

## Landowner Consultation - Sambar Deer

The Department of Conservation is seeking comment from landowners/land managers on proposed changes to the gazette notice which governs the hunting of sambar deer in the Horowhenua/Manawatu/Rangitikei/Wanganui area (the area).

This is the second stage in the Departments public consultation process. The first stage involved seeking public comment on issues and options with respect to the existing and future control and management of sambar deer in the area. This has been completed and background information on this issue and an analysis of the results of the first stage of consultation can be found on the Departments website ([www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)).

From this, the Department held a workshop with the key stakeholder representatives, which resulted in a list of agreed principles which need to be met regarding the future management of sambar deer in the area. These principles are;

1. Sambar deer should not be a biosecurity risk
2. Animal welfare should be catered for
3. Land owners/managers are responsible for making management decisions on their land
4. There should be no significant environmental loss
5. Education of all affected parties on options is desirable
6. Recreational hunter access is maintained on public lands
7. Land Managers have the right to manage a pest that impacts on their operations
8. There should be no economic loss (note that some representatives thought that this statement should be qualified i.e. no unacceptable economic loss).
9. Recreational hunting opportunities on public lands should be maintained

Following on from this workshop, three proposed options regarding the future management of sambar deer in the area have been developed by the Department, all of which meet the above principles.

The Wild Animal Control Act 1977 requires the Minister of Conservation (or his delegate) to consult with landowners/land managers before changing the current conditions specified by the existing gazette notice. Once consultation has been undertaken, the Minister of Conservation (or his delegate) will consider the options, taking into account such things as the views of the submitters, resources available/required, Departmental policy etc, before releasing a decision.

Your views on this issue will assist the Department of Conservation in planning for the future management of sambar deer. A submission form is included with this discussion document. The closing date for submissions is **30<sup>th</sup> November 2006**.

## Proposed Options for Changes to the Future Management of Sambar Deer in the Horowhenua/Manawatu/Rangitikei/Wanganui area

Three options have been developed by the Department, these are;

### **Option 1 – Modification of the gazette notice (as outlined in Appendix 1)**

#### Implications

Modification of the gazette notice, as outlined in this option (see Appendix 1), will see the hunting of sambar deer in the area continue to be controlled through legislation. However, the proposed changes would see a greater flexibility in the hunting of sambar deer and in landowner's/manager's ability to manage any issues that arise on their properties. Major changes include;

- Public ballot winners who do not hold a firearms licence can hunt under the immediate supervision of a current firearms holder.
- Increase in season length from 1 April to 30 September of each year and during the hours of daylight.
- Applicants for licences no longer have to nominate the property on which they have permission to hunt and provide the name of the occupier.
- Landowners no longer have to sight the licence before giving consent to hunt.
- Increase (up to 3) in the number of animals that can be taken by a hunter per season.
- All licence holders must return completed data, as per the licence, within 14 days after taking a sambar.
- The sale and purchase of Sambar or their by-products is prohibited.
- The removal of the requirement of hunters to check their kills through a monitoring point.
- Landowners do not need to pay for a licence if hunting on their own lands
- Restrictions on hunting methods (firearm, time of day etc.) are retained to provide animal welfare protection.

#### Impacts on Private Lands

Modification of the gazette notice will still see private landowners responsible for the control of sambar deer on their properties (within the provisions of the gazette notice). They will be responsible for saying if and when hunting occurs on their properties (any, all or no days between 1 April and 30 September each year), and how many deer (and what sex) are taken (up to 3 per hunter per season). It is envisaged that the modification of the gazette notice (as outlined in Appendix 1) will potentially result in an increase in recreational hunting opportunities on private land as landowners/managers have a greater ability to manage deer on their properties by allowing them to admit hunters at times to fit their own schedules of activities (i.e. outside of lambing, calving, cropping etc). It will also provide landowners/managers greater flexibility to deal with problem damage that sambar may be causing. Outside of the gazette conditions landowners/managers will still need to seek approval from the Department prior to dealing with problem damage that sambar may be causing.

The Department is aware that landowners range from those who like having sambar on their properties and don't allow any hunting through to those who don't like sambar and attempt to eradicate them from their properties. The proposed changes, as outlined in this option, will still allow landowners/managers to pursue what ever course they choose.

Given that different landowners will do different things across the spectrum from no control to eradication, the Department believes that the impact on the deer population is likely to be localised depending on the value placed on them by the landowner/manager. Overall, modifying the gazette notice will not see sambar deer disappear from the private landscape.

