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LAKE SUMNER
RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA
WILD ANIMAL CONTROL PLAN

This plan was prepared by
Forester M.C. Belton for
D.A. Black, Conservator of
Forests, Canterbury.

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LAKE SUMNER

RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA

WILD ANIMAL CONTROL PLAN

This plan was prepared for
J Barber, Acting Conservator
of Forests, Canterbury.

LAKE SUMNER RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA

WILD ANIMAL CONTROL PLAN

1986 - 1991

Preface

This Wild Animal Control Plan has been prepared pursuant to Section 28 of the Wild Animal Control Act, 1977. The plan will operate for a period of 5 years, from 1 April 1986 to 31 March 1991.

The plan was prepared for the Conservator of Forests, Canterbury, by M C Belton (Senior Forest Officer, Christchurch).

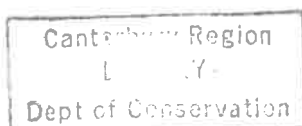
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Approved

M C Belton
Acting Conservator of Forests
Canterbury

Date

12 March 1987



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1 INTRODUCTION

The Lake Sumner Recreational Hunting Area, proposed in 1978 by the North Canterbury Branch, NZ Deerstalkers' Association, was gazetted on 2 July 1981. The first Wild Animal Control Plan was published in August 1981 (NZ Forest Service, 1981), and is superceded by this plan.

The Lake Sumner Recreational Hunting Area currently comprises approximately 41 000 ha, and is contained entirely within Lake Sumner Forest Park. It includes all the forest park area north of the Hurunui River and west of Kiwi Stream/Hope River, and west of the Lewis Pass highway (refer map appended). The area is noted for its attractive and stable forest and alpine environments, and it offers challenging hunting for red deer and chamois. The majority of hunters are from Christchurch or North Canterbury, and use 4-wheel drive vehicles to gain access to the Recreational Hunting Area (RHA) via the Hurunui catchment. The Lake Sumner Forest Park Advisory Committee provide advice on all aspects of management of the Recreational Hunting Area.

2 REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT

2.1 Public submissions

Public submissions were called on the management of the RHA in accordance with S.28 of the Wild Animal Control Act, 1977. Eight submissions were received and these, together with Forest Service recommendations, were considered by the Forest Park Advisory Committee on 4 July 1986.

Major concerns expressed in the submissions were:

- (a) To improve access to the RHA.
- (b) To increase the size of the RHA by extensions into the eastern parts of the forest park.
- (c) To pursue animal population enhancement by more effective control of illegal helicopter hunting and the introduction of seasonal and age/sex restrictions on the taking of red deer.
- (d) To support a stronger policy on hunting permit control to assist management of recreational hunters.

A summary of specific submissions is given in Appendix III, and a commentary on these submissions, together with recommendations of the Forest Park Advisory Committee, is given in Appendix IV.

2.2 Management Considerations

At the time writing of the 1981 Wild Animal Control Plan, it was widely believed that helicopter hunting would effectively cease following gazettal of the Recreational Hunting Area. Consequently, it was thought that ungulate numbers were likely to increase relatively quickly. Such a prospect required provision for a high standard of animal census information and close monitoring of impacts on vegetation. The goal was optimal multiple use management, allowing higher ungulate populations whilst safeguarding ecological and water and soil values. Control of wild animals at the required levels was to be achieved as far as possible through regulation of recreational hunting.

The ideal situation never eventuated, owing to game animals being kept at very low levels by illegal helicopter hunting. In 1980/81, a survey of animals and vegetation was made of the Waiau Forests and established animal transects within other parts of the Recreational Hunting Area were reassessed (Griffiths, 1982). This survey demonstrated that ungulate populations were at very low levels throughout the Recreational Hunting Area, and a large reduction in numbers had occurred since the mid-1970s surveys (Roberts and Ryan, 1974; Burrows, *et al*; 1976; Guest and Wilkinson, 1976), and that forest condition was generally good. Observations of experienced hunters and field staff, and permit returns (hunter man days per kill - Appendix V) all indicate that animal numbers have not recovered since that time (Lake Sumner Recreational Hunting Area Annual Report, 1986). Thus the realities of management for the Recreational Hunting Area have been quite different from those expected and provided for in the original Wild Animal Control Plan.

The present situation may be summarised as follows:

Helicopter hunters have ignored the prohibition on commercial hunting and live capture within the Recreational Hunting Area, and the Forest Service has been unable to control poaching because of logistical difficulties of surveillance (constrained by expense and extra staffing requirements) and the extreme difficulty of successfully concluding prosecutions against poachers. The situation has been frustrating to both recreational hunters and Forest Service staff, and the question of justification for maintaining the Recreational Hunting Area has often been raised. Despite the teething problems, it is considered that the present circumstances contain evidence of future improvements which make continuation of the Recreational Hunting Area worthwhile.

Helicopter hunting activity within the Recreational Hunting Area dropped off significantly in 1985/86, because of poor returns due to low animal numbers and falling value of game meat and live capture animals.

If the low level of hunting pressure continues for three to five years, an appreciable increase in animal numbers would occur. In the longer term also, a decline in the level of helicopter hunting can be expected as expansion of deer farming eases. Despite these more positive prospects however, it is recognised that regulation of ungulate numbers remains primarily a function of the intensity of illegal helicopter hunting, and recreational hunting has a quite secondary influence.

In the event of helicopter hunting becoming more economic, a rapid reversal of the present reprieve in hunting pressure can be expected. Consequently a stronger capability for control of illegal helicopter hunting must be pursued. Improvements in the surveillance deterrent would arise with reduction in the number of machines operating in the region, introduction of tendering for hunting commercial blocks, and stronger staffing. Other positive changes may arise from the formation of the Department of Conservation on 1 April 1987, and the ensuing rationalisation of public land tenures.

3 WILD ANIMALS IN THE RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA

3.1 Red Deer

Red deer (Cervus elaphus) of the Lake Sumner/Lewis Pass area derive from two herds. The Nelson herd, from liberations between 1851 and 1922, reached the Lake Sumner area in the early 1920s (Clarke, 1971) and formed well established breeding populations a decade later. It is in the Lake Sumner area that the Nelson herd is believed to have coalesced with the northward moving Poulter herd, liberated at Mount White Station in 1908 and 1909 (Logan and Harris, 1967).

The Nelson herd was never noted for its trophy quality. Trophy heads were generally small in relation to other South Island herds and more often than not, lacked bey tines. Poulter stags produced larger trophies with more points and were often distinguished by marked antler palmation. Better trophies are generally obtained from the eastern and central parts of the Recreational Hunting area where the Poulter herd influence is more marked W. Carter, pers. comm.).

