

Support

Where interest groups are diverse and resources are scarce logic dictates a coordinated response that are far as possible achieve key and likely moderated outcomes for the various interested groups. A truly democratic outcome for our democratic

Respondent: Alastair Mark - Personal

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 19

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 19-1

General position

Oppose

While I recognise the value of Wapiti herd to hunters, it should not be at the expense of degrading the standards & ethos of Fiordland National Park. I support translocating Wapiti to OUTSIDE Fiordland NP & managed for recreational hunting in a NON National Park region. Eradication of ALL exotic animals including Wapiti is in keeping with NP Act & aims to restore the ecological value of this unique & priceless region

1 Objective

Submission ID: 19-2

General position

Oppose

I believe managing Wapiti within Fiordland NP is counter to National Parks Act.

I appreciate Wapiti have recreational hunting values, & support translocating Wapiti to outside Fiordland NP & managed for hunting purposes

Fiordland NP should continue with efforts to remove ALL exotic species to return to as best as possible it's natural state in regards fauna & flora. To restore the unique & priceless region to the highest ecological status

Respondent: s9(2)(a)

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 179

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 179-1

General position

Oppose

Please do not make my name, contact information, or any other PII publicly available.

See my comments as a supporting document attached.

HOSI sub.docx

Respondent: Carlos McDonald

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 294

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 294

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

Carlos McDonald - wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Cameron McDougall

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 120

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 120-1

General position

Oppose

I am submitting to express my disagreement with establishing herds of national significance, including the Wapiti herd in Fiordland. 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 invasive 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

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 321

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 321

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

Don McErlich - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Steve McFall - NZ Pighunting Association

**Submission Type:
portal**

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 258

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 258-1

We strongly support the submission and recommendations from the Game Animal

Council

Respondent: Ailsa McGilvary-Howard

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 231

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 231-1

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

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 312

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 312

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

NZCA - Rick McGovern-Wilson - wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Heather McGuire

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 220

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 220-1

General position

Oppose

This is Aotearoa New Zealand. We live in Aotearoa New Zealand which is a unique country known for truly unique tree/shrub species and bird life not found anywhere else in the world. We should proudly protect our niche on the planet at every opportunity. Creating Flocks of Significant Interest (FOSI) is the way to go. This will further protect our precious ngahere bush as we protect our precious birds (bats and insects).

Deer of any kind crashing around in our ngahere is absolutely unthinkable. Creating Herds of Significant Interest (HOSI) is wrong in every way. Wild deer of every species do not belong in Aotearoa New Zealand. Do we want deer or kiwi? We spend millions of dollars on sanctuaries for bird programs. Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) puts us at cross purposes with ourselves. Other wild spaces in other countries where deer come from is where deer should be hunted... if you really do have to hunt.

It is very simple...??

Respondent: Cam McKay

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 314

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 314

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

Cam McKay - Wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Anne McMillan

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 340

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 340

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

Anne McMillan - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Gary McMillan

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 291

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 291-1

General position

Support

My name is Gary McMillan, a 47 year old male who resides in Putaruru in the South Waikato. I have been hunting since the age of thirteen and have hunted nationally and internationally. I am not totally up to play with the ins and outs of the Fiordland Wapiti herd of special interest plan but what I have observed over the years. I have hunted in Fiordland National Park, firstly in 1981 and recently in 2018. The work that Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has done has transformed the wapiti herd into a hunting experience that is known internationally. Along with its predator trapping program and culling red deer the park has a new lease of life. This work is built around the Wapiti herd and has generated income for many businesses in and around the Te Anau area, bringing in hunters like myself. The wapiti herd to be deemed the herd of special interest would consolidate the future of these businesses. The removal of these animals from the park would send the clear message to the Wapiti Foundation that their work has been in vain and that their years of volunteering have gone unnoticed. If the wapiti herd was given a herd of special interest title and managed by the Wapiti Foundation, the Department of Conservation, and supported by Government and Game Animal Council the future of the Fiordland National Park and local community looks bright.

Respondent: Glen McNeilly

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 221

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 221-1

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: Keith McRobie

**Submission Type:
portal**

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 87

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 87-1

General position

Oppose

SCB Submission over the Designation of a Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest.pdf

Respondent: Mandy Mee

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 336

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 336

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

Mandy Mee - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Aaron Meikle

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 145

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 145-1

General position

Support

History of wild animal management in New Zealand is evidence that if we want a different, better outcome, then we have to do something different. A blanket Government *led* top-down try-to-kill-them-all approach has not worked. By comparison, there are a multitude of examples where a community-based, Government-*supported* approach is effective - catchment community groups are an excellent example. This same approach should be applied to selected instances for wild game - the HOSI concept meets this. We need compromise from all parties. Hunters are ready to compromise - are those anti-wild game such as Forest and Bird? We cannot have a future where sides simply try to 'win'.

Respondent: Henry Melville

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 278

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 278-1

General position

Support in part

Hi I am Henry Melville a 50th year old rec hunter from Napier. I have held hunting wapiti in Fiordland as one of the premiere hunting experience in the world. I support the HOSI and the recommendations made by the GAC for HMP,S.

Thank Henry

Respondent: Andrew Mentor

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 352

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 352

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

Andrew Mentor - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Robin Miller

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 283

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 283-1

General position

Support

I strongly support this proposal as the most realistic and manageable way to manage Wapiti / deer in the Park and achieve effective protection and regeneration of native bird species

Respondent: Nathan Mirfin

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 104

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 104-1

General position

Support

HOSI 2.pdf

Respondent: Paul Molloy

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 92

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 92-1

General position

Support

1. The plan is the culmination of over twenty years of effort by committed and dedicated New Zealanders that love the region and want to ensure heritage values are protected, and that the resource (flora and fauna) is well managed for future generations. Overseas conservation experts applaud the work of the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation and recognize the unique co-operation with DOC and regulatory authorities in face of opposition by many, and limitations of existing legislation. The HOSI will provide needed protection for the herd, and sets an extraordinary example of effective wild animal and game management in this country.
2. I have been fortunate to hunt in North America where game is valued and protected. Game management there is at the other end of the regulatory spectrum, and hunting opportunities are limited, which typically results in poor management of populations and explosion in numbers.
3. Pioneers and acclimatisation societies had a vision of NZ as a sportsman's paradise, and great sacrifices were made by many to effect that vision. Introduced species have thrived in our environment and control has only been effective by commercial activity.
4. Worth noting is that few animals are harvested each year by recreational hunters (approx 100 p.a. according to the consultation document and FWF records) whereas 1000+ pa are culled/recovered by the FWF. Due to the nature of the terrain and isolation, recreational hunters are never going to achieve effective control, and that is evident in the rest of the Park.
5. The HOSI opportunity is too good for NZ to miss. It is an opportunity for HERD MANAGEMENT that is unique in NZ, and has already been proven to work in the wapiti area. The FWF has demonstrated consistent success and expertise in managing the wapiti area and unique skills in maintaining an effective working relationship with DOC. They should be celebrated. It is a model that is self funded and sustainable.
6. One concern I have is that funds could be diluted if routed through a Government agency and that could compromise effectiveness of the plan. It is absolutely critical that the FWF maintains full control of HOSI funding.
7. Deer "control" elsewhere in NZ by hunters is achievable where access is good and numbers have not exploded. Typically however it is unmanaged. I know from professional experience that DOC cannot control deer numbers, there is NO MANAGEMENT PLAN, and that 1080 poisoning is maintenance at best and not sustainable. History has shown that commercial control (of numbers not herd quality) is most effective. Management of numbers AND quality can be achieved under the HOSI plan.
8. Vegetation monitoring has been carried out irregularly by various Government agencies for nearly 100 years to determine browsing impacts relative to population densities. That data quickly becomes redundant if monitoring ceases. The proposed plan compels monitoring to be maintained which is essential.

9. Hunters arguably spend more time in isolated areas than anyone else and generally appreciate and love the environment they are in. It is in everyone's interests to manage deer numbers in harmony with that environment, to maintain a healthy forest & alpine zone, and therefore healthy animals.

10. Hunters do not need to go into Fiordland to shoot a deer for meat. That is easily done elsewhere. It is the rugged beauty of the place and challenge it provides that makes the hunting experience there unique, and the envy of overseas hunters.

Respondent: Tony Molloy

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 136

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 136-1

General position

Support

The history and on-going legacy of the Wapiti herd in NZ and Fiordland is an important part of the Te Anau region/

Respondent: Matthew Morley

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 318

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 318

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

Matthew Morley - Wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Andrew Morrison - Hunters for Conservation Trust

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 63

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 63

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

Andrew Morrison Hunters for Conservation Trust - submission Wapiti.pdf

Respondent: Kezia Mowat

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 335

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 335

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

Kezia Mowat - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Jordan Munn - Trap and Trigger Limited

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 164

3 Objective

Submission ID: 164-1

General position

Oppose in part

The current program is successful at maintaining moderate densities of wapiti/red deer, yet preferred palatable species are still unable to regenerate and complete a full forest structure. The concern with the HOSI is that if Doc in future acquire adequate funding to manage the herd appropriately, say though increased visitor levels or biodiversity credits, then the HOSI will become a roadblock to pout the national park first, and control deer to levels that are ecologically desirable, not hunter desirable.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 164-2

General position

Oppose

Based on experiences and discussions with many key players in the hunting sector, I believe there is a massive shortfall in hunters understanding of the impacts of feral deer and the difference between an intact, healthy forest and forests that have been structurally changed by deer over the course of decades.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 164-3

General position

Oppose in part

Monitoring is required to understand the impact of feral deer and benefits of herd management, however this must be an ecology based assessment, rather than hunter based assessment which does not represent the potential for the ecosystems full recovery. This is a world heritage site, and the protection of the environment should take priority over hunting interests.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 164-4

General position

Oppose

Although we acknowledge and appreciate the work in managing the deer heard by the Wapiti foundation, we do not believe that the herd is at a level where ecological balance is achieved, not do we believe enough work has been dont to manage the herd in forested areas particularly the coastal forested areas. Our concern is that the flag of management is being waved, however ecological balance requires very low deer densities of around 1-2 per square kilometre. We do not believe that the foundation or hunters will achieve or accept densities that low.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 164-5

General position

Support

We believe the community and wapiti foundation support the idea of conservation and environmental management, however I believe there is a lack of detailed understanding of how much intensive effort and recovery is require to return our forest to something similar to its natural state.

Respondent: Tom Murray

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 261

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 261-1

General position

Support

Respondent: Mike Nankivell

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 50

1 Objective

Submission ID: 50-1

General position

Support

I support the proposal.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 50-10

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 50-11

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 50-12

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 50-13

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 50-14

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 50-15

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 50-16

General position

Support

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 50-17

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 50-18

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 50-19

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 50-2

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 50-20

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 50-21

General position

Support

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 50-22

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 50-3

General position

Support

Map 2 Fiordland Wapiti Area - Close up

Submission ID: 50-4

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 50-5

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 50-6

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 50-7

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 50-8

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 50-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Brian Neilson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 162

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 162-1

General position

Support

Respondent: Bayden Neustroski

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 5

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 5-1

General position

Support

I support the plan to and support the Fiordland

Respondent: Jonathan Norris

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 212

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 212-1

General position

Support

Dear Sir / Madam,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft management plan for the Fiordland Wapiti, proposed for designation as a Herd of Special Interest (HOSI). As a recreational hunter, I value both sustainable hunting opportunities and responsible stewardship of our natural heritage.

1. Support for the HOSI designation

I support the proposal to designate the Fiordland Wapiti as a Hosi — I believe this is the appropriate legal and practical framework to manage a game herd in Fiordland National Park in a way that balances hunting and conservation interests. Under the Hosi model, management becomes transparent, accountable, and structured — rather than ad-hoc or informal. The draft plan's aim to maintain deer numbers at a level that both "enhances the recreational wapiti hunting experience" and "improves natural biodiversity and prevents loss of native species" is a sound basis for sustainable coexistence between hunters and conservation outcomes.

Given the unique history and value of the wapiti herd — both to hunters and to New Zealand's outdoors heritage — formal Hosi status gives certainty for future generations, supports efficient management, and recognizes the role recreational hunters can play as part of that management.

2. Emphasis on integration of hunting and conservation through structure

I believe the draft plan's combination of recreational hunting, professional deer control, meat recovery, community stewardship and environmental monitoring offers the best way to manage wapiti in a responsible, sustainable way.

In particular:

- Meat-recovery and utilization ensures that deer control isn't wasteful (as can happen with indiscriminate culls) but delivers value — both in venison supply and in reducing environmental impact.
- A structured hunting regime, with clear planning, monitoring, and harvest management, is better than unmanaged or reactive deer-control for responding to ecological risks.
- Community and hunter involvement, including stakeholder partnerships, helps leverage volunteer effort, local knowledge, and shared responsibility in conservation — which should reduce pressure on taxpayers and DOC's resources.

3. Importance of measurable conservation safeguards, transparency and review

I strongly encourage that the final plan includes **robust ecological safeguards and monitoring**, with real, measurable biodiversity and ecological-health benchmarks. This should include:

- Monitoring of native vegetation regeneration and forest health, to detect whether deer browsing is adversely affecting regeneration of native flora.
- Monitoring of predator control / predator-trap outcomes (since the herd area is remote and predator control helps protect endangered forest species), where relevant.
- Regular (e.g. 5-year) plan reviews and adaptive management — to allow adjustments if ecological impacts or hunting pressures become unsustainable. The HOSI framework under the Game Animal Council Act 2013 requires that herd-management plans be consistent with the wider conservation framework.
- Clear, publicly available reporting of harvest numbers, meat recovery, environmental monitoring data and community/hunter participation — so that both conservation groups and hunters can see outcomes and have confidence in the process.

Without transparency and accountability, there's a risk that the designation becomes simply "hunting-only," with conservation as a secondary or token consideration.

4. Recognition of social and economic benefits

I also believe that recognizing the wapiti herd as a Hosi brings wider benefits beyond hunting. As other supporters argue, a well-managed free-range wapiti herd in Fiordland is a unique asset — with historical significance and high value to both domestic and international hunters.

Such a designation supports sustainable rural economic activity (hunting tourism, meat harvesting, related services), without adding cost to taxpayers. The approach already taken by the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation (FWF) has demonstrated that hunters and conservation goals can align effectively — and a Hosi gives that arrangement legal clarity and security.

5. Potential concerns and proposal for balanced compromise

I acknowledge that there are strong concerns from conservation-oriented organisations (for instance the Forest & Bird) that a Hosi for wapiti may undermine native biodiversity and set a precedent that weakens protections in national parks.

Given this, I propose that the final plan include **trigger conditions** — ecological "red lines" — which, if exceeded (e.g. evidence of habitat decline, failure of regeneration, negative impacts on native species), would prompt a suspension or review of hunting / herd maintenance.

That kind of built-in adaptive management offers a real compromise: it allows hunting and game-management to proceed, while protecting native ecosystems and giving conservation groups confidence that the plan will be responsibly managed for the long term.

Conclusion

In summary — I support the designation of Fiordland Wapiti as a Herd of Special Interest, under the draft plan, because I believe it offers the best balance: legitimate, sustainable, ethical hunting; community and hunter involvement and stewardship; economic and social benefit; and — if managed properly — protection and even enhancement of ecological values.

However — I urge that ecological safeguards, transparency, monitoring, and adaptive review be given equal weight with hunting interests.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Kind regards,
Jonny

Respondent: Rhys Nowacki

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 94

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 94-1

General position

Support in part

I support the bill in principle, but i believe it needs some amendments

- The operational plan should serve as a flexible management tool that can adapt with manage wapiti but also to advance deer control techniques in New Zealand.
- Vegetation monitoring enables adaptive management and demonstrates whether the management of Fiordland wapiti is achieving the objectives and strategies of this Plan.
- Clear guidance is needed on whether HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation.
- Rework so that the bill is not about "control" of Wapiti, but is about "Active Management"

Respondent: Ryan O'Connor

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 133

3 Objective

Submission ID: 133-1

General position

Support

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group. In this case the Wapiti Foundation.

It should not be routed through DOC or GAC or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 133-10

General position

Support

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 133-11

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 133-12

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 133-13

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 133-14

General position

Support

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 wapiti 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 Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring enables adaptive management and demonstrates whether the management of Fiordland wapiti 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.*

8 Objective

Submission ID: 133-15

General position

Support

Also how deer management can influence other areas of special interest throughout New Zealand

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 133-16

General position

Support in part

Financial reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan.

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 133-17

General position

Support

From a heritage perspective, the Wapiti herd is older than the National Park itself and a prestigious gift from President Theodore Roosevelt.

I believe that the Fiordland Wapiti foundation are the best organisation to manage the Wapiti for both conservation and hunting interests, and should continue to be funded by their Deer recovery Operations, and Hunter interests; Membership, Fundraising and Wapiti Ballot.

Without the intent to manage the wapiti area in the interest of hunters and the Wapiti Herd, I fear that no management is done, and this becomes a threat to the Murchison Mountains and the Broader Deer exclusion sounds. Not to mention the increasing cost demands on the Tax Payer.

I am excited for the connection with the lwi of Te Waiponamu in the protection of Taonga in Fiordland National Park and in particular the Wapiti area. It is my hope that the Wapiti can also become a Taonga in that their presence provides protection to indigenous Flora and Fauna (Taonga) but also provides food and nourishment to lwi.

3. Social and community outcomes

That the Herd Management plan should support hunter and community-led management and positive social and economic outcomes.

4. Funding

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group. In this case the Wapiti Foundation.

It should not be routed through DOC or GAC or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

5. Keep financial reporting simple

Financial reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan.