### Impacts on Public Lands

Modification of the gazette notice will still see public land managers responsible for the control of sambar deer on the land they manage. They will be responsible for saying if and when hunting occurs on the land they manage (any, all or no days between 1 April and 30 September each year), and how many deer (and what sex) are taken (up to 3 per hunter per season). It is envisaged that the proposed modification of the gazette notice in this option will likely result in an increase in recreational hunting opportunities on public land as land managers have a greater ability to manage deer on the properties they manage by allowing hunting over a longer period of time, in comparison to the current situation.

Recreational hunting opportunities on lands managed by the Department of Conservation are likely to increase due to the increased season length.

Recreational hunting opportunities on lands managed under Crown Forestry Licences also have the potential to increase due to the increased season length. Land Information New Zealand (the agency which manages the Crown Forestry Licences) advises that under section 6.2 of the Crown Forestry Licences the public have the right to enter and use land for recreational purposes (including recreational hunting) providing this does not compromise the safety of the Licensee's staff, public etc. (i.e. permission still needs to be obtained from the Licensee to enter the land and they have the right to refuse entry for safety purposes, e.g. if staff are working in the forest or due to fire risk etc.).

The proposed modification of the gazette notice (Appendix 1) is likely to see a decrease in the deer population on public lands. The extent of this decrease is uncertain but due to the nature of the species and the patchy control likely to occur on adjoining private land, modifying the gazette notice will not see sambar deer disappear from public lands.

### **Option 2 – Modification of the gazette notice (as outlined in Appendix 2)**

#### Implications

As with option 1 above, the modification of the gazette notice as outlined in this option (Appendix 2) will see the hunting of sambar deer in the

Horowhenua/Manawatu/Rangitikei/Wanganui area continue to be controlled through legislation. Major changes from the current regime with this option include;

- The landowner/manager sets the length of the hunting season for their property
- Landowners/managers do not need a licence to hunt their own property
- Landowners/managers set the number (and sex) of animals that can be taken by any one hunter
- The use of dogs is no longer prohibited
- Applicants for licences no longer have to nominate the property on which they have permission to hunt and provide the name of the occupier.
- Landowners no longer have to sight the licence before giving consent to hunt.
- The sale of Sambar or their by-products is no longer prohibited.
- The removal of the requirement of hunters to check their kills through a monitoring point.
- Restrictions on some hunting methods (firearm, time of day etc.) are retained to provide animal welfare protection.

### Impacts on Private Lands

Modification of the gazette under this option notice will still see private landowners responsible for the control of sambar deer on their properties (within the provisions of the gazette notice). They will be responsible for saying if and when hunting occurs on their properties (any, all or no days during the year), how many deer (and what sex) can be taken per hunter, and what other provisions they may wish to apply (provided they do not contravene the gazette notice). It is envisaged that the modification of the gazette notice (as outlined in Appendix 2) will potentially result in an increase in recreational hunting opportunities on private land as landowners/managers have a greater ability to manage deer on their properties by allowing them to admit hunters at times to fit their own schedules of activities (i.e. outside of lambing, calving, cropping etc). It will also provide landowners/managers greater flexibility to deal with problem damage that sambar may be causing as they can address the problem themselves at anytime.

As with option 1, The Department believes that the proposed changes, as outlined in this option, will not see sambar deer disappear from the private landscape.

### Impacts on Public Lands

Modification of the gazette notice will still see public land managers responsible for the control of sambar deer on the land they manage. They will be responsible for saying if and when hunting occurs on the land they manage (any, all or no days during the year), and how many deer can be taken per hunter. It is envisaged that the proposed modification of the gazette notice in this option will likely result in an increase in recreational hunting opportunities on public land as land managers have a greater ability to manage deer on their properties by allowing hunting over a longer period of time, in comparison to the current situation.

Recreational hunting opportunities on lands managed by the Department of Conservation are likely to increase due to the ability to have hunting at any time of the year.

Recreational hunting opportunities on lands managed under Crown Forestry Licences also have the potential to increase due to the ability to have hunting at any time of the year. Land Information New Zealand (the agency which manages the Crown Forestry Licences) advises that under section 6.2 of the Crown Forestry Licences the public have the right to enter and use land for recreational purposes (including recreational hunting) providing this does not compromise the safety of the Licensee's staff, public etc. (i.e. permission still needs to be obtained from the Licensee to enter the land and they have the right to refuse entry for safety purposes, e.g. if staff are working in the forest or due to fire risk etc).

