

ERMA Re-Assessment: 1080 Hearing

Dr Hugh Barr, Secretary
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Council of Outdoor Recreation
Associations of New Zealand
Wellington, 25 May 2007

CORANZ & its Policies

- National council of national outdoor associations – Hunters, fishers, FWD etc
- 2005 Outdoor Charter Policies
- Aerial 1080 – strongly restricted; only in remote areas & when justified independently
 - Much greater use of ground hunting/bait stations
 - In hunting areas- minimise deer/pig/tahr bykill
 - Bounty for possums
 - Commercialise possum trapping
 - Proven deer repellent could be a mitigator

Hunter concerns – aerial 1080

1. High deer bykill
2. Contaminates wild meat, causes health stand down
3. Major risk to hunting dogs
4. Kills native birds
5. Adverse poison effects on humans
6. AHB planned major increase in area covered
7. Kills with pain – animal suffering

ERMA - HSNO Act - 1080

- S 5 – provide for Communities' economic etc wellbeing
- S 6 (a) sustainability of valued introduced animals
 - (b) Public health
 - (e) costs & benefits
- S 7 Precautionary approach

Outcomes sought: 1 Mitigation to reduce non target eg deer/pigs/dogs/tahr/chamois/native bird bykill & meat contamination on public conservation land

2 Public consultation – indiscriminate (incl aerial) 1080 a discretionary or controlled use

3 Require DOC to allow use of proven deer repellent eg as an interim mitigation measure (DOC's Acts don't prohibit it but DOC won't use it currently)

4 Sunset date/review in 2012, for indiscriminate use, if not phased out by current review

Reasons 1: Deer very susceptible - High bykill/slow recovery with 1080

- Eason (Table 5 - Deer bykill) – max by-kill = 93%, average = 50%
 - More recent studies – RHAs similarly high
 - Graf Boys DVD – Whirinaki – last winter
 - Breeding hind simulation model, with farmed deer data, and wild deer jaw analysis (next presentation)
- 2 Meat contamination - deer/Dog/pigs/native birdbykill/ wild meat contamination**
- 3 AHB future use (P 40, Applicn) – massive 150% increase in aerial 1080 - 0.4 M Ha/yr to 1 M Ha/yr primarily on public conservation land.**
- 4 Farmers benefit, hunters will pay a huge price – so mitigation**

Recorded Deer Unintended by-kill from 1080

Table 5. Red deer kills monitored during aerial 1080 poisoning operations in the 1980s and 1990s
From Eason C T, 2002 "Technical Review of 1080 toxicology" for AHB

Area and source	Bait type	Concentration %	Toxic bait sowing rate (kg/ha)	Deer Bykill** %
North Pureora [85]	cereal	0.08	10	43
Pureora 7-km buffer [86]	carrot	0.15	15*	30
Pureora 3-km buffer [86]	carrot	0.15	15*	31
Pureora, no pre-feed [86]	carrot	0.15	15	42
North Pureora [87]	carrot	0.09	15*	57
Titiraupenga [88]	carrot	0.08	15*	93
Titiraupenga [88]	carrot	0.15	15*	92
Wainuiomata Valley [89]	cereal	0.15	30*	5
Orongorongo Valley [89]	cereal	0.15	3	54

* The area was pre-fed with non-toxic bait prior to the sowing of toxic bait

‡ Sown in concentrated strips at 25 kg/ha with alternating untreated strips

(Table adapted from Nugent et al 2001 [82] References [] refer to the Eason paper

** % of total deer present killed in the operation

Recreational hunter effort significant

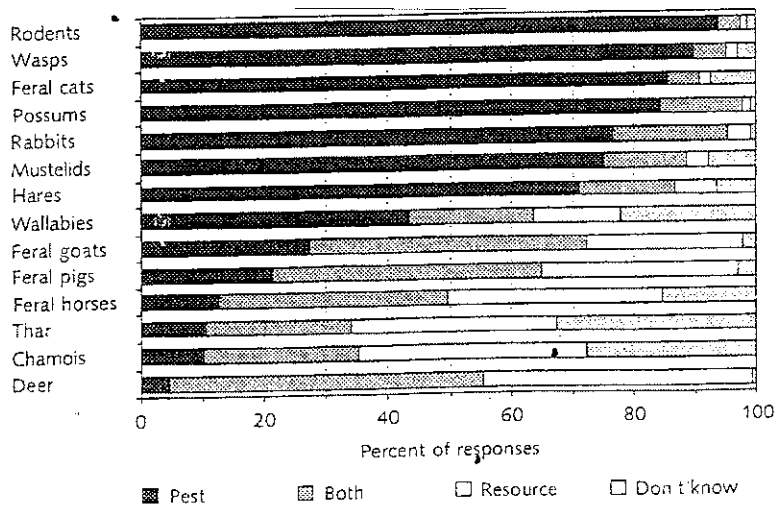
Table 1: Recreational hunters, effort and take (1988 Survey)

From [Nugent G; 1989], Table 5.