5 Objective **Submission ID: 133-18**

General position

Support

Adoption of Wapiti as a Taonga- (presented to New Zealand as a gift from President Theodore Roosevelt) allows for the protection of Indigenous Taonga

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting **Submission ID: 133-19**

General position

Support

2 Objective **Submission ID: 133-2**

General position

Support

Low Cow numbers not only improves vegetation impacts but provides more competition for Bulls, increasing hunting experience and genetic selection for dominant Bulls which drives interest and support for the FWF

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 133-20

General position

Support

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 wapiti 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 Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

-

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 133-3

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 133-4

General position

Support

The operational plan should serve as a flexible management tool that inspires innovation, and this HOSI presents an opportunity not only to manage wapiti 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 Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring enables adaptive management and demonstrates whether the management of Fiordland wapiti 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.*

1 Objective

Submission ID: 133-5

General position

Support

This should take place under Active Management working towards Outcomes and incremental improvements

9 Objective

Submission ID: 133-6

General position

Support

Transparency helps for stakeholder by in, ensures social licence,

A Wapiti HOSI is not about “Control” of Wapiti; it is about “Active Management.”

I would like to see all reference to the term ‘control’ removed from the HMP in preference for the term ‘management,’ to reflect the reality of what a Wapiti HOSI HMP is trying to achieve.

The ‘control’ narrative and that style of language reflects previous failed approaches to managing deer in New Zealand

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 133-7

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 133-8

General position

Support

Likewise other interested stakeholders are invited to come in for hut, and trap maintenance, likewise to see deer recovery and outcomes.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 133-9

General position

Support

Win Win scenarios, a focus on conservation and ecology, provides enhancement to hunters in the Wapiti area

Respondent: Tom O'Neill

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 205

3 Objective

Submission ID: 205-1

General position

Support

I support the Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan in its entirety, and would like DOC to quantify the cost it would take to manage this area to the level the FWF do so the public can fully understand the benefit to the public. - I would also like to see DOC support the FWF in undertaking more sustainable management activities through the wider Fiordland area to control Red Deer to a sustainable level as defined by the Game Animal Council.

Respondent: Kerry O'Rourke

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 255

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 255-1

General position

Support

I wish to support the legislation for Herds Of Special Interest come from a family of hunters and I myself have been hunting for 56 years. Over the years I have witnessed the highs and lows of Game animal hunting, the boom and bust of the helicopter era. The attempted Tahr extermination of the late 70's., followed by the moratorium on Tahr. To me the joy of hunting has been a life long passion, with the love and concern for the environment. My children, grandchildren and now great grandchildren are being raised with a sense of adventure that camping and hunting brings. There is also the benefit of feeding the extended family with fresh organic meat.

For far to long New Zealand has lived in the shadow wild animal phobia. Game animals should be managed with a view to recreational sport and the benefits it brings via mental and physical health.

Of course I realize that the flora and environmental health of forests must be monitored and pest species such as rats, ferrets, stoats and weasels need to be kept under control.

I have hunted the Wapiti heard in Fiordland on several occasions past and present and am amazed at the great work that the fiordland Wapiti Foundation have achieved.

I have also hunted Sika Deer in the North Island and support their endeavor to have A Herd Of Special Interest

Thanks for the opportunity to submit on Herds Of Special Interest.

Kerry O'Rourke

Respondent: Raymond Orchard - Public

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 97

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 97-1

General position

Support

Funding Herds of Special Interests. (Wapiti)

Objective: 3-Generate sufficient revenue through partnerships and sponsorships, seek to recover costs from the hunting community, and in-kind support is increased to ensure the delivery of this Plan is wholly or largely self-funded.

- All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group. In this case the Wapiti Foundation.
- Funding should not be directed to a stationary or government body (Doc/GAC) for discretionary distribution to the Wapiti Foundation.
- Hunters must maintain the status quo. Decisions regarding deer management in the future may be made by an unsupported government entity, potentially disrupting established hunter-led management efforts. The FWF current funding system helps with future proofing Wapiti as a HOSI from an unfavourable Government.
- The Wapiti Foundation currently operates a user-pays system that has successfully transformed hunter-led deer management in New Zealand over the past 20 years. Changing the current system could weaken the trust the Wapiti Foundation has established with its users and supporters.
- The Wapiti Foundation must keep its autonomy so hunters remain in control of their futures.

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 wapiti 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 this is case the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

The Wapiti Foundation will be held accountable for not meeting the terms of the Herd Management plan. The operation plan will be an adapted tool and needs to be.

Vegetation Monitoring.

Objective-7 Monitoring enables adaptive management and demonstrates whether the management of Fiordland wapiti is achieving the objectives and strategies of this Plan.

Management including monitoring should relate back to these objectives and be efficient and effective ie 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.

Vegetation monitoring should align with what is feasible and financially sustainable for the HOIS.

The group responsible for implementing the HOSI should not be placed in a position where they are expected to accomplish unrealistic goals.

Annual Report: Sponsorship and commercial partnership.

Reporting should acknowledge that disclosing sponsorship and partnerships may be commercially sensitive and could discourage sponsor involvement.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation is a charity, and its sponsors or commercial partners may also collaborate with it on activities outside of Fiordland.

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 97-10

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 97-11

General position

Support

If it is self-funded the govt would not have to find the money to do what the FWF is doing now, and the native flora and fauna would suffer immensely if the FWF stopped doing what they are doing. The govt hasn't got the resources (money) to do what the FWF are doing.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 97-12

General position

Support

By getting people involved in the Wapiti area, they learn more about the area and its biodiversity etc. The more we know the more we can help.

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 97-13

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 97-14

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 97-15

General position

Support

Engaging with the hunting community has huge benefits for The Fiordland Wapiti area due to many ideas about different things that can be tried to help protect the native flora and fauna. The more people involved, the more ideas there are and more people willing to help and make a difference.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 97-16

General position

Support

Monitoring has shown an improvement in the flora and fauna of the Wapiti area. I think there is data from DOC that backs this up.

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 97-17

General position

Support

The work that the FWF do is outstanding in regard to deer control and predator control. The numbers of Whio have risen steadily over the years due to their trapping program. The number of deer culled every year is getting more and more each year. The economic value of the Fiordland Wapiti is huge, bringing hunters from all over the country and overseas to have the opportunity to hunt the Fiordland Wapiti. The revenue from this is not restricted to Te Anau, but on a national level with purchase of associated hunting gear, airline tickets, food, accommodation, the list goes on. If management of the Fiordland Wapiti didn't happen the animals would soon become something not special to hunt due to the cross breeding with the Red deer which are present in there. Therefore the want and or need to hunt the Fiordland Wapiti would cease and the deer numbers would increase dramatically due to their not being Fiordland Wapiti but a more Red deer type animal. The FWF not only cull deer but also chamois that inhabit the Fiordland Wapiti area. This also is a benefit for the area.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 97-18

General position

Support

If the FWF didn't control the deer population in the Wapiti area, the animals would boom and the breeding of red deer with Wapiti deer would increase causing the Wapiti herd to dwindle to a herd of red deer with some wapiti influence. The lure of hunting Wapiti would be lost and very little hunting of them would happen simply because it is easier and cheaper to get a herd of similar type in much easier terrain and with a lot less cost.

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 97-19

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 97-2

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 97-20

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 97-3

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 97-4

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 97-5

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 97-6

General position

Support

The FWF manage/control the introduced flora and fauna in the Wapiti as best they can with the funds that they have, and they are doing it for the benefit of the native flora and fauna that is in there at the present time.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 97-7

General position

Support

The more we research done, the more we learn, the more we learn, the more we can help the native flora and fauna.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 97-8

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 97-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Ari Overmars

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 74

6 Objective

Submission ID: 74-1

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 74-10

General position

Support

The herd management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd which are:

- *Could be the heritage.*
- *The package that Fiordland and Wapiti bring.*
- *The adventure of hunting them in Fiordland.*
- *The uniqueness of the trophies.*
- *Health and wellbeing.*
- *Connection to nature.*
- *Legacy.*

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 74-11

General position

Support in part

A Wapiti HOSI is not about "Control" of Wapiti; it is about "Active Management."

I would like to see all reference to the term 'control' removed from the HMP in preference for the term 'management,' to reflect the reality of what a Wapiti HOSI HMP is trying to achieve.

The 'control' narrative and that style of language reflects previous failed app

3 Objective

Submission ID: 74-12

General position

Support in part

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group. In this case the Wapiti Foundation.

It should not be routed through DOC or GAC or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

9 Objective

Submission ID: 74-13

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 74-14

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 74-15

General position

Support

Monitoring enables adaptive management and demonstrates whether the management of Fiordland wapiti 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.*

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 74-16

General position

Support

The operational plan should serve as a flexible management tool that inspires innovation, and this HOSI presents an opportunity not only to manage wapiti 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 Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 74-17

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 74-2

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 74-3

General position

Support

Delegations should be assigned to groups with the right skills.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation possesses the expertise required to implement and manage the HOSI and operational plan, having demonstrated consistent success in this area over the past two decades.

Clear guidance is needed on whether HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 74-4

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 74-5

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 74-6

General position

Support

That the Herd Management plan should support hunter and community-led management and positive social and economic outcomes.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 74-7

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 74-8

General position

Support

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 74-9

General position

Support in part

The

Respondent: Mike Owens

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 12

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 12-1

General position

Support

Submission in Support of Establishing Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) on Conservation Land

I wish to express my full support for the Department of Conservation's proposal to establish Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) on public conservation land, as outlined in the current consultation draft developed in partnership with the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, Central North Island Sika Foundation, and the Game Animal Council.

I am an active hunter and long-time supporter of the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation (FWF), both financially and through volunteering. I have assisted the Foundation with hut maintenance and other projects within the Wapiti area of Fiordland National Park. Through this involvement, I have seen first-hand the professionalism, commitment, and conservation outcomes achieved when hunters and DOC work together toward shared goals.

Hunting is an important part of New Zealand's heritage and outdoor lifestyle. For many New Zealanders, including myself, it represents a deep connection to the land, the responsible gathering of food, and a practical contribution to conservation. The establishment of managed herds such as wapiti and sika within the HOSI framework ensures these values are preserved while maintaining a strong focus on habitat protection and ecosystem health.

The collaborative model promoted through this proposal has already demonstrated success. Organisations like the FWF and CNI Sika Foundation invest significant time, funding, and expertise into pest control, vegetation monitoring, and track and hut maintenance—work that directly benefits both game and native species. By formalising and expanding this cooperative approach, DOC can achieve better conservation outcomes while supporting sustainable recreation.

I strongly support the HOSI concept because it:

- Promotes responsible, science-based management of game animals;
- Strengthens partnerships between DOC, hunters, and conservation groups;
- Delivers measurable environmental benefits through habitat and pest management;
- Encourages stewardship and pride in public land; and
- Provides ongoing social and economic benefits for local communities.

I encourage DOC to continue developing these partnerships and to consider expanding the HOSI model to other suitable regions over time. Collaborative management between DOC and hunter-led organisations represents a proven, balanced, and cost-effective way to protect biodiversity while maintaining valued recreational opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit feedback and for recognising the constructive role that hunters and foundations like the FWF play in the conservation of our wild places.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Owens

Supporter and Volunteer – Fiordland Wapiti Foundation

(Wanaka)

Respondent: Peter Palmer

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 76

3 Objective

Submission ID: 76-1

General position

Support

The Wapiti Herd is very Important to NZ and Fiordland.

1st The Wapiti were gift by the President of USA we should respect this gift and not be arrogant that one day we may need their help . Help comes in may ways technological, financial or military.

2nd The value to Te Anau.

Business and individuals have promoted and based their lively hood on the Wapiti and invested a lot of money. It's easy if you are in Wellington or some distant from Te Anau we all have to adapt we cannot turn the clock back and spend alot of money.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 76-2

General position

Oppose

After 120 years there has been very little negative effect from the Wapiti compared to the stouts , wasps and rats on the fauna and flora.

9 Objective

Submission ID: 76-3

General position

Neutral

8 Objective

Submission ID: 76-4

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 76-5

General position

Support

I'm a Wapiti hunter and also do voluntary predator control work in the the middle of winter on the Kepler track

5 Objective

Submission ID: 76-6

General position

Oppose

7 Objective

Submission ID: 76-7

General position

Neutral

1 Objective

Submission ID: 76-8

The Wapiti have been in Fiordland for 120 years and they is no Scientific proof they have had a negative influence on the flora or fauna in Fiordland. The climatic condition of Fiordland cannot be under estimated. The Wapiti are not as prolific breeders as the red deer. You haven't seen the spread of Wapiti as the reds thru out NZ. It's the red deer that need a greater management control.

Respondent: Trent Paterson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 121

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 121-1

General position

Support in part

I shot my first first wapiti in Fiordland with my son and have made quite a few trips back. Hunting is a massive stress relieve for me and when I'm in the bush away from services I can turn my mind off and relax it. I think the current wapiti foundation has done a great job in looking after the environment in Fiordland and also improving the quality of wapiti deer in there. This model may not be able to be full reproduced in other parts of NZ cause of the size and location is unique to that area. People struggle to get in there outside the roar period to maintain

Respondent: Ivan Pavich

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 293

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 293-1

General position

Support in part

I support establishment of a Wapiti Herd of Special Interest.

Respondent: James Pearse

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

James Pearse - wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Robert Peck

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 214

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 214-1

General position

Support

As an expat Kiwi, hunting is the prime motivator for me to return home, where I also take my family.

The HOSI format ensures that the quality of hunting will remain to a high standard and is clearly very successful as shown by the good work the FWF has conducted over many years.

The main benefits I see are:

Continued conservation efforts (driven by hunters) e.g. Whio predator control (stoat trapping).

Kiwis and tourists have motivation to visit an area of New Zealand which would otherwise be seldom seen.

Economic benefits - Hunter-led game management such as maintaining deer levels at appropriate numbers. Hunters spend significant money in the local economy.

Respondent: Michael Pepper

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 22

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 22-1

General position

Support

Maori have a rich culture of hunting and fishing. Our traditional land species are unavailable for hunting and birds protected. Any efforts to engage in the outdoors in primitive tasks should be encouraged. Fiordland is one of the most untouched wild places in NZ, the opportunity to hunt big game in this area is alike the ancient hunt of a moa and gives a look into the past. If our ancestors had the opportunity to hunt Wapiti in the bush it would have been embraced as it is worldwide.

Respondent: Ray Phillips

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 165

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 165-1

General position

Support

That i fully support the formation of a HOSI for the Fiordland Wapiti , this will allow un interrupted work to be carried out in the Fiordland Wapiti area for the benefit of Flora and Fauna , health and well being to the users of the area , the legacy and history of the area for recreational hunting in the natural environment .

Any and all funding made available in this Hosi must be managed by the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation NOT some out side entity .

This HOSI plan must be seperate from any national management plans .

Respondent: Marcus Pinney - SCI NZ

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

SCI NZ - Marcus Pinney - wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Tom Pinney

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 206

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 206-1

General position

Support

- I fully support the Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan as a member of the NZDA, and want to see greater powers given to the FWF to manage wapiti 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

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 67

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 67-1

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 Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan.

s9(2)(a)

Respondent: Joanna Pollard

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 260

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 260-1

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: Justin Post

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 71

9 Objective

Submission ID: 71-1

General position

Support in part

A Wapiti HOSI is not about *control* — it is about *active management*.

I would like to see all references to the term “control” removed from the HMP and replaced with “management,” which more accurately reflects the purpose and intent of this Plan.

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 71-10

General position

Support in part

1. My position

I support the Herd Management Plan in principle, but I believe amendments are needed for it to truly serve the Fiordland Wapiti herd and the communities who value it.

2. Why I value the herd

The Herd Management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd, which are deeply rooted in heritage, stewardship, and the unique relationship New Zealanders have with this landscape.

For me personally, the Fiordland Wapiti herd represents far more than an animal to manage. It embodies the legacy of those before us, the privilege of experiencing one of the world’s last true wildernesses, and the connection to nature that so many of us seek to pass on to our families.

The adventure of hunting in Fiordland, the uniqueness of Wapiti as a species, and the wellbeing that comes from time spent in the backcountry are all part of a package that cannot be replicated. This herd is a taonga — culturally, ecologically, and recreationally.

3. Social and community outcomes

The Herd Management Plan should support hunter- and community-led management, prioritising positive social and economic outcomes. The success of Fiordland Wapiti has always come from people on the ground, working together with passion and purpose.

4. Funding

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Funding should *not* be routed through DOC, GAC, or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

5. Keep financial reporting simple

Financial reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan. The focus should remain on outcomes, not unnecessary administrative burden.

6. Operational plan

The operational plan should be a flexible management tool that encourages innovation. This HOSI presents an opportunity not only to manage wapiti effectively but also to advance deer management techniques in New Zealand.

The operational plan must remain separate from the Herd Management Plan. It should be an adaptive, implementation-focused document developed by the organisation responsible for delivering the HOSI — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

7. Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring exists to support adaptive management and demonstrate whether Fiordland Wapiti management is meeting the objectives of this Plan.

Monitoring should be efficient, effective, and directly tied to environmental outcomes. Costly or overly bureaucratic methods that deliver little value should be avoided.

Monitoring should measure the actual impact deer have on the environment. Faecal pellet counts should be excluded as they are subjective and do not accurately reflect deer impacts.

8. Roles and responsibilities

Delegations should be assigned to groups with the right skills and proven capability.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has demonstrated over two decades that it possesses the expertise required to implement and manage both the HOSI and the operational plan.

Clear guidance is needed on whether the HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation so roles and responsibilities are unambiguous.

9. Setting the correct tone for HOSI

A Wapiti HOSI is not about *control* — it is about *active management*.

I would like to see all references to the term “control” removed from the HMP and replaced with “management,” which more accurately reflects the purpose and intent of this Plan.