Peak densities in the Lake Sumner area between 1934-39 were preceded by antler deterioration, a result of "serious depletion of the habitat" (Clarke, 1976). The natural decline in population which followed was hastened by official control operations which became more effective when hunting by contract and payment on tails was introduced in 1956. Substantial reduction in the deer population was evident by the early 1960s. The development of venison exporting and helicopter hunting caused further large reductions until today densities are generally very low throughout the area.

Forest Service animal and vegetation surveys of the Hope (Guest and Wilkinson, 1976) and Hurunui catchment (Burrows, et al; 1976) indicated higher densities of deer in the 'lower valleys, suggesting greater success of both commercial and private hunters in upper areas of limited forest cover. This pattern was also apparent in the catchments of the Doubtful, Nina and Upper Lewis. The 1981 survey of the Waiau Forests showed a marked decline in numbers, and while numbers were very low throughout, populations were relatively higher where extensive forest provided better cover (Griffiths, 1982). No recovery of deer populations has been detected since 1981.

3.2 Chamois

Chamois (Rupicapra rupicapra) were released near Mount Cook in 1907. Their dispersal rate was rapid and by 1934, chamois were present along the main divide to the Hope Pass (Wodzicki, 1949). By the 1950s, the chamois population levels were high, but they have since sharply declined in numbers, largely as a result of commercial meat recovery operations.

Chamois are present in the higher altitude areas throughout the Recreational Hunting Area, but their numbers are generally very low. They are sought by recreational hunters more for their attractive skins and trophy heads than for meat.

3.3 Pigs

Feral pigs (Sus scrofa) are present as localised populations in the Jollie Brook and Glenrae blocks. The earliest liberations were by Captain Cook, sealers and other Europeans who visited New Zealand in the late 1700s and early 1800s (Wodzicki, 1949). Pig hunting, using dogs, is allowed in the Jollie Brook and Glenrae and provides a different hunting opportunity within the RHA. Because pig rooting can cause severe soil disturbance over tussock country and bare the underlying soils to natural erosion processes, they are precluded from consideration as a game animal within the Recreational Hunting Area.

3.4 Possums

Brush tailed possums (Trichosurus vulpecula) were liberated in the Hurunui catchment in 1891 (Pracy, 1962). Numbers are sufficiently common to attract commercial skin operators (Lake Sumner Forest Park Management Plan (NZ Forest Service, 1979)). Possums have not been a major factor influencing catchment conditions in Canterbury as they have in other regions. While not considered a game animal for the purpose of the Recreational Hunting Area, they will be monitored along with other wild animals.

3.5 Other Animals

Hares are widespread in the Recreational Hunting Area from catchment floor to alpine grasslands. Their numbers and effect on vegetation have not warranted control measures.

Domestic cattle are present on unfenced run country, along the river flats of the Hurunui, Hope and Boyle. They occasionally enter the forest fringe, particularly during adverse weather.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE WILD ANIMAL CONTROL PLAN, RECREATIONAL HUNTING SHALL GENERALLY BE CONFINED TO RED DEER AND CHAMOIS.

4 THE FORESTS, SCRUBLANDS AND GRASSLANDS

4.1 Forests

The forests of the Upper Hurunui, Hope and Nina catchments have been described by Burrows, et al; (1976); Guest and Wilkinson (1976); Roberts and Ryan (1974); and Griffiths (1982). West of Lake Sumner, and the Hope and Boyle Rivers, the forest canopy is usually dominated by pure or mixed stands of red beech (Nothofagus fusca), mountain beech (N. solandri var. cliffortioides) and silver beech (N. menziesii). Red beech is present in the lower catchment terraces and slopes. Mountain beech occurs at mid and high altitudes, forming the treeline over most of the area and silver beech is present within the upper and lower limits of mountain beech, often forming the treeline as either pure stands or with mountain beech in the wetter catchment heads. In eastern areas as rainfall decreases, mountain beech becomes more dominant.

Headwaters of tributaries and slips are often dominated by mountain ribbonwood (Hoheria glabrata) with mountain toatoa (Phyllocladus alpinus) and Dracophyllum traversii.

"In some areas where mountain beech/broadleaf (Griselinia littoralis) associations have been burnt, the broadleaf has resisted burning better than the beech and areas dominated by broadleaf are left. These are often on steep slopes containing little undergrowth." (Lake Sumner Forest Park Management Plan (NZ Forest Service, 1979)).

4.2 Scrublands

The sub-alpine scrub forms an intermittent zone between the treeline and alpine grasslands. Moore (1976), recognises four major scrub types in the Hurunui catchment.

- (a) Dracophyllum traversii, Olearia lacunosa and mountain toatoa form an association on well drained deep soils close to the main divide. Mountain cedar (Libocedrus bidwillii) is a prominent component of this association in the Hope catchment.
- (b) Snow totara (Podocarpus nivalis) dominates much of the sub-alpine scrub in the catchment.
- (c) Dracophyllum kirkii and turpentine scrub (D. uniflorum) are often associated with mountain toatoa, Coprosma pseudocuneata, Myrsine nummularia, P. nivalis and a number of snowgrass species.
- (d) Unstable sites at lower altitudes are often typified by the presence of mountain flax (Phormium cookianum), Aristotelia fruticosa and prickly shield fern (Polystichum vestitum).

4.3 Grasslands

Guest (1976) and Espie (1976), recognised four major alpine grassland associations:

- (a) Mid ribbed snow tussock (Chionochloa pallens) is fairly widespread and occupies moderately steep slopes, often on shaded slopes of alpine basins. "Blue tussock (Poa colensoi) and kopoti (Anisotome aromatica) are common inter-tussock species." (Guest, 1976.)
- (b) Carpet grass (Chionochloa australis) occupies a variety of sites and is often associated with C. pallens, curled snow tussock (C. crassiuscula), broadleaved snow tussock (C. flavesceus) and red tussock (C. rubra).
- (c) Damp basins commonly under snow for long periods are often dominated by C. oreophila. It is usually associated with blue tussock and clumps of Marsippospermum gracile.
- (d) Guest (1976) reports a lower catchment association in the Hope occupying moist sites which is dominated by Notodanthonia setifolia. "The presence of scattered C. pallens tussocks indicates that the associations may be remnants of earlier tall tussock swards modified by fire and grazing". The cotton daisy (Celmisia spectabilis) is also common.

4.4 Vegetation Condition

All recent reports classify the forests, sub-alpine scrublands and alpine grasslands as being generally in good condition, with good regenerative potential and adequate ground cover. Guest and Wilkinson (1976), show concern at the relatively poor regeneration in the red beech associations of the lower Hope, particularly along the forest fringe. They attribute this to

the combined efforts of domestic cattle, pigs and red deer. While the forest canopy remains in a healthy state, this situation is not of major importance. Guest and Wilkinson also voice some concern about the mountain beech/broadleaf associations "on steep dry sites adjacent to open grazing land".

Guest (1976) records a marked improvement in the alpine grasslands of the Hope catchment over a 13 year period, and attributes this to the success of helicopter operations since 1968.

