

## **Criteria and matters to be considered when making or assessing proposals for Herds of Special Interest (HOSI).**

Under Subpart 3 of the Game Animal Council Act 2013 the Minister may designate Herds of Special Interest subject to the provisions of sections 16-21 of that Subpart. The Game Animal Council will assess the need to make proposals for such herds of special interest and also assess the merits of proposals from other individuals and organisations. There are a number of criteria that proposals must meet and matters that can be considered when assessing whether any herd is suitable for designation as a HOSI

Criteria and Matters to be considered:

1. The herd exists on public conservation land:

Herds of special interest can only be designated for animal existing on public conservation land

2. The herd can be defined by species and place.

For example the wapiti herd has a defined area in Fiordland National Park

3. The herd is of special interest now, or has potential to be of special interest in the future as a result of management. Factors contributing to special interest include, but are not limited to:

3.1 Trophy Value: The herd currently generates animals of trophy quality or management will improve the quality and/or number of trophies taken by hunters

3.2 Meat value: The herd provides a sustained harvest of animals for meat or management will improve the numbers of animals and/or quality of the animals harvested by hunters.

3.3 Hunting Opportunity: The herd provides significant amount of hunting opportunity and management can improve the amount or quality of that opportunity. Hunting opportunity may be the result of such attributes as:

- Proximity to population
- Accessibility through having roads, tracks, marked routes or aircraft landing areas
- Land status may be of lower conservation value such highly modified ex farm land
- Facilities associated with the herd such as huts.
- Training opportunities for young or less experienced hunters

3.4 Historic value: Certain deer herds for example still exhibit attributes of the original animal brought to New Zealand. The Rakaia Red deer for example still exhibit poor bey tines which is representative of the source stock. West Otago Red deer were sourced from wild Scottish Red deer and have wider spread characteristics.

3.5 Economic opportunities: Herds of game animals generate both direct and indirect economic opportunities. Any enhancement will therefore increase economic benefits. Tahr and chamois populations on public conservation land generate significant direct returns

through guided hunting. Red deer in Fiordland National park generate significant economic benefit to commercial hunters.

3.6 Threats to that species: Some herds of game animals are the only populations of those animals in New Zealand, in the Southern hemisphere, or may be under population pressures internationally. The Galatea population of Rusa deer is the only such population in New Zealand.

3.7 Threat by that species to conservation values: Herds of game animals may pose a threat to a particular conservation value at a specific place or may more generically pose risks by virtue of their habits. For example Takahe have an area set aside in Fiordland National Park. There Red deer are actively controlled to very low levels. It would therefore be inconsistent to have a HOSI in such a location. Red deer are not present in Northland and it there is a statutory plan for keeping them out of that area. Again it would be difficult to manage a Red deer HOSI adjacent to Northland

4. The herd can be managed for hunting purposes and that the management will provide benefits to hunting.
  - 4.1. There are clear management objectives specified in a management plan, including at least one of:
    - Enhanced trophy hunting (either or both recreational and commercial)
    - Enhanced meat hunting (either or both recreational and commercial)
    - Enhancements to experiences (e.g. by provision of better access or facilities)
    - Training opportunities
    - Conservation benefits
    - Other
  - 4.2. Management objective(s) and/or actions must be
    - Physically achievable
    - Economically achievable
    - Legislatively achievable (and consistent with overriding considerations)
    - Enforceable
    - Not be offensive to Maori culture and traditions
    - Not impose unreasonable costs on hunters
    - Maintain or enhance conservation values in the Herd of Special Interest area
    - There must be no unmitigated adverse effects on neighbouring areas
5. The GAC has the resources to undertake the management as set out in any management Plan.

Or;

There is a management agency, other than the GAC, that is capable of undertaking the management specified in any management plan.

Criteria for this includes but is not limited to:

  - It is a formally constituted legal entity
  - It is representative of the spectrum of interests in the herd
  - It has an income stream sufficient to cover the costs of the proposed management
  - It has the expertise required for the management program (this could be a role taken up by the GAC)