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 71-11

General position

Support in part

1. My position

I support the Herd Management Plan in principle, but I believe amendments are needed for it to truly serve the Fiordland Wapiti herd and the communities who value it.

2. Why I value the herd

The Herd Management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd, which are deeply rooted in heritage, stewardship, and the unique relationship New Zealanders have with this landscape.

For me personally, the Fiordland Wapiti herd represents far more than an animal to manage. It embodies the legacy of those before us, the privilege of experiencing one of the world’s last true wildernesses, and the

connection to nature that so many of us seek to pass on to our families.

The adventure of hunting in Fiordland, the uniqueness of Wapiti as a species, and the wellbeing that comes from time spent in the backcountry are all part of a package that cannot be replicated. This herd is a taonga — culturally, ecologically, and recreationally.

3. Social and community outcomes

The Herd Management Plan should support hunter- and community-led management, prioritising positive social and economic outcomes. The success of Fiordland Wapiti has always come from people on the ground, working together with passion and purpose.

4. Funding

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Funding should *not* be routed through DOC, GAC, or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

5. Keep financial reporting simple

Financial reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan. The focus should remain on outcomes, not unnecessary administrative burden.

6. Operational plan

The operational plan should be a flexible management tool that encourages innovation. This HOSI presents an opportunity not only to manage wapiti effectively but also to advance deer management techniques in New Zealand.

The operational plan must remain separate from the Herd Management Plan. It should be an adaptive, implementation-focused document developed by the organisation responsible for delivering the HOSI — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

7. Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring exists to support adaptive management and demonstrate whether Fiordland Wapiti management is meeting the objectives of this Plan.

Monitoring should be efficient, effective, and directly tied to environmental outcomes. Costly or overly bureaucratic methods that deliver little value should be avoided.

Monitoring should measure the actual impact deer have on the environment. Faecal pellet counts should be excluded as they are subjective and do not accurately reflect deer impacts.

8. Roles and responsibilities

Delegations should be assigned to groups with the right skills and proven capability.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has demonstrated over two decades that it possesses the expertise required to implement and manage both the HOSI and the operational plan.

Clear guidance is needed on whether the HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation so roles and responsibilities are unambiguous.

9. Setting the correct tone for HOSI

A Wapiti HOSI is not about *control* — it is about *active management*.

I would like to see all references to the term “control” removed from the HMP and replaced with “management,” which more accurately reflects the purpose and intent of this Plan.

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 71-12

General position

Support in part**1. My position**

I support the Herd Management Plan in principle, but I believe amendments are needed for it to truly serve the Fiordland Wapiti herd and the communities who value it.

2. Why I value the herd

The Herd Management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd, which are deeply rooted in heritage, stewardship, and the unique relationship New Zealanders have with this landscape.

For me personally, the Fiordland Wapiti herd represents far more than an animal to manage. It embodies the legacy of those before us, the privilege of experiencing one of the world's last true wildernesses, and the connection to nature that so many of us seek to pass on to our families.

The adventure of hunting in Fiordland, the uniqueness of Wapiti as a species, and the wellbeing that comes from time spent in the backcountry are all part of a package that cannot be replicated. This herd is a taonga — culturally, ecologically, and recreationally.

3. Social and community outcomes

The Herd Management Plan should support hunter- and community-led management, prioritising positive social and economic outcomes. The success of Fiordland Wapiti has always come from people on the ground, working together with passion and purpose.

4. Funding

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Funding should *not* be routed through DOC, GAC, or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

5. Keep financial reporting simple

Financial reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan. The focus should remain on outcomes, not unnecessary administrative burden.

6. Operational plan

The operational plan should be a flexible management tool that encourages innovation. This HOSI presents an opportunity not only to manage wapiti effectively but also to advance deer management techniques in New Zealand.

The operational plan must remain separate from the Herd Management Plan. It should be an adaptive, implementation-focused document developed by the organisation responsible for delivering the HOSI — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

7. Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring exists to support adaptive management and demonstrate whether Fiordland Wapiti management is meeting the objectives of this Plan.

Monitoring should be efficient, effective, and directly tied to environmental outcomes. Costly or overly bureaucratic methods that deliver little value should be avoided.

Monitoring should measure the actual impact deer have on the environment. Faecal pellet counts should be excluded as they are subjective and do not accurately reflect deer impacts.

8. Roles and responsibilities

Delegations should be assigned to groups with the right skills and proven capability.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has demonstrated over two decades that it possesses the expertise required to implement and manage both the HOSI and the operational plan.

Clear guidance is needed on whether the HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation so roles and responsibilities are unambiguous.

9. Setting the correct tone for HOSI

A Wapiti HOSI is not about *control* — it is about *active management*.

I would like to see all references to the term “control” removed from the HMP and replaced with “management,” which more accurately reflects the purpose and intent of this Plan.

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 71-13

General position

Support in part

1. My position

I support the Herd Management Plan in principle, but I believe amendments are needed for it to truly serve the Fiordland Wapiti herd and the communities who value it.

2. Why I value the herd

The Herd Management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd, which are deeply rooted in heritage, stewardship, and the unique relationship New Zealanders have with this landscape.

For me personally, the Fiordland Wapiti herd represents far more than an animal to manage. It embodies the legacy of those before us, the privilege of experiencing one of the world’s last true wildernesses, and the connection to nature that so many of us seek to pass on to our families.

The adventure of hunting in Fiordland, the uniqueness of Wapiti as a species, and the wellbeing that comes from time spent in the backcountry are all part of a package that cannot be replicated. This herd is a taonga — culturally, ecologically, and recreationally.

3. Social and community outcomes

The Herd Management Plan should support hunter- and community-led management, prioritising positive social and economic outcomes. The success of Fiordland Wapiti has always come from people on the ground, working together with passion and purpose.

4. Funding

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Funding should *not* be routed through DOC, GAC, or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

5. Keep financial reporting simple

Financial reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan. The focus should remain on outcomes, not unnecessary administrative burden.

6. Operational plan

The operational plan should be a flexible management tool that encourages innovation. This HOSI presents an opportunity not only to manage wapiti effectively but also to advance deer management techniques in New Zealand.

The operational plan must remain separate from the Herd Management Plan. It should be an adaptive, implementation-focused document developed by the organisation responsible for delivering the HOSI — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

7. Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring exists to support adaptive management and demonstrate whether Fiordland Wapiti management is meeting the objectives of this Plan.

Monitoring should be efficient, effective, and directly tied to environmental outcomes. Costly or overly bureaucratic methods that deliver little value should be avoided.

Monitoring should measure the actual impact deer have on the environment. Faecal pellet counts should be excluded as they are subjective and do not accurately reflect deer impacts.

8. Roles and responsibilities

Delegations should be assigned to groups with the right skills and proven capability.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has demonstrated over two decades that it possesses the expertise required to implement and manage both the HOSI and the operational plan.

Clear guidance is needed on whether the HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation so roles and responsibilities are unambiguous.

9. Setting the correct tone for HOSI

A Wapiti HOSI is not about *control* — it is about *active management*.

I would like to see all references to the term “control” removed from the HMP and replaced with “management,” which more accurately reflects the purpose and intent of this Plan.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 71-14

General position

Support in part

The Herd Management Plan should support hunter- and community-led management, prioritising positive social and economic outcomes. The success of Fiordland Wapiti has always come from people on the ground, working together with passion and purpose.

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 71-15

General position

Support in part

1. My position

I support the Herd Management Plan in principle, but I believe amendments are needed for it to truly serve the Fiordland Wapiti herd and the communities who value it.

2. Why I value the herd

The Herd Management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd, which are deeply rooted in heritage, stewardship, and the unique relationship New Zealanders have with this landscape.

For me personally, the Fiordland Wapiti herd represents far more than an animal to manage. It embodies the legacy of those before us, the privilege of experiencing one of the world's last true wildernesses, and the connection to nature that so many of us seek to pass on to our families.

The adventure of hunting in Fiordland, the uniqueness of Wapiti as a species, and the wellbeing that comes from time spent in the backcountry are all part of a package that cannot be replicated. This herd is a taonga — culturally, ecologically, and recreationally.

3. Social and community outcomes

The Herd Management Plan should support hunter- and community-led management, prioritising positive social and economic outcomes. The success of Fiordland Wapiti has always come from people on the ground, working together with passion and purpose.

4. Funding

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Funding should *not* be routed through DOC, GAC, or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

5. Keep financial reporting simple

Financial reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan. The focus should remain on outcomes, not unnecessary administrative burden.

6. Operational plan

The operational plan should be a flexible management tool that encourages innovation. This HOSI presents an opportunity not only to manage wapiti effectively but also to advance deer management techniques in New Zealand.

The operational plan must remain separate from the Herd Management Plan. It should be an adaptive, implementation-focused document developed by the organisation responsible for delivering the HOSI — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

7. Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring exists to support adaptive management and demonstrate whether Fiordland Wapiti management is meeting the objectives of this Plan.

Monitoring should be efficient, effective, and directly tied to environmental outcomes. Costly or overly bureaucratic methods that deliver little value should be avoided.

Monitoring should measure the actual impact deer have on the environment. Faecal pellet counts should be excluded as they are subjective and do not accurately reflect deer impacts.

8. Roles and responsibilities

Delegations should be assigned to groups with the right skills and proven capability.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has demonstrated over two decades that it possesses the expertise required to implement and manage both the HOSI and the operational plan.

Clear guidance is needed on whether the HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation so roles and responsibilities are unambiguous.

9. Setting the correct tone for HOSI

A Wapiti HOSI is not about **control** — it is about **active management**.

I would like to see all references to the term “control” removed from the HMP and replaced with “management,” which more accurately reflects the purpose and intent of this Plan.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 71-16

General position

Support in part

Financial reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan. The focus should remain on outcomes, not unnecessary administrative burden.

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 71-17

General position

Support in part

1. My position

I support the Herd Management Plan in principle, but I believe amendments are needed for it to truly serve the Fiordland Wapiti herd and the communities who value it.

2. Why I value the herd

The Herd Management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd, which are deeply rooted in heritage, stewardship, and the unique relationship New Zealanders have with this landscape.

For me personally, the Fiordland Wapiti herd represents far more than an animal to manage. It embodies the legacy of those before us, the privilege of experiencing one of the world’s last true wildernesses, and the connection to nature that so many of us seek to pass on to our families.

The adventure of hunting in Fiordland, the uniqueness of Wapiti as a species, and the wellbeing that comes from time spent in the backcountry are all part of a package that cannot be replicated. This herd is a taonga — culturally, ecologically, and recreationally.

3. Social and community outcomes

The Herd Management Plan should support hunter- and community-led management, prioritising positive social and economic outcomes. The success of Fiordland Wapiti has always come from people on the ground, working together with passion and purpose.

4. Funding

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Funding should *not* be routed through DOC, GAC, or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

5. Keep financial reporting simple

Financial reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan. The focus should remain on

outcomes, not unnecessary administrative burden.

6. Operational plan

The operational plan should be a flexible management tool that encourages innovation. This HOSI presents an opportunity not only to manage wapiti effectively but also to advance deer management techniques in New Zealand.

The operational plan must remain separate from the Herd Management Plan. It should be an adaptive, implementation-focused document developed by the organisation responsible for delivering the HOSI — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

7. Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring exists to support adaptive management and demonstrate whether Fiordland Wapiti management is meeting the objectives of this Plan.

Monitoring should be efficient, effective, and directly tied to environmental outcomes. Costly or overly bureaucratic methods that deliver little value should be avoided.

Monitoring should measure the actual impact deer have on the environment. Faecal pellet counts should be excluded as they are subjective and do not accurately reflect deer impacts.

8. Roles and responsibilities

Delegations should be assigned to groups with the right skills and proven capability.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has demonstrated over two decades that it possesses the expertise required to implement and manage both the HOSI and the operational plan.

Clear guidance is needed on whether the HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation so roles and responsibilities are unambiguous.

9. Setting the correct tone for HOSI

A Wapiti HOSI is not about *control* — it is about *active management*.

I would like to see all references to the term “control” removed from the HMP and replaced with “management,” which more accurately reflects the purpose and intent of this Plan.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 71-18

General position

Support in part

1. My position

I support the Herd Management Plan in principle, but I believe amendments are needed for it to truly serve the Fiordland Wapiti herd and the communities who value it.

2. Why I value the herd

The Herd Management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd, which are deeply rooted in heritage, stewardship, and the unique relationship New Zealanders have with this landscape.

For me personally, the Fiordland Wapiti herd represents far more than an animal to manage. It embodies the legacy of those before us, the privilege of experiencing one of the world’s last true wildernesses, and the connection to nature that so many of us seek to pass on to our families.

The adventure of hunting in Fiordland, the uniqueness of Wapiti as a species, and the wellbeing that comes from

time spent in the backcountry are all part of a package that cannot be replicated. This herd is a taonga — culturally, ecologically, and recreationally.

3. Social and community outcomes

The Herd Management Plan should support hunter- and community-led management, prioritising positive social and economic outcomes. The success of Fiordland Wapiti has always come from people on the ground, working together with passion and purpose.

4. Funding

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Funding should *not* be routed through DOC, GAC, or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

5. Keep financial reporting simple

Financial reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan. The focus should remain on outcomes, not unnecessary administrative burden.

6. Operational plan

The operational plan should be a flexible management tool that encourages innovation. This HOSI presents an opportunity not only to manage wapiti effectively but also to advance deer management techniques in New Zealand.

The operational plan must remain separate from the Herd Management Plan. It should be an adaptive, implementation-focused document developed by the organisation responsible for delivering the HOSI — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

7. Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring exists to support adaptive management and demonstrate whether Fiordland Wapiti management is meeting the objectives of this Plan.

Monitoring should be efficient, effective, and directly tied to environmental outcomes. Costly or overly bureaucratic methods that deliver little value should be avoided.

Monitoring should measure the actual impact deer have on the environment. Faecal pellet counts should be excluded as they are subjective and do not accurately reflect deer impacts.

8. Roles and responsibilities

Delegations should be assigned to groups with the right skills and proven capability.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has demonstrated over two decades that it possesses the expertise required to implement and manage both the HOSI and the operational plan.

Clear guidance is needed on whether the HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation so roles and responsibilities are unambiguous.

9. Setting the correct tone for HOSI

A Wapiti HOSI is not about *control* — it is about *active management*.

I would like to see all references to the term “control” removed from the HMP and replaced with “management,” which more accurately reflects the purpose and intent of this Plan.

General position

Support in part

The operational plan should be a flexible management tool that encourages innovation. This HOSI presents an opportunity not only to manage wapiti effectively but also to advance deer management techniques in New Zealand.

The operational plan must remain separate from the Herd Management Plan. It should be an adaptive, implementation-focused document developed by the organisation responsible for delivering the HOSI — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 71-2

General position

Support in part

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Funding should *not* be routed through DOC, GAC, or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 71-20

General position

Support in part

The Herd Management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd, which are deeply rooted in heritage, stewardship, and the unique relationship New Zealanders have with this landscape.

For me personally, the Fiordland Wapiti herd represents far more than an animal to manage. It embodies the legacy of those before us, the privilege of experiencing one of the world's last true wildernesses, and the connection to nature that so many of us seek to pass on to our families.

The adventure of hunting in Fiordland, the uniqueness of Wapiti as a species, and the wellbeing that comes from time spent in the backcountry are all part of a package that cannot be replicated. This herd is a taonga — culturally, ecologically, and recreationally.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 71-3

General position

Support in part

Monitoring exists to support adaptive management and demonstrate whether Fiordland Wapiti management is meeting the objectives of this Plan.

Monitoring should be efficient, effective, and directly tied to environmental outcomes. Costly or overly bureaucratic methods that deliver little value should be avoided.

Monitoring should measure the actual impact deer have on the environment. Faecal pellet counts should be excluded as they are subjective and do not accurately reflect deer impacts.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 71-4

General position

Support in part

1. My position

I support the Herd Management Plan in principle, but I believe amendments are needed for it to truly serve the Fiordland Wapiti herd and the communities who value it.

2. Why I value the herd

The Herd Management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd, which are deeply rooted in heritage, stewardship, and the unique relationship New Zealanders have with this landscape.

For me personally, the Fiordland Wapiti herd represents far more than an animal to manage. It embodies the legacy of those before us, the privilege of experiencing one of the world's last true wildernesses, and the connection to nature that so many of us seek to pass on to our families.

The adventure of hunting in Fiordland, the uniqueness of Wapiti as a species, and the wellbeing that comes from time spent in the backcountry are all part of a package that cannot be replicated. This herd is a taonga — culturally, ecologically, and recreationally.

3. Social and community outcomes

The Herd Management Plan should support hunter- and community-led management, prioritising positive social and economic outcomes. The success of Fiordland Wapiti has always come from people on the ground, working together with passion and purpose.

4. Funding

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Funding should *not* be routed through DOC, GAC, or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

5. Keep financial reporting simple

Financial reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan. The focus should remain on outcomes, not unnecessary administrative burden.

6. Operational plan

The operational plan should be a flexible management tool that encourages innovation. This HOSI presents an opportunity not only to manage wapiti effectively but also to advance deer management techniques in New Zealand.

The operational plan must remain separate from the Herd Management Plan. It should be an adaptive, implementation-focused document developed by the organisation responsible for delivering the HOSI — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

7. Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring exists to support adaptive management and demonstrate whether Fiordland Wapiti management is meeting the objectives of this Plan.

Monitoring should be efficient, effective, and directly tied to environmental outcomes. Costly or overly bureaucratic methods that deliver little value should be avoided.

Monitoring should measure the actual impact deer have on the environment. Faecal pellet counts should be excluded as they are subjective and do not accurately reflect deer impacts.