The 1980/81 survey described significant canopy mortality in the Boyle and Carlyle catchments, however vigorous regeneration was occurring (Griffiths, 1982).

5 OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT

Because the Recreational Hunting Area is entirely within Lake Sumner Forest Park, the Wild Animal Control Plan is bound by the objectives and prescriptions of the Forest Park Management Plan (NZ Forest Service, 1979) and Management Plan Review (NZ Forest Service, 1984). The RHA is therefore subject to the following objectives:

1. TO CONSERVE AND, IF NECESSARY, EXTEND THE VEGETATIVE COVER, TO MINIMISE SOIL EROSION, REGULATE WATER RUN-OFF AND MAINTAIN WATER QUALITY.
2. TO PROTECT NATURAL FEATURES OF SCIENTIFIC OR SCENIC VALUE.
3. TO PROVIDE FOR RECREATIONAL USE OF THE FOREST PARK IN A MANNER COMPATIBLE WITH THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION.
4. TO ENCOURAGE STUDY INTO THE ECOLOGY OF THE FOREST PARK FOR SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

In addition to the above, the Wild Animal Control Plan has the specific management objectives:

1. TO MANAGE FOR RECREATIONAL HUNTING THE RED DEER, AND CHAMOIS PRESENT WITHIN THE RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA.
2. MANAGEMENT SHALL CONFORM TO THE GUIDELINES SET OUT FOR RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREAS (Appendix II), AND TO PART III OF THE WILD ANIMAL CONTROL ACT (1977).

5.1 Legal Status and Boundary Changes

The original area gazetted as the Lake Sumner Recreational Hunting Area (NZ Gazette, 2 July 1981), approximated 41 000 hectares and comprised areas of the forest park north of the Upper Hurunui River and Lake Sumner, and western areas of the Hope and Lewis catchments. Following gazettal of the Garfield

Tops as part of the forest park, this 1870 hectare block between the Hope and Doubtful catchments was added to the Recreational Hunting Area (NZ Gazette, 30 September 1982).

The Upper Hope Ecological Area of 5980 hectares was gazetted on 17 September 1986. The Ecological Area is entirely within the Lake Sumner Forest Park and the Recreational Hunting Area.

The Lake Sumner Forest Park Advisory Committee have recommended two major extensions to the Recreational Hunting Area. These extensions would incorporate the former Waiau SF north of the Magdalene valley, totalling about 7050 hectares, and all those parts of Lake Sumner Forest Park east of the Hope River and Kiwi Stream, and including the former Glens of Tekoa State Forest, totalling about 23 500 hectares. These extensions (refer map appended) would increase the total area of the Recreational Hunting Area to about 72 000 hectares.

PARTS OF LAKE SUMNER FOREST PARK INCLUDING THE BOYLE BLOCK, AND THE TRUE RIGHT HOPE, JOLLIE BROOK AND GLENRAE, SHALL BE SUBMITTED FOR ADDITION TO THE LAKE SUMNER RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA.

6 ACCESS AND HUTS

6.1 Access

Access to the Upper Lewis, Nina, Doubtful and Lower Hope is achieved via the Lewis Pass highway. A Forest Service suspension bridge provides access and egress to and from the Hope and Nina catchments when the Lewis/Boyle River is in flood. A 1-2 hour walk locates hunters well within the northern part of the Recreational Hunting Area.

The south/west corner of the proposed Boyle block is within 15 minutes walk of the Lewis Pass Highway at Boyle village.

The Upper Hurunui requires half a days walk before hunters reach the southern boundary of the Recreational Hunting Area. While 4-wheel drive access, available to No.2 Hut, places hunters within 2 hour walk of most of the North Hurunui catchment, this is not a facility that can be enjoyed by many hunters.

The addition of the Jollie Brook and Glenrae (Dozy Stream sector) blocks will considerably improve accessibility of the RHA in the Lower Hurunui. The Glenrae catchment block is less accessible and is reached by over a half days walk via the Jollie Brook and a saddle at the head of Cold Stream catchment.

The Ecological Area in the Upper Hope catchment is one of the least accessible parts of the Recreational Hunting Area, requiring over a half days walk, initially over a marked track through part of the Poplars Station and thence by a track through part of the forest park.

6.2 Access Improvements

Achieving improvements to access was a major theme in the public submissions. Addition of the Boyle and Jollie Brook blocks to the Recreational Hunting Area will provide two readily accessible areas.

Improvement of access to the Upper Hurunui is important for weekend hunters. The Advisory Committee have requested that an investigation be made of the road access options, together with an assessment of any environmental impacts that may arise. At present the relative isolation of the Upper Hurunui and Hope catchments means that recreational hunters would be less capable of regulating animal numbers in these areas.

Public access over sections of private road through the Magdalen valley is currently being negotiated to improve access to the southern edge of the Boyle block and the Waiau Faces, and to Carlyle State Forest.

1. IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS TO THE RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA SHALL BE PURSUED WHERE CONSISTENT WITH OTHER VALUES OF THE FOREST PARK AND NEIGHBOURING AREAS.
2. AN INVESTIGATION SHALL BE MADE OF ROAD DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS, AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD ACCESS TO THE NORTH HURUNUI.

6.3 Huts

Thirty huts and bivouacs (see attached map) are well sited throughout and adjacent to the Recreational Hunting Area. They are linked by a combination of riverbed travel and established tracks.

FURTHER ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOMMODATION WILL DEPEND ON A DEMONSTRATED NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FACILITIES.

7 ANIMAL POPULATION MANAGEMENT

Ungulate numbers are at very low levels throughout the Recreational Hunting Area and the most significant controlling influence is illegal helicopter hunting. In these circumstances little effect on animal populations can be achieved through regulation of recreational hunting.

It is acknowledged that animal numbers are too low for the Recreational Hunting Area and more specifically, that permit returns for hunter effort are much less than could reasonably be expected (Appendix V).

Higher animal numbers could be sustained (excepting the Ecological Area) without causing any significant risk to floristic values.

Better control of illegal helicopter hunting is currently the highest priority of management for the Recreational Hunting Area.

It is considered that introduction of a tender system for helicopter hunting Crown lands and licensing of fewer machines would aid control measures. Appointment of a forest officer with primary duties for surveillance and prosecution of illegal hunters is being sought, so that more singular attention can be given to control of illegal hunting.

Submissions from hunters indicated a willingness to foster an ethic which discouraged hunting of hinds during calving and "mothering", and stags during velvet, however suggestions for extended closed hunting seasons were not supported, owing to the importance of foot hunter surveillance of helicopter activity.

1. MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ILLEGAL HELICOPTER HUNTING WITHIN THE RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA SHALL BE PURSUED AS A MATTER OF HIGHEST PRIORITY.
2. APPOINTMENT OF A FOREST OFFICER TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL HELICOPTER ACTIVITY SHALL BE MADE.