The proposed modification of the gazette notice (Appendix 2) is likely to see a decrease in the deer population on public lands. The extent of this decrease is uncertain but due to the nature of the species and the patchy control likely to occur on adjoining private land, modifying the gazette notice will not see sambar deer disappear from public lands.

### **Option 3 – Total removal of all current conditions surrounding the recreational hunting of sambar deer in the Horowhenua/Manawatu/Rangitikei/Wanganui area**

#### Implications

Removal of the gazette notice will see sambar deer having the same status as other feral deer, to be controlled or otherwise when and how the landowner/manager sees fit.

#### Impacts on Private Lands

Removal of the gazette notice will see private landowners totally responsible for the control of sambar deer on their properties. They will be responsible for saying if and when hunting occurs on their properties, how that is carried out and how many deer are taken. It is envisaged that the removal of the gazette notice will likely result in an increase in recreational hunting opportunities on private land as landowners/managers have a greater ability to manage deer on their properties by allowing hunting at anytime they choose. The Department is aware that landowners range from those who like having sambar on their properties (and don't allow any hunting) through to those who don't like sambar (and attempt to eradicate them from their properties). Given that different landowners will do different things across the spectrum from no control to eradication, the Department believes that the impact on the deer population is likely to be localised depending on the value placed on them by the landowner/manager. Overall, removing the gazette notice will not see sambar deer disappear from the private landscape.

#### Impacts on Public Lands

Removal of the gazette notice will see public land managers totally responsible for the control of sambar deer on the land they manage. They will be responsible for saying if and when hunting occurs on the land they manage, how that is carried out and how many deer are taken. It is envisaged that the removal of the gazette notice will likely

result in an increase in recreational hunting opportunities on public land as land managers have a greater ability to manage deer on their properties by allowing hunting at anytime they choose.

Recreational hunting opportunities on lands managed by the Department of Conservation are likely to increase due to the ability to have an unlimited season length.

Recreational hunting opportunities on lands managed under Crown Forestry Licences also have the potential to increase due to the ability to have an unlimited season length. Land Information New Zealand (the agency which manages the Crown Forestry Licences) advises that under section 6.2 of the Crown Forestry Licences the public have the right to enter and use land for recreational purposes (including recreational hunting) providing this does not compromise the safety of the Licensee's staff, public etc. (i.e. permission still needs to be obtained from the Licensee to enter the land and they have the right to refuse entry for safety purposes, e.g. if staff are working in the forest or due to fire risk etc).

Removal of the gazette notice is likely to see a decrease in the deer population on public lands. The extent of this decrease is uncertain but due to the nature of the species and the patchy control likely to occur on adjoining private land, removing the gazette notice will not see sambar deer disappear from public lands.

#### Animal Welfare provisions

As with the hunting of other wild animals the hunter has an ethical duty of care to ensure that the animal does not suffer undue or unreasonable pain or distress as a consequence of the hunter's actions. Individual landowners/managers may impose their own controls on hunting methods.

## **Appendix 1: Proposed Gazette Notice Pertaining to Sambar Deer Hunting (Option 1)**

### **Notification of Specified Area for Recreational Hunting of Sambar Deer in Horowhenua/Manawatu/Rangitikei/Wanganui Areas**

Pursuant to section 8 (4) of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977, the Minister of Conservation hereby declares that, for the purpose of recreational hunting, Sambar deer (*Cervus unicolor*) may be hunted in the specified area described in the Schedule hereto, subject to the conditions which apply to the specified area. This notice applies from [*enter date*]

#### Conditions Applying to Specified Area

1. All persons wishing to hunt or kill Sambar deer must hold a current firearms licence and must provide the licence number when applying for a hunting licence, except that:

(a). Hunters wishing to hunt under immediate supervision of a current firearms licence-holder, must provide proof of identification and the name and firearms licence number of a nominated supervisor, to be included on any licence issued by the director-General, in the name of the supervised hunter. Any person nominated as the immediate supervisor of a hunter named on any hunting licence must:

(i). Ensure their close proximity to the supervised hunter, at all times, where such proximity may allow the supervisor to exercise immediate control, and take sole charge of the supervised hunter's firearm at any time;

(ii). Ensure that only one firearm is available to or between the supervisor and the supervised hunter during every period of hunting;

(iii). Ensure that no more than one person is being supervised at any one time.

