

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 56:

Contributor: Individual

Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Eco-tourism involving wildlife
- Research relating to wildlife

Comment

I have an issue with the Terms of Reference of this enquiry. While it will look at the impact of wildlife management on agriculture, it does not look at the impact of agriculture on wildlife management. I think this comes in to section 2.3 in loss of habitat for native species and destruction of "pest" animals that are impacting wildlife.

Overall I think we need to have both visions for the future of the outcomes we want to see with respect to native species and specific objectives on a range of topics.

We want to see feral animals removed and native animals being, not just "non-extinct", but contributing to a robust and healthy ecosystem. While we purport to protect/manage "game species", such as deer, and focus on humane treatment of farm escapees (wild dogs, horses, etc), we have a conflict of interest in ecosystem protection by not eradicating them faster.

With deer numbers growing, there is a conflict with the Wildlife Regulations of 2013. It seems to be that habitat protection comes off worse when we focus on game management. The requirement to provide game species for hunters is in conflict with native species protection. We continue to allow native duck hunting when their numbers are low, while we encourage feral deer numbers to grow to provide adequate numbers for hunting. Duck hunters have no interest in reducing the numbers of deer.

In issues of law enforcement, the penalties for wildlife destruction are not based on the value of species to the environment, or even on the value if the individual animals were able to be sold. What is an eagle worth ? Farmers may look at fines for killing native animals as a cost of doing business, if the value to them exceeds the cost of fines (assuming they get caught).

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