

Conclusions

Hunting satisfaction can be improved by increasing deer numbers (i.e., increasing kill-related satisfaction), by increasing hunting opportunity (i.e., increasing satisfaction not directly related to the kill), or by a combination of both (Hendee 1974). Hendee strongly advocates the multiple satisfaction approach for deer management. However, Decker *et al.* (1980) suggest that, for North American hunters, kill-related benefits are generally far more important in satisfying hunters than benefits such as outdoor experience or comradeship. The willingness of most Blue Mountains hunters to forego hunting opportunity in return for better hunting, and their avoidance of poor blocks, indicates that this is also true in New Zealand. This suggests deer management for hunting satisfaction should concentrate on maximizing the kill.

We found that blocks with an average success rate of one deer per four hunt days satisfied the minimum requirements of most hunters. Such blocks were heavily used in 1984/85, leaving little potential under the exclusive block system to increase their use. There was greater potential to increase both satisfaction and the amount of hunting in the Blue Mountains RHA by increasing deer numbers on all blocks to levels where hunters could average one deer every four days.

In summary, Blue Mountains hunters were reasonably positive about their sport and the management of the RHA, although seeing room for improvement. They appeared to want to maintain the status quo as far as possible. They accepted the need for restrictions to improve the quality of hunting, but were divided about how best to achieve this.

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References

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INSTITUTE NEWS

Highlights of Council Meetings February 19 and April 15, 1987

Most of the business carried out at these meetings was of a routine nature. However the following may be of interest to members:

- There was a visit by 40 members of the Society of American Foresters in early April and Mr Bunn accompanied this tour. Mr Berg arranged the itinerary.
- Council has purchased a small gift for Mr John Wilson who acted for many years as the editor of New Zealand Journal of Forestry.
- Local sections are encouraged to have occasional joint meetings with the Hoo Hoo Clubs (or other forestry groups).
- It was decided the Institute should remain a member of the QEII Trust.
- The Institute has had a cash flow problem as a result of the high costs of printing the Forestry Handbook and magazines. It is hoped this will ease as more copies of the Handbook are sold and advertising increases in 'New Zealand Forestry'.

- An Institute sponsored goodwill visit to Chile is being considered.
- Council decided to make a submission to the Review of NZ Universities, and to the Government review of training in the Forestry sector, with particular reference to MOF.
- Council were disappointed that there was a poor response to the Curt Gleason Memorial prize.
- The report of the Education and Training Committee was received. It will be made available to members shortly. The report considers graduate and post-graduate forestry education.
- Changes to the Constitution, particularly those relating to membership issues, received considerable discussion.

Finally Council has been aware of the need to consider the nature of the Institute in the light of recent changes. It has received several reports and wishes continuing debate.



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Forestry

Handbook

Errata and Additions

Council would be pleased if members could send in notes on any errors, amendments and suggestions on the Handbook.

This information will be valuable for future editions. Please forward this information to the Secretariat.