7.1 Upper Hope Ecological Area

The establishment of the Upper Hope Ecological Area was recommended by the State Forest Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee in February 1982, subject to the proviso that Recreational Hunting Area designation over this area be removed. Later agreement was reached with the National Recreational Hunting Advisory Committee on compatibility of Ecological Areas and Recreational Hunting Area. The purpose of the Upper Hope Ecological Area is to conserve a significant area of representative vegetation gradients from valley floor to alpine tops. The area also represents a significant range of habitat for native and introduced fauna. Protection of these floristic and faunal values is only compatible with management of the Recreational Hunting Area if introduced animals are kept to very low levels.

DEER AND CHAMOIS IN THE UPPER HOPE SHALL BE STRICTLY CONTROLLED TO LEVELS COMPATIBLE WITH THE NATURAL VALUES OF THE UPPER HOPE ECOLOGICAL AREA.

7.2 Jollie Brook and Glenrae Pig Hunting Area

The Jollie Brook and Glenrae blocks provide reasonable pig hunting opportunities and recreational hunting shall be utilised in the first instance to maintain numbers at low levels. Use of dogs for pig hunting on two weekends per month is encouraged to

increase hunter effectiveness. Conditions for hunting dog permits are given in Appendix VI.

1. RECREATIONAL HUNTING SHALL BE USED FOR CONTROL AND CONTAINEMENT OF PIGS IN THE JOLLIE BROOK AND GLENRAE BLOCKS.
2. HUNTING WITH DOGS SHALL BE ALLOWED IN THE JOLLIE BROOK AND GLENRAE ON TWO WEEKENDS PER MONTH.
3. PERMITS FOR HUNTING WITH DOGS SHALL COMPLY WITH THE CURRENT CONSERVANCY POLICY, AND PERMITS SHALL ONLY BE ISSUED FROM CONSERVANCY OFFICE, CHRISTCHURCH.

8 PERMITS

For legal reasons, a NZ Forest Service policy of one permit per hunter was introduced in 1984. The 1981 permit system for the Recreational Hunting Area allowed four persons per permit, and five permits per block, providing for a maximum of 20 persons per block. Now up to 20 individual permits per block are issued, which provides maximum flexibility and prevents multiple booking abuses.

OPEN HUNTING SHALL APPLY TO ALL BLOCKS. EACH BLOCK SHALL HAVE A MAXIMUM OF 20 PERMITS ISSUED FOR ANY ONE PERIOD.

The map appended depicts the existing Recreational Hunting Area hunting block boundaries and the proposed block boundaries for the eastern extensions to the RHA. It is noted that the proposed extensions would increase the hunting blocks from five to eight.

8.1 Permit Issue

For efficient management of the Recreational Hunting Area, permit issue needs made from Christchurch where by far the greatest proportion of hunters come from.

ALL PERMITS SHALL BE ISSUED FROM THE CHRISTCHURCH OFFICE OF THE NZ FOREST SERVICE. PERMITS SHALL BE ISSUED FOR A MAXIMUM OF FOURTEEN DAYS, NO MORE THAN TWO MONTHS IN ADVANCE. EARLIER APPLICATIONS FROM HUNTERS OUTSIDE CANTERBURY WILL BE CONSIDERED.

8.2 Conditions of Use

The Wild Animal Control Act, 1977, defines recreation as applied to hunting as "a pastime, or with the object of obtaining relaxation, without gaining pecuniary reward or gain from the hunting, or from the sale of any wild animal or part thereof". Therefore -

1. RECREATIONAL HUNTERS SHALL NOT REMOVE FROM THE RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA, ANY WILD ANIMAL CARCASE SUITABLE FOR SALE UNDER THE GAME REGULATIONS, 1975, OR ANY BY-PRODUCT OF A KILLED WILD ANIMAL OR ANY LIVE WILD ANIMAL THAT HAS A COMMERCIAL VALUE OTHER THAN A RECOGNISED TROPHY VALUE.
2. COMMERCIAL POSSUM HUNTING SHALL CONTINUE BY PERMIT.

8.3 Permit Returns

The data available from permit returns is an important input to the sum of information required to co-ordinate management of the Recreational Hunting Area. To this end -

1. ALL RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA PERMIT HOLDERS SHALL COMPLETE A PERMIT RETURN AT THE EXPIRY OF THE PERMIT AND RETURN TO THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, CHRISTCHURCH. NIL RETURNS ARE REQUIRED AND ALSO INDICATION OF NIL USE OF PERMITS.
2. COMPUTERISATION OF PERMIT ISSUES AND RETURNS SHALL BE PURSUED TO IMPROVE RECORDS AND CONTROL.
3. FURTHER ISSUE OF PERMITS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO RECEIPT OF PERMIT RETURNS.

9 ASSESSMENT OF VEGETATION CONDITION AND TRENDS

9.1 Catchment Condition Surveys

Permanent sample plots, involving the permanent marking and measurement of plant species, provide quantitative data for description of forest types, and a measure of condition in relation to the status of canopy species and their regeneration. Re-assessment of permanent sample plots allows identification of trends in the canopy and understorey. These data are supplemented by recordings of site stability, animal usage and general descriptions which assist in the analysis of plant/animal interactions.

The 1980/81 animal and vegetation survey of the Waiau catchment (Griffiths, 1982) completed permanent sample plot coverage of the Recreational Hunting Area. Permanent sample plots had been established in the Hope and Hurunui catchments between 1975 and 1977 (Burrows, et al; 1976; Guest and Wilkinson, 1976; and Jane, 1984).

9.2 Permanent Plot Remeasurement Period

From the 1980/81 survey, it was evident that the forests were generally in good condition with vigorous regeneration occurring in areas of canopy mortality. Because of this, and the very slow rate of change in the forests and widespread evidence of low animal numbers, an increased remeasurement period for

permanent sample plots is appropriate. The original Recreational Hunting Area plan prescribed remeasurement at five yearly intervals. In the present circumstances, a remeasurement period similar to other areas of Lake Sumner Forest Park is justified. (Lake Sumner Forest Park Management Plan Review; NZ Forest Service, 1984.)

The 1986/87 Canterbury Conservancy survey programme includes remeasurement of permanent sample plots and animal pellets in the Hurunui catchment and a resurvey of the Waiau and Hope catchments is programmed for 1987/88.

Maintenance of the permanent sample plots is essential for providing information on vegetation condition trends and the degree of utilisation of different vegetation types by deer and chamois. Establishment of additional non-random permanent plots and animal exclosures in more sensitive areas may be necessary if animal damage is indicated from field inspections.

1. FREQUENCY OF REASSESSMENT OF PERMANENT PLOTS AND THE NEED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL PERMANENT PLOTS AND ANIMAL EXCLOSURES SHALL BE SUBJECT TO PERIODIC REVIEW.