8. Roles and responsibilities

Delegations should be assigned to groups with the right skills and proven capability.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has demonstrated over two decades that it possesses the expertise required to implement and manage both the HOSI and the operational plan.

Clear guidance is needed on whether the HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation so roles and responsibilities are unambiguous.

9. Setting the correct tone for HOSI

A Wapiti HOSI is not about *control* — it is about *active management*.

I would like to see all references to the term “control” removed from the HMP and replaced with “management,” which more accurately reflects the purpose and intent of this Plan.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 71-5

General position

Support in part

Delegations should be assigned to groups with the right skills and proven capability.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has demonstrated over two decades that it possesses the expertise required to implement and manage both the HOSI and the operational plan.

Clear guidance is needed on whether the HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation so roles and responsibilities are unambiguous.

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 71-6

General position

Support in part

1. My position

I support the Herd Management Plan in principle, but I believe amendments are needed for it to truly serve the Fiordland Wapiti herd and the communities who value it.

2. Why I value the herd

The Herd Management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd, which are deeply rooted in heritage, stewardship, and the unique relationship New Zealanders have with this landscape.

For me personally, the Fiordland Wapiti herd represents far more than an animal to manage. It embodies the legacy of those before us, the privilege of experiencing one of the world’s last true wildernesses, and the connection to nature that so many of us seek to pass on to our families.

The adventure of hunting in Fiordland, the uniqueness of Wapiti as a species, and the wellbeing that comes from

time spent in the backcountry are all part of a package that cannot be replicated. This herd is a taonga — culturally, ecologically, and recreationally.

3. Social and community outcomes

The Herd Management Plan should support hunter- and community-led management, prioritising positive social and economic outcomes. The success of Fiordland Wapiti has always come from people on the ground, working together with passion and purpose.

4. Funding

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

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5. Keep financial reporting simple

Financial reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan. The focus should remain on outcomes, not unnecessary administrative burden.

6. Operational plan

The operational plan should be a flexible management tool that encourages innovation. This HOSI presents an opportunity not only to manage wapiti effectively but also to advance deer management techniques in New Zealand.

The operational plan must remain separate from the Herd Management Plan. It should be an adaptive, implementation-focused document developed by the organisation responsible for delivering the HOSI — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

7. Vegetation monitoring

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9. Setting the correct tone for HOSI

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I would like to see all references to the term “control” removed from the HMP and replaced with “management,” which more accurately reflects the purpose and intent of this Plan.

General position

Support in part

1. My position

I support the Herd Management Plan in principle, but I believe amendments are needed for it to truly serve the Fiordland Wapiti herd and the communities who value it.

2. Why I value the herd

The Herd Management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd, which are deeply rooted in heritage, stewardship, and the unique relationship New Zealanders have with this landscape.

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9. Setting the correct tone for HOSI

A Wapiti HOSI is not about **control** — it is about **active management**.

I would like to see all references to the term “control” removed from the HMP and replaced with “management,” which more accurately reflects the purpose and intent of this Plan.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 71-8

General position

Support in part

1. My position

I support the Herd Management Plan in principle, but I believe amendments are needed for it to truly serve the Fiordland Wapiti herd and the communities who value it.

2. Why I value the herd

The Herd Management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd, which are deeply rooted in heritage, stewardship, and the unique relationship New Zealanders have with this landscape.

For me personally, the Fiordland Wapiti herd represents far more than an animal to manage. It embodies the legacy of those before us, the privilege of experiencing one of the world’s last true wildernesses, and the connection to nature that so many of us seek to pass on to our families.

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3. Social and community outcomes

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4. Funding

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

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5. Keep financial reporting simple

Financial reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan. The focus should remain on outcomes, not unnecessary administrative burden.

6. Operational plan

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The operational plan must remain separate from the Herd Management Plan. It should be an adaptive, implementation-focused document developed by the organisation responsible for delivering the HOSI — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

7. Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring exists to support adaptive management and demonstrate whether Fiordland Wapiti management is meeting the objectives of this Plan.

Monitoring should be efficient, effective, and directly tied to environmental outcomes. Costly or overly bureaucratic methods that deliver little value should be avoided.

Monitoring should measure the actual impact deer have on the environment. Faecal pellet counts should be excluded as they are subjective and do not accurately reflect deer impacts.

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Delegations should be assigned to groups with the right skills and proven capability.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has demonstrated over two decades that it possesses the expertise required to implement and manage both the HOSI and the operational plan.

Clear guidance is needed on whether the HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation so roles and responsibilities are unambiguous.

9. Setting the correct tone for HOSI

A Wapiti HOSI is not about *control* — it is about *active management*.

I would like to see all references to the term “control” removed from the HMP and replaced with “management,” which more accurately reflects the purpose and intent of this Plan.

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 71-9

General position

Support in part

1. My position

I support the Herd Management Plan in principle, but I believe amendments are needed for it to truly serve the Fiordland Wapiti herd and the communities who value it.

2. Why I value the herd

The Herd Management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd, which are deeply rooted in heritage, stewardship, and the unique relationship New Zealanders have with this landscape.

For me personally, the Fiordland Wapiti herd represents far more than an animal to manage. It embodies the legacy of those before us, the privilege of experiencing one of the world’s last true wildernesses, and the connection to nature that so many of us seek to pass on to our families.

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time spent in the backcountry are all part of a package that cannot be replicated. This herd is a taonga — culturally, ecologically, and recreationally.

3. Social and community outcomes

The Herd Management Plan should support hunter- and community-led management, prioritising positive social and economic outcomes. The success of Fiordland Wapiti has always come from people on the ground, working together with passion and purpose.

4. Funding

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Funding should *not* be routed through DOC, GAC, or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

5. Keep financial reporting simple

Financial reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan. The focus should remain on outcomes, not unnecessary administrative burden.

6. Operational plan

The operational plan should be a flexible management tool that encourages innovation. This HOSI presents an opportunity not only to manage wapiti effectively but also to advance deer management techniques in New Zealand.

The operational plan must remain separate from the Herd Management Plan. It should be an adaptive, implementation-focused document developed by the organisation responsible for delivering the HOSI — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

7. Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring exists to support adaptive management and demonstrate whether Fiordland Wapiti management is meeting the objectives of this Plan.

Monitoring should be efficient, effective, and directly tied to environmental outcomes. Costly or overly bureaucratic methods that deliver little value should be avoided.

Monitoring should measure the actual impact deer have on the environment. Faecal pellet counts should be excluded as they are subjective and do not accurately reflect deer impacts.

8. Roles and responsibilities

Delegations should be assigned to groups with the right skills and proven capability.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has demonstrated over two decades that it possesses the expertise required to implement and manage both the HOSI and the operational plan.

Clear guidance is needed on whether the HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation so roles and responsibilities are unambiguous.

9. Setting the correct tone for HOSI

A Wapiti HOSI is not about *control* — it is about *active management*.

I would like to see all references to the term “control” removed from the HMP and replaced with “management,” which more accurately reflects the purpose and intent of this Plan.

Respondent: Carl Prenter

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 184

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 184-1

General position

Support

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group. In this case the Wapiti Foundation.

It should not be routed through DOC or GAC or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 184-2

General position

Support

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

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 184-3

General position

Support

The herd management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti her which are;

? The package that Fiordland and Wapiti bring.

? The adventure of hunting them in Fiordland.

? The uniqueness of the trophies.

? Connection to nature.

? Family to enjoy the natural environment to name a few.

Respondent: Kim Prenter

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 183

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 183-1

General position

Support

The herd management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd

which are, The adventure of hunting them in Fiordland. The uniqueness of the trophies and the Connection to nature.

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 183-2

General position

Support

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

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 183-3

General position

Support

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group. In this case the Wapiti Foundation.

It should not be routed through DOC or GAC or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

Respondent: Nicolaj Probst

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 126

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 126-1

General position

Support

The management plan and herd of special interests needs to be protected. It's an important part in nz history and draws people into areas which usually wouldn't be accessed. The mental health and connection to nature it brings is also priceless.

The reform and management needs to be run and undertaken by the support of hunters and local community not government.

all funding should be funnelled directly to the management foundations not through DOC or a government body.

financial reporting should be kept simple and not be apart of the management plan nor an obligation.

the operational management plan should be seperate to and remain flexible to be adapted and changed depending on the requirements. This should also be in the control of the Fiordland wapiti foundation.

vegetation monitoring needs to be effective and not involve anything unrelared to the impact of deer. Fecal count does not represent the true impact of deer. It needs to be a measurable and accurate framework that addresses the impact of deer.

The Fiordland wapiti foundation needs to be the ones that manage the program and operational plan. They have the experience and success of over two decades work.

this is not about control it's about management and Fiordland wapiti foundation has what it takes to manage this special part of new Zealand along with the flora and fauna not only native.

visiting and hunting the area is something most young kiwi hunter grow up dreaming about and can actually have a crack at when old enough and fit enough. The access and opportunity needs to be there for the future generations to enjoy

Respondent: Karl Pudney

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 17

8 Objective

Submission ID: 17-1

General position

Support

I support "Research supports and enhances management of Fiordland wapiti and the Wapiti Area."

2 Objective

Submission ID: 17-2

General position

Support

I support the following "The Fiordland wapiti hunting experience is enhanced, and the Fiordland wapiti herd produces high-quality bulls for balloted hunters to take annually during the bugle."

7 Objective

Submission ID: 17-3

General position

Support

I support the " Monitoring enables adaptive management and demonstrates whether the management of Fiordland wapiti is achieving the objectives and strategies of this Plan."

9 Objective

Submission ID: 17-4

General position

Support

I support "Public reporting provides information on whether the Plan is achieving the Objectives."

4 Objective

Submission ID: 17-5

General position

Support

I support the "Engage the hunting community in the management of Fiordland wapiti and the Wapiti Area so the community provide support for local conservation and social initiatives."

Respondent: Josh Quartermaine

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan Submission ID: 188

1 Objective Submission ID: 188-1

General position

Support

2 Objective Submission ID: 188-2

General position

Support

Please ensure this is policed correctly on the harvest of any bulls to ensure the resource is managed well and those who abuse the privilege are not invited back and are

2. Values and key context Submission ID: 188-3

General position

Support

3 Objective Submission ID: 188-4

General position

Support

As part of this I support the introduction of a "hunter levy" on all domestic and international hunters not only limited to the Wapiti area. Things such as the sale of firearms and ammo should have a small levy applied and those funds then used primarily to support HOSI and then wide objectives

Table 1.1 General Submission ID: 188-5

General position

Support

5 Objective Submission ID: 188-6

General position

Neutral

Need to ensure this does not lead away from the core objectives and hinders the ability to do what action is required.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 188-7

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 188-8

General position

Support

Agree with the key parties and relationships related to this plan as these groups have been working together in the Wapiti area for over 2 decades now

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 188-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Paul Quinn

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 150

2 Objective

Submission ID: 150-1

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 150-10

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 150-11

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 150-12

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 150-13

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 150-14

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 150-15

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 150-16

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 150-17

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 150-18

General position

Support

I believe that the wapiti foundation is doing an amazing job for fiordland by managing the numbers in fiordland.

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 150-19

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 150-2

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 150-20

General position

Support

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 150-21

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 150-22

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 150-3

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 150-4

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 150-5

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 150-6

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 150-7

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 150-8

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 150-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Hayden Rae

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 7

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 7-1

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 7-2

General position

Support

Wapiti are a valued animal to be able to hunt. They need to manage and cared for to have a good balance between flora and hunting. We don't want to loss them and all the revinew they bring in plus all the pest control/trapping efforts hunters contribute.

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 7-3

General position

Support

Would be great to allow hunting outside of the bulge but not sure about charging people.

Respondent: Mary Ralston

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Mary Ralston - wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Felicity Rashbrooke

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 186

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 186-1

General position

Oppose

New Zealand has created national parks including the Fiordland National 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. We have known about the damage deer cause to our native ecosystems for 100 years and yet we still do not seem to be able to learn the lesson.

In order to preserve the native ecosystem of the Fiordland National Park all browsing deer (as well as pigs, goats possums etc) should be eliminated - not "managed" as this Herd management plan proposed. The presence of wapiti 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.

Respondent: Scott Redwood

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 79

3 Objective

Submission ID: 79-1

General position

Support

Respondent: Kieran Reeve

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 102

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 102-1

General position

Support

My family are committed conservationists. My partner Belinda Jones 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 Wapiti Herd have to offer.. When empowered through a strong, values-based HMP, hunters and communities help achieve measurable conservation improvements.

Wapiti HOSI submission.pdf

Respondent: Luke Richards

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 338

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 338

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

Luke Richards - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Lorenzo Ritani

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 160

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 160-1

General position

Support

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

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group. In this case the Wapiti Foundation.

It should not be routed through DOC or GAC or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

Delegations should be assigned to groups with the right skills.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation possesses the expertise required to implement and manage the HOSI and operational plan, having demonstrated consistent success in this area over the past two decades.

Clear guidance is needed on whether HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation.

Respondent: s9(2)(a)

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 296

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 296

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

s9(2)(a) - Wapiti covering letter.pdf

Respondent: Karla Rix-Trott

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 351

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 351

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

Karla Rix-Trott - Wapiti submission and coverng letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Mahuru Robb

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 273

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 273-1

General position

Oppose in part

I strongly encourage a co-governance relationship with Ngai Tahu and the appropriate runanga to identify ecological and cultural objectives and ensure the plan meets these. I also encourage the inclusion of cultural monitoring tools similar to those used by Lyver and Timoti 2019 in Te Urewera, to look at forest health from a tangata whenua perspective. Or support the development of an ungulate focused CHI (cultural health indicator) specifically for wapiti and the HOSI plan

1 Objective

Submission ID: 273-2

General position

Oppose in part

Current herd density for all ungulates have been consistently exceeded in the Fiordland area and this must be addressed. It is an ongoing point of tension for DOC, iwi and the hunting community and there needs to be adequate funding to reduce numbers to a manageable level. I strongly encourage more robust research into population dynamics and ecological and cultural impacts, before determining the acceptable numbers of Wapiti.

Respondent: Nick Robertson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 185

2 Objective

Submission ID: 185-1

General position

Oppose

I hereby lodge a submission *opposing* the draft Herd Management Plan (HOSI) for the introduced wapiti (red-stag / deer) population proposed by Fiordland Wapiti Foundation. I believe the plan should be rejected and instead a strategy should be adopted to eliminate or drastically reduce the deer population, rather than “manage” them as a protected/managed herd.

Reasons for opposition

1 Environmental and ecological damage

- Deer cause **massive and ongoing damage** to native forest ecosystems. By browsing on vegetation, they reduce native plant regeneration, damage understorey species, and alter forest structure — undermining biodiversity and harming native flora and fauna over the long term.
- Allowing a managed herd implicitly accepts continued ecological harm. Protection or management status would institutionalise this harm: it legitimises ongoing deer presence in areas that should prioritise native forest integrity.
- Given the documented damage, the more appropriate long-term goal is the **removal** (or as near to eradication as feasible) of deer rather than their continued survival under “management.”

2 Hunting / recreational hunting has repeatedly shown not to control deer populations sufficiently

- Recreational or trophy hunting alone often fails to reduce deer numbers to safe ecological thresholds. Hunters target older or trophy animals; younger deer (fawns, sub-adults) may escape hunting pressure, continue to breed, and maintain or even grow population numbers over time.
- The “harvest pressure” from hunting is usually **selective**, rather than evenly distributed: accessible areas get hunted heavily, remote or rugged regions are under-hunted. As a result, refuges for deer remain, from which populations can rebound — making hunting an ineffective tool for comprehensive population control.
- Because of these limitations, **hunting tends to manage deer as a consumable resource, not eliminate their ecological impact**. This approach fails to protect vulnerable native ecosystems that require very low or zero deer density to recover.

3 Conflict of interest / governance and public-interest concerns

- Granting a “Herd of Special Interest” status to an introduced species with significant ecological impact — especially when the proposal originates from a hunter-led foundation — represents a conflict between private/recreational interests and the public good (native biodiversity, ecological integrity, long-term conservation for all).
- Institutionalising deer management undermines the public mandate of DOC to protect native species and ecosystems. It risks shifting DOC’s priorities from ecological restoration and protection, to maintaining a game resource for recreational or commercial benefit.

4 Long-term risks and ethical responsibility

- Continuation of deer populations under “management” assumption treats a harmful invasive (or at least non-native) species as a valued asset. This neglects long-term ecological costs — including loss of native species, soil erosion, changes to forest composition, and knock-on impacts on birds, invertebrates, fungi, and entire ecosystems.
- From an ethical and ecological standpoint, it is irresponsible to formalise protection of an animal whose presence endangers native biodiversity. The more responsible and precautionary approach is elimination or rigorous population suppression, not management for human recreation or profit.

In light of the above, I respectfully request that the decision-maker:

- Reject the Herd of Special Interest proposal for wapiti / deer in Fiordland or any native-forest area;
- Instead adopt a plan aimed at **phasing out, eradicating, or drastically reducing** the deer population to a level compatible with ecological restoration and protection of native forest biodiversity;
- Prioritise ecological integrity, native species, and long-term conservation over recreational hunting or game-management interests;
- Ensure that any future wildlife or fauna-management decisions are free from undue influence by hunting-associations or commercial interests, and guided primarily by ecological science and public interest.

Respondent: Nigel Robinson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 272

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 272-1

General position

Support

I have never hunted Wapiti and probably never will. But the opportunity should be there for those that wish too. International hunters (including aussies) should be paying more for any opportunity.

The wapiti have interbreed into an different species of wapiti/red cross. I question the desire to protect a cross breed game animal. Personally I think this plan has come to late for wapiti.

However the proposal is aim at protecting the ecosystem from an introduced species which I fully support.

DOC do not have the resources and something has to be done.