And,

(b). Bow hunters need only provide proof of identity.

2. The hunting season for Sambar deer shall comprise a period including any or all days in the six calendar months, from 1 April, to 30 September of each year. Any land-owner or manager may authorise hunting for any part or for all of the 6 month period on land that they manage. Hunting may only occur during the hours of daylight.

3. The hunting or killing of Sambar deer within the specified area may only be authorised by a licence issued by the Director-General of Conservation.

4. Licensees must obtain written permission to hunt from the land owner or occupier prior to commencement of hunting.

5. Licences are not transferable between individual hunters.

6. A limit of up to three Sambar deer per hunter may be taken during the entire hunting season.

7. The use of a dog, vehicle, vessel, aircraft, artificial light or beater while hunting Sambar deer is prohibited.

8. No person shall hunt Sambar deer with a firearm of a calibre smaller than 6.5 mm (.264"), with a cartridge case less than 51 mm (2.008") in length and with a projectile weight less than 130 grains. Where black powder propellant is used the projectile must not weigh less than 300 grains and at least 90 grains of powder must be used to give a minimum muzzle energy of 1500 foot pounds. The use of smooth bore weapons is prohibited. A list of approved cartridge types will be available at all Department of Conservation offices within the specified area.

9. Bow hunters must use a hunting bow with a minimum peak draw weight of 22.5 kilograms and broad head arrows comprising no less than 2 cutting edges. The arrow head shall be unbarbed and the distance between opposing cutting edges at the widest part shall not be less than 25 mm (1"). The use of arrows with any poison, explosive, or other chemical substance on, or in, the head or shaft is prohibited.

10. Game tags must be attached to the Sambar immediately they are secured. Unused tags and all unused portions of the licence documentation, designated as hunter returns, must be filed with the Department or its agent, by the 31st of October, in the year in which the licence is issued. All licence holders must return completed data, as requested in the licence, within 14 calendar days after the taking of a Sambar.

11. The sale or purchase of Sambar deer or their by-products is prohibited.

12. All successful hunters must provide autopsy and other data as required in the licence.

13. Any wounded deer must be located and dispatched humanely. Wounded deer which cannot be located by the hunter must be reported to the Department or its agent, or to the land-owner or occupier, or his/her agent, as soon as is practicable after the hunter has, or acquires the belief that he may have, wounded an animal.

14. The licence shall include the following matters:

(a) The times and the rights of the holder to enter, remain on, and use the specified area or part thereof, except that nothing in any licence shall entitle the holder to enter upon any land without the consent of the occupier.

(b) Conditions as to the methods of taking Sambar deer, and the number, type and sex of Sambar deer that may be taken by any licence holder.

(c) The period or conditions under which it remains valid, but shall also provide that it may be revoked at any time at the discretion of the Director-General of Conservation.

(d) (i). The licence shall incur a charge where an applicant wishes to hunt on lands owned or occupied by any person, and where the applicant has obtained appropriate written consent of a land-owner or occupier, and;

(ii). the licence shall not incur a charge, where a land-owner or occupier wishes to hunt solely on any land he/she owns or occupies.

15. No person shall act in contravention of any authorisation or condition stated upon a licence to hunt in the specified area or other lawful direction issued by the Director-General of Conservation in respect to wild animal control within the specified area.

This notice replaces and revokes the notice dated 23 December 1986 concerning Sambar deer which was published in the New Zealand Gazette, No. 164 of Thursday, 29 September 1988, pages 3852-3853.

#### Schedule

All that land contained within a boundary described by the true right bank of the Otaki River from its mouth to the S.H. 1. bridge then along S.H. 1 to the junction of S.H. 1 and S.H. 57; then along S.H.57 to its junction with S.H.3 then along S.H.3 to Sanson then along S.H. 1 to the Rangitikei River; then along the true left bank of the Rangitikei River to the junction of the Rangitikei and Hautapu Rivers; then along the true left bank of the Hautapu River to where S.H. 1 crosses the river; from this point along a straight line to the junction of the Waitotara River and the Makakaho Stream; from this point along the true left bank of the Waitotara River to its mouth then south along the coastline to the Otaki River mouth.