2. REMEASUREMENT CONSIDERATION SHALL TAKE ACCOUNT OF :

MAINTENANCE OF THE QUALITY AND CONTINUITY OF PERMANENT PLOT DATA,
RATE OF CHANGE IN FOREST STRUCTURE AND ANIMAL POPULATIONS, AND
EVIDENCES FROM FIELD INSPECTIONS LINKING NORMAL USAGE WITH FOREST CONDITION.

3. ASSESSMENT OF PERMANENT PLOTS IS SCHEDULED FOR 1986/87 AND 1987/88 FOR THE HURUNUI AND HOPE/WAIAU CATCHMENTS RESPECTIVELY.
4. ADDITIONAL PLOTS MAY BE ESTABLISHED IN AREAS WHERE DETERIORATION IN VEGETATION FROM ANIMAL USAGE IS INDICATED FROM FIELD INSPECTIONS.
5. ANIMAL EXCLOSURE PLOTS MAY BE ESTABLISHED ON SELECTED SITES UNDERGOING SIGNIFICANT CHANGE WHERE REGENERATION OF CANOPY SPECIES IS LIKELY TO BE SENSITIVE TO PREVAILING ANIMAL NUMBERS.

10 ANIMAL ASSESSMENT

Animal population assessments from faecal pellet counts are undertaken at the same time as vegetation plot remeasurements. More frequent remeasurement of faecal pellet transects has not been justifiable because of the very low levels of ungulate population indicated from the 1980/81 survey and the evidences from field inspections and hunting permit returns that no recovery from the very low levels has yet occurred. It is considered that continuation of the current reprieve from

helicopter hunting for three to five years is needed to achieve a marked increase in ungulate numbers.

Provision for a flexible animal assessment programme is needed so that frequency of assessment is tied to the rate of change and levels of animal numbers.

1. FREQUENCY OF ASSESSMENT OF FAECAL PELLET TRANSECTS SHALL BE PERIODICALLY REVIEWED.
2. PRIORITY SHALL BE GIVEN TO MONITORING ANIMAL AND VEGETATION TRENDS WITHIN THE ECOLOGICAL AREA.
3. RE-ASSESSMENT OF THE PELLET TRANSECTS SHALL, AS A MINIMUM, BE UNDERTAKEN AT THE TIME OF PERMANENT PLOT REMEASUREMENT.
4. FIELD INSPECTIONS TO GAUGE CHANGES IN ANIMAL POPULATIONS SHALL BE MADE ANNUALLY OF MAJOR REPRESENTATIVE HABITATS WITHIN THE RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA. THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL RE-ASSESSMENT OF PELLET TRANSECTS SHALL THUS BE DETERMINED.
5. DEER AND POSSUM DENSITIES SHALL BE ASSESSED BY POINT DISTANCE MEASUREMENTS. PELLETS OF OTHER ANIMALS SHALL BE NOTED.
6. ADDITIONAL TRANSECTS MAY BE ESTABLISHED TO COVER LOCALISED AREAS OF HIGHER ANIMAL USE NOT ADEQUATELY COVERED BY THE ESTABLISHED PELLET TRANSECTS.

Random census methods are unlikely to provide reliable data on habitat use and population levels of chamois because of their tendency to make intensive use of sub-alpine/alpine bluff systems.

1. TRENDS IN CHAMOIS POPULATIONS SHALL BE ASSESSED BY ANNUAL FIELD INSPECTIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE AREAS OF FAVOURED CHAMOIS HABITAT.
2. ASSESSMENT OF PIG POPULATION LEVELS IN THE JOLLIE BROOK AND GLENRAE SHALL BE MADE ANNUALLY FROM FIELD INSPECTIONS.

11 WILD ANIMAL CONTROL

IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THE MAINTENANCE OF DEER AND CHAMOIS POPULATIONS AT TOLERABLE LEVELS SHALL BE BY RECREATIONAL HUNTING.

Should the Conservator of Forests be satisfied that additional control measures are required for a period, either in defined parts of or over the Recreational Hunting Area generally, the following priorities will apply -

1. ANY REQUIREMENT FOR INCREASED CONTROL MEASURES (HERD REDUCTION) SHALL INITIALLY BE ATTEMPTED BY INCREASING RECREATIONAL HUNTING PRESSURE BY CHANGES TO THE PERMIT ISSUING SYSTEM.
2. SHOULD RECREATIONAL HUNTING NOT ACHIEVE THE DESIRED EFFECT, THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL SUPERVISE COMMERCIAL RECOVERY OPERATIONS FOR A PERIOD SUFFICIENT TO REDUCE POPULATIONS TO ACCEPTABLE LEVELS.
3. WHERE SHOWN TO BE NECESSARY, FOREST SERVICE CONTROL OPERATIONS SHALL BE CARRIED OUT.

Whether deer and chamois populations are at unacceptable levels will be determined by:

- (a) Trends evident from re-assessments of permanent vegetation plots and exclosures.
- (b) Trends in faecal pellet densities and distribution.
- (c) Field observations, particularly of chamois populations and habitat.

12 RESEARCH

Specialised research is a function of the Forest Research Institute, therefore assistance of the Institute should be sought to implement appropriate research programmes.

Hunters are able to assist researchers by providing information or autopsy material from kills. For example in Oxford Recreational Hunting Area, lower jaw bones of red deer are currently being obtained by the Forest Research Institute from recreational hunters as part of a research programme to monitor the effects of recreational hunting on animal populations and vegetation condition.

THE ASSISTANCE OF THE FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE SHALL BE SOUGHT TO IMPLEMENT APPROPRIATE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR HUNTERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO ANIMAL RESEARCH PROGRAMMES SHALL BE PERIODICALLY EVALUATED.

13 ADMINISTRATION

13.1 General

1. THE WILD ANIMAL CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LAKE SUMNER RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, CHRISTCHURCH. HE SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ISSUING OF HUNTING PERMITS, THE COLLECTION OF PERMIT RETURNS AND HUNTER STATISTICS AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE WILD ANIMAL CONTROL PLAN. HE SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PRODUCING AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE NATIONAL RECREATIONAL HUNTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SUMMARISING USE STATISTICS AND RECOMMENDING NECESSARY CHANGES TO THE WILD ANIMAL CONTROL PLAN.
2. THE WILD ANIMAL CONTROL PLAN SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED BY STAFF OF THE LAKE SUMNER FOREST PARK, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM STAFF FROM THE CHRISTCHURCH OFFICE.
3. THE MONITORING OF THE VEGETATION CONDITION AND ANIMAL DENSITIES WITHIN THE RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA SHALL BE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, CHRISTCHURCH.
4. THE WILD ANIMAL CONTROL PLAN SHALL BE REVIEWED AT INTERVALS NO GREATER THAN FIVE YEARS.

13.2 Management Plan Control

THIS PLAN WILL OPERATE FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS, FROM 1 APRIL 1986 TO 31 MARCH 1991.