Respondent: Andrew Rowland

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 274

8 Objective

Submission ID: 274-1

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 274-10

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 274-11

General position

Support in part

1 Objective

Submission ID: 274-2

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 274-3

General position

Support

needs to be a open book

4 Objective

Submission ID: 274-4

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 274-5

General position

Support

What is happening is world leading and has proven it having the best outcome.

To the point some organisations try to stop it when there not even on the ground with there own programs trying to do better, in fact all they do is go wow wow wow poor me.

Next they will want there name in the heading as show it is there idea giving there seal of approval.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 274-6

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 274-7

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 274-8

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 274-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Pryor Rowland

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 82

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 82-1

General position

Oppose

I am adamantly opposed to allowing exotic browsing species in our fragile national parks.

I have seen the destruction of the forest floor caused by browsing animals.

Have we learnt nothing from the destructive introduction of exotic mammal species such as rabbits, deer, opossums not to mention predatory mammals.

It's madness and just cynical political vote buying.

Respondent: James Russell

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 284

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 284-1

General position

Oppose

National Parks 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 wapiti on the social and ecological values of the national park are not outweighed by their positive impacts.

Designating Fiordland wapiti as a special herd is not socially or ecologically supported by evidence balancing the positive and negative impacts in the eyes of all New Zealanders.

Designating Fiordland wapiti as a special herd would represent regulatory capture by a small minority. This would not be democratic legislation.

Respondent: Kent Russell

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 159

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 159-1

General position

Oppose

An authorisations or permitting system is unnecessary. instead, the focus should be on boosting the tourism industry where it relates to these deer. Let's move away from a 20th-century 'permission-based' mindset and instead *capture real value* through partnership, revenue-sharing, and open participation models. We can generate meaningful income, foster innovation, and avoid the cost and resentment of bureaucratic approvals. This approach aligns incentives, supports local benefits, and positions us as proactive partners—not gatekeepers. The value that the deer provide, in spite of their ecological and exotic characteristics must also be recognised. There is also a unique opportunity here to monitor. Perhaps the very people that are hoping to making money off this situation, ie largely the hunting tourism operators, could actually play a part in monitoring and looking after the outcomes of this work. We are not in a position to be throwing money at this thing, so we should focus on figuring out a way to make the systems we are trying to apply to our world, work better.

Respondent: Peter Ryan

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 204

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 204-1

General position

Support in part

Given the domestic demand for wapiti blocks it is hard to see why international promotion would be of benefit. Each international winner of an allocation is one less New Zealander able to experience the Wapiti Area. It is a finite resource.

However there are opportunities to develop domestic partnerships associated with wapiti (the Burger Fuel use of controlled red deer venison in their products is an example.) These should be developed further, though not solely on the basis of cost recovery.

These partnerships strengthen sustainable use of the resource and should be seen for their full social, environmental and economic benefits to NZ, not just as revenue to offset DOC costs.

9 Objective

Submission ID: 204-10

General position

Support in part

Reporting against the objectives of the HOSI should be encouraged as it promotes informed debate. It is far too easy for special interests to cherry pick data, or promote untested data, in the media.

Cherry picking data is unhelpful and often has media sensationalism as its basis. Well-rounded reporting against a diverse set of objectives must be encouraged.

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 204-11

General position

Support

Supported, noting the difficulty around distinguishing between wapiti and red deer environmental impacts in reporting.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 204-12

General position

Support

100% agree. Research will quantify the significant contributions of the hunting community to the Wapiti Area, and so allow a more informed debate as well as more finely tuned management decisions.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 204-13

General position

Support in part

A ten year cycle would provide more certainty when making decisions around expensive programmes, as well as taking a longer term view of population dynamics and other related factors. It takes time to influence populations spread over a large wilderness area, or to understand impacts.

Compliance officers, if appointed, should have jurisdiction over commercial operators to ensure compliance with the plan ie least wapiti-like characteristics, gender balance etc.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 204-14

General position

Support

I strongly support this objective. Achieving it produces high quality social, environmental and economic outcomes for New Zealand and New Zealanders.

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 204-15

General position

Support in part

Supported noting that 1.7 and 1.8 should be balanced against the extensive costs already borne by hunters at no cost to DOC or the taxpayer. Wapiti hunting is essentially a user pays activity already.

In short there is no point ignoring this extensive expenditure and then charging DOC costs from a zero-based budget.

Good faith should mean quantifying what hunters already contribute *in dollar terms* and then balancing that against what DOC need to spend on advertising, education etc to make a decision on potential charging.

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 204-16

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 204-2

General position

Support in part

Supported, provided that the operational plan is arrived at through partnership with the Game Animal Council.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 204-3

General position

Support in part

It is true that our understanding of the dynamics between wapiti and indigenous species needs to be improved. In particular we need to distinguish carefully between the impacts of wapiti and the impacts of red deer, which are far more numerous in the area and which have been the subject of control programmes funded by hunting organisations for many years.

If this distinction could be made on a factual and scientific basis the true benefits of red deer control in the area would be more clear.

A factual distinction would also prevent critics from conflating the impacts of red deer with wapiti.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 204-4

General position

Support

Any discussion of the wapiti herd or habitat must involve consistent engagement with the Game Animal Council, Fiordland Wapiti Foundation and NZ Deerstalkers. These groups already provide a huge amount of support for conservation and social initiatives in the wapiti area.

Further meaningful engagement will assist in the strengthening these initiatives by providing consistency of partnership, as well as the certainty required to extend these initiatives further.

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 204-5

General position

Support in part

Supported, but a 1:1 bull to cow ratio should be tested with the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation as subject matter experts in herd dynamics.

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 204-6

General position

Support in part

Monitoring is critical to management but it is unclear how plots etc can discriminate between wapiti impacts and red deer impacts.

It would be highly undesirable to attribute damage to wapiti when it is in fact caused by red deer/hybrids. The root cause of the issue must be based on real data.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 204-7

General position

Support in part

It is not clear what further costs would need to be recovered from the hunting community, who already run extensive (and very expensive) red deer control programmes in the wapiti area, as well as extensive predator control programmes.

Hunting organisations also manage the ballot process. All of these costs are borne by hunters now.

If all those helicopter hours and monitoring of predator traps were quantified the result would be a huge sum, none of which is borne by DOC or taxpayers.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 204-8

General position

Support

Fully supported, with the provision that (d.) be monitored independently by the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation to ensure compliance.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 204-9

General position

Support

Monitoring is part of adaptive management, and the HOSI programme is based on adaptive management rather than a simple binary yes/no to wapiti.

I have observed wildlife management programmes in many countries (USA, NZ, Australia, Germany, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Namibia) and all rely upon monitoring programmes as intelligence to inform management decisions.

Respondent: Lawrence Ryder

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 115

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 115-1

General position

Oppose

Whats the Treaty got do with it?

Respondent: Eugenie Sage

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 288

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 288-1

General position

Oppose

Please see uploaded document

Submission on Wapiti HOSI 12.25.docx

Respondent: Nigel Sanderson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 58

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 58-1

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 58-2

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 58-3

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 58-4

General position

Support

Respondent: David Sangster

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 182

3 Objective

Submission ID: 182-1

General position

Support in part

Need to specifically address international hunters paying additional costs. Look at hunting models in USA and Canada. For example, it is cheap for a state resident to go hunting in home state as non-state residents pay high fees to effectively subsidise state residents. Similarly, hunting needs to remain affordable for all New Zealanders with international

Respondent: Elizabeth Scott

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 35

5 Objective

Submission ID: 35-1

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 35-10

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 35-2

General position

Support

I believe the Wapiti Foundation's work in reducing deer numbers by culling (including females) is effective. It is important that this is guided by browse monitoring to allow the vegetation in the Wapiti area to thrive with as little impact as possible. I fully support increased monitoring if required. The fact that this culling programme, and the pest control programme, are funded by hunters entering the ballot to hunt high quality animals is a good model. This is because it is financially sustainable and encourages involvement in conservation by a large sector of our people.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 35-3

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 35-4

General position

Support

Also very important

2 Objective

Submission ID: 35-5

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 35-6

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 35-7

General position

Support

this is very important

8 Objective

Submission ID: 35-8

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 35-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Robert Scott

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 101

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 101-1

General position

Oppose

1.3 I oppose this.

As a hunter myself, I believe this is wrong deer hunting has been a tradition in NZ. We have the understanding no one person owns these animals they are a gift, a resource. And that's how they should stay. I feel if all of these go though then you've privatized them and it sets a precedent. I myself feel that if you accept these then more groups will seek for privatized authority over hunting all game in New Zealand. We will then be no different to European countries where it's only the rich that can afford to hunt. Hunting is about getting out into the outdoors and if you're lucky taking home some food for the dinner table. Don't let that be stopped.

Respondent: Richard Scrimshaw

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 109

1 Objective

Submission ID: 109-1

General position

Support

I support the wapiti herd being a herd of special interest with the protection and management the wapiti foundation provides

Respondent: Ryan Searell

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 72

1 Objective

Submission ID: 72-1

General position

Support

Respondent: Omar Seychell

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 70

8 Objective

Submission ID: 70-1

General position

Oppose

The focus needs to be on eradication and directing any available funds for conservation purposes.

9 Objective

Submission ID: 70-2

General position

Oppose

Focus needs to be on public reporting to improve conservation outcomes.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 70-3

General position

Oppose

Funding should be allocated to restoring conservation values in the national park.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 70-4

General position

Oppose

The focus needs to be on eradication and directing any available funds for conservation purposes.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 70-5

General position

Oppose

Fiordland should be managed for conservation purposes. The Wapiti herd is a pest species which browses on indigenous vegetation and negatively impacts on conservation values in the park.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 70-6

General position

Oppose

7 Objective

Submission ID: 70-7

General position

Oppose

The focus for monitoring needs to be on eradication and directing any available funds for conservation purposes.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 70-8

General position

Oppose

Fiordland should be managed for conservation purposes. The Wapiti herd is a pest species which browses on indigenous vegetation and negatively impacts on conservation values in the park.

Respondent: Anaru Shadbolt - Te Tira Whakamātaki

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 251

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 251

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

Te Tira Whakamataki - Anaru Shadbolt - wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Sam Shearer

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 161

2 Objective

Submission ID: 161-1

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 161-2

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 161-3

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 161-4

General position

Support

Respondent: Grant Sheridan - Hunting & Fishing NZ

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 301

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 301

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

Hunting and Fishing NZ - Grant Sheridan - Wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Russell Silcock

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 41

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 41-1

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 41-10

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 41-11

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 41-12

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 41-13

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 41-14

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 41-15

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 41-16

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 41-17

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 41-18

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 41-19

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 41-2

General position

Support

Map 2 Fiordland Wapiti Area - Close up

Submission ID: 41-3

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 41-4

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 41-5

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 41-6

General position

Support

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 41-7

General position

Support

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 41-8

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 41-9

General position

Support

Respondent: **Scott Silsbee**

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 210

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 210-1

I support the plan. These beautiful animals are a precious resource that need protected and managed. Hunters working the Wapiti Foundation is the best way to protect and manage our resources.

Respondent: Tim Silva

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 95

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 95-1

General position

Support

This is great. The herd deserves HOSI status as it is unique, well managed and a huge asset to our hunting community and heritage.

Respondent: Murray Sim

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 135

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 135-1

General position

Support

Our Wapiti Herd in NZ is an amazing resource & all New Zealanders are very lucky to have them. So much amazing history behind these beautiful animals & they absolutely add to the attraction of visiting beautiful Fiordland NZ. Not only for us Kiwis, but on a Global scale to the rest of the world.

Our Fiordland Wapiti our the only true frerange herd in the Southern Hemisphere.

All backcountry visitors both New Zealanders & Tourists have a better experience if they happen to see any of our wild animals both native & introduced.

I have heard this first hand from many many people who have experienced this.

Our Wapiti have been in NZ for over 100 years they deserve to be respected & managed in their wild area of Fiordland where they live. 100 Years are they not New Zealanders as well.

The NZ Wapiti Foundation & Hunters must be allowed to continue their great work In Fiordland National Park , & continue to manage the Wapiti Herd.

They have more than proved they can be trusted to do this great work , keeping a balance on all aspects to ensure all stake holders needs are meet.

Respondent: Angela Simpson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 124

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 124-1

General position

Support

I fully support the HOSI for the Wapiti and Sika.

Respondent: Emily Simpson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 158

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 158-1

General position

Oppose in part

The plan needs to reflect the values of the wapiti herd.

-trophies

-adventure of hunting in them in Fiordland

-history & heritage

1 Objective

Submission ID: 158-2

General position

Oppose in part

Should support hunter and community led management and positive social and economic

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 158-3

General position

Oppose in part

Some changes need to be made to better support the Fiordland wapiti herd

Respondent: Antony Simpson

**Submission Type:
portal**

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 93

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 93-1

General position

Support

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

Respondent: Shane Simpson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 3

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 3-1

General position

Support

I agree the Fiordland wapiti should be a herd of special interest.

Respondent: Ray Singer

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 44

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 44-1

General position

Support

I support the draft plan. The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation and DOC have a long-standing and effective working relationship, with a strong track record of achieving results on the ground. I would like to see this partnership formally recognised and strengthened within the final plan, so both parties can continue working collaboratively towards improved environmental outcomes and the long-term sustainability of wapiti hunting in New Zealand.

Respondent: Agamjot Singh

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 354

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 354

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

Agamjot Singh - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Roy Sloan - Fiordland Wapiti Foundation

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Fiordland Wapiti Foundataion - wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Greg Smith

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 33

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 33-1

General position

Support

I support the Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan in full.

Respondent: Nicky Snoyink - Forest & Bird NZ

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 298

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 298

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

Forest and Bird - Wapiti Submission.pdf

Respondent: Rosalie Snoyink

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Rosalie Snoyink - wapiti covering letter.pdf

Respondent: Andy Somerville

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 196

3 Objective

Submission ID: 196-1

General position

Support

This financial independence represents the gold standard for modern conservation partnerships. By generating revenue through the hunting community and industry partners, this model ensures that critical environmental management is delivered at no cost to the public purse. It transforms conservation from a tax burden into a self-sustaining asset, proving that hunters possess the resources and passion to fully fund and execute high-level management plans without relying on stretched government budgets.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 196-10

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 196-11

General position

Support

This approach transforms recreational users into active stewards. By fostering a genuine sense of ownership and responsibility within the hunting community, this model unlocks a passionate volunteer workforce dedicated not just to the herd, but to the broader well-being of the region's biodiversity and local communities. It solidifies the 'social license to operate' by demonstrating that modern hunting culture is deeply rooted in giving back—whether through conservation work or supporting local social initiatives.

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 196-12

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 196-13

General position

Support

8 Objective **Submission ID: 196-14**

General position

Support

Integrating ongoing research into the management framework is critical for ensuring 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 habitat but also reinforces the credibility of the entire management operation, demonstrating that hunter-led initiatives can be at the forefront of modern, evidence-based conservation.

Table 4.2 Annual report **Submission ID: 196-15**

General position

Support

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area **Submission ID: 196-16**

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.

6 Objective **Submission ID: 196-17**

This emphasis on research and data collection is a game-changer. It shifts the management conversation from one based on historical ideology to one grounded in current, real-world evidence. By constantly monitoring ecosystem health and herd impacts, this approach allows for true adaptive management, ensuring that decisions are driven by the actual needs of the environment rather than outdated assumptions.

Table 1.1 General **Submission ID: 196-18**

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 196-2

General position

Support

This successful, decades-long model of Fiordland Wapiti management, driven by the hunting community, is the strongest possible proof that sustainable game animal management is not only compatible with, but actively restores, native biodiversity. By integrating targeted herd control with predator control, this hunter-led approach provides a cost-effective blueprint for ecological restoration, validating the entire philosophy of the Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) framework

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 196-3

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 196-4

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 196-5

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 196-6

General position

Support

This commitment to active partnership with Ngai Tahu is vital for the long-term legitimacy and success of the management plan. It ensures that the stewardship of this herd is grounded not just in recreational needs, but in shared values of kaitiakitanga (guardianship), creating a unified, robust framework that respects the cultural heritage of the land while securing the future of the resource for all stakeholders

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 196-7

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 196-8

General position

Support

The consistent production of high-quality trophy bulls is the ultimate biological proof that current management is working. Large antlers require excellent nutrition, which is only possible when herd densities are low and the habitat is thriving. This confirms that managing for a premium hunting experience creates a virtuous cycle where lower animal numbers lead to a healthier ecosystem.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 196-9

General position

Support

This commitment to rigorous monitoring provides the transparency and accountability essential for modern conservation. It moves beyond good intentions to measurable outcomes, ensuring that management remains dynamic and responsive rather than dogmatic. By validating success through hard data, this approach builds trust with all stakeholders and ensures that strategies evolve in real-time to meet the changing needs of both the herd and the habitat.

Respondent: Tyron Southward

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 174

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 174-1

General position

Support

It's great to see some positive things finally beginning to happen for hunter lead management. With National creating a hunting and fishing minister, we are beginning to see some positive policies coming to life. This is long overdue. The opinion and contribution to the management of big game animals by the hunting public have been ignored for far too long. TAX FREE.

The creation of HOSI is a great step in the right direction.

There are several herds in New Zealand that have significant value to the sportsperson, the Wapiti herd being one of them, with over a hundreds years of history of hunters pursuing this magnificent animal over some of the most picturesque and rugged country in New Zealand. The physical feats of some of these sportspeople is the stuff of legends.

The pursuit of big game animals in fiordland and all the other wild areas of New Zealand has been a significant part of the building of the culture of what makes up our people.

Creating sturdy, self reliant, fit young outdoors people who had an appreciation for the wild outdoors and also where their meat came from. From the mountains to the plate.