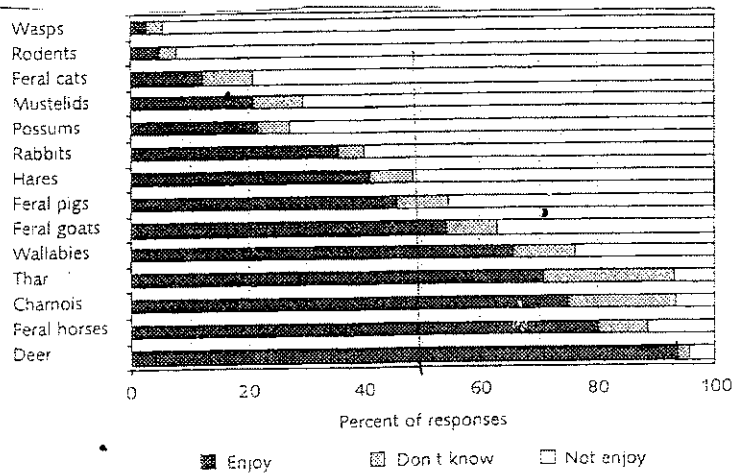
Species	No of hunters	% of population	Total days hunted	Average Days/hunter	Animals taken	Animals /day	Annual bag/hunter
All deer	29,739	0.92	391,713	13.2	52,481	0.13	1.8
Wild pigs	20,506	0.62	303,738	14.8	101,653	0.33	5.0
Wild goats	10,253	0.31	66,151	6.5	87,677	1.33	8.6
Chamois	2,291	0.07	10,839	4.7	1,794	0.17	0.8
Thar	953	0.03	3,848	4.0	782	0.20	0.8
All big game*	42,174	1.27	776,288	18.4	240,454	0.31	5.7
Possoms	50,724	1.53	695,216	13.7	3,001,618	4.32	59.2
Rabbits	79,329	2.39	1,062,857	13.4	2,439,835	2.30	30.8
Hares	36,302	1.1	429,154	11.8	373,522	0.87	10.3
Wallabies	2,754	0.12	9,726	3.5	13,040	1.34	4.7
All small game*	91,475	2.76	2,196,952	24.0	5,828,015	2.65	63.7

* many hunters hunt more than one big or small game species but only count as one hunter in the total

Valued Resource or "Pest" (Fraser Fig 8)



Valued - Enjoy/don't enjoy encounter (Fig 9)



CORA Concerns – contaminated meat etc

- 6.9 month contaminated meat stand-down after aerial 1080 – upsets hunters, local communities
- Permitted use in Regional Plan – communities can't mitigate adverse bykill & contamination impacts
- Change to discretionary or controlled use

Deer repellent – deer not usually targeted, so appropriate

- CORANZ opposes all indiscriminate use of poisons
- doesn't stop poisoning other non target species
- doesn't stop meat contamination
- needs more testing – deer bykill not zero
- DOC's Act – manage natural resources incl deer
- But DOC won't allow on 98%, won't pay on the rest

AHB/DOC/RC monopolistic behaviour

- subsidised – farmers/rates/taxes AHB \$80M; DOC \$30M?; Reg councils \$20M? Earn no income
- Wipe out trappers – set/achieve very low densities
- Wipe out commercial deer recovery
- Trying to wipe out recreational hunters
- Argue TINA – there is no alternative – DG Consvrn

David (harvesters) vs Goliath (poisoners to waste)

There ARE harvesting alternatives:

- Possum trappers, hunters, helicopter recovery
- Need harvesting alternatives – cheaper long term

Pest control – by sustainable harvesting

- Real pests – rats, possums, rabbits etc can't be exterminated
- Goal – keep them at acceptable levels
- So continuing ratepayer and taxpayer subsidy forever
- “pests” have been successfully controlled, where they can be harvested as a resource – possums pre 1983 (fur market collapse), deer – commercial helicopter recovery
- Harvesting – much less expensive - medium term, and more community value than poisoning to waste
- Harvesting - a sustainable alternative – who's stopping it?
- CORANZ recommends: ERMA encourage harvesting for possums now the Tb risk is declining, in areas ridded of Tb, as a more sustainable alternative

Research needs for ERMA

CORANZ proposes:

- Independent testing of repellent
- Independent assessment of why AHB needs to 1080 back country public land
- “- such foci of possum infection are difficult to accurately locate in large remote areas -”

NB: Significant savings, eg \$ & deer, if there were no foci

- Independent assesment – bykill of long-lived native carnivore birds
- Number of possums by region
- Encourage possum trapping where Tb is controlled

Public attitudes are against 1080

- A Fraser (P 14 our Submn)
- Opinion polls -- many people dislike poisoning, often a majority
- Communities dislike the tension of having aerial 1080 being sprayed around their neighbourhood

1080 Case studies: shows the problems

1 Tararua Forest Park: how DOC treats hunters

- 6 year rotation, protect mountain fuchsia from possums
 - 500,000 population round the park, 7,000 hunters
 - Historic deerstalking area
 - Very popular and accessible for deerstalking
 - Forest parks - for recreation
 - No DOC discussion with recreational hunters
 - No DOC provision for deer repellent or other mitigation
- **Why ERMA needs to direct DOC**

DOC/WRC – deer repellent, Haurangis

Case Study 2: Conflicting agency goals

- Took place 18 months after Minister of Conservation allowed repellent in Rec Hunting Areas (RHAs - 8 small traditional hunting areas)
- AHB operation by Wgtn Reg Council – 1st RHA
- **Negotiations with deerstalkers & DOC/WRC/AHB took nearly 3 years**
- 13,000 Ha: DOC control - only 12% at first. But ended as 73%
- AHB paid for repellent. DOC wouldn't
- Uncertain Stamina needed - not plain sailing as conflicting agendas and power plays