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APPENDIX I

"WILD ANIMAL CONTROL ACT, 1977PART III : RECREATIONAL HUNTING

27 DECLARATION OF RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREAS -

1. The Director-General may from time to time, by notice in the Gazette, subject to such conditions as he may indicate, publicly notify that any area of Crown-owned land (other than National Park land or Maritime Park Land), and any other land included with the agreement of the owner or occupier or land controlling authority, being land on which wild animals are present, shall form or be part of a recreational hunting area where hunting as a means of recreation is to be used to control (though not exclusively) the numbers of wild animals.
2. The Director-General shall not declare any land other than State forest land as a recreational hunting area unless he has first sought the views of, and received written approval to such use of the land from, the person or Board or authority or Minister having or charged with the administration or control of the land.
3. The Director-General may at any time vary or revoke any such notice, or the conditions under which any recreational hunting area may be used; and, where studies and investigations have shown that the presence of wild animals is detrimental to the maintenance of the land and vegetation or the natural water flowing through the land in a satisfactory state, he may:
 - (a) Permit for a specified period the hunting of all or any part of the area by wild animal recovery hunters under Forest Service supervision; or
 - (b) Introduce control measures carried out by Forest Service officers and employees; or
 - (c) Agree to allow for a specified period a trial of intensive recreational hunting.
4. The Director-General may at any time carry out control operations against any species of wild animals not sought after by recreational hunters in a recreational hunting area, or such species of wild animals as are not listed in a wild animal control plan for an area as animals to be controlled by recreational hunting."

APPENDIX II

CRITERIA FOR SETTING ASIDE RECREATION HUNTING AREAS

Recreation hunting areas should generally have the following qualities:

- (a) Accessible to a significant large urban population.
- (b) Distinctive because of the species, trophy quality or recreational values of the wild animals therein.
- (c) Pleasant or challenging topography/vegetation/climate or other natural features or attractions with particularly stable land forms.
- (d) Containing recreational hunting values so great that they should be catered for, following zoning if necessary, to provide a national recreational hunting area.
- (e) Not subject to stringent controls on recreational hunter use, or conflict with production values, ie water, wood, which cannot be overcome by zoning, though land areas available may be subject to limitations on time (season/daily) they are available to hunters under set conditions of use.

NB: Exotic production forests may be proposed and parts of large exotic forests may be suitable for such management.

APPENDIX III

LAKE SUMNER RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA

WILD ANIMAL CONTROL PLAN REVIEW

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

1 NZ DEERSTALKERS' ASSOCIATION

Dissatisfaction expressed about extent of helicopter poaching and the lack of effective NZ Forest Service action to counter this, and low animal numbers and poor vehicle access.

Access

Propose provision of car access to:

- (i) No.2 Hut.
- (ii) South Branch Hurunui park boundary.
- iii) Vicinity of Hope River/Kiwi Stream junction, via bridge over Boyle River.

Propose consideration of public road easements over existing tracks or (alternately) other practical routes to provide for future road developments.

Express opposition to any policy of vehicle exclusion within Forest Parks.

Animal Census

Want NZ Forest Service to promote a strong data collection policy (programme) for the RHA.

Hunting Permits

Seek rationalisation of multi-permit/block system (presume 1 block/permit is preferred).

Support stronger policy on permit return requirement and with-holding of permits for noncompliance.

Suggest nationwide use of computer facilities for hunting permit issue, monitoring of returns and to provide for better analysis of RHA statistics.

Recreational Hunting Area Extension

Propose addition of Carlyle and Jollie Brook blocks and Lewis Pass Scenic Reserve areas to the RHA.

Animal Enhancement

Support closure of RHA during deer calving (November-January) for a 3-year trial period.

Want better control of illegal helicopter capture (and hunting) operations.

2 L H SHAND

Management Objectives for the RHA

Proposed a more stringent animal control to achieve "minimal - ideally 0" animals on Class VII and VIII lands in pursuit of the permanent management objective of water and soil conservation.

Questioned the Lake Sumner RHA 1985 Annual Report proposals to achieve higher animal numbers and suggests they are not consistent with the RHA management objectives.

Ecological Area

Expressed concern that RHA status is inappropriate for Ecological Areas, unless stringent supplementary animal control measures are employed.

3 K SCHASCHING

Ecological Area

Proposed exclusion of the Upper Hope Ecological Area from the RHA.

Recreational Hunting Area Extension

Proposed addition of Waiau State Forest and part of the Lewis Pass Reserves.

Consultation

Proposed greater hunter participation and consultation for management.

Mr Schasching also resubmitted his 1981 submission to the Lake Sumner RHA Plan. Still pertinent proposals include:

- Concern expressed for better access, particular to North Hurunui (No.2 Hut).
- Proposed provision for more active NZ Deerstalkers' Association participation in management.
- Recommended ~~a~~ ^a prohibition on stag hunting during velvet season (to promote better trophies and to reduce hunting pressure during peak tramping period).
- Proposed with-holding permits to penalise those who fail to furnish returns.
- Proposed that use of pig hunting dogs be allowed.

4 N MONTGOMERY

Animal Enhancement

Proposed introduction of game of better fecundity and suggested either pigs or goats.

Vehicle Security

Proposed construction of a secure vehicle compound at Windy Point.

5 D CADDIE, et al.

Private Hunter Interest

Proposed that the RHA be managed for private hunter use only (eg, no commercial guided hunting safaries or similar), and that the commercial meat or live capture hunting prohibition be maintained.

Proposed a prohibition on all aircraft overflying the RHA.

Recommended a maximum number of 3 permits/hunting block.

6 D Y FRAMPTON

Access

Supports provision of car access to North Hurunui Park boundary, to Lake Sumner.

Urges control of helicopter hunting.

7 P CHAMBERLAIN (Kiwi Hunting Safaries)

Access for commercial safari hunting sought.

Animal enhancement measures wanted.

8 NORTH CANTERBURY BRANCH NZ DEERSTALKERS' ASSOCIATION

Access

Improvements to vehicle access sought. Propose urgent consideration of access questions by the Advisory Committee.

Recreational Hunting Area Extension

Propose inclusion of parts of the Lewis Pass National Reserve, including the Boyle Tops and the Carlyle and Glens of Tekoa (Jollie Brook, Glenrae) blocks.

Hunting Permits

Favour a flexible system that allows block boundaries and permit conditions to be altered as required.

Propose implementation of obligatory permit returns and consideration of penalties, computerisation and policing to assist enforcement.

Propose use of rim fire rifles (.22 calibre) be allowed within the RHA for a trial period.

Recommend a "user friendly" hunting permit design.

Animal Management

Propose alteration of the second prescription under Wild Animal Control by replacement of the word "control" with "management".

Express concern at very low deer numbers and lack of effective control of illegal helicopter hunting.

Propose declaration of closed hunting season from 1 November 1986 until at least 1 February 1987.