In regards to the management of HOSI, this has to be administered by the hunt/fish minister and the GAC. Not Department of Conservation. There is NO trust of DOC within the hunting fraternity and with very good reason, they can't be trusted, they don't have any reason to consider what hunters think, their statutory obligations clearly don't allow for this so they can't.

HOSI for hunters by hunters, that's it, nothing else. No other entities involved.

These special herds also should have adequate budget given to them by the government if necessary, this will help insure good outcomes for the environment, and native fauna.

It will mean the hunt/fish minister and the GAC are responsible for ensuring good outcomes for native flora and fauna and big game animals within the HOSI areas.

I look forward to seeing the necessary changes made to the HMP(herd management plan) to ensure the hunt/fish minister and GAC are the controllers of HOSI with the legislation giving security into the future of HOSI regardless of the particular government in charge.

Your faithfully,

Tyron Southward

Respondent: Walter Speck

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 21

6 Objective

Submission ID: 21-1

General position

Support in part

It can be argued, that the introduced game animals are a replacement for exterminated, native species.

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 21-2

General position

Support

Further comments and information attached in supporting document

Submission Fiordland Wapiti HOSI Draft Herd Management Plan supporting document 2025_11_16 .pdf

1 Objective

Submission ID: 21-3

General position

Support

It has to be taken into consideration, that exterminated, native species were also eating plants and having an effect on the vegetation and environment.

Respondent: Jason Spink

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 181

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 181-1

General position

Support in part

Management for the herds to produce quality Sika and Wapiti is good. Good for the herds, the hunters and the native fauna. All can co exist in abundance with the correct management and care. The range of deer, particularly the Wapiti, we have here in New Zealand is an absolute treasure that should be protected. They are a great resource for hunters to provide food for their families, and experience the beauty of Fiordland.

All funds for the HOSI for Wapiti should be sent directly from the funding source to the end user or group, ie the Wapiti Foundation. It should not be routed through any government organisation.

Monitoring of vegetation and deer should be carried out by the right bodies that have the most knowledge and real world experience. The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation have proven themselves over the last 2 decades and should continue to do so. Vegetation monitoring should be done in a manner that is not costly and also by bodies that are actually on the ground not behind computers.

A HOSI is not about control but management. I believe that it how we should move forward. Management implies a positive outcome for the deer, the hunters and the fauna alike. Control implies a negative for the deer and the hunters.

New Zealand is a culture of hunting and fishing and should continue to be so, not only for the citizens of New Zealand but also our global visitors.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Respondent: Cam Squires

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 118

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 118-1

General position

Support

I fully support the Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft herd Management Plan.

It has been executed with great success in the last 20 plus years by the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, with great results for the deer herd, the environment and stakeholders all using volunteer work at no cost to the taxpayer.

It is a commonsense approach to game animal management, with great proven results in all aspects, the wapiti herd quality, the benefits to the environment, all at no cost to the taxpayer, It,s high time we looked at our game animals as a resource, to be managed sensibly by hunter led groups, the "pest" label is an outdated, old draconian term, that no longer applies to our game animals! it is 2025 not 1945, about time we all worked together across all sectors and groups as we all want the same basic outcome.

Respondent: Wayne Stachurski

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 40

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 40-1

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 40-10

General position

Support

The annual operation plan becomes the priority management document for management of Wapiti in the HOSI area. The Conservation Act, the National Parks Act and the Wild Animal Control Act become subservient in these areas.

All plans within the HOSI area are decoupled from "pest control" Animals under the HOSI plan are by definition no longer pests.

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 40-11

General position

Support in part

Reviews should reserve the right to potentially increase the range of the HOSI if the herd and environment are seen to be benefiting from enhanced management.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 40-12

General position

Support

Revenue should not extend to any hunting charge to New Zealand residents.

There is plenty of modelling on the financial benefits across the regional economy and by default the NZ economy.

ALL revenue should be used to support the HOSI management.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 40-13

General position

Support

HOSI legislation takes precedence over other legislation and Acts in the HOSI areas.

The legislation needs to be enshrined in perpetuity similar to QE II covenants. If the legislation is subject to being scrapped under typical political cycles then there is probably little point establishing it. This is a long term game for the many probable benefits to become manifest.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 40-14

General position

Support

The science of this is basic, scientifically based herd management will enhance the genetics of the herd and also establish a level which is beneficial to the environment

Make it VERY CLEAR that HOSI is not a mechanism to "protect Wapiti for hunters" as claimed by some groups and individuals.

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 40-15

General position

Support in part

WARO operations other than for planned management purposes cease within the designated HOSI area

7 Objective

Submission ID: 40-2

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 40-3

General position

Support

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 40-4

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 40-5

General position

Support

The population of a HOSI needs to be maintained at a number which constitutes a viable biological population not just for the benefit of the ecology of the regions, economy, recreation and an international responsibility to protect an "island" population isolated from their native range as a species insurance.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 40-6

General position

Support

This is already happening at a level far higher in the areas being considered for HOSI than most general DOC land. It is also evident that these predator control programs are actioned largely by volunteers from the hunting community.

It is observed also that conservation groups are generally conspicuous by their absence of active support, boots on the ground, in these conservation efforts bringing into question of what practical mandate groups such as Forest and Bird have in this plan.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 40-7

General position

Support

5 Objective

Submission ID: 40-8

General position

Neutral

The benefit for lwi is better environmental outcomes with herd management.

There should not be any direct financial benefit to lwi.

6 Objective

Submission ID: 40-9

General position

Support

By default the establishment of a Wapiti HOSI will bring a science focus to the dynamic and provided resulting science based plans are executed indigenous species and ecosystems will automatically benefit

Respondent: Ines Stager

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Ines Stager - wapiti submission.pdf

Respondent: Catherine Stevens

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 146

5 Objective

Submission ID: 146-1

General position

Support in part

I don't have a sufficient understanding of the relationships and iwi here to have a formed opinion. However, given that the current government seems to be trying to shirk its Treaty obligations in every other area I can think of, this seems a desirable (and surprising) objective on the face of it.

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 146-10

General position

Oppose

6 Objective

Submission ID: 146-11

General position

Neutral

Again, this is sadly a statement that is engineered to encourage agreement from almost everyone so that it can be inferred this indicates support for this draft plan. The underlying problem is that we already have all the scientific knowledge and understanding we need to recognise that the Fiordland wapiti are fundamentally destructive to the environment. So by all means go ahead and collect further information on this, but it shouldn't be done on the basis that it's going to provide a justification for supporting the existence of pests in our national forest.

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 146-12

General position

Oppose

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 146-13

General position

Neutral

For 2.1, I support a, b, and c.
I do not support d and e.

It's impossible to comment on 2.2 as "relevant standards" aren't described and could mean anything.

I support 2.3

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan Submission ID: 146-14

General position

Oppose

Deer are an introduced pest that have wreaked absolute havoc on our native forests. We are not even managing this pest satisfactorily as the current arrangements stand - providing ANY deer herd under the grounds that they are of "special interest" has only one logical basis, and that's the desire to pander to the hunting lobby.

This plan is a disgrace and should be binned immediately. The government should then start over with a team of ecologists, ecologically-minded hunters, conservationists, and other genuine experts to come up with a proposal for removing this herd entirely.

Table 1.1 General Submission ID: 146-15

General position

Oppose

Using a range of tools to eliminate the herd would be appropriate. No other aspect of this statement is supportable.

Table 3.4 Stewardship Submission ID: 146-16

General position

Neutral

Much of this makes enormous sense if it was linked to a plan to eradicate the herd. None of it is helpful in a plan to protect the herd because that's fundamentally damaging. So yes, I support it but only in association with a plan to eradicate the herd. Not in association with this specific plan.

1 Objective Submission ID: 146-17

General position

Oppose in part

I agree Fiordland Wapiti are managed in a manner that allows for the maintenance of natural biodiversity but this requires us to ERADICATE this herd, not protect it.

I note that this statement has been intentionally phrased in a way to encourage people to agree with it regardless of what they perceive "management" to include - this appears a somewhat a dishonest approach to formulating consultation questions and is sad to see from DoC.

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 146-18

General position

Oppose

8 Objective

Submission ID: 146-19

General position

Oppose in part

Research supports elimination of Fiordland wapiti. So this statement is true if "management" = eradication.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 146-2

General position

Support in part

I support this only if 'engaging the hunting community' includes finding ways to support them to eliminate the herd.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 146-3

General position

Oppose

This is irrelevant to conservation. The Department of Conservation exists to look after conservation, not the hobbies of a small minority of blokes with too much time on their hands.

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 146-4

General position

Oppose

I do not support any of the hunting arrangements outlined since they are not designed to support reduction or elimination of the herd.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 146-5

General position

Oppose

Since the plan should be scrapped, there is no need to fund it.

9 Objective

Submission ID: 146-6

General position

Oppose

The vast majority of New Zealanders would either be opposed to this plan or neutral, so they won't be interested in the plan achieving its objectives. The hunting minority who benefit from it will already be perfectly aware of the extent to which it succeeded in pandering to their interests. So there is no useful purpose in reporting, unless it's an accurate report of the additional environmental damage caused by the plan.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 146-7

General position

Oppose

The plan should not be implemented and therefore monitoring is not required.

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 146-8

General position

Oppose

This literally outlines that any person killing a pest species in this area is going to be fined \$5000. Perhaps we could next start fining people for killing rats and stoats.

I suggest instead that the Minister is fined \$5000 for every occasion on which a hunter could have killed one of these deer and doesn't go ahead with it because they have been protected.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 146-9

General position

Oppose

Respondent: Eric Stevens

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 202

5 Objective

Submission ID: 202-1

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 202-10

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 202-11

General position

Support

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 202-12

General position

Support

I fully support the Fiordland Wapiti herd receiving HOSI status.

The wapiti herd and the Fiordland National park are Taonga and hold significance for many NZ'ers. I believe that the HOSI will ensure that both are managed in a sustainable way that will benefit both the whenua and the users of the region,

Thanks for considering my submission.

Regards

Eric

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 202-13

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 202-14

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 202-15

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 202-16

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 202-17

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 202-18

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 202-19

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 202-2

General position

Support

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 202-3

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 202-4

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 202-5

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 202-6

General position

Support in part

So long as access and recreation isn't negatively impacted in any way eg fee's, restricted access due to commercial operation etc

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 202-7

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 202-8

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 202-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Lauren Stewart

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 177

1 Objective

Submission ID: 177-1

General position

Oppose

I do not agree with giving deer any type of legal protection on our conservation land. However, sadly it looks like this decision is already going ahead, so these are the non-negotiable conditions that must be met:

- Independent ecological monitoring by neutral ecologists.
- Strict 5-year review cycles to reassess deer numbers and ecosystem health.
- Annual public reporting on ecosystem impacts.
- No restrictions on pest-control operations.
- Mandatory large-scale deer culls if ecological health declines.
- Scrap the whole HOSI when it doesn't meet these targets in 5 years.

Ideally this would just not go ahead, this is not a species that should have protection in Aotearoa and they are damaging our local ecosystems.

Respondent: Ron Stilwell

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Ron Stilwell - wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Andrew Stroud

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 355

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 355

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

Andrew Stroud - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Richard Suggate

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 262

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 262-1

General position

Oppose

I oppose the introduction of this Plan because I oppose the introduction of a HOSI into the Fiordland National Park. I also consider that the plan has conflicting objectives and lacks a scientific basis for trying to achieve the incompatible improvement of herd quality and hunting experience and robust ecological outcomes. It is essentially a 'suck it and see' piece of 'adaptive management' to achieve political objectives. The Plan does not meet the test of the over-riding considerations and will be an expensive experiment in attempting to meet multiple conflicting objectives. The South-West NZ Te Wahi Pounamu World Heritage Area will also be degraded by this new status for part of the Fiordland National Park.

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Plan R Suggate submission.docx

Respondent: Murray Sulzberger

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 131

1 Objective

Submission ID: 131-1

General position

Support in part

I believe that equal importance should be placed on maintaining and protecting the elk population in the area , as is committed to native species. The role of the Dept of Conservation is to conserve the species in any given area . Wapiti are a historic species in this area and deserve as much protection as any other species.

Respondent: Benjamin Swale

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 308

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 308

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

Benjamin Swale - wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Johannes Swanepoel

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 78

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 78-1

General position

Support

1. My position

I support the Herd Management Plan in principle, but I believe amendments are needed for it to truly serve the Fiordland Wapiti herd and the communities who value it.

2. Why I value the herd

The Herd Management Plan under HOSI needs to reflect the values of the Fiordland Wapiti herd, which are deeply rooted in heritage, stewardship, and the unique relationship New Zealanders have with this landscape.

For me personally, the Fiordland Wapiti herd represents far more than an animal to manage. It embodies the legacy of those before us, the privilege of experiencing one of the world's last true wildernesses, and the connection to nature that so many of us seek to pass on to our families.

The adventure of hunting in Fiordland, the uniqueness of Wapiti as a species, and the wellbeing that comes from time spent in the backcountry are all part of a package that cannot be replicated. This herd is a taonga — culturally, ecologically, and recreationally.

3. Social and community outcomes

The Herd Management Plan should support hunter- and community-led management, prioritising positive social and economic outcomes. The success of Fiordland Wapiti has always come from people on the ground, working together with passion and purpose.

4. Funding

All funds for the Herd of Special Interest (Wapiti) must be sent directly from the funding source to the implementing end user or group — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

Funding should *not* be routed through DOC, GAC, or any government body for discretionary redistribution.

5. Keep financial reporting simple

Financial reporting should not be a requirement within the Herd Management Plan. The focus should remain on outcomes, not unnecessary administrative burden.

6. Operational plan

The operational plan should be a flexible management tool that encourages innovation. This HOSI presents an opportunity not only to manage wapiti effectively but also to advance deer management techniques in New Zealand.

The operational plan must remain separate from the Herd Management Plan. It should be an adaptive, implementation-focused document developed by the organisation responsible for delivering the HOSI — in this case, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

7. Vegetation monitoring

Monitoring exists to support adaptive management and demonstrate whether Fiordland Wapiti management is meeting the objectives of this Plan.

Monitoring should be efficient, effective, and directly tied to environmental outcomes. Costly or overly bureaucratic methods that deliver little value should be avoided.

Monitoring should measure the actual impact deer have on the environment. Faecal pellet counts should be excluded as they are subjective and do not accurately reflect deer impacts.

8. Roles and responsibilities

Delegations should be assigned to groups with the right skills and proven capability.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has demonstrated over two decades that it possesses the expertise required to implement and manage both the HOSI and the operational plan.

Clear guidance is needed on whether the HOSI falls under DOC or GAC legislation so roles and responsibilities are unambiguous.

9. Setting the correct tone for HOSI

A Wapiti HOSI is not about *control* — it is about *active management*.

I would like to see all references to the term “control” removed from the HMP and replaced with “management,” which more accurately reflects the purpose and intent of this Plan.

Respondent: Larry Tasker

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 345

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 345

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

Larry Tasker - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Joseph Taylor

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 28

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 28-1

General position

Support

Absolutely no brainer for already proven hunter led game animal management.

Respondent: Sherryn Temara

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 334

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 334

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

Sherryn Temara - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Bryan Thompson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 249

1 Objective

Submission ID: 249-1

General position

Support in part

The ability to restore and maintain natural biodiversity depends fundamentally on what baseline is being assessed. Deer have already altered and degraded many forest ecosystems, including in Fiordland. Therefore, clarification is needed on the intended ecological target: 1. Is “maintenance” defined as preventing any further biodiversity decline from current, already impaired conditions? 2. Or does “restoration” refer to actively improving ecological integrity toward historical, pre-deer states?

If the latter is the objective — consistent with the principle of restoring ecological processes and communities of browsed indigenous flora — then management must be guided by a density-dependent framework. Deer numbers must be reduced to levels that allow the recovery of vulnerable plant communities and prevent ongoing local losses of indigenous species.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 249-2

General position

Support in part

The long-term quality of the Fiordland wapiti herd relies on scientifically robust management. Re-introducing evidence-based tools — such as genetic testing of harvested animals — would help ensure the removal of individuals with high red deer introgression and support the continual improvement of herd genetics.

The current ballot system is heavily oversubscribed, meaning many hunters do not get the opportunity to participate. To increase fairness and broaden access, a two-year stand-down period for hunters who have successfully drawn a ballot could be introduced. This would spread opportunity more equitably while maintaining the special nature of the experience.

To ensure that the hunting system remains ethical and compliant, this approach should be supported with improved verification of who enters the area during the roar ballot period. These measures together would enhance the Fiordland wapiti hunting experience while protecting the integrity and quality of the herd for future generations.

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting**Submission ID: 249-3**

General position

Oppose

The designated Wapiti Area encompasses a substantial portion of Fiordland National Park. As public conservation land, it should remain accessible for hunting to all New Zealand citizens and taxpayers who hold a valid firearms licence. Restricting general access to hunt wapiti risks treating them as though they were a protected species, which they are not, and would undermine long-standing principles of public access and fair use of national parks.

Firearms licensing requirements already ensure a high level of safety and compliance, and DOC maintains a comprehensive database of hunting permits. Introducing an additional authorisation system would serve only to further limit access for law-abiding hunters, without clear benefit. Likewise, implementing extended periods during which wapiti may not be hunted would unjustifiably reduce public access. Such measures risk shifting the programme toward exclusivity, making participation accessible only to a privileged few.

