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Allison Waddington

From: David Gatenby <davidjgatenby@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 April 2016 3:28 PM
To: DEER
Subject: Inquiry into fallow deer in Tasmania

I am a landowner at 640 Isis Road Campbell Town I have some 2000 hectares in the Isis Valley which borders onto State Forest known as Millers Bluff which is situated at the Southern end of the Great Western Tiers. I have been associated with deer management on View Point for some 45 years and my father some 20 years before that .

Have witnessed the increase in deer numbers over the last 40 years they have become a huge financial burden to my agricultural and forestry activities. I have also witnessed the red tape associated with deer been partially protected status under the Act.

On the other hand I live in a valley with some of the best deer hunting in Tasmania I respect and understand that ,I've been part of Game Management dating back to the 1980s which was formulated from the live trapping of female deer. We have some 30 deer hunters on View Point they participate in what I call the Trophy Season (stag season) they cull under a permit season female deer,kangaroos,possums,nuisance birds and rabbits.

Fallow deer have no boundaries they target the best food available at the time ie rape , irrigated pasture , native and high value crops . Some 350 deer were culled in this last year ,in a year of tough climatic conditions.i believe that you could run an extra 350 ewes with out the deer , at \$150 a ewe it equates to \$50000 of lost income plus damage to fencesand the enviroment plus the poaching problems associated with it.

The question should be asked ?

Why should Fallow Deer be so regulated !

I believe there should be a balance between needs of the landowner and the sporting needs of the hunter.

The stag season should be protected (4 to 5 weeks) in March and a deregulated doe culling program with a trial commercial component attached . Commercial means hunters and landowners can sell wild fallow deer for human consumption through registered licences abattoirs.

By deregulating fallow deer for most of the year would allow the policing for poaching and trespassing to be stepped up,also allow more time to run hunter education and training courses which I believe has been lacking in the past.

I believe the fallow deer population in Tasmania needs to be addressed !

Kind regards

David Gatenby



Sent from my iPad