Recommend promotion of a permit limit of one animal, one hunter.

Seek extra staff to assist with control of illegal helicopter activity.

Propose pursuit of a code transmitter device to provide for positive identification of helicopters.

Consultation/Hunter input

Stress importance of private hunter involvement in management of the RHA and express concern for their interests with the forthcoming department re-organisations.

Suggest a more formally constituted Canterbury Hunter Liaison group on the model of the Nelson Committee and with a role defined in the WAC Plan.

APPENDIX IV

LAKE SUMNER RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA WILD ANIMAL
CONTROL PLAN REVIEWLAKE SUMNER FOREST PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTARY AND
RECOMMENDATIONS ON PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS1 NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS' ASSOCIATIONAccess

Pursuit of better access to the North Hurunui (Lake Sumner) is supported, however the high cost of constructing a road makes such a development unlikely in the near future. As a first step it may be best to seek car access to Lake Katrine settlement, as boats on Lake Sumner could then provide access to the eastern reaches of the Recreational Hunting Area. An investigation to establish the most practical options for access improvements and an environmental assessment of the impacts that would result from roading development is recommended.

Improved vehicle access to the South Branch of the Hurunui would be desirable, but no practical legal road access exists. It is noted the South Branch is outside the RHA.

Pursuit of vehicular access to the Upper Hope is not supported. The expense of bridging the Boyle River and of roading the Hope Valley would be beyond any reasonable means, and major environmental conflicts surrounding development in remote areas would arise.

Proposition to create public road easements over existing tracks and routes is not supported. The full agreement of runholders would be essential for implementation of this proposal, and is most unlikely to be obtained. Many other park users are opposed to vehicle access within natural areas.

It is not within the brief of this review to consider the expression of opposition to the policy of vehicle exclusion within Forest Parks. This view should be expressed to Head Office for Forest Park Policy consideration.

Animal Census

A strong data collection animal census policy is provided for in the Wild Animal Control Plan. Intensive animal census activity has not been called for, given the very low levels of ungulate populations within the Recreational Hunting Area, and the high proportion of animals taken illegally. A full animal and vegetation survey covered most of the RMA in 1981 and

established that ungulate populations were very low. Field inspections were conducted at least annually in most areas. These indicate low (and diminishing) animal sign since the 1981 survey.

Hunting Permits

Maintenance of the present multi-permit/block system is necessary. The 1981 conservancy system allowed a maximum of four persons per permit and the RHA plan a maximum of five permits per block. In practice, permits have been issued for up to 20 individuals per block. A more recent (1984) NZ Forest Service policy requires one permit per individual. The prescription for permits (page 8, section 7.1) shall be altered accordingly to provide for a maximum of 20 permits (or individuals) per block.

A strong policy requirement for permit returns already exists with a prescription for withholding permits if earlier returns were not received (page 9, Section 7.4). Enforcement has not been justified in the present circumstances, given the lesser value of census information with high levels of poaching occurring.

The suggestion for computerising permit issue and return statistics is fully supported and work to this end is in progress.

Recreational Hunting Area Extensions

Addition of the Carlyle Block cannot be supported owing to extensive and severe erosion above the forest boundary, and the fragmented nature of the forest area and attendant problems with regulation of helicopter hunting. Helicopter hunting is already prohibited over Carlyle State Forest. Resolution of access problems to Carlyle SF is currently under negotiation.

There are logical reasons for inclusion of parts of the Lewis Pass Scenic Reserves and rationalisation of the Recreational Hunting Area boundaries in this locality should be considered in consultation with the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson. In this context inclusion of those parts of Waiau SF east of the Lewis River (Boyle Block) into the RHA is supported.

The Jollie Brook and Glenrae do not meet the criterion (Appendix II) "of a particularly stable land form". These blocks were retired from grazing and reserved as State forest for protection purposes in the late 1930s. However, vegetation cover within the area is now much improved and wild animal numbers are low with abundance of feed indicating little pressure on sensitive areas. The major advantages of the area are its better accessibility and the fact that it already obtains more attention from hunters than most parts of existing recreational hunting area. It is considered that it would be a worthwhile addition to the recreational hunting area and that recreational hunters would be better placed to control ungulates within this area than in more remote parts of the RHA. Addition of the

Jollie Brook and Glenrae blocks to the Lake Sumner Recreational Hunting Area is supported.

Animal Enhancement

The Deerstalkers' Association support for animal enhancement strategies is acknowledged. It is considered that promotion of an ethic that discourages hunting of hinds (particularly during calving) and of young stags should be promoted by hunter education and that this would likely be as effective as a prohibition on hunting. Similarly, hunting of stags in the velvet season should be discouraged through education. It is noted that the existing RHA plan (page 9, Section 7.3) prohibits removal of velvet of commercial value from the RHA.

The desire of recreational hunters for better control of illegal helicopter hunting within the Recreational Hunting Area is fully appreciated. However, practical and legal realities make more effective control an extremely difficult task.

2 L H SHAND

Management Objectives for the Recreational Hunting Area

It is acknowledged a conflict may appear to exist between the Lake Sumner Forest Park management objectives and any policy of animal population enhancement.

The primary protection forestry management objectives are the paramount concerns of management within the RHA. No conflict with these objectives exists at the existing extremely low levels ungulate population, and a margin of safety is considered to exist that should allow for an increase in animal numbers without any deleterious effect on important natural values. It is noted that extremely high deer populations were carried over much of the RHA in the 1930s-40s and no significant land destabilisation resulted from this. Damage to floristic values at that time was severe, however levels of increase to be tolerated under RHA status would be insignificant compared the populations carried 50 years ago. Thus L H Shand's submission on conflicts between the management objectives for the Lake Sumner Forest Park and the Recreational Hunting Area is disputed.

Ecological Area

It is agreed that Recreational Hunting Area status can be inappropriate for an Ecological Area. However, in this case the scientific co-ordinating committee have examined and approved the co-existence of the RHA and Ecological Area. More stringent monitoring of animal numbers and higher standards of animal control are required for the ecological area.

3 K SCHASCHING

Ecological Area

Refer above.

Recreational Hunting Area Extension

Addition of parts of Lewis Pass Scenic Reserve to the Recreational Hunting Area is supported.

Consultation

Provisions for consultation already exist through the planning processes which provide for consideration of public submissions and through recreational hunter representation on the Forest Park Advisory Committee, and through normal access to the Conservator or Director-General. Existing consultation mechanisms are considered to be satisfactory.

Points arising from original 1981 submission:

The concern for better access to the North Hurunui No.2 Hut is supported.

Suggestion of prohibition on stag hunting during velvet period is not supported (cf NZ Deerstalkers' Association submission on animal enhancement).

The withholding of permits for failure to furnish returns is prescribed for.

The use of hunting dogs within the Jollie Brook and Glenrae is supported.