Revenue generation can and should support ongoing management. Commercial operators have the ability to offset costs through venison recovery, and where a profit can be made, appropriate fees should be charged to ensure cost neutrality. International hunters could be charged a premium with capped numbers so that New Zealanders retain fair access. Additional funding streams could be explored through grants and conservation funding bodies to support management without compromising public access.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations**Submission ID: 249-4**

General position

Neutral

Using commercial operators to assist in controlling wapiti numbers within the area is an acceptable management approach. However, I recommend incorporating genetic monitoring of culled animals to ensure that culling targets the appropriate individuals, specifically those with lower wapiti genetic integrity, thereby supporting the long-term genetic health of the herd.

Respondent: Chris Thompson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 14

1 Objective

Submission ID: 14-1

General position

Support in part

Climate change will impact the ecosystem. The ambition of restoring ecological processes etc. will be challenged by those impacts, and may even be impossible, Management of Wapiti will need to take that into account, as even extermination of Wapiti may not achieve the stated objectives.

Respondent: Damian Thompson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 217

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 217-1

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: Scott Thomson

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 152

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 152-1

General position

Support

There are many herds NZ can profit from if let ti manage properly from organization or professionals

Respondent: Chris Thomson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 83

2 Objective

Submission ID: 83-1

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 83-10

General position

Oppose

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 83-11

General position

Neutral

6 Objective

Submission ID: 83-12

General position

Support

3 Objective

Submission ID: 83-13

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 83-14

General position

Support in part

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 83-15

General position

Support in part

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 83-16

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 83-17

General position

Support in part

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 83-18

General position

Support

I support the Herd management plan but believe amendments are required for it to work for the Fiordland Wapiti herd.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 83-19

General position

Support in part

5 Objective

Submission ID: 83-2

General position

Oppose

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 83-20

General position

Support

This herd is a magnificent asset to the park which has been the catalyst of thousands of adventures for New Zealand and overseas people, creating life long memories between friends and family whilst exploring some parts

of Fiordland that not many others would dare to set foot on!!

My family has been hunting here for many generations .

9 Objective

Submission ID: 83-21

General position

Support in part

4 Objective

Submission ID: 83-22

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 83-23

General position

Support

Map 2 Fiordland Wapiti Area - Close up

Submission ID: 83-24

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 83-3

General position

Support in part

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 83-4

General position

Support in part

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 83-5

General position

Neutral

7 Objective

Submission ID: 83-6

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 83-7

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 83-8

General position

Support in part

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 83-9

General position

Support in part

Respondent: Josiah Thorpe

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 285

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 285-1

General position

Support

I am in strong support of designating the Fiordland Wapiti as a herd of special interest, it is hard to overstate the significance these animals hold in the hearts of many New Zealanders, who bring their hopes, dreams, and cash, down to Te Anau to maybe get lucky enough for a trophy and experience of a lifetime, in a unique and special place.

I believe that the general population has an incorrect perception of the hunter stereotype, many of us care greatly about the land and biodiversity as well as the animals we harvest from it. We take pride in helping be custodians of the land and helping out where we can with trapping, pest, weed, and ungulate control as collectively we are aware of the importance of maintaining a healthy balanced eco system. I do acknowledge there is still a lot of stuck mindsets in the hunting community, which stemmed from the tail end of the WARO boom where deer numbers were at their lowest in decades and many hunters had their hunting ground cleaned out so became selective around trying to let deer numbers bounce back. It's quite a swing to go from that to needing to shoot multiple deer and leave some on the ground in certain areas to help keep a lid on the numbers. Equally there is a severe lack of awareness from the general population on the state of the eco system in NZ, many people not even aware deer are overpopulated and they harbour ill feeling towards hunters for being so cruel.

I have spent a bit of time tramping, adventuring, and hunting in the Fiordland wapiti area, including a ballot block, and it really is a truly special place and experience to be able to go there and pursue such adventures. The allure of the Fiordland Wapiti is truly a wonderful thing and is the highlight of many Kiwi's year if they manage to obtain a ballot. If only more people could understand the feeling of entering the park via boat, foot, or helicopter and be humbled by the towering ancient country they are about to enter, it really is wonderful.

There are many lessons New Zealand can learn from game animal management from places like the United States, and I think that the willingness of hunters to protect the environment and support healthy herds of game animals in a healthy forest is not well understood, and that awareness and education of hunters and non-hunters would go a long way.

Respondent: Gwyn Thurlow - New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

Submission Type:
manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 300

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 300

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

NZDA - Gwyn Thurlow - Wapiti Submission.pdf

Respondent: Karla Thurlow

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 332

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 332

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

Karla Thurlow - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Keegan Toft

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 36

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 36-1

General position

Oppose in part

As above, I think clause 1.7 needs to be seen in the light of the costs saved to DOC and others through the activities carried out by the Wapiti Foundation. One method could be to charge non-NZ residents a higher fee.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 36-2

General position

Support

My view is that the wapiti heard is an asset and should be managed as such. I understand that there is a fine balance to be sought, but that can be achieved and the Wapiti Foundation seems to have produced a number of benefits above simply heard management.

2 Objective

Submission ID: 36-3

General position

Support

As above, I think that the heard is an assets and the management undertaken by the Wapiti Foundation has not only assisted with reducing numbers, it has enhanced trophy potential and provided food for people in need.

7 Objective

Submission ID: 36-4

General position

Support

More monitoring has to be of a benefit - so long as this is actual monitoring and not extrapolating numbers of a few data points.

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 36-5

General position

Oppose in part

As above, the counterfactual regarding DOC costs should be taken into account for 3.1. I would not be opposed to international hunters being charged a fee, but I would not want to see Fiordland as being a playground for the rich only.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 36-6

General position

Support

There are more than one set of stakeholders involved in this discussion and the hunting community makes up a large proportion of people who step off the tracks into these wilderness areas.

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 36-7

General position

Oppose in part

Having seen a number of old structures in the forest to cover plots, I am no sure whether this is the best method to monitor deer numbers and their impact

3 Objective

Submission ID: 36-8

General position

Support in part

I think that while there should be an element of self support, the flip side to this is the money that is presumably saved by DOC through the management of deer numbers plus the predator control carried out.

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 36-9

General position

Oppose in part

My concerns here would be whether appropriate targeting was achieved, and if not, the impact on the heard.

Respondent: Lynda Topp

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 147

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 147-1

General position

Support in part

The Wapiti are an introduced species and 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 Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, through game management, 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 Fiordland Wapiti Foundation are allowed to continue their day to day running of game management and conservation with the agreement from DOC that the Wapiti Herd is designated within the National Park and that the Hosi has no regard to the Overriding Consideration

An amendment also to monitoring so that it directly relates to the impact the deer are having on the environment.

Thank you

Dame Lynda Topp

Respondent: Gary Trow

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 163

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 163-1

General position

Support

I support wholeheartedly this process. We have to look at new initiatives for deer management that include hunters at its heart as previous initiatives

Respondent: Sef Truyens - Friends of Maara Roa

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 81

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 81-1

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: Hamish Turnbull

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 331

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 331

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

Hamish Turnbull - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Matthias Turner

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 322

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 322

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

Matthias Turner - Wapiti submission and letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Patrick Turner

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 304

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 304

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

Patrick Turner - wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Simon Upton - Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

**Submission
Type: portal**

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 219

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 219-1

PCE Feedback on Draft Herd Management Plan for Wapiti HOSI 8.12.2025.pdf

Respondent: Liam Urquhart

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 339

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 339

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

Liam Urquhart - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Gerhard Uys

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 10

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 10-1

General position

Support in part

Do this only if the Wapiti Foundation is managing it. Don't try and change or 'fix' an already functioning system.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 10-2

General position

Support

Funding should be kept and managed by the Wapiti foundation and not by a third party or government organization and then distributed to the foundation.

4 Objective

Submission ID: 10-3

General position

Support

Keep management systems intact as the Wapiti Foundation is currently managing it.

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 10-4

General position

Support

Have the Wapiti Foundation continue to manage it as they are doing without outside interference.

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 10-5

General position

Support

Let the Wapiti Foundation keep managing monitoring as they are.

Respondent: Johanna van Staveren

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 259

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 259-1

General position

Oppose

I have seen first-hand the damage that these animals do to native vegetation, and I have read the history of other introduced predators, whose damaging behaviour was predicted at the time of their introduction to the New Zealand bush. There is no doubt these animals will do a lot of damage to precious trees, saplings and understory. They should not be in a National Park, let alone become a Herd of Special Interest.

In case the legal protection of a pest species will be trialed, as it looks like may happen, there should be strict non-negotiable conditions:

*Independent ecological monitoring by independent, neutral ecologists.

*Strict 2-year review cycles to re-assess deer numbers and ecosystem health

*Annual public reporting on ecosystem impacts.

*Extensions of pest-control operations.

*Mandatory large scale deer culls if ecological health declines.

*Scrapping of HOSI when it does not meet these conditions or meets its targets.

Respondent: Glen Vandy

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 286

6 Objective

Submission ID: 286-1

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 286-10

General position

Support

I believe the Wapiti Herd is a resource to be managed not pests to be exterminated. With the proposed guidelines along with the Wapiti Foundation, hunters and meat recovery they can be managed. This is achieved successfully in many countries around the world lets make it happen here. A mutually beneficial outcome for the Wapiti Herd, hunters and the environment.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 286-11

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 286-12

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 286-13

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 286-14

General position

Support

Appendix 2: Glossary Glossary

Submission ID: 286-15

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 286-16

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 286-17

General position

Support

4 Objective

Submission ID: 286-18

General position

Support

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 286-19

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 286-2

General position

Support

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 286-20

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 286-3

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 286-4

General position

Support

8 Objective

Submission ID: 286-5

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 286-6

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 286-7

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 286-8

General position

Support

Map 2 Fiordland Wapiti Area - Close up

Submission ID: 286-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Monty Vass

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 86

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 86-1

General position

Support

I support the hosi for the fiordland Wapiti

i am a te anau local

and i see the work that that the fwf alongside the department of conservation does in protecting our wild places

the wapiti area is large and inhospitable.. I work as a commercial fisher in the area so know first hand the difficulties it entails and I can see the difference that managing deer in an area can have.

I know that deer populations around the country are exploding and are increasingly becoming a threat to our native flora and fauna. In saying this one of our most remote and physically demanding places to hunt seems to have the lowest number of animals thanks to the fwf.

I have read through the draft management plan and can see that a few changes are needed

the first would be that in order for the fwf to continue the work that they do, their own funding from sponsorship and ballot entries needs to stay within the foundation not to be pooled with other hosi

another change is that hunting outside of the balloted dates was to have an added clause to not shoot wapiti like animals? This taking away the desire for recreation outside of the ballot and making the ballot the only time these animals can be targeted and I would disagree with this as it could be seen as a bit of a boys club of the hunting community.

it should be on the fiordland wapiti foundation to manage the heard through education rather than trying to enforce new rules around what and when an animal can be taken.

I support the bugle and ballot and see these as a way to continue income for the foundation.

Respondent: Christi Viljoen

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 30

4 Objective

Submission ID: 30-1

General position

Support

The training and education given to ballot holders is second to none

3 Objective

Submission ID: 30-10

General position

Support

The wapiti foundation are self funded and do a far greater job at managing a wonderful resource that doc have ever done

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 30-11

General position

Support

The wapiti foundation currently do a great job of this and have added a great value to the animals harvested with the community and less fortunate

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 30-12

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 30-13

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 30-14

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 30-15

General position

Support

Strongly agree. They do a fantastic j

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 30-16

General position

Support

They currently already

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 30-17

General position

Support

The current ballot system is fantastic

9 Objective

Submission ID: 30-2

General position

Support

The wapiti ballot is the biggest public run research program in the country. With 100s of submissions each season

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 30-3

General position

Support in part

8 Objective

Submission ID: 30-4

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 30-5

General position

Support

The Hosi for the wapiti herd is extremely important for the economy as the outdoor tourism it creates ads millions of dollars to the local community each year. The wapiti foundation is also the benchmark for conservation in NZ and sets a great example on how a sustainable use of a resource can work. The wapiti have been in Fiordland longer than anyone alive in this country, who are we to take that heritage away.

5 Objective

Submission ID: 30-6

General position

Support in part

7 Objective

Submission ID: 30-7

General position

Support

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 30-8

General position

Support

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 30-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Grant Vincent

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 289

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 289-1

General position

Oppose

Point 1. of Objectives and strategies states that wapiti will be "...managed in a manner that allows for the maintenance of natural biodiversity by restoring ecological processes..."

As far as I'm aware, having large browsing ungulates such as wapiti-red deer does not allow the "maintenance of biodiversity" let alone restoring it. Any botanist/ecologist that I know, or reports that I have read, basically say that having deer and a healthy, diverse ecosystem are mutually exclusive.

Point 2. The "...wapiti herd produces high-quality bulls..." So how do these animals become so big and magnificent? They eat lots of stuff. What do they eat? Palatable plant species, so the species diversity declines and the ecosystem becomes impoverished. We know that the research (all over the country) shows that even low numbers of deer stop any sort of decent ecological recovery after higher numbers have eaten out the palatable species.

Point 6. "Knowledge and understanding of the dynamics between Fiordland wapiti and indigenous species and ecosystems are improved." I think this is somewhat disingenuous to say the least. Don't we already know what plant species they favour? Don't we already know how many kilos of plant material a prime bull eats, or a cow in calf? They obviously need a high energy intake to become the magnificent specimens that I mentioned earlier! So, to state the obvious again, they eat a lot of stuff. Native plant stuff.

Native plants and complex ecosystems that are supposed to be protected in a National Park. I want this to take precedence over legally protecting a destructive, introduced species for the dubious benefit of trophy hunting. Not in a National Park anyway.

It is also known, that in the harsh climate and often poor soil attributes of Fiordland, ecological recovery in the return of decimated palatable native plant species can take many years. This botanical impoverishment can also pave the way for invasive weed species.

1 Objective

Submission ID: 289-2

General position

Oppose

I thought I'd already commented on this Point 1. of Objectives and Strategies.

Also Points 2. & 6.

I guess they'll all get sent when I click on "save' and "submit"

This submission form is a little confusing because I can't see my previous words.

So just to confirm, I am opposed to the gazetting of a Herd of Special Interest in Fiordland National Park. For the reasons that will hopefully be received.

It is now after 11pm so I'm done.

Thank you.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 289-3

General position

Oppose

Once again, National Parks are for the protection of indigenous species, many of which are endemic, having evolved over many millions of years without the presence of these introduced ungulates. The prime reason for our National Parks, such as Fiordland is for the protection of said indigenous species and ecosystems.

Yes, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation does some trapping, which is great and a worthy effort. There are many other groups all around the country who also do trapping without the need to go trophy hunting of destructive alien species.

As per my previous comments, there is already many decades of research into what wapiti-red and other deer eat, as well as the damage their sharp-edged hooves do to the soil. So the research is not really about the ecology but managing a pest species in this National Park (& a World Heritage Area no less!) for trophy heads.

I disagree with spending money on this research.

Respondent: Teegan Vink

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 16

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 16-1

General position

Support

As originally proposed by Forest and Bird, I fully support the proposed HOSI for the Fiordland Wapiti Herd. Having hunted extensively in Fiordland both inside and outside of the designated Wapiti Area it is clear to me the environmental benefits the FWF have had on the natural flora and fauna.

I fully support the proposed Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Respondent: Steve Wadley

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 178

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 178-1

General position

Support in part

From what I understand this is currently what is happening in the area and also that some of the venison being recovered if being used to provide meat to those less fortunate in the Southland area

1 Objective

Submission ID: 178-10

General position

Support

The Wapiti foundation have done a wonderful job in reducing animal numbers at no cost to the tax payer but have also but massive amounts of venison into the Southland food banks to support families in need which has seen the vegetation in the Wapiti blocks increase over the years preventing harm to native species

4 Objective

Submission ID: 178-11

General position

Support in part

Any of the hunters going into Fiordland on Wapiti hunting adventures are more than willing to play their part in supporting the well being of the herd and the area they live in Money does not need to be wasted arguing with the likes of Forest and Bird Society whom to my knowledge have never set a trap in the Wapiti area to protect the native bird life unlike the Wapiti Foundation who have trap lines through many of the blocks

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 178-12

General position

Oppose in part

I for one feel we are all New Zealander's and no race or ethnic group has more input than any other with regards to this type of thing.

We need to do an annual report on the numbers of animals taken from the blocks to ensure we are ensuring the native species in the area can thrive along with the herd

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 178-13

General position

Support

the current ballet type system is working well and I feel hunters that hunt the areas outside of the ballot period are asked to concentrate more on shooting animals with little or no Wapiti like traits. Hunter who are lucky enough to get a block are already paying fees and often big costs to fly into the blocks and be airlifted out

With regards to 1.8 I agree with this statement and feel this is already being done with regards to the trap lines etc

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 178-14

General position

Support

As someone who has both worked and hunted the Fiordland National Park over many years the work being carried out by the Wapiti Foundation is nothing short of for-nominal. Which is why we are here at this point. The bird-life has come back and this is solely due to their work

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 178-2

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 178-3

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 178-4

General position

Support

i feel the Foundation and Doc are doing this well at the moment

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 178-5

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 178-6

General position

Support in part

As a recent visitor to one of the Wapiti coastal blocks My sons and I we amazed at the complete lack of predator sign in the area and we had Kiwi's around our camp and saw a large number of native birds in the block which I thank the Wapiti foundation for their trapping programme's which have played a massive part in reducing predators in the area

2 Objective

Submission ID: 178-7

General position

Support

The heads coming out of the Wapiti blocks is improving all the time but I do feel that some of the original herd that was captured many years ago to save the herd should be reinstated by way of a few in calf females would produce heads like the old days

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 178-8

General position

Support in part

I think that forms of this have been done over many years and on many occasions the data has been manipulated to suit whatever the Dept of Conservation has planned for the area so I am very suspicious of this type of reporting

By hunter returns and Jaws being submitted is a very good way of assessing the state of the herd

The number of animals in the blocks now seems to be very Sustainable provided the current methods of control are continued

3 Objective

Submission ID: 178-9

General position

Support in part

All monies raised in support of the herd should be directly to the Wapiti Foundation as to many organisations mean less money that can be utilized in support of the herd and pest management in the area

Respondent: Jeffrey Walker

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 320

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 320

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

Jeffrey Walker - Wapiti covering letter.pdf

Respondent: Michael Walker

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 323

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 323

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

Michael Walker - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: s9(2)(a)**Submission Type:** portal**Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan****Submission ID: 287****2. Values and key context****Submission ID: 287-1**

General position

Support

I would like my name and identifying information kept confidential. I consent to my statement being otherwise published.