Dated at Wellington this [*enter date*] day of [*enter month and year*].  
Minister of Conservation

## **Appendix 2: Proposed Gazette Notice Pertaining to Sambar Deer Hunting (Option 2)**

### **Notification of Specified Area for Recreational Hunting of Sambar Deer in Manawatu and Wanganui Areas**

Pursuant to section 8 (4) of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977, the Minister of Conservation hereby declares that, for the purpose of recreational hunting, Sambar deer (*Cervus unicolor*) may be hunted in the specified area described in the Schedule hereto, subject to the conditions which apply to the specified area. This notice applies from [*enter date*].

#### Conditions Applying to Specified Area

1. All persons wishing to hunt or kill Sambar deer must hold a current firearms licence and must provide the licence number when applying for a hunting licence except that bow hunters need only provide proof of identity
2. The hunting season for Sambar deer shall be at the landowner's discretion. Hunting may only occur during the hours of daylight.
3. The hunting or killing of Sambar deer within the specified area may only be authorised by a licence issued by the Director-General of Conservation, unless the hunting or killing is being undertaken solely by a land-owner or occupier on any land he/she owns or occupies.
4. Licences are not transferable between individual hunters.
5. Landowners can set their own limit on the number of animals taken by an individual hunter during the season.
6. No person shall hunt Sambar deer with a firearm of a calibre smaller than 6.5 mm (.264"), with a cartridge case less than 51 mm (2.008") in length and with a projectile weight less than 130 grains. Where black powder propellant is used the projectile must not weigh less than 300 grains and at least 90 grains of powder must be used to give minimum muzzle energy of 1500 foot pounds. A list of approved cartridge types will be available at all Department of Conservation offices within the specified area.
7. Bow hunters must use a hunting bow with a minimum peak draw weight of 22.5 kilograms and broad head arrows comprising no less than 2 cutting edges. The arrow head shall be unbarbed and the distance between opposing cutting edges at the widest part shall not be less than 25 mm (1"). The use of arrows with any poison, explosive, or other chemical substance on, or in, the head or shaft is prohibited.
8. Any wounded deer must be located and dispatched humanely. Wounded deer which cannot be located by the hunter must be reported to the Department or its agent, or to the land-owner or occupier, or his/her agent, as soon as is practicable after the hunter has, or acquires the belief that he may have, wounded an animal.
9. The licence shall include the following matters:

- (a) The rights of the holder to enter, remain on, and use the specified area or part thereof, except that nothing in any licence shall entitle the holder to enter upon any land without the consent of the occupier.
- (b) Conditions as to the methods of taking Sambar deer.
- (c) [Clause Removed]
- (d) The licence shall incur a charge where an applicant wishes to hunt on lands owned or occupied by any person, and;

10. No person shall act in contravention of any authorisation or condition stated upon a licence to hunt in the specified area or other lawful direction issued by the Director-General of Conservation in respect to wild animal control within the specified area.

This notice replaces and revokes the notice concerning Sambar deer which was published in the New Zealand Gazette, No. 164 of Thursday, 29 September 1988, pages 3852-3853.

#### Schedule

All that land contained within a boundary described by the true right bank of the Otaki River from its mouth to the S.H. 1. bridge then along S.H. 1 to the junction of S.H. 1 and S.H. 57; then along S.H.57 to its junction with S.H.3 then along S.H.3 to Sanson then along S.H. 1 to the Rangitikei River; then along the true left bank of the Rangitikei River to the junction of the Rangitikei and Hautapu Rivers; then along the true left bank of the Hautapu River to where S.H. 1 crosses the river; from this point along a straight line to the junction of the Waitotara River and the Makakaho Stream; from this point along the true left bank of the Waitotara River to its mouth then south along the coastline to the Otaki River mouth.

Dated at Wellington this [*enter date*] day of [*enter month and year*].

Minister of Conservation

# Future Management of the Horowhenua/Manawatu/Rangitikei/Wanganui Sambar Deer Herd

Your comments must be addressed to:

**Sambar Deer Management Submission  
Department of Conservation  
Private Bag 3016  
WANGANUI**

**The closing date for comments is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

**This is a submission from;**

Name: .....

Postal Address:.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Physical Address of all land you own/manage within the current gazetted area for hunting sambar deer? (if different from your postal address)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Are sambar deer present on your property?**

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Don't Know</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Do you have forestry/woodlot blocks on your property?**

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Is your property adversely affected by sambar deer?**

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Don't Know</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