4 M MONTGOMERY

Animal Enhancement

Introduction of goats and pigs to areas within the Recreational Hunting Area is not supported.

Vehicle Security

Practical problems associated with vehicle compounds in isolated areas would negate any advantage in this proposal. Not supported.

5 D CADDIE, et al

Private Hunter Interest

No change in policy with respect to private hunter interest is planned. The prohibition on commercial hunting will remain in force, submission supported.

Prohibition of aircraft is beyond the jurisdiction of the Minister of Forests. Recommendations can be made to the Minister of Transport, however any prohibition of over-flying aircraft is very unlikely to be supported.

Reduction in the number of permits per block from 5 to 3 is not considered worthwhile. A smaller number of permits would make monopolising of blocks easier. Proposal therefore not supported. Twenty permits per block is recommended.

Control of Helicopter Poaching

This is covered previously as well. Concern is supported by NZ Forest Service.

6 D Y FRAMPTON

Access to Recreational Hunting Area by Commercial Hunting Safaris

The low number of animals within the RHA make commercial safari hunting a non-issue in the present circumstances. Commercial safari hunting in any form would be opposed until the opportunities for hunting within the RHA vastly improve.

The desirability of having higher animal numbers and more animals of trophy quality is supported.

7 CANTERBURY BRANCH NZ DEERSTALKERS' ASSOCIATION

Access

Desirability of improvements to vehicle access is recognised and pursuit of improvement of access to North Hurunui/Lake Sumner is supported.

Recreational Hunting Area Extension

Proposals for extensions to the RHA have already been covered, and supported (excepting addition of Carlyle).

Hunting Permits

7.1 A flexible permit/block system was a stated intention (page 8) in the original WAC Plan. Alterations to a permit block system, requiring one permit/hunter, and a maximum of 20 permits/block has been implemented in conformity with Head Office policy. It is considered that this is a highly flexible approach. Changes can be (and have been) made, if needed, during the period of the plan at the discretion of the Director-General.

7.4 Changes to the existing system, including computerisation, have been covered in response to other submissions. Use of rimfire rifles is not supported. The RHA exists for ungulate hunting, which requires use of higher calibre rifles. The only game within the RHA suited for .22 hunting are hares.

Introduction of a more "user friendly" hunting permit is not supported. Permits for reasons of legal necessity must list prohibited activities in unambivalent and forceful language.

Animal Management

It is acknowledged that the word "control" may have somewhat negative historical associations for recreational hunters. However, in this context has been used advisedly to be consistent with the wording of the Wild Animal Control Act (1977).

Concern for low deer numbers and basence of effective control of illegal helicopter hunting is supported.

Proposal for closed hunting period is not supported for reasons already given in response to other submissions. A further point is exclusion of recreational hunters would weaken the surveillance network that is essential for discouragement of illegal helicopter hunting.

The recommendation for promotion of a bag limit ethic of one animal/hunter is supported.

The need for extra staff to help achieve better control of illegal helicopter hunting is recognised.

The possibility of using an electronic code device for helicopter identification is currently under investigation by Head Office.

Consultation/Hunter Input

The question of adequacy of existing provisions for consultation has been covered previously in response to K Schasching.

The proposal for a formally constituted Hunter Liaison "Committee" for the RHA (as a sub-committee of the Lake Sumner Forest Park Advisory Committee) is not supported. Private hunter interests are already well represented on the Lake Sumner Forest Park Advisory Committee. The existing Hunter Liaison Group covers all of Canterbury, and the proposed new committee would only cover the Lake Sumner RHA. By implication, a similar sub-committee could be called for the Oxford RHA. It is considered that such a proliferation of committees is unnecessary, and undesirable. In reference to Nelson, the Hunter Advisory Committee only operates for the RHA within NW.

Nelson Forest Park. Recreational hunter interests are not provided for in areas outside the RHA. In Canterbury the Hunter Liaison Group concern covers all areas open to recreational hunters, including RHAs and this is considered to be a preferable arrangement.

APPENDIX VSTATISTICS FROM ANNUAL REPORTS
1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986

The information is from returns from commercial helicopter operators and permit hunters.

LAKE SUMNER RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA GAZETTED 1982

Year	Deer	KILLS Chamois	Pigs	Total	Permits Issued	Man Days	Man Days per Kill
<u>Lake Sumner RHA</u>							
1982	8	21	-	29	196	225	7.75
1983	16	10	-	26	450	386	14.84
1984	11	9	-	20	333	259	12.95
1985	12	10	-	22	330	272	12.36
1986	25	7	-	32	305	1167	36.46

LAKE SUMNER FP - NON RHA

Year	Deer	KILLS Chamois	Pigs	Total	Permits Issued	Man Days	Man Days per Kill
<u>Recreational Hunters</u>							
1982	49	31	39	119	721	1083	9.10
1983	9	19	24	52	607	378	7.29
1984	9	8	8	25	469	327	13.08
1985	8	11	13	32	449	303	9.46
1986	8	12	24	44	412	593	13.47

Commercial Operators (live animal and carcass recovery)

1982	152	118	49	319	12
1983	295	200	74	569	12
1984	191	37	-	228	14
1985	292	20	13	325	14
1986	110	15	5	130	20

Over a Five Year Period 1982-1986

Total permits issued for commercial helicopter hunting (non RHA)
72 permits = 1571 animals recovered

Total permits issued for ground hunting (total Lake Sumner FP)
4272 permits = 401 animals killed

APPENDIX VI

HUNTING WITH DOGS - CANTERBURY STATE FORESTS

Hunting of wild animals, using dogs is generally not permitted in Canterbury State forests.

However, in an endeavour to meet the demand for pig hunting with dogs in Canterbury, the Conservator of Forests, Christchurch has approved permit issue for specified areas.

Additional conditions to those normally on a hunting permit will have to be met by would-be hunters using dogs for the taking of pigs. These conditions are:

1. Limit of three dogs per person.
2. Dogs to be tattooed for identification.
3. Permit applicants are to supply, at the time of application for the permit -
 - (a) Names and addresses of all hunters.
 - (b) Vehicle registration.
 - (c) Numbers and identification of dogs.

Note: Besides supplying information on the tattoo ID, there should also be a brief physical description of the dog - eg, black and white, smooth haired collie type, etc.

4. Any default on permit conditions will result in forfeiture of any permits for the season.

The season will be defined as the time of the trial period for permit issue for hunters with dogs.
5. All dogs must be dosed for hydatids control and the standard inoculation record to be carried by owners.
6. The tattoos on dogs of members of the Canterbury Pig Hunters' Club shall be prefixed with a code agreed to by the Conservator of Forests, Christchurch.
7. Permit returns are mandatory for permits where dogs are allowed.

LAKE SUMNER RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA HUNTING BLOCKS



- Lake Sumner Forest Park
- Walking Tracks
- Huts
- Bivouacs
- Block Boundaries