I am writing to support the **Wapiti** Herd of Special Interest Plan. While I support the plan, I believe it needs additional protections for deer and further incorporation of hunters as decision makers in herd management.

The plan needs to specifically acknowledge the unique value that **wapiti** have in New Zealand as well as internationally. Wapiti, as well as red deer, form a core part of New Zealand culture and are a tangible link to nature that has been lost by many people and cultures around the world.

The plan must include hunters as key decision makers in how the herds are managed, and decisions made must be supported by a vast majority of the hunting community.

The majority of funding for this plan should be given to hunting groups that represent the majority of hunters to manage the herds. Where other groups receive funding, it should not be the majority of total funding unless agreed by the involved hunting groups. All parties should document their finances, however documentation should not be onerous, either in terms of time or costs.

The associated operational plan should be kept separate from the herd management plan to ensure that it can adapt to fit needs and conditions.

I believe vegetation monitoring should align with the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation's submission, and be kept to streamlined and inexpensive programmes. There should be an acknowledgement that deer grazing impact on vegetation is an acceptable impact, and should be balanced, rather than attempt to return to pre-deer conditions.

Hunting groups that represent the majority of hunters in Fiordland should have leadership to implement and manage the wapiti HOSI and operational plan.

All references to control should be removed from the wapiti HOSI plan. The wapiti herd should be managed to ensure their continued existence and increased genetic diversity. The wapiti range should be encouraged to increase beyond their current area.

The wapiti HOSI plan should include consultation of hunters as the sole affected party, and the wapiti HOSI should be approved by hunting stakeholder groups before it can be implemented, or before any changes are accepted.

The wapiti HOSI plan should acknowledge that recreational hunting, and hunters, play a key and central role in

management, and that hunters must be meaningfully involved in management, as well as approve of how management is conducted.

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 287-2

General position

Neutral

I would like my name and identifying information kept confidential. I consent to my statement being otherwise published.

In the event that wapiti genetics intermix with red deer sufficiently that wapiti traits are lost, the area and deer populations within it should be covered by the wapiti HOSI plan.

3 Objective

Submission ID: 287-3

General position

Oppose

The cost of participation in wapiti hunts should not increase beyond the 2025 levels. Any additional costs should be carried through public funding.

8 Objective

Submission ID: 287-4

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 287-5

General position

Oppose in part

I would like my name and identifying information kept confidential. I consent to my statement being otherwise published.

I believe that management of both deer and plant life should be done with the acceptance that returning ecosystems to pre-deer conditions is not practical or worthwhile. To that end, reduction in wapiti numbers should only be done to the degree that it does not impact genetic diversity or range of wapiti.

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 287-6

General position

Neutral

I would like my name and identifying information kept confidential. I consent to my statement being otherwise published.

Partnerships and costs to NZ resident hunters should not increase above 2025 prices.

Respondent: Tom Warren

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 324

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 324

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

Tom Warren - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Tim Watson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 256

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 256-1

General position

Support

I'm writing to show my support for the draft management plan for the Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest.

The Fiordland herd is something pretty special in the hunting world, and it deserves a solid management plan that protects both the animals and the unique wild country they live in.

The plan does a good job of balancing the needs of the herd with the need to look after Fiordland's rugged environment. For years, the partnership between DOC and the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has done good work on the ground, and this plan keeps building on that. It's practical, it's proven, and it's the right way forward.

Hunters have played a massive role in looking after the wapiti herd—often voluntarily, often out of their own pockets, and always out of passion for the place. Keeping recreational hunting at the heart of herd management just makes sense. It's cost-effective, it fits the history of the herd, and it keeps boots on the ground doing real work where it actually counts.

I fully support having a yearly survey of recreational hunters built into the plan. Hunters are out there every season and see exactly what's happening with the herd, the environment, and the hunting experience. Their feedback keeps the whole system honest and helps make sure the herd continues to meet the standards expected of a Herd of Special Interest.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has proven time and again that it can deliver. Their predator control, habitat work, and herd management efforts have made a real difference—not just for wapiti but for native species as well. Continuing to work closely with the FWF is crucial. They understand the land, they understand the herd, and they're invested in long-term outcomes.

Our Fiordland wapiti herd is one of the rarest and most iconic free-range wapiti populations anywhere in the world. It's woven into the history of Kiwi hunting, draws people into some of the wildest country we have, and delivers real benefits to the Southland region. This draft plan gives the herd a strong, sensible framework so it can continue to thrive without hammering the environment.

In short, I support the draft plan. It's balanced, it's workable, and it respects both the animals and the landscape. Keeping recreational hunters involved, backing the Wapiti Foundation, and locking in regular hunter feedback are key parts of making sure Fiordland's wapiti remain a treasured part of our backcountry for generations to come.

Thanks for the chance to submit.

Respondent: Peter Webster

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 171

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 171-1

General position

Support

I believe that forming a Herds Of Special Interest for the Wapiti in Fiordland and the Sika in the North Island is the best way to both look after these special herds of animals and also the enviroment they inhabit.

The groups (FWF and the Sika Foundation) involved in the management of these herds also are very involved in ensuring the ecosystems in which these herds reside are managed in such a way that the areas are not overgrazed and the native wildlife is allowed to flourish. This involves rodent and musculoid control etc.

Respondent: Richard Wells

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 132

8 Objective

Submission ID: 132-1

General position

Support in part

affordable, practicable and relevant research

Table 2 Monitoring

Submission ID: 132-10

General position

Support in part

again may need to be adapted as time passes

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 132-11

General position

Support

I am a keen hunter and so are my children. Particular management of some herds that have unique characteristics is a way to preserve our hunting heritage and culture, develop collaborative models funded from more sources and ensure the value of game hunting is maintained in a way that is no threatening to the environment. HOSI is a big step away from the past 100+ years of "swinging" mgt objectives from protection to destruction. Stability and certainty in policy based on evidence and clear objectives leads to least cost mgt and better outcomes for all NZers

Table 1.9 Commercial recovery and professional control operations

Submission ID: 132-12

General position

Support

1 Objective

Submission ID: 132-13

General position

Support

Table 4.2 Annual report

Submission ID: 132-14

General position

Support

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 132-15

General position

Support

Table 2.4 Research

Submission ID: 132-16

General position

Support in part

while attempting to maintain a good time series need to be able to adapt to new technologies and techniques to monitor animals and ecosystem as time goes on

Table 3 Foster partnerships and community stewardship

Submission ID: 132-17

General position

Support

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 132-18

General position

Support in part

Given the plan is to be adaptive these KPIs may change by agreement and based on information and objectives

3 Objective

Submission ID: 132-19

General position

Support

Table 1.1 General

Submission ID: 132-2

General position

Support

9 Objective

Submission ID: 132-20

General position

Support in part

Provided reporting requirements are relevant, practical and provide clear information to stakeholders and public, not reporting for reporting sake

5 Objective

Submission ID: 132-3

General position

Support

7 Objective

Submission ID: 132-4

General position

Support

Table 4 Annual operational plan

Submission ID: 132-5

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 132-6

General position

Support

Table 3.4 Stewardship

Submission ID: 132-7

General position

Support

2 Objective

Submission ID: 132-8

General position

Support

6 Objective

Submission ID: 132-9

General position

Support

Respondent: Mark Welsh

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 215

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 215-1

General position

Support

I am in support of the wapiti deer herd in fiordland becoming an official herd of special interest. If they have the protection from our government then i believe the great conservation work the wapiti foundation does will continue if any change it will ramp up with the added deer protection.

the deer are what give the alot of people a reason to be in fiordland first attracted by the great hunting opportunity and then continue with all the great conservation work they do year after year no matter what the economy is doing.

if the deer are removed so are the bulk of the people doing the conservation work and when the economy dips the government funding disappears and the deer numbers will explode like in many other parts of the country putting fiordland national park if a far worse position than it currently is from a conservation prospective.

if the hosi is to be or not be there there will still be deer in the park either way but they will only get proper management going forward if the herd has the goverments protection.

the argument i read constantly that the deer are there to serve a few wealthy hunters is a complete myth, they serve an opportunity for the boots on the ground hunters that are the same people running trap lines etc and have a general interest in the health of the park.

very easy to sit in a large city and have the idea no deer in the park would be ideal but its not a reality and its also not helping to protect our native species

protection of the deer and the forest go hand in hand.

Mark Welsh.

Respondent: Paul Wendland

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 154

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 154-1

General position

Oppose

I disagree with the entire idea of maintaining any Wapiti in NZ, regardless of their value to this gov't to market to high-paying overseas hunting, the gun lobby, the hunting lobby or any other monied interest keen on this plan. I oppose any and all efforts to maintain an INVASIVE species on NZ soil, regardless of its monetary value. Invasive species such as the Wapiti should be treated the same as any other pest species, such as ferrets, possum, rats and wild deer. They should be eliminated, not in part, in whole, in order to preserve the Taonga of NZ, or whats left of it. I vote no across the board. Sincerely, Paul Wendland

Respondent: Nicole White - Environment Southland

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 239

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 239-1

2025 12 08 Final Submission on HOSI Draft Herd Management Plan.pdf

Respondent: Paul White

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 108

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 108-1

General position

Support

The management of the herd adds to the visitor experience and contributes to conservation aims and objectives. Management eradication reduces removes an added positive which contributes to the environment as well as economic benefits to the local regional and national

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 108-2

General position

Support

4. Compliance, review and enforcement

Submission ID: 108-3

General position

Support

Respondent: Keith Whitehead

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Keith Whitehead - wapiti submission and covering email combined.pdf

Respondent: Stefan Wiese

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 26

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 26-1

General position

Support

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal to designate the Fiordland Wapiti herd as a Herd of Special Interest. I strongly support this proposal and urge the Department of Conservation to formally recognise and manage the herd in a way that protects both the ecological integrity of Fiordland and the significant cultural, social, and recreational values associated with wapiti.

1. Cultural, Heritage and National Significance

The Fiordland Wapiti herd is unique in the world—New Zealand holds the only free-ranging wapiti population outside North America. These animals have become deeply woven into the cultural fabric of Aotearoa's hunting community over the last century.

Generations of New Zealanders have travelled to Fiordland to hunt wapiti, forming lifelong connections with the landscape, wildlife, and history of the area. The proposed designation would appropriately recognise the herd's heritage value and the long-standing relationship between hunters, Fiordland National Park, and conservation.

2. Food Security, Ethical Harvest and Sustainable Management

Wapiti provide a reliable source of free-range, healthy kai for New Zealand families. Controlled harvesting of wapiti—particularly hinds—can effectively support ecological goals while also enhancing herd quality.

Compared with aerial culling that generally results in waste, hunter-led harvesting contributes nutritious food to households, foodbanks, and community initiatives. This aligns with public expectations of ethical, low-waste wildlife management.

3. Conservation Benefits and Evidence-Based Management

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has demonstrated that targeted wapiti management can reduce ecological impacts on indigenous vegetation and help protect sensitive alpine and forest ecosystems. Hunter-led control is precise, cost-effective and able to operate in terrain where alternative methods are extremely expensive.

A Herd of Special Interest designation would strengthen the collaborative, science-led management model already in place—integrating monitoring data, adaptive management and long-term research into herd behaviour, genetics and ecosystem response.

4. Community Stewardship, Partnerships and Conservation Work

The hunting community contributes thousands of volunteer hours annually in Fiordland through predator trapping, track maintenance, carcass recovery, and habitat restoration. Maintaining the wapiti herd encourages public

involvement in conservation work and fosters stewardship values that extend well beyond hunting itself. The Wapiti Foundation's predator-control network has demonstrably benefited native species including whio, kea and kiwi. These contributions should be recognised and strengthened through a formal Herd of Special Interest framework.

5. Economic, Recreational and Wellbeing Benefits

Wapiti hunting is a major driver of domestic and international tourism in Southland. It supports accommodation providers, aviation operators, local businesses and outdoor-industry services. Equally important are the wellbeing benefits: time in Fiordland strengthens connection to nature, supports physical fitness, and builds intergenerational traditions and community identity. These values align with DOC's role in fostering recreation and public enjoyment of conservation land.

6. Support for a Balanced Management Approach

I support a model that:

- maintains wapiti at ecologically sustainable densities,
- continues to target red deer to protect the Fiordland ecosystem,
- improves wapiti herd quality through selective management,
- incorporates monitoring, research and matauranga Maori, and
- embeds strong collaboration between DOC, Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, the Wapiti Foundation and the wider community.

Summary

The Fiordland Wapiti herd is a taonga with ecological, cultural and recreational value. With structured, science-based management and strong collaboration, New Zealand can protect Fiordland's unique biodiversity while preserving a remarkable and globally significant hunting resource.

I therefore support the formal designation of the Fiordland Wapiti herd as a Herd of Special Interest.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Respondent: Monty Williams

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 62

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 62-1

General position

Support

I **support** the proposal for a herd of special interest for Wapiti type deer within the Wapiti area of Fiordland National Park.

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 in the past.

One only has to look outside the Wapiti area - to places such as West Cape within Fiordland National Park where market conditions do not allow profitable WARO and little recreational hunting occurs to see unmanaged populations of red deer causing damage to the environment.

Also having no deer within this landscape (Fiordland) 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.

I also wish to note - sports fish such as trout are already exempt from the requirement for extermination within national parks such as Fiordland. There is no reason why HOSI's such as the Wapiti should not also be exempt from the requirement for extermination inside its designated area. Sports fish and game birds have already set the precedent that valued introduced animals should also be exempt from the requirement for extermination.

Respondent: Rodney Williams

Submission Type:
portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 89

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 89-1

General position

Support

I support the proposal. I believe that having a plan in place is essential for the management of deer in general and in particular Wapiti. Without having a plan in place then all that can be expected is a boom and bust cycle. The deer numbers must be managed to ensure a balance between protecting the environment and ensuring a sustainable hunt able population.

It should be noted that total eradication of deer within the park is not achievable and is certainly not what a large percentage of the population would want.

Properly managed sustainable hunting of the wapiti is a resource which has both financial and recreational benefits. I firmly believe that the management of wapiti within Fiordland should share characteristics similar to plans for the management of trout within the park.

Respondent: Theren Williams

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 57

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 57-1

General position

Support

Under the herd of special interest, I would expect increased ability to manage all animals in the designated zone for a better out come for all New Zealanders reducing Wapiti and deer numbers, decreasing browsing benefiting the whole ecosystem.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation (FWF) model stands as a proven, hunter-led framework for balancing conservation imperatives with the recreational and cultural value of wapiti herds in Fiordland National Park. I see this Management Plan benefitting the ecology throughout the area.

Regards

Theren

Respondent: Gary Willis

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 98

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 98-1

General position

Support

I support the formation of the Hosi but the FWF will need to be consulted on as they already do an amazing job

2. Values and key context

Submission ID: 98-2

General position

Support

The heritage status of these animals is legendary the lend an aura of mystique and should be seen as a valuable resource, one that is used to put food on the table of many struggling households. They are not a danger to our forests if managed properly as they simply replace the browsing birds that have been wiped out.

Map 1 Fiordland Wapiti Area

Submission ID: 98-3

General position

Support

Please do not let the likes of Forest and bird have sway over something they do not understand, with their kill every introduced animal indoctrination. Well I have news for them that would mean wiping out all humans in NZ too. Hunters and bodies such as FWF do more for conservation than any other group in NZ. We simple have to make this happen and in such a way that the Greens can't repeal it if heaven forbid they ever get into government

Respondent: Tim Willmot

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 257

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 257-1

General position

Support

We all need to work together for the best possible outcomes for all.

Us hunters are a free resource for Doc but at times it seems like they don't want us they just want more funding of tax payers dollars.

We are more effective and less harmful to the environment and other species that fall victim to poisoning etc. Many other animals die from eating carcasses etc. We also have the ability to be selective to keep animals at an acceptable number and in a good condition.

For other species of deer that Doc are having trouble with its mostly a matter of access if Doc can work with us to get access to private land we can help there too.

Get us access and then let us know what you need and we will get the job done.

Respondent: Brett Wilson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 9

5 Objective

Submission ID: 9-1

General position

Support

I believe the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation has and still is doing a wonderful job supporting Wapiti management and promoting the restoration of natural flora through pest control in Fiordland. My understanding is this is all on a non for profit basis.

How ever, if any organisation or body, collective or lwi were to expect financial reward or gain by collecting funds from any other organisation or individual user of the area (hunters)for financial gain , then I would oppose that.

Table 1.3 Recreational hunting

Submission ID: 9-2

General position

Support

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Respondent: Grant Wilson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 117

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 117-1

General position

Support

Respondent: **Greg Wilson**

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti 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 - Fiordland Wapiti Herd Plan submissions record – Submission Attachments

Greg Wilson - wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Michael Wilson

Submission Type: portal

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 111

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 111-1

General position

Support

Respondent: Brad Windust

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 350

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 350

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

Brad Windust - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf

Respondent: Dean Wright

Submission Type: manual

Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan

Submission ID: 341

Submission Attachments

Submission ID: 341

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

Dean Wright - Wapiti submission and covering letter combined.pdf